Dear Friends and Fellow-helpers Everywhere:  

July and August, 1928.

We raise our ‘Ebeneser’ to the Lord for all He has wrought during the past year, and for all He has been to each one of us, as we have sought to carry on in the fight. We find strength and cheer oftentimes, as we think of those all around the world, who are holding the ropes—without whose help we should be poor indeed. It is blessed to realize that we are all one in Christ Jesus, and His, for India.

I sometimes try to picture what it will be like in that day, when we get to the feet of the Lord, and find there, the souls from India. Then all the hardness and weeping and striving and poured-out life needed for the training of these souls, will fade away in ‘exceeding joy.’

The following Reports will encourage all our friends to pray on, and work on.

THE MUKTI CHURCH

This has sustained a great loss this year in the passing away of the Rev. W. W. Bruere, who came here so regularly to administer the Lord’s Supper—conduct the Marathi meetings of our monthly Day of Prayer, also he was usually present at Baptismal Services, although latterly he did not do the baptising himself. Our Indian Pastor, the Rev. P. V. Macasare, has stepped into the gap, and other workers have kindly helped us on Prayer Day. Christmas Morning Service was taken by Col. Campbell, who brought us a very telling message, and his ministry of the Word in our English Meeting on each Prayer Day has been exceedingly helpful.

WEEK OF PRAYER

In January we began the year with our usual Week of Prayer, for which Mr. A. I. Garrison was with us. From beginning to end the Spirit was felt in power, and our hearts were much gladdened by a number of our young people and children yielding themselves to the Lord.

There has been some going forth to the Regions Beyond. Two of our young women have been helping missionaries of the P.I.V. in the Native State of Phaltan. Others have been to Junnar to a Mission recently begun there, and others to the Church of Christ Mission. Pandharpur, has also had helpers from Mukti Church.

Our ‘Daily Prayers’ were considerably quickened and helped by the return of our missionaries from furlough. We were able to divide up the big Church Meeting, so that
the gathering there now is more like Family Worship. To have the young people in a separate room by themselves taken by Miss Butler has been very beneficial, even though she has had to leave us. Others have come forward so that this meeting can be continued.

In all there are seven distinct companies meeting in the early morning for prayer and Bible messages. Directly following this, the workers have their time of English prayer, and at different times during the week those who have early morning duties come together, so that none are left without this means of Grace.

The work of the Sunday Schools has gone steadily on. We have had some reinforcements to the staff of teachers, still we are not as well equipped as we would like to be. Perhaps the prettiest sight is the tiny tots in the Kindergarten Department, being taught by quite a young teacher. But it is also a cause for thankfulness that the grey-headed ones still come to Sunday School and make an attempt at learning and repeating the Golden Texts.

**COMPOUNDS**

There is plenty of hard work in compounds, even if it cannot be recorded, and there is always a note of praise for the privilege of working amongst the dear girls and women that are committed to our care. Amongst the younger ones there is need of constant diligence in checking carelessness, untidiness, and other things that mar character and also of training them in habits that will make them useful women later on. It is sometimes decidedly refreshing and encouraging, after visiting a scene of untidiness, to go into the dormitories, occupied by the older girls and see how much they have improved by their years of residence in Mukti. It is also interesting to notice how by arranging their boxes and other things they attempt to make little homes for themselves.

Ten have gone this year to homes of their own in other parts of the country, and their places have been filled by girls transferred from other compounds, and by some from another Mission who have come here for vocational training.

It was a great joy to have Miss Butler come and take over the two compounds of young school girls, and we were sorry indeed when she had to leave them again, especially as we had hoped the older women might get a little more attention. Many of these women, who have worked hard for Mukti ever since they have been here, are now really getting old and a few words of cheer and a little help of various kinds might keep them from giving way to depressing and disagreeable feelings. But we realize that for all, old and young, our only hope of eternal good is in the Lord and we desire above all else that He should work from heaven by His own mighty power.

MARY MACDONALD.

**‘BARTIMI SADAN’ or THE BLIND SCHOOL**

The work in connection with Bartimi Sadan combines both life in the dormitory as well as school.

With regard to the former there is little to report beyond the fact that the result there of the cyclone last June is still to be seen in the ruins of the kitchen and box room, but we hope to rebuild very soon.
Each day is commenced with a short devotional period and this, with the Bible Lesson with which the school begins, we aim to make the centre from which we work, for in coming to the school side of this department, one is reminded rather of a star pointing in all directions. This being so, on account of the fact that several forms of handcraft are used, in order to develop the various talents our pupils may possess. The chief handcraft at present is basket-making with banana fibre. This fibre having been allowed to replace raffia in making baskets, we now use the latter for canvas work.

The Industrial departments of rope-making, knitting of rope mats and cane work continue steadily and certainly justify their existence by meeting many claims along these lines, not only in Mukti—but also outside. Our educational side is only Primary and exists to give the younger scholars instruction in all subjects, and the older women sufficient knowledge of reading and writing to enable them to read the Scripture portions with which we are able to supply them.

We have been encouraged by the interest and appreciation shown by visitors from time to time, and are grateful for many mercies showered upon us day by day. The number of pupils is thirty-three. We only desire so to show forth the life of the Master in our daily walk and work that He may be uplifted, and others seeing Him, may be drawn unto Him.

'To put things right from day to day,
To find thin places and repair,
The glad rags and the sturdy wear,
Since wear and tear must surely be,
On this side of Eternity,
I'm feeling very proud to say
I have done angel's work today,'—Fay Inchiawn.

ISABEL CRADDOCK.

NEEDLEWORK

We would sound a note of praise in this department for God's care over us and for His help every day.

The girls have worked well and many of them are very interested in what they are taught.

Last year about October we got to an end of all the orders we had in and I wondered if the Lord wanted us to do more of the common ordinary work for sale, and I asked Him to show what His will was. The answer came by a big influx of needlework orders which will keep the best workers busy for many months.

We have been glad to welcome nine girls from another Mission who have been sent to learn needlework, and they are shaping very well indeed.

We have no exhibitions to report this year, but instead we had a competition among the younger girls and prizes given for the best work.

In 1927 the roof of our workroom was in a bad state and the mason girls were put on to repair it. All the old tiles had first of all to be taken off. In this, the needlework girls helped. Both before and after work hours they were very busy taking off the tiles. With
such a combination of labour, we soon had a good roof over our heads, and we celebrated the event by having a real Indian dinner of curried mutton, which the girls and matrons cooked. Workers and visitors were all invited and they all much enjoyed it. Not the least part was the decoration in the room, which was made to look very artistic with coloured paper chains stretched across, and coloured Indian rugs on the floor.

I would like to mention another very marked answer to prayer. We had an order for some school badges to be worked in grey and pink silk, the school colours. We had worked a number before, and had no difficulty in getting the coloured silks. We wrote to Bombay and tried different shops, but no, those identical colours could not be found anywhere, and we were at our wits end—'but God.' One day the Australian gift boxes came along with the Christmas gifts in. As the unpacking proceeded, lo! some grey silk just the right shade was handed out. You can imagine the delight with which it was hailed. And not only that, but the thought that our Father cared even about that, and could have it sent across the sea. Not a thread of any other colour was in the box. Well, we still needed the pink silk. Where could we get it? One day a parcel came for me from Australia; I opened it. It contained some work to do, some toys, a gift for me, and then in the corner of the box a reel of pink silk, just the shade needed. I took it at once to show to the girls and we praised the Lord together. So our Father cares and plans all the details of our lives.

While the girls sew, they sometimes sing choruses that cheer our hearts. Sometimes the matron reads to them. Thus the days go on, and we seek to sow the seed of the Kingdom in these hearts and win them for Himself. We hope our friends will remember to pray for our Needlework Department.

VISITORS

I have only been at this work for a few months, so have not much to report.

We constantly have visitors. They seem to come from the different homelands, some from other parts of India, some Indian Christian workers, and Hindus too. They all want to see the work of the great Pandita Ramabai. We seek to welcome them all, and take them round Mukti. It takes a good hour or more to see all that is going on.

We keep certain rooms for visitors and they are always ready for occupation. We welcome many who cannot always write to tell us they are coming, but we are all one in Christ Jesus, so it is alright. During the past year we have had 236 visitors, and often times we have entertained angels unawares, and we trust they too have been cheered and encouraged.

E. P. Browne.

STORES AND KITCHEN

As the greater part of the year now closing was spent in the homeland, this report really belongs to more than one person.

During the early part of the year Miss Smith was in charge here, and truly she laboured in the work. The minute care she took in noting down the exact quantities of grain, oil,
etc., etc., given out daily for the needs of the family, was a great help in making out our budget, as a guide for buying stores from the merchants, month by month. She is lovingly remembered for her cheery manner and care that the food for the girls and children should be as nourishing as possible.

In one cook-house work begins at 4 a.m. The trains passing in the night have to serve as a clock to the matron in charge, so the hour is subject to slight variations, but bread has to be ready at 7 a.m. for about 150 who cannot cook for themselves. These are the defectives, blind, halt, maimed, known as 'Mother's friends,' also for the young children. Vegetable curry must be ready about the same time for this company, plus over a hundred girls who make their own bread.

Work in this cook room is far from easy and there are certainly no modern conveniences, six wood fires burn morning by morning, and there is practically no outlet for the smoke. The building is of galvanized iron with just one mud brick wall. A couple of months ago to seek relief from the smoke, we removed three of the sheets of iron from the roof, replacing them with wire netting, otherwise crows would have stolen the bread as it was made. Two hours later we were surprised to have some heavy showers of rain, and the iron sheets had to be laid back, with stones to keep them in place. There, they remained until a cyclone blew two of them away. We hope something can be done to improve this kitchen before the rainy season comes along.

The nature of the work means, of necessity, a seven-day working week. Holidays are very rare. We have been struck with the way the girls carry on—when others have holiday. 'It is our work, so we must do it' was the remark made by a senior girl to one of the younger girls who is in the kitchen for a six months' course of cooking.

As these early workers, cooks, and dairy workers, cannot get to church or compound prayers, we have been taking the school prayer period for our little time of worship. This time has been a joy and has cemented us together as nothing else would.

We are grateful for the amount of fresh vegetables and fruit which comes in from the fields. Some kind of fruit is generally plentiful enough for all the members of the family to get a little share. For seniors who do their own cooking, it probably means just a couple of plantains and a cup of butter milk once a fortnight. But even this is much appreciated, and helps to preserve the family spirit.

The buffaloes, cows and goats have given us a nice quantity of milk day by day, for which we are thankful, as babies and delicate ones need 28 quarts daily. The surplus milk is turned into butter, after the family needs are met. If there is any over, it is turned into ghee or clarified butter.

One of our grain rooms has been almost filled with this year's harvest. Last year's excellent rains have given good crops in all the villages around, and we do thank God for it.

Please pray for us all in this work, that we may be faithful in all the little details which make up our lives, that they may be pleasing unto the Lord, who notices the crumbs and the cups of cold water.
THE CHILDREN'S COMPOUND

There seems to have been a good deal of sickness here during the past year. Nothing very serious, but measles, chicken-pox, and mumps, have made heavy work for those who look after the hospitals and arrange for workers in the isolation wards. These epidemics do not seem to have left any weakness, among this group of children, for which we praise the Lord.

At present we are fifty-three in our compound. Thirty of these are our own orphan children, twenty-three are Mukti's grandchildren who go home for summer and Christmas holidays. Our youngest child is five years old and the oldest is fourteen, but the majority range from seven to twelve years of age and they are drafted up from the Blossoms' Compound.

Nine of the little ones are in the Kindergarten, three with defective eyesight go to the blind school, where they study half the day and do handcraft the remaining time. Most of the rest are in primary classes, but we have three who have attained to the middle school.

During the Week of Prayer three of the elder children came forward desiring to give their hearts to the Lord Jesus. They and others show in their lives that they are seeking to please Him. We would value prayer for this little company, that the things of God may become very real to them, and that they may yield their lives to the Lord Jesus, while they are young.

MABEL E. WHITLEY.

THE SCHOOL REPORT

Our school has been greatly hampered by sickness among the children, for many weeks mumps, measles, etc., were prevalent.

We had the usual visits from the inspectors who gave good reports of the progress made, and they have awarded us the grant-in-aid this year.

We are hoping the girls will be much helped by vocational training, during the coming year and that above all they may be led to yield themselves out and out to Jesus and in course of time become really efficient workers for the evangelizing of India. May the day hasten when consecrated Indian Christian women shall be used of the Lord as soul-winners in their own country, where the need is so great among the millions still unreached.

We have a number whom we call Mukti's grandchildren who come to our school. These are the children of our girls who have married and gone to neighbouring towns to live, and some are living in their own little houses round Mukti. Hitherto these children have been living in Mukti, and have been fed and clothed and taught, and the parents relieved of all responsibility. For some time we have felt that this was not ideal for either parents or children, so we have made a new rule that parents must pay rupees three for elder girls and rupees two for younger ones. We are sure this will help the characters both of parents and children, even though it is just a nominal sum. For this, we feed and educate the girls, and we believe it will help them to value their privileges more.
Pray for us, in this school day by day, that we may be used not only in educating the future women of India, but that we may so uplift Jesus, that they may want to yield themselves and their lives to Him. Pray for the parents of these children so that when the little ones go home for holidays, they may see Christ honoured in their homes, and that we may have a sturdier lot of Christians.

K. Gadre.

Again this year our ranks have been depleted by the Home Call of one of our oldest workers, Miss Carrie Couch. She will be remembered gratefully by many who have visited Muki, as she always took visitors round to see the work and saw to their comfort while they were here. For the last two or three years she has been more or less of an invalid, but she was always bright and cheery and many a lesson she has taught us as we saw her patience in suffering.

On May 6th, in the early morning, the ‘Master called,’ and she rose up and went to Him. Now she is in the Presence Glorious, and we here and she yonder wait for the day of the wonderful re-union. ‘We sorrow not as those without hope,’ only a little while of separation and then ‘God shall wipe all tears away’ for ever.

This PRAYER BELL is so long that one or two of the reports will come on in the next one, D.V. Will our friends rejoice with us, and continue their ministry day by day?
SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ramabai Mukti Mission, 1928

Shortly after last year's Annual Meeting, most of the workers were off to the hills. The hot season was a very happy time for those of us who remained at home. The climate of Kedgaon is beautiful and this hot season was fine. Only a few hours at mid-day were intensely hot, the nights were cool and refreshing. Our family was small and we got on well.

Our regular Sunday services were a time of spiritual blessing and uplift. The Indian pastor was on his vacation, but the Bible-women were home from Pandharpur and other places and their testimonies in the meetings and in the compound were greatly blessed. The pulpit was supplied by any of our friends who could come, God guiding in each service so that we had instruction and blessing.

All was going well when there came literally a bolt out of the blue on June 3rd. A storm took off some of our roofs, blew down walls and corrugated iron fences. The iron sheets were flying in every direction, and it was only by God's mercy that many of our blind girls were not seriously hurt when the roof of their quarters blew off; timbers fell and iron sheets were twisted like a cloth wrung out of water, but they escaped with only minor bruises. A damage of Rs. 2,000 was done in a few minutes. This building has not been repaired, but the rubbish has been cleared away in anticipation of soon being erected. The day after the storm, was spent in gathering up the fragments and getting our breath. Everything was drenched with torrents of rain.

Sunday, June 5th, dawned bright and clear, but another cloud hung over us. Our fellow-worker, Miss Rosa Smith, had returned from the hills very ill with malaria fever. We did not realize how seriously ill she was until too late to obtain medical help. We have no doctor at present in Mukti and Poona is 35 miles away. Before Dr. Sheppard could arrive in his car, it was too late. At about 4-30 p.m. she slipped away into the presence of her Lord whom she loved so much. We could not wish her back, but in the weeks that followed, we discovered what an important and heavy part of the work she had so uncomplainingly carried.

She was the house-keeper for all of Mukti. It took us weeks to recover from these two blows coming so suddenly and so close together.

In order to give Miss Brazier a much needed rest from her multiplicity of duties, we arranged with Dr. and Mrs. Philip Sheppard and Nurse Shipman of the P.I.V. Mission, to come and help us for a month. We are grateful to our friends for this service so willingly given.

Miss Jackson who had charge of the blind school, was delayed from going on furlough because of lack of passage money. She very much needed the rest, so during the hot season we prayed for passage money and it came and she sailed for England, July 13th, thus leaving another gap in our ranks. Krishnabai added this department to her regular vocational school work, with an Indian teacher in charge.

In November, our hearts were gladdened by the arrival of Miss Hastie with the new party from England, including four returning workers and two new ones. One lady had already arrived from America in October, thus making our reinforcements seven. However, at
present writing, in taking stock, as it were, we find that with the exception of our three new workers, we have one less worker than we had last year at this time. Miss Steed left us in January, Miss Butler found it necessary to return home in February, Miss Berkin sailed, on March 15th, for furlough.

Our hopes for the building and repairing have not been nearly realized. All that was sanctioned has not been accomplished. Bethel, our Christian families' quarters, has not yet been built. The workers' rooms are now occupied. Things move slowly in Mukti for various reasons. Sometimes lack of funds hinders, unskilled labour is another hindrance, and there is very much work to be done. It is quite evident that the regular funds of Mukti will not warrant any new buildings or even the needed repairs of the place. There must be special gifts for this purpose. We want to thank all who have made this work possible thus far.

We have used the old material, stones, brick, wood, gathered from the four corners of the institution and hammered and sawed it into shape for use. The workmen have grumbled some because they have such poor material with which to work, but the Lord seemed to keep saying to us as to the prophet's widow of old, 'What is in thy house—What is in thine hand?' and thus we have worked. Many times we have been tempted to say with Judah in Nehemiah's time, ' The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed and there is much rubbish so that we cannot build the wall.' The old material is however at an end and we must have new in order to proceed. Tiles have been provided for a part of the roofs. There seems no end to the task.

Aeneas, the T.B. Sanitarium, must be rebuilt as it is becoming a menace to the inmates. Bartimaeus Sadan is imperative. Our blind girls are in crowded quarters and must be provided for before the rains.

As I have sat Sunday after Sunday facing the unfinished end of the church I have thought and prayed and stared at the iron sheets, torn old canvas and asked God to help us in some way to finish the church and thus make a fitting memorial to one who in her lifetime wrought so well.

In closing we can only say 'hitherto hath the Lord helped us.' He is still the wonder-working God, Who has supplied all our needs as we cried unto Him in our distress. He has not left us without the trial of our faith which is much more precious than gold, but He has heard our cry and answered our prayers for which we give Him all the praise.

Yours in His Name,
Eunice Wells
M. Lissa Hastie

PRAISE AND PRAYER NOTES

Praise for return of workers from furlough.
Praise for three new workers.
Praise for a trained nurse.
Pray that the new workers may quickly get the language.
Pray for a doctor.
Pray that our Indian Christians may be 'strong in the Lord.'