INDIA

The Independence Appeal To Us—

"that they may hear."

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
September–October 1959
Independence Day in Mukti

BY VIMALBAI DONGRE

India has celebrated its twelfth Independence anniversary on August the fifteenth. Here in Mukti at six o'clock in the morning, over 200 of our school children took part in a procession, and marched through the village. How they enjoyed it as they sang songs of our country and shouted "Victory to Bharat (India)!"

Later the flag was hoisted, and our programme began. There were various items—interesting drills,lezim,national songs and speeches by school children. We were glad to have Mr. P. Mathews, our educational advisor, as our main speaker. First he gave a brief history of our Independence, and then he gave the spiritual application. His main theme was, "The most high God ruleth in the kingdom of men, and He appointeth over it whomsoever He will." How true it is, and we are grateful for our rulers! India got its freedom without shedding a drop of blood. Is not this through His great mercy?

To us, as Christians, the Independence appeal is even greater because so many of our people are still in the bondage of sin. How can they be freed unless they know what sin is, and Him who will free them? Is it not our duty to tell them about this great deliverance and salvation in Christ? He said that God had no hands, but our hands; God had no other feet, but our feet, God had no mouth, but we must be His mouth-piece; God had no help, but ours, to do His work for Him.

This is the challenge to every Christian of this land—that we should be God's hands to bring the people into His kingdom. We are His feet to go and preach to lost souls and we are His mouth to tell them about Jesus who redeemed us. God has no other help, unless His children offer their lives willingly for His service.

Road-Side Clinic Brings Freedom

BY JUANITA HARRELL

Our first road-side clinic was held the first Friday in August. We were thrilled by our reception that day, but this Friday was even more wonderful. Truly the Lord's hand is upon us in this work. The village people are so gracious. It makes all the difference when you have been invited to a village. And how did this all start? Dr. Gupta and I had been praying for the past year about a medical ministry to the village people. Our main burden is to present to them the preventive aspect. How the village people need this! If you could only have a glimpse at our out-patient department here for a day, you would understand our burden for these people. They need to be educated to the fact that the time to come to the doctor is not when the child, the young house-wife, or the old 'grannie' has been sick for weeks and now is so very ill that she is beyond the reach of man's medical aid. Still, God is able to touch these that within the medical realm, we are unable to help. We have seen Him heal those whom, as we have taken them into our hospital, we have given the relatives the understanding that we were unable to do anything for them. We minister the medical care we can to them and pray to God to touch the body and heal. And to His glory He heals and we praise Him for His touch upon such lives.
I particularly remember one young boy of about twenty-one. He had been ill at home, only a few miles away, for seven days with a cold and general body aches and pains. Evidently in the beginning he had only a slight case of flu, but he quickly developed pneumonia. When he was admitted to our hospital, his condition seemed hopeless. We told the relatives then that if the boy was healed it would be only the touch of the Lord and that we could do very little for him. It is cases like this and the children with sore eyes and other such cases that need education in preventive measures.

How graciously the Lord has opened the way for our roadside-clinic! The villages we go to are of His choosing and we are being led in His perfect will. What is our prayer for these people? That they be freed from the bonds, not only of physical diseases, but most of all that they find freedom in Christ—freedom from all the superstitions and customs that have been instilled into them since childhood. Pray for our medical staff, as we go out each Friday, that we may be used through this ministry that He has given us the opportunity of using for His glory, to win souls into His kingdom.

Loyal Citizens and Faithful Followers

BY CORENE McMILLEN

"When are you going to have club of us?" wistfully asked one of the young boys who had longingly looked on during our girls' club sessions. Realizing that growing boys also would enjoy cutting with scissors, coloring, making walnut shell turtles, as well as learn Scripture verses and hear Bible stories, we included them in our programme. Begun several months ago, as an effort to fill leisure time with purpose, the clubs seem to have become a "must" for all the girls from kindergarten age through seventh standard, as well as the boys through the third standard. Now, nearly every Monday, Wednesday or Saturday finds one of the four groups filling our cozy little club room with songs or laughter during the handwork period, or quiet attentiveness during Bible study.

The climax for our first few months came when the girls entertained their mothers at a "tea", after which they gave reports on their activities and exhibited the various handwork done.

One who seemed to naturally fit into our club programme as an assistant leader was Subhadrabai, who grew up in Mukti and was married over a year ago to a Christian young man employed as a carpenter in the Mission. Her Bible-school training and experience as mother of one of the Mukti family groups, are helping her to meet the challenge of young lives needing guidance and teaching in the ways of the Lord. She has taken complete charge of several of our meetings.

We can not help but feel that the week by week emphasis of Bible truths, the discipline of doing something useful with one's hands and the teaming together for games and races will surely help in building strong bodies, minds and hearts which will make them loyal citizens for their country and faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
"Service" is the theme of a Christian club for girls newly opened by the Ramabai Mukti Mission. Rank and badge requirements are limited to the opportunities and finances of an ordinary village girl. Hikes, picnics, study, sports, skills, homecrafts, church activities, and village life link together to fulfill our purpose of "Christ in every phase of a girl's life."

AIM : To glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

VERSE : "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45.

COMPASS: The Word of God.

UNIFORM: Sky-blue sari with red blouse.

DIVISIONS: (a) Handmaidens (Primary school)
1. Eager 2. Faithful 3. Enlightened
(b) Ambassadors (High school)

Pastor Hiwale conducted a dedicatory service for the leaders of the charter clubs.

Volunteers was formally opened on August 22, 1959, by Miss G. Fletcher, Superintendent.

Miss M. Williams counselling with one of the girls.

Every achievement is passed in a personal interview with the guide to ensure individual counselling.
A Day of Glad Tidings

BY LILLIAN DOERKSEN

After three and half years, and a rough ride in the gospel Jeep, we arrived at the river-side, across which lay the village where Chubbie and her grandmother lived. How many times we had prayed for little Chubbie who had been so touched by the story of the Saviour's love and had given her heart to Him! Now the river was in flood, but we saw a little boat and gingerly made our way down the slippery river bank. The river was wide and swift but we made our way across safely to the other side. The Bible-women handed some tracts to the boat-men and they anchored the boat and led us to the village. "It's been so long since you've been here. We wondered if you weren't coming again", they told us.

At the edge of the village, now numbering over 2500 inhabitants, we stopped to ask a blacksmith if he would like to hear the story of Jesus. He left the bellows where he was blowing his fire and in a few minutes a large crowd of men and young boys had gathered to listen, with wondering eyes, as the glad tidings of a Saviour who loved them and could free them from their sins was related to them. To most of the crowd the story seemed new. It was hard to break away and leave them but there were so many others to be reached with the good news, too. As we turned to go several of the men bought Gospels and we left them studying them with interest.

In other parts of the village the reception was the same. But we were anxious to find Chubbie and her blind grandmother to see if they remembered the Lord Jesus and were following Him. Chubbie, we discovered was fourteen years of age now and had been married and left for another village. Her old grandmother was there, and to our surprise, was shining the brass vessels like Chubbie used to, and she looked at us, saying she recognized us. We found that she had had an operation on her eyes and could see again. Four years ago, little motherless Chubbie, just ten, had told us with such wistful longing how much she would like to come to Mukti so she could learn to read and be able to know more about the Lord Jesus. "But," she had said, "who will take care of the old blind one? No, as long as grandmother is here, I will take care of her." Now, the old grandmother was so proud that she had been able to get Chubbie married and was able to look after herself. She said she remembered the name of Jesus and listened hungrily as we told her, and the others more of His love. But when we asked her if she truly believed, she was afraid to confess that she did. It was three and half years since she had heard and no one had been able to go back to remind her or tell her more. We were encouraging her to trust and confess Him, when a message came, calling us away to another part of the village.

The boys who took us to the home of the health-nurse who had called us, told us that she was a Christian. How glad she was to see us and to our surprise we learned that she had grown up in our Mukti boarding school. She told us her husband was in the army and in order to earn money to give her six children an edu-
cation, she had come to this lonely village to work. Cut off from any Christian fellowship whatever, for over a year she had been standing alone, seeking to maintain a Christian testimony! How much that short time of fellowship and prayer in her home mean to her!

Neither the Bible women nor I noticed the burning heat of the mid-day sun or the fact that it was long past lunch-time. There were so many opportunities to give out the tidings of our Saviour's love and salvation. When we returned to the river to cross over to have our lunch and bring the same good tidings to the village of nearly 3000 on the other side, we found the river had risen a foot and a half in the few hours since we'd crossed it. The boatmen decided they must hear our good news, too, and would not loose the boat until they had heard the gospel story. The bank was lined with children and people who had followed us from the village, listening.

We had pushed off from the shore when a young boy came running down the bank, waving some money and calling for us to stop and let him have a Gospel. With difficulty the boatmen rowed against the stream and found a place where they could stop and make the quick exchange for us. With a big smile of gratitude the boy took the Gospel and started reading it out loud to the boys who crowded around.

There were many other precious opportunities after we went into the other village and even after we started for home in the evening. The jeep bumped along slowly when suddenly we came upon a gang of workmen on the road. There was just a narrow strip of repaired road for the jeep to pass and as we approached it, a man stopped up and waved us to a stop. He said they wanted to hear about our God, and wondered if we could let them have some booklets. Then we saw heads bobbing out of the ditch where some had been seeking shelter. In no time the jeep was surrounded by an audience, brown bodies glistening in the rain listening eagerly to the tidings of peace and hope from the Book of the living God. Only a couple of them were literate but they promised to read the Gospel and tracts to the others who could not.

The journey home was a joyous one. Burned from the sun, tired and hoarse from giving out the message all day long, all the way home we sang praises to the King of Glory whose blessed Name we had the wonderful privilege of proclaiming to so many. Will they remember that precious Name? Must they wait another three and a half years before they hear again? Or will there be more labourers to thrust forth to tell the story this year in answer to your prayer?

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Note: On cover-picture Chubbie's grandmother listens eagerly to the gospel.
News Items

Some of our readers have faithfully prayed through the years for Mr. Deshmukh, our Marathi pandit. We must share with you the sad news that he was recently called to meet His maker. He had a heart attack and went very suddenly. It came as a great shock to us for we had to see him go without any assurance that he was ready to meet his God. After helping so many missionaries with the Marathi language and teaching them the Word of God so they would be able to give it out to his people, it is difficult to describe our grief at having to see him carried to a Hindu funeral pyre with all the wailing and heart-break of a heathen funeral. We ask you to pray for his distressed wife and family. Pray that his son who made a profession of salvation in our school some years ago, may be warned by his father’s carelessness and confess the Saviour and lead the rest of the family to His feet.

A lovely new baby was brought to us last week. We accept her as another challenge of a life to be trained for Christ to be a spiritual builder in the India of to-morrow.

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

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