Welcome of the McMillen Family

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
November–December 1958

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What God Has Done for My Family

It is now more than a year since the Morning Glory Family came into being. In the beginning there were eight children and a matron. Five of the children were three and four years of age, and the other three sisters were nine, thirteen and fourteen respectively.

Now there are fourteen children in the family plus the matron and the 'big sister'. The first addition to our family was a little girl named Kamal. She is twelve years of age, and has a little brother of six in a home for boys. Her sister is blind, and has been living in Mukti for some years. In the Centenary Meetings in March she accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her own personal Saviour, and on November eighth during the special meetings, she was baptized.

The next additions to our family were two sisters, Leela and Susheela. Both of them received blessing during the above mentioned meetings, and they want to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and show His love to others by helping the matron with the little children, and by doing their studies well.

Last May another little girl named Shakuntala came into our family. Her mother is in the poor house in Poona, and was unable to look after her children. Ever since she came into the family she was a problem, as she would sometimes take the little children's food for herself. She also used to quarrel very much with the other children and tell lies. She gave a lot of trouble to the teachers in school. She is twelve years of age. During these special meetings she confessed her sins, repented, and asked the Lord Jesus to come into her heart. Everyone of the children received a blessing during these meetings, and we do praise the Lord for His servant, Mr. Augustine Salins, through whom He spoke with convicting and drawing power.

—Adrienne Mocatta
HE GOETH BEFORE

As we look back over the past one and a half years of blessing on furlough, and as we consider what great things the Lord has done in bringing us back to India, our testimony continues to be 'he goeth before'.

At this writing we have come to Bombay to clear our baggage through customs. A diamond merchant, who was also travelling on the train to Bombay, told us of his strict schedule of spending one hour in prayer each morning before his five gods. Should this not be a challenge for us, who know the only true and living God and Saviour, to wait patiently before Him, Who truly goes before us?

As we return to Mukti, it is with joy that we again take up the work that the Lord has for us here. Especially are we thankful for the help of Mr. Jawlikar in the farm office. During the past year and a half, God has done a genuine work in his heart. His morning devotional messages to our workers are true to the Word and come from his heart as he witnesses for his Messiah and Saviour. His testimony is that 'old things are passed away; all things are become new'. He says that now 'when I do or say something, I have to stop and question whether or not it is sin'.

The recent special meetings in Mukti with Mr. Augustine Salias, during which the Lord so marvelously worked in our midst, have been a blessing to our Christian men. Much sin has been confessed and put away. Each Tuesday thousands of villagers come to Kedgaon for market day. We feel that God has set before our Christian Bethel men an open door to get tracts and gospels into the hands of these multitudes of people. Surely He Who goes before us would have these reached with the gospel. Please pray to that end.

—Howard McMillen

REVIVAL AGAIN IN MUKTI

A holy hush fell over the sitting room as the missionaries gathered there morning and evening to kneel in prayer. Other activities every night were put aside, as for two months the entire staff gave itself to deep, longing, pleading, agonizing prayer. It was the prayer of Daniel for those in captivity, of Paul for Israel, and of our Lord in John 17. The burden of prayer was a crushing one, as our hearts wept within us and our spirits bowed in aching, soul-gripping intercession. The prayer burden spread, and some of the Mukti women gathered every day for two months from five to six in the evening in united prayer, while a prayer chain continued daily from 6 a.m. until 9.30 p.m.

Those who knew Mukti might well have thought we were preparing for another centenary, but the centenary last March with its 700 souls at the feet of the Lord was but the foreshadowing of that which was to come this November. Of those 700 who came to the Lord at the centenary, 350 were our Mukti people and the others were outside guests. We were praying this time for those yet untouched inside Mukti.

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The speaker who was to come to us was Augustine Salins, an Indian of another tongue needing an interpreter. He longed with us for Dr. Ranbhise to do the interpreting, a medical doctor used of the Lord with Mr. Salins in revival at other places. Mr. Salins hesitated to ask the busy doctor for more of his time, but after much prayer we made the request. The prayers that went with that letter reached Dr. Ranbhise's heart as he read it, and he put aside his busy medical practice to come. We knew then that the yearning prayers of our hearts were inspired of the Holy Spirit.

For five days Mr. Salins brought to us God's message, and Sonubai Anda reports that never since Ramabai's day has she seen such a deep work of the Spirit of God, as evidenced by definite restitutions made. She was kept busy receiving back grain, charcoal and other items that had been secretly taken from our big kitchens and store-rooms. Some of the missionaries could not get to meals because of the long line of people waiting at their doors wanting to make wrong things right. As the Holy Spirit searched hearts, wrongs of years back were brought to light and forgiveness asked. Stolen articles from many different sources were returned. One woman who had not spoken to another for many years broke that period of silence with friendly greetings. A workman fell on his face at my feet in the church and confessed to stealing money from the Mission when he did shopping for us, falsifying the accounts. Secret, hidden ways of darkness were brought to the light and washed away in the precious blood of the Lamb. The church was filled with weeping, as the convicting power of the Holy Spirit held sway.

We tried to tabulate figures of those who went forward in the church, and the numbers went up to 400, then 500, then 600, and then we lost count. It seemed as though almost everyone in Mukti was at His feet. Some in that number went forward several times as the Holy Spirit worked deeper and deeper and deeper into their hearts. One Hindu girl went forward three times—once to accept Christ as Saviour, a second time for consecration, and a third time to crown the Lord as King of her life forever. When we saw the depth of the work, we knew why the Holy Spirit had caused our hearts to agonize in prayer for two months.

But it is not just that we might be blessed that God has done this work. He soon showed us His pattern. The meetings had just closed when a telegram came from Dr. Haqq, who had been our speaker at the centenary, asking all of Mukti to intercede in prayer for his special meetings being held in New Delhi, the capital city of India, for there was urgent need. Back to our knees we went, and we believe God is leading Mukti into becoming a powerhouse of prayer in this land, to which such evangelists as Dr Haqq, who is known as the 'Billy Graham of India', can wire for prayer when there is urgent need. Pray that we may respond to this challenge and follow all the way
the Lord is leading us. The pathway of such intercessory prayer leads through the Garden of Gethsemane. It is not easily followed. Will you pray with us that Mukti may be found faithful to all His eternal purposes for us?

—Carol Terry

Those who were baptized receiving Scripture portions from Mr. Salins on the right. Dr. Ranbhise is on the left

'MANY OF YOU . . . HAVE PUT ON CHRIST'

The baptismal service scheduled for the Saturday in the middle of the meetings was no interruption to the work of God that was going on in our midst. Instead, it was like a glorious benediction, showing forth the resurrection life for all those who follow the Saviour wholly. Eyes were misted in tears as we gazed towards the group standing there, faces radiant with the joy known only to those who have become new creatures in Christ Jesus. Faith had hardly dared to believe that Jayawanti would be standing there transformed into a picture of serenity, joy and peace. She, whose rebellion and cruelty had taken her out of the Mukti family to a reform home and another mission institution for correction and discipline; she for whom so much prayer had been offered again and again; she stood there clothed in the righteousness of the risen, holy Saviour. She witnessed, with a smile, to the joy of those who have 'put on Christ'.

There were others, too, in that group whom the Lord had delivered from sin and bondage and who stood there as a witness and challenge to other hearts who as yet were resisting the Word of God and the wooings of the Holy Spirit. As they watched these others following the Lord with such joy and blessing, their hearts melted, and at the meeting that followed, they, too, sought the Saviour and surrendered all to Him.

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IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO

We praise our wonderful heavenly Father for all the blessing we received during the days of special meetings this month.

After the Sunday morning service, a number of girls stayed behind to get right with God. The Word had been given forth with power and conviction and in answer to weeks of prayer many had come to see their deep spiritual need. But that morning not one girl from the Home of Mercy stayed behind and my heart was sad as I saw them all go out of the meeting. I knew there were many who needed the Lord so much.

When the missionaries were gathered for lunch, the superintendent asked them to unite in a time of prayer especially for these girls. While they were praying together, I went to my room and called my matron to come and pray with me. As we prayed we heard footsteps at the door as one after another of the girls came to my room for prayer until there were over forty of them weeping and confessing their sins. My sadness and burden were changed to joy and praise as I heard them. There was joy in heaven, too, over sinners turning to God.

In the meetings that followed, many more came out to live for Jesus. Among these were Hindus, a Muslim and nominal Christians. One Hindu girl, refined and educated with a B.A. degree, had been with us only three weeks. She attended every meeting and became under great conviction of her sin. In her need she surrendered to Christ and accepted Him as Saviour and Lord of her life. What a sweet testimony she has, but the waves of opposition have begun to roll upon her. She needs your prayer as she goes through this time of testing.

A young Muslim girl, fifteen years of age, also accepted Christ as her Saviour and her lovely face shines with His love and peace. She must leave us to go back to her Muslim home at the end of the month. She does not want to go at all, but she is under age and we cannot keep her for she must obey her parents. Surround her with your prayers that she might be a light in that dark home.

These girls who have been saved have started a prayer meeting. Each evening they meet to pray for their sisters who are still outside of the love of Christ which has transformed their lives. It is a joy to my heart to see their happy faces. "IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO; WHAT HE'S DONE FOR OTHERS, HE'LL DO FOR YOU."

—ELIZABETH MORRIS

THE JOYS OF RETURNING 'HOME'

Who can describe the joy one experiences upon returning 'home'? "IT IS JUST AS IF YOU WERE ONLY GONE A FEW DAYS", some said, and that is the way it seemed to us. Even though we were separated by many miles from our friends here at Mukti, we had the mutual fellowship of the Lord and with one another by prayer.
The sight of Miss Doerkson waving from the docks as we disembarked in Bombay, the welcome and garlands from friends there and in Poona, and the long-looked-forward-to meeting of co-workers and the Mukti family thrilled us and filled our hearts with joy at being home again.

Furlough-time in America, as we look back on it now, meant three special things to us:

*Telling of Mukti*—Groups of missionary society ladies, prayer groups, sales ladies coming to the home, a church anniversary meeting, vacation Bible schools, Sunday schools, services in churches as well as many friendly conversations afforded opportunities to tell of the grace of God which is being manifested at the Ramabai Mukti Mission. In a number of places in the central part of the United States the name and work founded by Pandita Ramabai were unknown, but we praise the Lord for new interest and a desire to help on the part of many.

*Praying for Mukti*—Soon after our days of furlough began, there came an increasing burden to pray and to intercede for our co-workers and Indian sisters across the seas. It was a joy to remember individuals regularly before the Throne of Grace. We found groups of friends and individuals usually in out-of-the-way places who were vitally concerned with the Lord's work in Mukti and were faithfully upholding the needs of the work before the Lord, and also giving out of meagre incomes to help feed and clothe the orphans. The verse in Hebrews 6:10 often came to our minds: 'For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister'.

*Preparing to return to Mukti*—Occasionally the question was asked of us, 'Are you really going back?' Our answer each time was 'Yes, we feel that's where the Lord wants us'. With the thought of returning always before us, we were conscious of our need to prepare not only materially but spiritually if we were to be servants 'profitable to the Lord'. For the many gifts and loving service rendered by friends that have made it possible for us to return, we are grateful and give our heartfelt thanks. For the opportunities to be prepared spiritually through Bible conferences and messages from the Word, we are grateful to the Lord.

'The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth...' During the many miles of travel to the States, while doing deputation work there and while returning to Mukti, we were very conscious of the Lord's protection and keeping. We give praise to Him for bringing us safely back 'home'. Our desire and prayer is that through us others may come to know the Saviour Whom we love and serve.

—Corene McMillen

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As young Sheela bravely stepped into the water, our hearts went out to her. We recalled the day she had come to Jesus and we had shuddered at the confessions that poured forth from the lips of one so young. Witnessing her radiant joy, our hearts soared to the Throne of Grace that she might be kept strong and true in a home that had brought much shame and disgrace to the name of Christ. We prayed, too, that her father whose theft, deceit and weakness were known to all, might somehow be touched by the testimony of his little girl. Not once, but several times, smitten with awful conviction, we saw him humble himself before the Lord, making confession and restitution. With praise to God for ALL He has done, we pray that in that home and everywhere in Mukti each life ‘being made free from sin’ may become the servant of righteousness (Rom. 6:18).

—Lillian Doerksen

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