CENTENARY
OF PANDITA RAMABAI'S BIRTH
TO BE HELD AT THE
RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
ESTABLISHED AT KEDGAON, POONA DISTRICT
HER LIFE
By Lillian Doerksen

'Giving thanks unto the Father . . . Who hath delivered us from the power of
darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of his dear Son'
(Col. i : 12, 13).

Light—glorious light that drives away the darkness and
transforms the soul! Only the one who has plumbed the dark
depths of despair and lonely desolation can fully know and under­
stand the glory of the transformation that comes to the soul that
finds Christ, 'the light of every man that comes into the world.'
To Pandita Ramabai, great scholar, saint and servant of God in
India, the light was so great and precious because the trek of her
soul in search of the light had been so dark. It had led her through
the valley of great sorrow, death, disappointment and disillu­sion­
ment. She had followed the call of India's gods from shrine to
shrine and from sacred river to sacred river as she searched for
spiritual comfort. After years of pilgrimages, starvation, and
sorrow, when she found the Lord Jesus Christ to be her Priceless
Treasure, her heart reached out to Him in burning devotion, and to
the unfortunate women and children of her people in deep compas­
sion. A true product of India's past, she became a power for God
and a powerful fashioner of India's future. The light that came to
her soul was shared with thousands of others, and through them
that light in an ever widening stream is shining forth in India from
'Mukti,' the 'Home of Salvation,' which she founded.

One hundred years ago, a humble mountain-top home in the
heart of the Gangamal Forest brought this blessing to India. Born
of high caste Brahman parents, she was surrounded by a scholarly,
religious atmosphere. Being an exceptionally brilliant child, she
quickly absorbed, with unusual skill, all the teaching given in her
home from the treasured Sanskrit writings of India. When she
was only twelve years old she had already mastered 18,000 of the
Sanskrit verses. Not only did she master this difficult language,
a treasure never before possessed by Indian women, but she also
knew six of the other principal languages of India. Possessed of

(Continued on page 12)
HER WORK

The hard experiences of her early life were all a preparation for her life's work. She was brought into the full enjoyment of salvation, saved through the precious blood shed on Calvary, filled with the Holy Spirit and given a commission from on high to be a leader of her people and thus transform multitudes of them in their turn into heralds of salvation.

She began a school in Bombay called the 'Sharada Sadan' (House of Wisdom) for Brahman widows. She was surrounded soon with a number of widows and girls, whom she saw, in vision, becoming in their turn pioneers of education, and thus working out the social salvation of the community. In spite of storms from angry Hindus, she saw the number of her pupils and those who came to her for refuge increase over and over again. Her heart rejoiced to see many of these children of her love and prayer freed from the bondage of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of Light.

Seeing the blessing that came to these girls, however, did not satisfy her. At the end of 1896, when the great famine came to India, her faith leaped up at the challenge of God to start a new work, trusting Him for both temporal and spiritual blessings. Among the multitudes of famine victims were thousands of young widows who were going through unspeakable suffering and anguish. Her big heart could not help but take them in by the hundreds. For the provision of food, clothes, and shelter for so many, she found the Lord her Inexhaustible Treasure.

The new work that she had been led to establish was most appropriately called the Mukti Sadan, the Home of Salvation. Some years before, the Pandita had purchased some land near Poona and to this place she brought the girls who were rescued, and those who came to her for refuge. This became the little city of her vision, whose walls were to be Salvation and its gates Praise. In this place where she now had some two thousand destitute girls and widows, her strong Christian faith, intertwined with her heritage of Chitpawan shrewdness, strength and practical sagacity which formed the fibre of her being, combined to make her the mighty leader she became. Not only was the large family fed and cared for, but she immediately set about to teach and train them to serve others. Her aim was to train every girl endowed with intelligence to be a leader, and many were sent for teacher training and Bible training. Her greatest desire was to train a band of Bible women who would take the gospel to their sisters in their village homes.

Together with this desire was her determination to translate the whole Bible into simple, clear Marathi. How great this task

(Continued on page 15)
CHANDANBAI, when she was brought to Mukti as a famine victim

AFTER

CHANDANBAI, cared for and trained by Ramabai she became a splendid, consecrated Bible woman
MUKTI TO-DAY, 1958

THEY COME

Unwanted

THEY GROW

Little ones growing under loving care and prayer

THEY SERVE

New trained; they serve and care for others
'She being dead yet speaketh . . .' through . . .

CORNER STONES OF TODAY, 1958

Today in Mukti there are those who follow in her train—corner stones in reality and in preparation. There are 750 women and children now living within Mukti's portals, and all the privileges and training of a Christian home are theirs. Included in this number are orphans, unwanted babies, children entrusted to us as boarders, widows, the blind, rescue cases such as unmarried mothers, the crippled, and the sick, to whom Christ in infinite compassion extends His invitation 'Come unto me.' The children are divided into 'family groups,' with approximately fifteen children, an Indian leader, and a missionary to each family.

An effective testimony and ministry for the Saviour is accomplished through the following departments, where these corner stones are further polished and prepared:

EDUCATION

Kindergarten—Here little ones play, sing, and learn to pray, read and write, under the efficient care of a trained, consecrated Mukti teacher.

'Sharada Sadan School (House of Wisdom)—Young lives are taught and trained to serve their country and trust in the living God, by a Mukti corner stone, Vimalbai Dongre, Principal, and a staff of consecrated, trained Mukti teachers.

Higher Education—Girls who finish in our school, are sent to high school, college, teacher training, Bible college, nursing or other specialized training.

Bible School—Bhimabai Harishchandra, a precious corner stone, is Principal of this department, where all Mukti girls, on leaving school, are trained for two years.

Blind School—Here, nearly sixty blind girls and women learn to read, write, weave baskets and tapes, make rope, and learn other industries.

Adult Literacy—Illiterate women experience the joy and wonder of knowing what it means to read the Word of God in the Adult Literacy School supervised by another corner stone, Kambalbai Deshpande, and her helpers.

Industrial Schools—Specialized training is provided for girls who are preparing to establish Christian homes, and who minister to Mukti's many needs, in the following departments: fancy embroidery, sewing and tailoring, cooking, printing and publishing.

Medical—In our Mukti hospital, as well as in the dispensaries and sanatorium, Dr. Sheela Gupta and our Mukti nurses have a treasured ministry to the needy, both spiritually and physically.

Evangelistic—Those who have been given Bible training, and who have a vision for the lost, have an effective ministry taking the Gospel regularly to the villages round about.
THE CENTENARY

Purpose:

Revival: in Mukti and for all who will come, with a prayer that it will spread all over India

Reunion: of Mukti girls, women and friends from all over India

Reproduction of Ramabai's translation of the Bible

Preparation:

Chain of prayer 24 hours a day has been in session and is still going on seeking God's blessing upon this special time.

Plans and needs:

Plans are being made to house and feed the many who will come.

Proofs are being sent to press and we look to God for the provision of all needed to publish 10,000 Bibles.

Projects and displays:

Needlework done by girls and women
Handcraft done by blind
Literature—including tracts and booklets by Ramabai
Portions of the new revision of Ramabai's Bible.

THEME

Only one life 'twill soon be past
For Christ will last.

PROGRAMME

Programme:

Speaker:
Dr. AKBAR ABDUL HAQQ
noted evangelist of to-day
Member from India of Dr. Billy Graham's team

Other features:

Kirtan (musical presentation of Ramabai's life and the gospel)
—Rev. G. Carner
Choir singing psalms and hymns composed by Ramabai
—Mukti girls
Presentation of scenes from the life of Ramabai
—Mukti girls
Short talks and reminiscences by those who knew and loved Ramabai
Report and offering for the Ramabai Bible

Dr. A. Haqq
A PICTURE OF RAMABAI THROUGH ONE WHO KNEW AND LOVED HER AS A MOTHER

Bhimabai Harishchandra, brought to Mukti by Ramabai

‘. . . He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world . . .’

(Eph. 1:4).

I praise the Lord for all that our dear ‘Ai’ (mother) Ramabai meant to us. We had precious times around her knees in her own room. This room became a real prayer room. Prayers for revival started with a few girls in her room, and when there was not enough room there, we went into the church which she had so beautifully built. There the Lord met us in a mighty way and the work of the Holy Spirit spread from there like fire all over Mukti.

There are many precious memories of those days when she was with us. When there was no money to buy food for the large family, ‘mother’ would send word, ‘Pray to the heavenly Father, for there is nothing to eat for tomorrow.’ She would never touch any food, when the answer came, until all were served and fed. God answered her prayers so wonderfully. She had a wonderful faith. I do not remember going without food very long. One day when there was nothing else to eat, cartloads of carrots from our farm were brought into the compound and we divided them among the hundreds and hundreds of girls and women.

Our Christmas was always such a happy time, when Pandita Ramabai herself would make or supervise the preparation of sweets for her two thousand girls and women, as well as for the many villagers who came. But Easter time used to be the happiest time of all. Pandita always spoke on the coming of the Lord. Her face shone with joy when, in her usual white sari she would get up on the platform in our church after the Easter service and wish us all a Happy Easter, and say, ‘Christ is risen!’ With one accord all would answer, ‘He is risen indeed!’

Her life, her faith, her prayer life, all these have been a challenge that is always before me. Although a strict disciplinarian, she was such a loving mother and because of all that she meant to us, we long that we may pass on to our girls today the same faith, the life of prayer and the love for our Saviour. May many in our country come to accept the Saviour whom we have learned to love and serve and the One who made our beloved mother Ramabai great.
CORNER STONES TO-DAY

Bhimabai, in charge of Bible School and supervising Rose family of children and also older women

Vimalbai Principal of Sharada Sadan School and supervising 'Orchid' family

Kamalbai, supervising Adult Literacy work and 'Queen of the Night' family, Guest Hostess

"... I have redeemed them; and they shall increase as they have increased" (Zech. 10:8).
unusual grace and kindness, such was her personality that the language of her eyes was understood by all, even by those who spoke other languages.

Famine claimed the lives of both her parents when she was sixteen years old. After four thousand miles of pilgrimages with her brother, death snatched him from her side. She later married a friend of his, but after eighteen brief months of happiness, he, too, was taken, when death visited her again. All this left her utterly desolate, and her heart reached out desperately for light. A Gospel of Luke which she found in her husband’s library, a Sanskrit Bible given to her, together with the influence and witness of those who recognized her need, were used of God to lead her to the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Who brought her peace, forgiveness of sin, and unspeakable joy. This great and wonderful experience could not be kept for herself and no sooner had Christ become the light of her soul, than Ramabai’s heart leaped up, like the blind man who was healed, in praise and eagerness to share this Light with others.

HER VISION

Ramabai looked to God for leaders among these who now knew Him as she knew Him, to help her to teach and care for others.

She had one daughter who was born shortly after her husband’s death, and who shared her mother’s vision and burden. Gifted with administrative ability and, like her mother, having mastered the spiritual art of prayer, Ramabai naturally looked to her to take over the work when she would have to lay it down. Two years before her death, however, this daughter, Manoramabai, was called to serve the Lord in His heavenly Home.

Sorrow over this tremendous loss, however, did not cause her to abandon her work, nor did it dampen her vision. Previously, God had assured her from His Word that He would choose others from among her number. His own promise was not only graven on her heart, but she also had it engraved on the corner stone of the beautiful spacious Mukti church which she had built. ‘... that our daughters may be as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace’ (Psalm 144:12). In faith she saw those whom she had brought in as dying, starving, and destitute children, shining forth as leaders, the foundation stone of their character being laid in a transforming experience of salvation through personal acceptance of Christ as Saviour. She had the joy of seeing a few of these whom she had trained step into places of leadership before the heavenly Father called her Home to her reward in glory in April, 1922.
A PICTURE OF RAMABAI THROUGH ONE WHO WORKED WITH HER

Miss Craddock, a retired missionary

'... The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits' (Dan. 11:32).

The Saturday morning I arrived at Mukti’s gate I found Pandita Ramabai waiting to receive me. Ramabai did not seem a stranger, for she looked exactly as if she had stepped out of one of the pictures I had seen of her, a white-robed figure, breathing serenity and strength.

This was the commencement of five years of wonderfully happy and privileged friendship and partnership. From the beginning everything possible was done to enable me to know and love India and her people. I was only too keen to learn all I could, for there was so much to grasp, and I found both Ramabai and her daughter, Manoramabai, always ready to give advice or information when it was sought. It was they who often guided my thinking regarding missionary work, or on political questions. How fortunate we missionaries were to have such wise, consecrated leaders, and to have access to them with their store of knowledge which they willingly shared with all who wished.

On Sunday what a sight it was to see the church building gradually fill as each woman and child took her place with little sound but the rustle of movement! On account of her deafness, Ramabai was unable to share in the service, but she would come in and take her place near one of the doors, bringing her manuscripts with her. When she was not praying, she was working on her translation of the Bible.

Ramabai's activities were many and varied, such as appointing workers to their posts, receiving visitors, superintending building and repairs, or even preparing dainties in the kitchens, thus caring for those she used to say her Heavenly Father had sent.

A few months after my arrival, Bubonic Plague broke out in Mukti, and Ramabai was anxious for the safety of all, but I was overwhelmed when she told me she was especially worried on my account, as I was young and new in the country. She said that it would be well for me to go somewhere else for the time being. This proved to be unnecessary, but my heart was touched to think of her care for one out of a family numbering at that time nearly 1,600. She was satisfied, however, when she found I was willing to be inoculated.

Ramabai always found time to keep tryst with God, for otherwise it would have been impossible to give herself so unstintingly for the work entrusted to her care. But there were (Continued on page 16)
A PICTURE OF RAMABAI THROUGH ONE WHO KNEW HER

Mrs. Nalder, a friend

'I do thank God that I was permitted to entertain Ramabai in my home in Nova Scotia. My husband and I felt that we had a greater honour put upon us than if we had entertained our gracious Queen Victoria. I believe Pandita Ramabai is one of God's queens, towering far above all of our white queens. I look upon that brown-faced Christian as head and shoulders above many other Christians, of whom I have seen thousands. How is it? It is because of her single eye to God's glory. She has but one idea, but one ideal, and that is that she may reflect the Lord Jesus Christ. Pandita Ramabai radiates the Lord Jesus. You could not get into her presence without knowing the direct power of the Lord Jesus. If she were here she would not tell you of any of the things she has done, but would be telling you of what Christ has done.'

THE DEDICATION OF THOSE SHE LEFT BEHIND

By Carol Terry

They fumbled for the office door, as their sight was almost gone; they almost crawled up the steps because they were old and weak. In their feeble, wrinkled hands they held all they owned, the savings of a lifetime. 'Put this toward the expenses of celebrating the centenary of our mother's birth' were the only words they spoke. One after another these women, rescued many years ago by Ramabai, have been digging down into the few belongings they have, counting out their annas and rupees. Some have brought as much as Rs. 100, while others have brought one rupee. One gave her gold ear-rings which had been tucked away since 1928. These are the children in the Lord, of Ramabai.

As each one turns and totters out of my office, her hair thin and grey, tears come to my eyes, as I hear our Lord saying, 'This poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.' There are young people at the Ramabai Mukti Mission dedicating their lives to the God of Ramabai; there are old people giving to Him their life's savings. These are Ramabai's true memorial.

1. Pandita Ramabai—by Helen Dyer.
was amid the besieging cares of a family of two thousand we can easily understand. But no labour would be counted other than light by this heroic spirit if it brought the Bible and its message closer to her own heart and if it brought it, at the same time, home to the hearts of her fellow men.

THE CHALLENGE FOR TO-DAY

By Carol Terry

Ramabai was one of the first builders of to-day's new India, with its opportunities and privileges for women. Educationalist, reformer, and evangelist, she sought the uplift of her people in every way. Why is it that one hundred years after her birth, the work she established at Kedgaon is still a living, thriving, thrilling institution? Why is it that the work can carry on without her genius of leadership, her remarkable abilities, and her undaunted faith? Were she herself here to answer, she would reply, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord.'

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. What He did in Ramabai's life, He can do to-day. India is in need of Christian leadership, and the Ramabai Mukti Mission is dedicated to training young women for their part in that leadership, whether it be as Christian mothers, teachers, nurses, or Bible women. Some day the missionaries may have to leave India, but they would not be needed if there were Ramabais in the land. The challenge of her Centennial is to train Christian leaders for to-morrow. By your prayers and your gifts, will you join us in meeting this challenge? Ramabai's life proves that it is not race, colour, or country that matters. It is what is done for Christ that lasts through the centuries. Will you accept this challenge of her Centenary?

"Things of this world soon fade away,
Only God's love will last for aye.
Open my heart O Lord divine—
Take Thou my life and make it Thine;
In faith and love I'll serve but Thee
Crowning the Christ of Calvary;
Only Thy grace can save my soul,
Only Thy love can make me whole.
ONLY ONE LIFE 'TWILL SOON BE PAST
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST."
days when the door was shut and the word went round that 'mother is praying.' We knew the need was great, whether it had to do with money for food, clothing, or with someone of her children who was in moral or spiritual danger. She felt the responsibility to take it to her Father who was her only Source of help and supply.

When the time came for my first furlough in 1921, I talked with Ramabai the night before, and asked her what I should tell the people at home. Her reply was simply, 'Tell the story but do not ask for money. Have a good furlough and come back again.' These were some of her last words to me, and are a treasured memory, for before I got back again, she had been called to serve her Master in His presence.

It is impossible to put into words the feeling of desolation which came over me on returning from furlough and finding Ramabai's and Manoramabai's places empty. We sorely missed Bai's strong faith, but God is the same unchanging Heavenly Father Who did not forsake His children, and because His purposes are unchanged, He has continued through others what He purposed Ramabai and her daughter should begin.

The Ramabai Mukti Mission is an international, undenominational Mission of evangelical faith, with representatives in the home countries as follows:

Secy.-Treasurer in America:
Miss B. E. Steed
P. O. Box 415
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Treasurer in England:
Miss G. Tillet
134 Old Lane
Berston Leeds 11, Yorks

Secy.-Treasurer in Australia:
Miss M. S. Jones
90 Eskdale Rd.
Caulfield S.E. 7 Victoria

Secy.-Treasurer in New Zealand:
Miss D. E. Carlisle
168 Victoria Avenue
Remuera, Auckland S.E. 2

Treasurer in Tasmania:
Mrs. J. McFie
20 Grosvenor St.
Sandy Bay Hobart

Treasurer in West Australia:
Mrs. E. F. Mullins
28 Loch Street
North Perth

Treasurer in Scotland:
Miss F. J. Stewart
8 Dixon Road
Glasgow S. 2

Treasurer in Ireland:
Miss M. Rea 'Bethany'
Ormiston Crescent
Knock, Belfast

Secy. Treasurer in Canada:
Miss Kay Stadtiler
2208 West 45th Ave.
Vancouver 13, B.C.

Superintendent, Sec.-Treasurer on the Field:
Miss Carol Terry
Kedgaon, Poona Dist., India