To the Friends of Mukti Mission,

We are very sorry to be so late with our Prayer Bell this month for we know that all the Prayer Circles are looking to this report to keep up interest in our work. The May and June number was filled with annual reports and a rather large number, so we decided to drop one number as we really had more than we could do during those months. Times of rest are imperative for people, but they do interfere with business.

We have received the good news that Misses Hastie, Craddock, and Butler are sailing from England on the S.S. City of Paris, leaving Birkenhead October 22d and with them a new worker, Miss Tillett, whom the Lord is sending to us. Also two new workers are coming from America, Misses Amstutz and Steinberg, all of whom we hope to welcome before the end of November. It gives us courage to know that reinforcements are so near.

Again we praise the Lord for answered prayer. As you know we had long been praying for a Doctor and trained nurse. This need was met temporarily in the person of Dr. Philip Sheppard and Mrs. Sheppard who are visiting India in the interest of missions in connection with the P.I.V. Mission and Miss Irene Shipman of the same mission who gave up a month's language study to help us. The rainy season is the most unhealthy time of the year with us and it was a boon to have both a Doctor and a nurse on the spot. We are indeed grateful to them for so willingly giving us their time, strength, and skill in this emergency.

At our annual meeting in April, it was decided to lighten Miss McGregor's heavy burden by relieving her of the Bible school. Bhimabai, one of our own Indian ladies, who has had special training in the Blackstone Training Institute at Muttra, North India, and is well qualified to undertake this important work, was appointed to teach the class. She began with 27 numbers, 12 former students and 15 new ones, who came from all departments of Mukti.

While Dr. Sheppard was with us, he gave the girls a lesson each day from the life of Abraham, of Peter, and from the Psalms. These lessons were much appreciated by them all, Bhimabai acted as interpreter. At the close of the course, Dr. set an examination for them. As an incentive to hard study, he offered prizes for highest standings. All told, the examination was very satisfactory. The first prize was won by a school teacher, the second by a girl from the printing press, the third by a sewing girl, and the fourth had to be divided between two blind girls whose marks were about equal. Prize giving day was a happy occasion for all concerned. We are grateful to Dr. Sheppard for the help and inspiration he was to the Bible class.

Evangelistic Work

"Come over and help us", came the Macedonian cry from the faithful band at Pandharpur before the greatest fair of the year. We were praying much that the Lord would indicate whom He would send.

As the time drew near, we knew of the increase of cholera in the many districts from which the pilgrims would come and that already it was in Pandharpur. Experience with cholera in these melas made us feel that any who should go must have a personal knowledge of God's call. So we tarried and again the Post brought an urgent appeal for reinforcements. As we talked of the pressing need, one young woman was asked, "Would you like to go in face of the circumstances?" explaining the difficulties and risks. "Yes I wish to go. Only yesterday I was talking to two others of my great desire to go."

"But the cholera?" "Why I am willing to live or die as He will."

"Could you be ready by to-morrow morning?" "Yes, certainly, or to-day if desired," came the happy response.

Surely he had called one. Was He not saying, "Come forward." Another was called and the urgent appeal, the inconvenience of the temporary quarters of the Bible women at Pandharpur, and the presence and risks of cholera were all explained. "Shall we only go to tell the Gospel when all is ease and comfort and the circumstances?" "Do you want to go?" "Yes". A third was then asked, one who herself had suffered and wandered as a pilgrim "seeking a God somewhere" before she heard of One who had died for her and of whom she loves to tell. "Why yes, I shall go, if it is to die there or not. Am I not in His hand?"

Yet a fourth, one who very sweetly tells the story of Salvation, upon being asked replied, "Yes, Auntie, I wish to go. It is His will for me to go and I have faith He will keep."
A happy little band of four precious redeemed Indian Sisters gathered with their "Aunties" from far lands at 7 a.m. next day to be committed into Jesus' keeping for the journey and the time of preaching to the pilgrims. Hands were laid on them in Jesus' Name and they went to the station. With prayers in each heart, a company of their sisters waved them off. What a glad welcome they received twelve days later when they returned and told of precious opportunities to tell the Old Story to many to whom it was new.

"India, thy voices are calling,
Voices of pain and despair,
Voices of weary pilgrims
Seeking a God somewhere."

Joan McGregor

Gujarat Flood

Probably most of our friends have been reading the Papers of the devastation caused by floods in Gujerat. This touched us closely as many hundreds of our girls came to Mukti from that part of the country at the beginning of this century, during famine time; and since then a large number of these have married and gone back to their own country, some working as Bible-women and teachers with their husbands who are in Mission work, and others simply living in their own houses. They came to us as heathen, but praise God, by His grace, they are now Christians.

Naturally, as soon as the flood news reached us we began praying, for were not our own sisters, relatives and friends, dear to many by human ties and to all of us in the bonds of Christ, in the affected area. At first we knew we could get no letters, for railway communications were cut off. But of course we longed to hear and great was the joy when a post card from an "own sister" reached us saying all were safe though damage and destruction were all around, and even their own house had begun to fall but was arrested. What could we see in this but answer to prayer? So we praised God.

Next came a beautiful letter that we wish our home friends might read from a dear girl who was in Gospel work before she was married to a Christian preacher. It was read in the Mukti Church at the Sunday Morning Service and called forth praise and prayer. This letter was full of praise for the way God had protected and spared their lives; although their home fell, they and the school children who were with them were able to escape to a safe place. Then the thing that touched us very much was that this dear girl was so concerned for us; were we having this same terrible rain or were we suffering from drought which is usually the case in this section of the land.

Other letters followed, telling of fallen houses, lost property, and damaged crops, but all full of thanksgiving for spared lives. Up to the present, we have not heard of the life of a single Christian being lost though many have suffered loss of property and the physical and mental suffering must have been tremendous. In only one letter was there any appeal for monetary help.

Our monthly Prayer Day happened to fall just at flood time. One of our Indian lady teachers was taking the Children's Meeting. Flood was in her mind as she gave her message from the story of Naman, and she asked if we could help in the present distress as the little girl helped her master. A quick response came that we could pray and give. The thought and word soon spread around our village and a collection began; those who had no money to give went without a meal and the price of that was added to the rest and in a few days time we had the joy of sending some practical help to those for whom we had prayed.

Mary Macdonald

Prayer Notes

There is still need of prayer for repairs. The Bartimeus Sadan (Blind girl's quarters) is still as it lay after the storm of June 3rd. These girls are crowded into about half the space they should have to make them comfortable.

We long to see the great church, built by Ramabai shortly after the famine of 1900, finished and thus become a fitting Memorial to one who in her lifetime wrought so well.

Our Christian people who work for us, very much need new houses. Their families are increasing and with Christian light, they can no longer live as they did before they became Christians.

Æneas, our T. B. sanitorium, was built to last five years. It is built of mud bricks and has stood for more than fifteen years but now it is in a very dilapidated condition and should be replaced by a new building. Since we always have weak girls and some T. B. cases, it is necessary to have a proper building even though it be small. At present, there are fifteen inmates. The head matron was herself healed of T. B. and now takes a responsible part in the work of Mukti.

Pray for journeying mercies for the parties soon to be on the way to us, and that we may hold out until they arrive.

Eunice Wells