• An Industrious Student

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
March–April 1958

Yale Divinity Library
New Haven, Conn.
During the Centennial hundreds got up at 5 o' clock to meet at Ramabai's graveside for the early morning prayer meeting

It was nearly midnight when very soft strains of praise came drifting over from the family quarters. Several of the family 'matron mothers' were taking their turn in the chain of prayer. A tear dropped onto the pillow as I rolled over. There seemed a special consciousness that God was near and I fell peacefully asleep again. It was to become a familiar sound as the days went by and Centennial days—such eventful days—drew near. It was an almost impossible task before us. There were myriad things to be planned and taken care of with perhaps several thousand guests coming, and this extra work had to fit into the daily routine tasks with our large family. But there was something special about those busy days of planning for the programme, the displays of the work from different departments, the counsellors' classes, the practices for the play and choir, for the accommodation, food, water, sanitation, and lights for the many people who were coming. We were reminded of the promise of Jer. 14:13 'I will give you assured peace in this place'. Peace—that was it! It was an unusual consciousness of God's peace that kept us through those busy days, and especially through the three exhausting days when we had the joy of extending hospitality to approximately three thousand guests.

Such a peace could only be accounted for in one way. We thought of the two months of continuous prayer when our girls and women had taken their turns with us in half hour watches, faithfully day and night. There were also prayer times together each day in the industrial rooms or church when work was finished in the evening. Had they not asked the Lord to 'keep us all, giving strength and wisdom for every plan so that all who came could be received without anxiety and care?'

Others marvelled too. Again and again we heard remarks like: 'We can hardly understand it. There are several thousand people
here and yet there is a quiet, solemn hush about the place. Not only in the church where there is a powerful consciousness of God's presence as we gather hour by hour three times a day, but even in the dining halls where hundreds are eating together, on the grounds with several thousand people wandering about, visiting the display departments and compounds where the children live, there is no confusion but there seems to be peace and quietness we've never experienced before.

Letters from other leading Indian Christians who were here pour into the office. Because the glory is all our Saviour's, let us share a few with you.

From the wife of a leading bishop:
'This is to thank you for all you did for me when I was there at Kedgaon for those three wonderful days. It was such a joy and real blessing to be there in that atmosphere and to hear the Word of God. We all were much impressed by all the help you gave to each and every one, and also the patience you all exercised in such hurry and rush. This shows that God is with you all and gives you strength. It was such a success! With all good wishes and prayers...'

It was only God who did it all and we ascribe all praise to Him.

From a missionary couple from an orphan home for boys:
'We are sending you a very small token of our Christian love and appreciation with thanks, for the great work that was accomplished for the centenary, and the prayers that accompanied the moving of the Spirit in Mukti. To us it was a bit of Heaven on earth.

Our boys and both of us returned, singing the Doxology with our lips and ringing in our hearts. We believe there is a treasure laid up for you all (who laboured so gallantly) in Heaven, because of the many precious souls that were born into the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Yours in His Great Grace...

From one of Ramabai's girls who is married to a prominent Christian Bank Official in Bombay:
'Faith, hope and charity seem to walk hand in hand in Mukti even now. It's because one was called and she remained faithful, hopeful and charitable to the end. My husband and I enjoyed every minute of the spiritual fellowship we got there with God's people. I feel very happy whenever I visit Mukti and wish I could spend more time there in the calm and prayer-loving company of the family there. Thank you very much indeed for your love and care while we stayed there. A big thank you to all the akkas (big sisters) who helped to get this splendid programme through and the biggest thanks to Jesus our Saviour and Guide in all matters'.

One of God's leaders in the church of western India who interpreted the messages at the meetings wrote these words in our guest book:
'I praise God for bringing me to the Centenary celebrations. The revival meetings and Mother's Life have inspired my soul, and I have

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There is a river some miles away from Mukti. I wonder if its streams ever saw such gladness as when I took my family there for a picnic on its banks. Some of the children had never seen a river before. All were so eager that the only way to check their impatience to arrive at the river, was to let them sing choruses and songs with all of their might. Such excitement when they caught sight of the river and as we sought a place to drive the station wagon safely through to the other side! Even little Shashikala and Vidya didn’t want to be carried but they picked their skirts up high and waded through.

In the tamarind grove on the other side Shakuntla, Mangala, Indrayani, Shanta and Minakshi dashed about eagerly picking up the tamarind fruit, while the older girls Tara, Sumati, Leela the older sister, and Rebecca the young matron prepared the food. They forgot about their anxiousness to get back to the river as they enjoyed the special dinner under the trees. My heart was full of happiness as I watched them eat and wondered how they would manage to stay above water later.

Dishes were hardly washed, before their eyes turned towards the water again and there was a bit of impatience too when they were told to rest and play quietly in the shade for a little while. Some of them had been too excited to sleep the night before and I knew they needed it even if they didn’t think so. Finally it was time to slide down the bank of the river with squeals and screams of laughter. They could hardly wait to get their dresses off and dashed into the water so excited that they forgot the dangers of the river.

Their laughter and pleasure were so genuine that it warmed one’s heart right through. They splashed and ducked under the water with such complete joy that they almost frightened me. I ran after little Shanta Singh who threw herself into the water again and again, absolutely unaware that she might get too much of it. I thought for a minute she was drowning but when I reached her she came up
with her eyes full of water, but shining with sheer joy. Manik, Sunder, Marie and Awardi splashed along in the water as they caught the air mattress on which Vidya and Shashikala were floating as happy as queens, and as they pushed it up stream again.

But I'd like to tell you of a river of gladness that brought more joy to my family than even the happy experience above. The true river of gladness is God. 'There is a river, the streams thereof shall make glad' (Psalm 46:4). During the Centennial God touched our hearts through the power of His Word. Prayers for Rebecca, the matron, were wonderfully answered and how different things have been since. Rivers of pleasure are flowing forth as she brings gladness to the Saviour, to the little ones, and me through her faithfulness to Him.

It was a special joy to see my two Shantas accept Christ during those days, too. Two years ago Shanta Powar was brought to us as a Hindu village child. She is very quiet and though she always enjoyed prayers and the stories of Jesus, she now realized that she needed Christ as her own personal Saviour, and received Him. Others made decisions and dedicated their lives to the Lord. Can there be any greater rivers of gladness than these? May I ask you to pray with me that they may grow in grace and be victorious, bringing gladness to the Saviour's heart.

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rededicated my life to my Lord and to my Saviour. I am going now filled with joy and a great blessing. Praise His Name'.

Later a letter from this servant of the Lord came, saying:

'I thank you very much for your kindness and help. I am praying for Mukti all the time. The meetings were of great blessing to me and I am enriched in my own soul. Wherever I go I tell about the blessing at Kedgaon. Gujarathi churches received great blessing by hearing the Mukti report. I am going to tell our convention in

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Katepurna about the revival at Kedgaon. May God bless you as you carry on the follow-up work. *Salam* to the whole Mukti family.

We covet your prayers too for the follow-up work, in order that the love of Christ may burn brightly in the hearts of those who found and obeyed Him, pointing others to Christ. There were nearly seven hundred who came forward and made decisions to accept Christ and to dedicate their lives to Him.

One who is a relative of Ramabai's, Rajas Dongre, and who visits many churches in her evangelistic and Bible teaching ministry, wrote:

'Everybody who attended the Centenary talks so highly and so admirably about the way you celebrated, and the revival meetings which were so dear to the heart of Pandita. Dr. Haqq and all the celebrations with the wonderful spiritual atmosphere have been a blessing not only to many, but to me, and I cannot thank the Lord enough for all the prayers He heard and answered there, in the great success, and in the winning of souls to Him during those days. May the spark which lighted every heart there, set on fire—wherever the people are, and may the Lord work mightily among many churches in India. May Mukti continue to be the Lighthouse of India and the Living Memorial of Pandita Ramabai'.

A leading doctor in this area wrote, telling of the great blessing that had come, not only to himself and his wife, but to those from his church who had been here. Some had accepted Christ as Saviour and their lives were gloriously changed. They had called a special meeting on Sunday afternoon to allow people to tell others what Christ had done for them at the Centennial. The Spirit of God worked so mightily there, too, that the meeting lasted for three hours.

All glory and honour can be ascribed only to Him, Who, true to His promise, shows us that He will 'do great and mighty things which thou knowest not' if only we will call upon Him.

We thank Him for the spirit of prayer that He sent upon us and we pray that it will continue and increase. We thank Him for His many answers, especially for sending the speaker, Dr. Haqq, through whose powerful, spirit-filled messages God revealed and met the needs of many hearts. We thank Him for His strength and His 'assured peace' in this place. May we count on you to hold us close to Him in order that Mukti's prayer ministry may become a mighty force for God in this land where so many millions still need to know Him.

Dr. A. Abdul Haqq (considered India's Billy Graham), left the following comment in our Visitors' Book:

'I have been privileged to come to Mukti Mission in connection with the Ramabai Centenary. It has been in God's providence. I depart from here with profound confidence in the Lord that a momentous spiritual awakening for Maharastra and even beyond has started. Amen'.

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GOD’S GIFT—A LOVING, HELPFUL SISTER

BY ADRIENNE MOCATTA

Last October our family moved into their new home. How happy they were to have such a fine new place—two large rooms, an airy verandah, and a kitchen! There was no doubt that the little ones, whose ages ranged from three to four years were very happy to have their own home, and their own missionary auntie. The little girl of eleven was very happy, even though there was no other little girl about her own age with whom to share in work and play. There were two older sisters, one who settled in happily and who is a blessing in the compound. The other one has not yet become so well adjusted and needs much prayer.

After several weeks in our new home, another little girl of two and a half years came into our family. Now there were six little ones under five years of age and several of them were very delicate and needed special care. It has been my constant concern to see that the children are looked after properly, and I know that the young matron has had a heavy load to carry. She and I prayed many times that the Lord would send us help. We needed so much to have someone to assist with the little ones. At last, at the beginning of this month, another girl was appointed to help in the family. She had had previous experience with children, and the children have responded happily to her love and care.

Not only does the Lord supply our need, but He gives over and above what we ask or think. A fortnight ago Kamal came to Mukti and was placed in my family. Kamal’s father died a year ago and her poor mother worked hard, trying to support Kamal and her little brother. But there were days when there was not much to eat because of her weakness. Then, very suddenly, just before Christmas, the mother took ill and died, leaving these two children alone and hungry. A kind missionary took them in for a while and wrote to ask if we would make a home for Kamal and her brother. Kamal’s blind sister, Shalini, was sent to us eight years ago. In this way the two sisters could again be together. The brother was sent to the boys’ home not far from here and Kamal came into our family.

Though Kamal is only eleven years old, she is such a helpful, loving new sister in our family. She is also going to school, though she had to start in the first standard. She had never had much of an opportunity to attend school.

We commend to you this dear new sister, Kamal, and all of our family. May the Lord Jesus Christ claim each heart for Himself and may His beauty appear upon each young life.
March and April are examination months for our girls here and those in college, teacher training, Bible school, high school and nursing. You won't forget to hold them before the Lord with us, will you?

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