Mr. & Mrs. H. COOPER
God’s Christmas Gift to Mukti

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

1963
A Special Message From
The Superintendent

MISS GLADYS FLETCHER

At this season of the year my thoughts go out to the big Mukti family around the world, which has stood behind us, and made possible the continuance of this ministry of love and practical help to the needy. In the many prayers that have been offered, and gifts of love that have come throughout the year, we know there has often been great sacrifice, and behind the beautiful clothing for our family, much time and effort. We want you to know that your 'labour is not in vain.' As we watch each little child begin to set her steps in paths of truth and righteousness, we cannot but praise Him for those who by their praying and giving make the ministry possible. We pray that your hearts too will be full of the joy of knowing that Jesus meant you when He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

God has done many wonderful things for us this year. He has sent sufficient money recently to enable the completion of the sanitation system, the deepening of a much needed well, the building of another missionary bungalow, and the provision of a new cooking system for our large Mukti kitchen which cooks for around three hundred daily.

We have watched the Holy Spirit working in the lives of our people. The ministry of special visiting speakers has been blessed to many, and some of our Rescue Home women who knew nothing of Christ ere they came to Mukti, have received Him, followed Him through the waters of baptism, and are showing evidence of changed lives.

He has kept our large family in good health, for which we praise Him. However at this time I would ask your special prayers for our missionary staff, some of whom have been greatly tried in body during the past year.

We praise Him for the fact that one third of the Pandita Ramabai translation of the Bible is now through the press. Join with us in prayer for a speedy completion of this much needed Bible.

Christmas Greetings

In conclusion let me bring to you all sincere Christmas greetings from the family at Mukti. As we look together towards 1964, may we have that faith and yieldedness to Him, that will enable Him to answer our every prayer for the extension of His Kingdom.
"This Is The Way, Walk Ye In It"

( Isa. 30:21 )

By Hubert Cooper

It seems very strange that two months ago we were travelling about, speaking of the work at Mukti and at Dhond. We were talking of David the shepherd boy, and now we have actually seen him. We showed a slide of an old lady who had spent forty years going on pilgrimages. Now she is a person whom we can actually see. We have also seen the blind women and children at their work and at their play, and how thrilling it all was.

The journey from Bombay to Kedgaon made an indelible impression upon my mind of the great need for an army of workmen to be thrust forth into this land, to fight against the power of Satan. My heart was burdened, and tears came into my eyes to see so many living in indescribable poverty, never having heard of the love and compassion of Christ the Saviour. He died for them, and they have a right to hear. But where are the labourers?

Soon we were at Mukti, and from the start we were conscious of the true meaning of this place, for one could see the joy of salvation upon the lovely faces of the children whom He has rescued and redeemed. My deepest regret was that because of the language barrier I could not tell them how happy I was to be there.

Saturday and Sunday were spent at Mukti, and in the morning service on Sunday we had the joy of giving a word of testimony through an interpreter. It was lovely to see the children so clean and tidy, sitting so still and quiet during the service. Surely this was "Love in Action." On Monday we were shown around the Mission and saw the various departments. Everyone seemed so happy and content. "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes" ( Ps. 118:23 ).

At 3 p.m. on Monday we were on the move again. This time we were off to Dhond where we have been assigned for the study of Marathi. While we are here we will be working with Miss Morris in her ministry to the orphan boys, many of whom come here from Mukti at the age of three years. On arrival at the drive to the mission, Miss Morris met us and introduced us to some of the school staff. The road was lined on both sides with boys, and as we walked along, garlands were placed around our necks, and posies in our hands. The boys sang and threw flower petals. It was all very moving to receive such a spontaneous welcome.

Soon we will commence language study, and we would greatly value your prayers that we may speedily have a working knowledge of Marathi, for we are here that "Thy way may be known upon earth" ( Ps. 67:2 ).

May I take this opportunity to thank all whose prayers and practical expressions of Christian love have made our coming to India possible. Truly He is able "to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" ( Eph. 3:20 ).
"As For God, His Way Is Perfect" (Ps. 18:30)

By Nerys Cooper

As the impressive buildings of Bombay became nearer and clearer, the assurance came that the promise given to me a long while previously from Exodus 23:20, was now being fulfilled—"Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared." For weeks and months this day had been eagerly anticipated, but preceding it there had to be many farewells, and many tears shed, as we parted with our friends and families. But His grace as always, proved sufficient.

Our voyage out began on October 26, and we first set foot on Indian soil on November 15. As the ship approached the quayside, we joined the many other passengers who were looking out for any known faces. How wonderful it was to see those of Miss Morris and Miss Bollman, the latter whom we had first seen two days previously in Karachi when our ships met. Stepping out of the boat and on to the quay at Bombay for the first time, was a rather indescribable experience. There was that feeling of having been there before. It was all of the Lord that I felt like this. After spending four interesting hours in the Customs shed, we eventually reached the place where we were to spend Friday evening.

Saturday morning at 8.30 saw us travelling towards the station for our train to Kedgaon. As each hour brought us nearer, excitement was rising. At Poona we were met by four girls from Mukti who are nursing at the hospital there. To our surprise they threw garlands of flowers around our necks, and in addition I was given a posy and a chain of flowers for the hair. This apparently is the Indian greeting sign.

After many hours of expectation we were at last jumping off the train at Kedgaon, where about twenty people were awaiting us. Our short trip by car was thrilling, as we approached the mission and saw both sides of the road lined with happy-faced children. At the gate we were met by Miss Fletcher, and were bedecked with more garlands and posies. The experience was quite overwhelming, and the singing of the children as we walked along, will not soon be forgotten.

The weekend was spent at Mukti, and Monday afternoon we travelled to Dhond. If the welcome received at Mukti was overwhelming, it was even more so here. Each moment, and each step past the boys lining both sides of the drive, brought joy and peace to one's heart. We realise there will be many opportunities of service while we are in Dhond studying Marathi. The glitter and the shine in the boys' eyes and their beaming smiles, just thrilled me. Since then we have seen them at school, at meals, and at play, and their continually radiant and smiling faces just make us lift our hearts and say, "Thank you Lord, for this place of love, care and devotion." How very noticeable it is that these children are so loved for the Saviour's sake.

These last three days have been taken up with unpacking and settling in. We now begin learning the Marathi language. Up to now all communication has been through signs, but as we look to Him we shall overcome. As we begin our new life here my prayer is that I "might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10).
The Star of Hope

'Twas Bethlehem's star that guided
The wise men on their way;
And shining, led them onward
To where the young Child lay.
He was the Star from Jacob,
The Dayspring from on high,
The Light to lead the lowly
To mansions in the sky.

He came, that Star from Jacob,
To shine in Bethlehem town;
He came from heights of Glory
To bring the Godhead down:
He shone to show the Father,
Unseen by mortal eye,
And to reveal to sinners
The Love that lived to die.

Once more from realms of Glory,
This Star will shine again;
To pierce the deepening darkness
With Bethlehem refrain:
Then lovers of His Advent
Will greet their golden dawn;
The "Blessed Hope" of ages,
Bright Star of cloudless morn.

—JOHN G. RIDLEY

Special Prayer Requests

The EVANGELISTIC CAMP for 1964 is to be held in the Supa district, with headquarters at the bungalow there, and branching out daily by jeep into the needy villages of that area. Stand with us for victory through the blood of the Cross.

The DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF SHARADA SCHOOL will take place March 9 to 11, 1964. Many of you will remember how wondrously the Lord worked during the Centenniel in 1958. We pray that we will fall into line with His purposes that again He will do wonders to His praise and glory.
At the gate, across the courtyard, past the kindergarten, through the arch and down the pathway, stretched a ribbon of Mukti girlhood in welcome of a returning missionary. That three-hundred-foot-long garland of little girls was both a picture and a sermon.

The challenge of these hundreds of children gathered into our care from every part of India, went down into our hearts as it would have gone to the centre of your being. To be committed to them and the millions of children encircling the land, is our pledge for the coming years.

While Miss McGregor watched over all those childish wiggles there was not a stir. That is our commission. We, too, want to watch over them until each little girl will be sure and steadfast in her God, ready to stand ever strong even when we are far away.

That welcome was but a few days ago, but ages away in the beehive of Mukti activity. Much closer seems a scene in upper Michigan of four months ago. There, under a tent, missionaries from South Africa, Kenya, Costa Rica, France, Pakistan, India and the Philippine Islands, gathered to face the challenge of Christian clubs for the boys and girls of the nations. Suddenly down into one of those meetings the Holy Spirit came to draw aside from the immediate discussion, and give a glimpse of the ministry in all its potentialities. Out of that moment when time ceased to be, came a dedication that was new. I return to India to live wholly, completely, and unreservedly, that the Lord Jesus Christ might be exalted in every phase of each girl's life.

The past fourteen years have been full of many assignments, but in all of them there has been just one burden. The time has come for a partial release to return to my interest in Christian clubs for the girlhood of India. The research and understanding and interpretation of Indian culture is much too great for me. Your prayer fellowship will turn the vision of July into materials for use not only in the clubs here in Mukti, but throughout the nation.

"Truly I assure you, unless the grain of wheat that drops into the earth, dies, it remains single, but if it dies, it produces a rich yield" (John 12:24 – Berkeley Version).
Witnessing A Good Confession

By Betty Gray

During recent days we have rejoiced to see four of our Home of Mercy (Rescue Home) girls testify to their faith in Christ, by following Him through the waters of baptism. This occasion was a time of great joy for us, and we would share with you something of their stories.

Jewel came to us, a simple-minded girl from a village home, and with no knowledge of Christ. Day by day as she heard the lovely name of Jesus, she began to be drawn to the One who so loved that He gave Himself for her. Her heart responded and she yielded to Him. She asked that she might be baptised and follow her Lord in this manner. Since this time she has had an increasing burden of prayer for her relatives, and is constantly praying that they may be saved.

Little Woman came to us from another mission. After her husband died, she went to live with her sister who was the only Christian in the family. Later Little woman came to live in Mukti. She had given her heart to Christ before coming to us, but lacked teaching. She began to attend the Bible classes in preparation for baptism, and her heart truly turned to the Lord. She is now a sincere Christian.

Goodness had never heard of Christ when she came to us in her time of trouble. After she had been here about two years she left us and went away with her now Christian brother. She began however, to long to be back in Mukti, where she had begun to put her trust in Christ. She started to pray that somehow she might be readmitted. On her return her case was prayerfully considered, and she was once again taken into our family. She has been back with us for about six months, and since then has determined to go on with the Lord. She has truly trusted Christ, and shows evidence of a changed life. Our hearts witnessed to her sincerity as she followed her Lord through the waters of baptism.

Purity has been here a number of years. At first she was quite troublesome, and unco-operative in caring for her child. Later she became interested in the Gospel, and during special meetings gave her heart to the Lord.
Purity joyfully gave a clear and precious testimony at the time of her baptism, and is seeking to live to please her Saviour.

It is our prayer that all who come within our walls may be drawn to the Lord who loves them. Pray for these and the many, many other women in the Home of Mercy who are daily hearing the Gospel, that they may turn to Christ and live.

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