A CHORUS OF PRAISE
FROM
RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
INDIA

REPORT: PRAYER BELL
JULY-AUGUST, 1930
I bring unto Thy grace a sevenfold praise,
Thy wondrous love I bless—
I praise, remembering my sinful days,
My worthlessness.

I praise that I am waiting, Lord, for Thee,
When all my wanderings past,
Thyself wilt bear me and wilt welcome me,
To home at last.'
'O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name.'—Ps. 105: 1, 2, 3.

Yes, we have been seeking to obey the above, and we trust that much glory has been given to Him, and joy to His heart. He says, 'Whoso offereth praise glorifieth ME,' and we want to live to glorify Him.

You will notice the triumph song in all the following reports.

We wish Miss Wells had put her report in, but she has been doing wonders along the building line, and you cannot build and write at the same time. However, she has promised to tell you something in the next Prayer Bell, so Cheerio, that is something to look forward to.

CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

In looking back over the past year there does not seem to be anything very striking in our spiritual work to report. Church services, Sunday schools, daily prayers have gone on as usual, and we believe the results will glorify God.
in the day of manifestation, for He has said, 'Your labour is not in vain in the Lord.'

We certainly praise Him for an increased spirit of prayer amongst a few of the girls and women, who gather of their own accord in two different groups each evening after dinner, when naturally they might be playing or sitting about chatting. Also on our Day of Prayer, the first Thursday of each month, there has several times been a marked earnestness in petition.

Perhaps our habit of reading letters or reports from other people and places and countries, as well as from our own scattered family, every Monday morning in church, helps this.

The sectional meetings on Prayer Days, in the afternoons, taken by our Indian sisters, are another means of added blessing. Six such gatherings are held, besides the two big ones in church at 7.30 and 9.45 in the mornings.

Our one baptismal service of the year was a time of true joy. Ten followed the Lord through the waters of baptism; one young lad, son of one of our Christian families; one older woman, who has been with us a number of years; two younger women, recently out of heathenism, and six school girls.

Twice during the year we have had special meetings. Mr. Samudre came in the Divali holidays, and Mr. Modak for the New Year Week of Prayer. These are both devoted Indian Christians. The former is particularly suited to our ever-increasing crowd of children of Christian parents, because he himself was a 'born Christian,' as they say; yet in his early days he discovered that he needed to be 'Born Again'; while the latter, from his long experience and constant study of the Word of God, was able to give us rich spiritual food.

We now call the second Sunday in the month 'Thanksgiving Sunday,' because we then have the joy of giving a little money to the Lord. In the early days of this work the majority of our family had nothing to give. Now many of them receive regular remuneration, and on pay-day there was always opportunity of giving the Lord a portion; but taking the collection in church gives everybody a chance,
even the children who have a little pocket money, and those who haven't do a bit of grinding and so get a pice (farthing) to give.

TWO BIBLE-WOMEN, SAVED AND EAGER TO GIVE THE GOSPEL

Each month we give our offering to some outside branch of the Lord's work, and have received such grateful letters
from Lepers, Jews, Bible Society, etc., that we feel the blessing is manifold, and prayer links are also established.

The lending of helpers to the Gospel work in other missions has been a great joy, although it has meant lack at home. Now, as the itinerating season is closing and the girls are returning, there is the joy of re-union, and we look forward with confidence to the time when we shall all come together rejoicing, 'bringing in the sheaves.'

There is just one other thing I should like to mention for special prayer—that is the work of our pastor among the outside Christian families. Evening by evening he goes round to different groups, but does not find them very eager.

If only the Holy Spirit were poured out upon these Christian families! Will not someone take up the prayer?

M. MACDONALD.

**COMPOUNDS**

Our older women in Priti Sadan are very grateful for the loving, prayerful interest that some kind friends are taking in them. Some of them are really past work, although they try to do a little, and we are beginning to think of them as 'pensioners.' Some who have grown old in other places look towards home to end their days. One such, who years ago in the wedding service refused the man to whom she was to be united, and afterwards went off and made her own arrangements, turned up a few months ago with her only daughter, whom she wanted us to take care of because she was soon going to 'close her eyes.' She certainly looked as though she hadn't long to live, but 'home comforts' have had such an effect that she is a changed person, and now looks far from leaving this life. One of these old girls has been happily married to a widower with a family.

From the four compounds of younger girls and the teachers' compound there have been several marriages, one, of particular interest, was of a young teacher to a divinity student, another of a young girl who did not find it at all easy to conform to institutional rules, but seems to be doing well as the wife of a tonga driver.
There have been goings and comings for other reasons, and so Mukti Compound life flows on like a river, noisy with the up-springing of young life, more subdued as time goes on, but we do hope all will reach the true goal in God.

M. MACDONALD.

EVANGELISTIC WORK IN THE VILLAGES

*Behold there went out a sower to sow.* 'The sower soweth the word.'

Another year of faithful, constant visiting in the villages—262 visits have been made to villages, besides the places of pilgrimage, the villages visited from camps, and the opportunities by the waysides. Some days one band, some days two bands, go by 'Ford,' and the ox tonga, and sometimes by foot. There are some cart tracks on which the car cannot go, though it takes the band on some bad roads indeed. Near places can be visited on foot.

In every village there are those who 'hear gladly,' some who watch for our coming, and reproach for long delay in coming, if any length of time has elapsed. Some villages,
not visited by us since we camped near them, were visited last hot season. Oh, what kind welcomes were given; many familiar faces were missed, amongst them one old man, who read the Bible as a treasure until his death.

Caste fetters must be broken and the prisoners set free. There are some of whose salvation we have been assured. One mother told of her little son who died, being ‘So happy,’ and always repeating ‘Jesus saves me, Jesus saves me now.’ ‘I know not what he meant,’ she said. A great contrast was an aged man; his long, lingering illness gave him time for repentance for a life of hardness and avarice. God had to let him see all his acquired ‘gain’ melt away. Humbled to beg a little help for food, from those he knew had the love of God in their hearts, his heart seemed to soften and ‘become as a little child,’ and, in presence of neighbours and any officials who chanced to be there, he would acknowledge that Jesus the Saviour was his Saviour. Another old man in his last illness, and blindness which came to him, asserted his faith and trust in Jesus and peacefully fell asleep.

It was a joy one day to meet a man who as a lad had been a pupil in one of our little village schools. ‘Do you know me? Who am I?’ was his greeting. One had to confess that we did not recognise him. He said his name. No wonder one did not know him, a boy of 19 years ago, but he was not forgotten, nor his uncle, who had such faith in Jesus and came daily for a lesson in reading, sitting with the little boys in school, for he wanted to be able to read the Bible. The nephew told before his villagers of the great faith of his late uncle in the ‘Jesus of these people,’ and how he repeated in his gruff voice the lessons after the teacher. Also he told them in these 19 years he himself had never worshipped an idol, nor performed any superstitious ceremony, only daily twice praying to the Lord Jesus. He told us how he tries to make the people understand, but ‘as yet there is no light in their hearts.’ It was finding ‘bread’ that had been cast upon the waters many days before.

Away in the mountain tops, at one place of pilgrimage, where we went to reinforce another evangelistic company,
even amongst the sadhus, men and women, what hungry prepared hearts were met with, and many others seemed to mix hearing with faith as they heard for the first time. What blessed times were spent sitting talking heart to heart with groups, 'not knowing which will prosper, this or that,' but with the assurance of 'not in vain in the Lord.'

This year again Miss Whitley arranged her many duties in order to get two seasons in camp with the Bible-women, and Miss Amstutz accompanied her to one camp and Miss Hanna to another. Miss Whitley had great joy in the seasons in these camps, and blessed opportunities and openings.

There were many places where we had to go to camp that now we can go and come, since we have the car, and in last hot season we were able to reach more villages than in any previous hot season, going early in the morning and returning at noon. People are more free then than during all the year, as there is less field activity, etc. Also weddings and yatras abound in the hot season, therefore people from far and near are to be found in each village visited.

If the dear ones who gave their precious gifts, and the
dear friend in New Zealand who sent the last £100 to complete the purchase, only knew what a great help the ‘Ford’ is, they would realise that the ‘investment’ is good. Besides the Gospel work, it is called to help many sick cases, of accidents, etc.

FARM REPORT

‘Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness.’ The hot days of April, May and June saw many loads of earth carried to bring down the high places of the fields, and level up low places, and to make ridges across fields to prevent flowing away on the surface the precious sparse rain water, thus to conserve rain water and irrigation water from wells. Many, many steps were taken by field workers, and it ended in a final intense attack upon one field that lay between two wells, for the time of seed sowing was fast approaching. The early rain was very insufficient, there was no first crop, also our own grazing land yielded less grass than the previous three seasons. As the rain on the hills above Poona was less normal the rivers did not overflow, so our hired grazing land at the Bhima river was not inundated.

A heavy rainfall came in September, which soaked the fields well for sowing operations for the second crop, but, alas, no showers followed on the fields that appeared so ‘full of promise.’ No canal water was available to irrigate, only a few feet of water for a spasmodic period spread over three days, the shortest period on record for over 25 years. Our Christian overseer of the farm heroically set himself to get all the well water on to the crops. We only had six motes (skins for water drawing), so he arranged his oxen and men in relays. Before dawn the first relay began, and long after dark the last finished.

Earnest prayer was made that God would keep us from the dreaded foot and mouth disease that comes at that time of year, ‘that our oxen may be strong to labour.’ God answered. Only near the wells could the crop be saved, with more men and more motes we could have done more, but we simply had to let many fields wither. Soon the
days of watching came. As so few crops were around us all the birds went to the well-watered fields; therefore, 'watching' was hard work, throats were sore and hoarse,

and arms were tired with casting the slings at the birds. The men had to be taken off the motes morning and evening, and work motes only at midday. Then harvest came —cutting, binding, breaking, treading by oxen, winnowing.
The fact that God’s blessing had been added was acknowledged by Hindu and Christian alike, as the carts brought the sacks of grain to the storehouse. The best harvest for four years, ‘that our garners may be full,’ and there was bread to eat and sacks of good seed for sowing, and a portion for all the labourers. It was a happy time one afternoon, after all the grain had come in to the stores, when each man and each woman received a portion of grain and onions and chillies from the fields of their labours. More sweet is that to the labourers than all they can purchase in the bazaar, for they feel to be a ‘part of the family.’

As we give thanks for God’s blessing, we realise that our Christian overseer and matron in the fields are part of His blessing to us.

Part of His ‘goodness with which God crowneth the year,’ has been the good fruit, bananas, guavas, oranges and pomegranates; we have had a good supply. Some 14,000 seers of milk have been given by the cows, buffaloes and goats, and babies and sick and weak ones have been well supplied, and we raise our ‘Ebenezer’ at the end of another year.

**PRINTING DEPARTMENT**

For yet another year these precious printing presses, run by the good engine, have done their part to fill ‘the land with the knowledge of the Lord.’

We have just completed another edition of St. Luke’s Gospel, 15,000, and a good ‘booklet tract’ of dear Pandita Ramabai’s has again been printed, 30,000 copies. A missionary friend gave a gift to print 10,000 of this for her own district; it is so good for the people. And when printing that 10,000 our Heavenly Father enabled us to get the paper to make it a print of 30,000 copies, for which we give Him many thanks. Also at the early part of this mission year, we completed 15,000 copies of the Gospel of St. Matthew. The old and much appreciated *Comparison of Religions*, belonging to the Book and Tract Society, and long out of print, has, by the Society’s permission, been printed on our press this year. The binding work, folding, sewing, etc., of these large editions take much time for our
small staff. Packing and sending away the books as required is also a big work. This year over 500 Bibles, 2,000 New Testaments, 14,000 Gospel portions and 36,000 tracts, mostly booklets, have been sent out. When the boxes are
packed, and the carpenters called to nail them securely, generally the Gospel oxen cart them to the railway station, and thus the precious message is sent forth to many parts. This year one box of 'memorial' New Testaments was requested for the Marathi-speaking people near Jubbulpore, another for the Marathi readers in Gujerat and down in the Telugu district, where Marathi-speaking families are to be found, the missionaries have asked for books. It is a blessed privilege to supply.

Please pray for our printing presses, that they may be supplied with material to go on until Jesus comes, doing their part by printing Gospel portions and the fine tracts, left to us by our late Pandita Ramabai, full of messages for her fellow country people, whose salvation she desired.

J. M. Gregor.

MEDICAL REPORT

As I look back over the past year, my heart is full of praise to Him who loved us and gave His only begotten Son to die for us that we might have abundant life.

The Lord has truly blessed in our outside dispensary work during the past days. We do praise Him for the privilege of being able to give the Gospel to these darkened souls. Some have heard for the first time of a Saviour who is able to save them, and only eternity will reveal the results. 'Paul may plant and Apollos water, but God giveth the increase.'

The patients come to us sometimes in such terrible conditions we don’t know just how to begin the treatment, and what treatment to begin, but we praise Him, in so many cases, we have seen His hand in healing power. We praise Him, too, for the different ones who have inquired about God and who are attending our Church services.

The number of patients this last year in both dispensaries is 1,821. We have also had nineteen maternity cases.

On the whole we have had very little sickness amongst our girls. Last year we had many cases of chickenpox, but so far this year He has kept us from epidemics. We would praise Him for keeping us from smallpox, when we
think of so many cases all around us. May He still keep us sheltered by the Blood.

Dr. Greenfield, from Poona, has been very good in visiting us periodically. She is now on furlough, and Dr. Martin and Dr. Rankine come to us from time to time. We do appreciate their help so much.

We have another note of praise for our God. Last year, about this time, we were praying that the Lord would send in money for a new dispensary. Now we can praise Him because He has answered prayer. We hope it will soon be up, according to His plan.

C. Morris.

THE RESCUE HOME

The rescue work is not altogether encouraging, but we praise the Lord for helping us to go on looking unto Him. During the past months I have sought by God's grace to win some of these souls to Christ, and, praise His name, I believe six young women gave their hearts to Jesus and had real experiences of salvation. Some who come into our Rescue Home to hide their sin, and go away again, have been blessed while here, and have realised that there was something in Christianity that was not in Hinduism. We had a little Brahmin widow, who came to us a few weeks ago to hide her sin. She had never heard of Christ, and when she was spoken to about salvation her heart seemed soft and she was eager to listen. During the few weeks she was with us I believe the Lord worked in her heart, and before leaving she asked for a Bible, which was gladly given.

The Rescue Home Babyfold gives one much joy. When I say 'much joy' I don't mean to say I have no trouble with them; far from it, for I can assure you they give plenty of that.

There are nineteen little ones in this Babyfold. Seven of them are boys, who will later be transferred to a Boys' Home.

The mothers of these babies give far more trouble than the children; for one thing they come from different parts of India and they do not all speak the same language, and so misunderstandings arise, and there are many quarrels. Some day we hope to get separate little rooms built for
them, and then each will have her own little domain, and perhaps the angry moods may not be so frequent.

C. Morris.

DEFECTIVE COMPOUND

We have about fifty girls in this department; few of them have much intelligence. We were sorry to have to send two of them to the Mental Hospital in Poona, but they got beyond our control.

Although these girls are so difficult to manage, still we find them useful in lots of ways to keep Mukti clean.
We need a new building for these girls to sleep in, they are so crowded. In the hot season they are able to sleep outside, which makes the situation more comfortable.

Our matrons and nurses in this department need much prayer. It is hard for them to keep sweet sometimes, especially when these girls tear their clothes to pieces and act wildly. There are so many unpleasant things to be done for them, too.

May the Lord give the nurses grace, keep their hearts tender, and enable them to show their love to Jesus, as they do for His sake the disagreeable things.

C. Morris.

THE NURSERY

'Blessed be the Lord God, . . . blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.'—Ps. 72:18-19.

This work of caring for the babies seems very insignificant in comparison to dealing with older women and girls, and yet it is very necessary to take these wee mites, that
God has sent to us and committed to our charge, and nurse them for Him.

At the beginning of the year there were 23 children in the nursery, all of them under five except one. Seven of these children, whose baby days were finished, went up into the 'Blossoms.' Four babies came up from the Babyfold, where mothers in the Rescue Home had been nursing them, and three were brought in from outside, 'Unwanted.' Unwanted they were in the outside world, but not 'unwanted' when they arrived in Mukti. One of these, Pushpa, only eight days old when she came, was a pitiable sight. Her little body was being bitten away by big ticks, which were buried under her skin. These had to be got rid of, and this process took no little time and care. Three babies have left us and gone into the Heavenly Garden during the year. Gita, after three weeks of fever; Rutnamala, after only eight days stay with us; and Vimla, quite suddenly, after two and a half days' illness. Naturally our hearts were saddened as we watched their little lives flicker out, but they are 'with Christ, which is far better,' and we gladly give back to Him the little ones He lends us to care for. The two eldest children in the
nursery are blind, but, although they are so afflicted, seem very happy playing with the other tiny tots.

The health of the children has been very good and our hearts do praise Him. We have had no infectious diseases at all. At times we have got anxious, and yet the Lord has again and again delivered. Many of the wee mites were rickety and too weak to walk at the beginning of the year, but after being on a tonic of Chemical Food, and also much prayer, have picked up and can trot about like the others. The faith in God of even the little ones is very simple, yet real and beautiful. A little time in the nursery does one good. Last week a baby had very bad eyes and high fever. She was having her temperature taken, and Mary, who was two years old last Christmas, looking on, put her little hands over her eyes, and lisped, in her baby way, 'Dear Father God, make Daya better.' On seeing their faith, it makes one pray for the faith of a little child.

Attending to the clothing of the nursery children, and also the 'Blossoms,' has been a great treat, yet sometimes a puzzle, wondering how to make things last a little longer! They are all great at tearing their clothes, and yet, after stitching and patching, etc., it is wonderful the length of time they last. Each child is delighted when she gets a new frock. During the year I have cut out 200 children's dresses and 100 pairs of little knickers and bodices combined, ready for the plain needlework girls to sew. In the near future we hope to teach these girls to cut out themselves.

I would value prayer for a Bible class, which I take with the babies' nurses on Thursday mornings, all of whom profess to know Jesus as their Saviour, but one longs to see Christ formed in them more and more. As we pray, the Holy Spirit will take of the things of Christ and reveal them unto them. One or two are really earnest, and as we look into His Word together His presence is manifested and our souls are blessed and refreshed.

Taking prayers with the 'Blossoms' every Friday morning has been very encouraging, and also a good help in the language. They, too, although only small, love to take part in prayer, and it is very sweet, and sometimes amusing, to hear their little petitions; how they must delight the heart of the Lord.
Since the beginning of the year I have had a Sunday school class of girls in their teens. Two or three of these listen and love to look into the Scriptures, but one would ask prayer for those who do not give heed and seem to have no desire to listen.

Last February, having passed my second language exam, I was given more work, and that was the workers' housekeeping. When I took it over on March 1st I almost felt it was impossible, but Miss Wells said, 'You must go in and do it, as the mission field is the best school for educating anyone!' Even in serving tables the Lord has been true to His promise and has proved a mighty sufficiency.

There is a wee chorus going through my mind as I write:

'Singing, working, loving Jesus,
That is how the days go by,
We are surely getting ready,
To behold Him in the sky.'

G. TILLETT.

THE 'BLOSSOMS'

Twenty-three children, all of them very delicate. But we raise a praise note for the wonderful health they have had all the year. Last April, chickenpox broke out in the Children's Compound, and special prayer was made for Phulbagh and the Nursery, and God answered. There was not a single case in either division. One of the number, Esther, went to Poona to high school, in March, went down with appendicitis, and was sent to St. Margaret's Hospital for an operation. The Lord brought her through, but she is still very weak and poorly. Please pray for her. One of the matrons went in to look after her, and came back with what seemed to be a bad cold, but it turned out to be a mild kind of flu that had been going about Poona, and 16 of the 'Blossoms' went into hospital with it, but they are all on the mend. Praise the Lord.

This year six went up to the Children's Compound, and seven came from the Nursery to be 'Blossoms.'

Last year these little ones won some money for a temperance essay, and sent it to the Love School of the Door of Hope, in Shanghai, where it was much appreciated. This
year, one of our Akkas (elder sister) died, and left them some money. So before Christmas they decided to send Rs. 5 to their Chinese sisters. Such a loving letter came back and a $5 bill, and they sent us a lovely scroll, which hangs in the prayer room as a daily reminder of them and Him. So

A BUSINESS-LIKE 'BLOSSOM'

we had, 'Give, and it shall be given unto you,' fulfilled with compound interest. We think the link between India and China, is a mutual help and blessing.

The Prayer Bell seems to be more in demand as the days go on, and we have frequent testimonies as to the
help received from it. We thank all who cheered us on in this way. It is surprising how a little word helps.

We send out 9,000 a year. Besides these, we have sent out 171 Bibles, 25 New Testaments, 300 tracts. These are in English and Marathi.

The Scripture Gift Mission and Dr. Heyman Wreford, of Exeter, have sent several gifts of literature for free distribution. For these we heartily thank the donors. There will be some big surprises one day as we see the results of these scattered messengers. Keep on praying for all that go forth.

NEEDLEWORK REPORT

Another year of work, and for all God's mercies we praise and thank Him. We wondered at the beginning what the year might hold for us, what changes might come, but we thank God we have been held on our even way. We trust our object has been to glorify His Name even in the sewing. We forget sometimes that even in the humdrum of the workroom we can offer 'the sacrifice of praise.'

We have had fairly good health. Two girls were sick for some time. As they were railway badge workers we missed them, but they soon recovered and came on duty again.

The new wall and new curtains are a comfort. The latter have helped to stop the glare of the sun, which from September to February is very trying in the workroom.

This year seven girls have been kept busy with the G.I.P. railway badges. More orders have been received than for several years. Ten thousand last year were sent off, against 8,000 the previous year.

The plain needlework girls have done very well, though the work is not up to the standard. I would like, had I time, to oversee it more; still the results have been good. Nearly 800 articles—dresses, jackets, petticoats, pants, mosquito nets, etc.—have been done, so I think they did very well.

The usual run of orders for needlework keep coming, and we are closing the year with many orders that will keep us busy for some time to come.

Much improvement has been shown in some of the work,
but there are the careless ones too, who need much patience and attention.

We praise God for a faithful matron and helpers, though even there the work needs strict oversight.

We have been pleased to have thread for sale at cost price, for all who wish to buy in Mukti; the girls have bought freely.

E. P. Browne.

VISITORS

During the year we have welcomed 170 visitors. Some have been with us several days, others for a day or a few hours.

Many countries have been represented—America, England, Australia, Denmark, France, China and Africa. Often we have been cheered by these friends, and we trust that they, too, have been blessed and helped, and that they have gone on their way to become helpers together in prayer.

E. P. Browne.

INDIAN HOUSEKEEPING

In thinking of reporting this very ordinary, yet necessary, department, the word, 'Holiness unto the Lord,' holiness on the pots and pans, keeps coming over and over in my mind. That this has been the fact one would not dare to say, yet a consciousness of receiving this appointment from the Lord, and a desire to do it for Him, has made it keenly interesting.

This work is really a promotion, for in it we touch closely the whole of the Mukti family. Babies, little children, sick and feeble-minded, all have to be cooked for. Young girls, with their feet on the first rung of the ladder of independence, together with new members of the Mukti family, are daily served with grain, which they themselves grind into flour and make into bread, and with cooked vegetable, and, as the Lord provides it, with a couple of bananas, oranges, or something nice from the orchards once or twice a week. Once a month we give them ½ lb. of sugar or gool (coarse sugar), and also a little supply of cocoanut oil. The latter they use on their hair; this is cooling and a protection from the sun.
Older girls and women, who are all doing useful work for which they receive a small monthly wage, out of which they buy their own food, are cared for in a different way. At the beginning of each month two merchants come and keep shop on the premises, and for two busy days we are 'on the spot' to see that each girl gets a proper amount of food, and that the merchants deal fairly with their many customers. Some of the girls with a sweet tooth would often take too little grain and spend more on sugar candy, dates, and such things, which, while real good, must not take the place of the 'staff of life' if the girls are to remain strong and fit for the work. To others, pretty saries, bangles and ear-rings are a temptation, and they would be ready to sacrifice a little food-money for these. So we are on the spot to help, advise and do a little auntie mothering. Formerly a few resented this, but now they know that we are only seeking their good, and they generally take our advice very willingly.

It is a great joy to come in touch with all these working girls, and to know that the tide of God's love is flowing, and that we are all learning to love and trust each other.

Our merchants have continued to serve us well, and we are on very happy terms with them; the one sorrow is that we are not all serving the same Master. Do pray for these men, and for us as well, that we may never stumble them, but ever be light-bearers.

During the month of November we were very saddened by the death of one of our merchants. He had had fever very badly during the hot season and the rains, and he came back to us looking very frail. He told us he knew prayer had been answered in his recovery. He would like to have testified to this in our church, but his courage failed. In talking to him afterwards, he said his faith was in Jesus and he knew there was no other Saviour. We begged him, with this knowledge and experiences of answered prayer, to come out boldly for the Lord, but he feared his people. A month later he was ill again and calling for us. We found him hysterical with fear, and wanting us to help him. We read God's Word and prayed with him. The fear went, and he passed away peacefully three days later. We believe he was trusting in the Lord Jesus.
Our two head matrons have done good work during the past year, and, after we have got stores in for a month, and the girls' shop has come and gone, we have been able to leave them to carry on, and twice over, for two and three weeks respectively, during the cool season, we have gone out to the villages to take the Gospel Light to those who 'still sit in the darkness and in the shadow of death.'

In January we visited some villages which Miss McGregor and a band of girls had visited about four years before, but others in the mountains had not been visited since the winter of 1813–14. Oh the joy it was to preach Jesus Christ to the people, and we had some great receptions. Amongst the men there is very little belief in their gods and sacrifices, but over and over we would find those who testified that they believed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, that it touched their hearts, but they said, 'We are bound, we cannot get free,' bound by centuries of custom, and bound very specially by their women folk. We thought often of Lazarus, brought to life but bound with the grave clothes.

Pray that we may all know how to take and use the weapons of our warfare, which are mighty through God, and that many bound ones may be set free through the power of the 'Lion of Judah.'

We praise Him for all He has done for us, and pray that we may ever be vessels meet for the Master's use.

M. Whitley.

CHILDREN'S COMPOUND

Surely goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

We have much to praise the Lord for. He has kept us so well, when fever was rife all over Mukti, from September to November. A number of the children went down, but no one was very ill, and since Christmas we have scarcely had any illness at all, and only two have had to go to hospital, just for a few days, with eye trouble. With a family of 56 we feel this is much to be thankful for.
At present our numbers are, Home children, our daughters, 34; Boarding children, our great nieces, 22.

During the year 12 of our bigger girls have been promoted into the Jerusalem Compound, while we have welcomed eight little girls from the 'Blossoms' Compound. We have had one little girl taken home by death, little Paroo—had only one eye, was always too weak to cope with life, and finally she got dropsy, and after a few months the Lord took her, and we could not regret it.

Three of the bigger girls confessed the Lord in baptism and we believe they truly desire to be His little followers, though, like many an older person, they seem to find it difficult to say 'no' to themselves.

During the last few months we have been using the blackboard in connection with our morning prayers, from eye-gate to ear-gate, and the children have loved it, and one of the matrons said to me, 'I always go and see what is on the board, and never fail to read the lesson.'

At Christmas we had a gift from a friend at home of a beautiful new swing, in fact two—one for the bigger girls and one for the children in the kindergarten or 1st standard. They have given lots of pleasure, and really with these, our skipping ropes, and a double set of bats and balls for rounders we feel quite wealthy, and have had lots of fun.

I am afraid we are much more fond of play than study: we haven't anyone who shines particularly at school. We have often wished one could supervise their study a little, but so far this has not been possible.

During the past year we have had a thank-offering service once a month, and the children have been most keen to give something to the Lord. The first time one child with parents gave two annas to the collection, a big sum; and the very next day her father sent her four annas. The children at once exclaimed, 'She gave to God yesterday and He has sent her double to-day.'

Just a week ago we called our daughters and said, 'Do you want some sweets or would you like one anna each put to your banking account?' 'An anna, please, then we will have something to give to the Lord.'

We praise God for the privilege of working amongst
these little ones, and we pray Him to draw them in His own good way, that they may not only give their money, but that they may give themselves to Him, who has loved them and given Himself for them. M. WHITELLEY.

WORKERS' HOUSEKEEPING

From last June until the 1st of March the workers' housekeeping was my happy lot. Someone rather inquiringly asked, did I like my job? I might have said what the girls so often say, 'What can I do? It must be done.' I was able to say, 'Yes, I think I shall be able to do it willingly as unto the Lord.' Sometimes it has seemed hard to rake up suitable menus, for you see they had to be the kind that would both suit purse and persons. Though I dare say they did not always suit the latter, for we represent too many nationalities to be able to always suit everybody's taste.

The Lord has given us many material blessings to enjoy, for which we thank Him with grateful hearts. Being situated so near Poona, it is possible to get fresh vegetables several times a week. Our own farm products, too, have been highly appreciated, such as lettuce, bananas, guavas and oranges. This year we have had a bumper crop of oranges. They were the sweetest and best found anywhere. The buffaloes' milk and cows' milk, too, is an indispensable necessity in housekeeping.

We are grateful for the willing hands that prepare the food for us day by day. True, it takes time and much patience to teach the girls our European ways of housekeeping. Not a few of us have done our bit in teaching them domestic science, but we have not as yet succeeded in making them understand that potatoes and other vegetables need not be cooked two hours before meal-time. The girl who cooks the meat has a part of the kitchen fenced off and allotted to her as her particular domain, and there she cooks and roasts her meat and makes her soup faithfully every day. We are not required any more to make all the puddings and pastries as formerly, for the girls do nicely in this department. They have come to be quite eager to try new recipes.
The work has not been irksome, for we have had the
privilege of ministering to the necessities of many of God's
dear children—not only those in Mukti and the many
missionaries here in India, but to people from several
countries, who, from time to time, visit the mission.
Since the 1st of March I have begun to take lessons in
Indian cooking, and am glad to minister to the needs of my
Indian sisters, which I think I shall like better yet.

**BETHLEHEM COMPOUND**

Generally the opening day of every school year is called
registration day, but here in Mukti it is also inventory day,
that is, taking stock of the children's frocks, skirts, jackets,
saries, cooking utensils, etc. This comprised my bit of work
with the girls of Bethlehem Compound, when they came
back to school last June from their two months' holiday
with their parents in Dhond and Poona.

![Miss Couch 'fishing' on the railway station](image.jpg)

It happened that the so-called unlucky number of thirteen
was enrolled, but the fourteenth one joined us a few weeks
later. This fourteenth one, though commendable in many
ways, is inclined to be pessimistic. She was urged the other
day to ask the Lord to help her in her examinations, but said she, 'How can I ask the Lord to help me if I have not studied well enough throughout the year?' Afterwards she said, 'Didn't I tell you that I would not pass?'

The first of November two girls from the Children's Compound joined us, and we were a happy crowd of sixteen. At Christmas time two of our younger girls, rather against their will, were married. One girl's parents claimed they could not afford to pay her school fees any longer, so got her married. The other girl's mother-in-law said she needed someone to cook the meals and care for the goats and chickens, while she went to the field to work.

The first Sunday in January was a happy time for us, never to be forgotten. Nine of my girls followed the Lord in water baptism. It has made our hearts glad to see the interest they have in reading their Bibles. Some of them at present are reading Genesis and some Job and Proverbs. They say we must read the Old Testament as well as the New.

Since the New Year three more girls from the Children's Compound have come to cheer us. They are quite often the first ones to lead in audible prayer, and pray such innocent prayers, as, 'Oh Lord, cleanse my heart and make me a good girl.' They need our prayers, for they are often severely tempted, within and without. They need kindly advice and oftentimes the rod as well. But let us not cease in praying for these little lambs of His fold.

E. Amstutz.

BARTIMI SADAN

We would again offer a note of thanksgiving to God for having continued to prove Himself to be our Almighty Sufficiency through another year.

While Bartimi Sadan includes both the domestic life in the compound and the industrial work during school hours, we have some living with us whose work lies in other directions, and others in the school who do not live with us. Of the former, one older blind woman spends part of work hours sweeping a long dormitory, it being
easier for her to do this while the girls are in school and the room empty. The chief exceptions of the latter class are a mentally-deficient girl, whom we are trying to teach something useful in the way of rope-making or knitting mats: and two of the tiny tots from the nursery, one of whom is quite blind and the other practically so. These spend their time in the mornings with us learning to read and write Braille, taught by a blind teacher. One shows great aptitude for study, quickly grasping all that is taught her, the other is slower, but apparently enjoys her lessons and frequently surprises us by showing how much she has taken in.

A little while ago a new girl came from Manmad to live with us. She has only just begun to lose her sight, and the object of her being with us is to learn Braille in order to be able to read her Bible. She also fills a gap made by the home-call of another, sent from the same school, who was ill for some months and is now happily released from a life of pain and weariness.

To come to the industrial side of the work, we find the different sections continue to turn out many useful as well as ornamental articles.
The demand for banana-fibre baskets and mats does not decrease, and the rope-making department is quite a necessity in Mukti. One of our married men is in charge of this section, and usually shows a great deal of foresight in noticing a coming need and preparing to meet it. This applies particularly to building operations when string and rope are needed, and it is up to us to meet the demand as it is made, so that the work may go forward without hindrance.

Two of our rope-makers also help in the tinning of the brass vessels used all over Mukti. This is a most important piece of work, though very hot and not particularly interesting. One of the women is deaf and dumb, and the other has partial sight.

Our two Bible-women have had many opportunities of going out with the Gospel Bands, and one spent some time in camp with the last group that went on tour.

While we are thankful for the good health of our Bartimi Sadan girls during the past year, we ask prayer for one who has lately developed T.B. She is one of our most willing workers, and we miss her cheerful presence and help in the compounds, as she is a junior matron. Her companion was ill with pneumonia last year and has never been really strong since. It is not easy to fill the places of such workers, but while we are handicapped on one side we praise God for our senior matron, who is very valuable in the work, always showing great patience in her care of the girls as well as a sincere interest in the spiritual welfare.

I. Craddock.

‘JERUSALEM’

A compound, composed of 18 adolescents, gives opportunity for much prayer, thought and discipline. The problem of dealing with this section of young life is certainly not less keen in this land than in any other, add to this the fact that two or three of the number are not normally mentally developed, and it will easily be seen how the difficulties are increased manifold.

On coming here from the Children’s Compound, the girls begin to learn to be more independent, and it is a bit
difficult to adjust themselves to the new conditions. It is a new thing to be put on their honour where rules are concerned, and the first impulse is to overstep bounds altogether, thus turning liberty to licence. We find, however, that the meaning of self-control gradually dawns upon them, and so character is formed which bears fruit in later years.

A few weeks ago three of our number were promoted to a bigger girls' compound. These had left school, and been transferred to one or other of the many branches of work in Mukti. Two of our present number are boarders in Poona, studying at the St. Andrew's High School, and three others have just sat for their vernacular final examination, two of whom will go on for kindergarten training, if successful.

Another two are partially blind, and have studied in our Bartimi Sadan school for some years. They are both good cane-workers, and will probably concentrate on this side of industrial work for the future, though each has a way with other girls which we hope may prove to be just the quality needed for the filling of the somewhat difficult post of matron.
The members of this little family learn to make their own bread, first grinding the grain into flour for doing so. This, in addition to filling their water pots and keeping their dormitory and compound tidy and clean, fills up the hours out of school. They also make and mend their own clothes, thus in many ways are being trained to be useful and worthy members of whatever family they may form a part.

We had the joy of seeing three of this group baptised a few months ago, and rejoiced to hear their definite testimonies of faith in their Saviour, whose followers they desired to be.

It is not easy to come triumphantly through the tests which naturally follow such a testimony, and we ask prayer for these young disciples, that they may be kept true to the Master, following in His steps day by day.

Our matron was ill for some time, and eventually underwent an operation from which she has only lately recovered sufficiently to take up full work again. Our present matron is kind and just in her treatment of the girls, and we ask prayer for her, too, and for ourselves, that our hands may be strengthened for this bit of work which the Lord has given us to do.

I. Craddock.

DEPUTATION WORK

Krishnabai and Miss M. Berkin have been kept busy in England and Scotland, and we rejoice over the many open doors that have been given to them. We would specially thank all who were so good to the former, for she was a stranger in a strange land.

It was good to welcome Krishnabai back after her year and a half at home, and we know that those who got to know her will follow her in prayer, as she seeks to win the children and people of India to Jesus. Pray that she may have a special anointing of the Holy Spirit and an ever more intense vision of needy souls.

Miss M. Berkin, whom many will have met, is still at home, and is eager to tell of the work of the Ramabai Mukti Mission wherever there is an open door for a missionary meeting.
We have had letters from places that she has been to these past few months, and they testify to the interesting talks she gave, and to prayer-interest aroused.

We give her address for any who would like to communicate with her: c/o West View, Little Neston, Wirral, Cheshire.

Miss Brazier has been making the Ramabai Mukti Mission known in America, in places often where they have never heard of the work, and an increased prayer force is one big result. Praise the Lord!

Miss Loud has been taking meetings at such a rate, up and down America, that a halt had to be called and complete rest was the order given. However, she is up and at it again, and hopes to speak in different parts of Canada as well as America. Her service has been most fruitful, as the exchequer of Mukti would testify, and much new interest has been raised, for which we thank our God. Any who would like a visit from Miss Loud can reach her at 260 West Forty-Fourth St., New York.

We would remind friends in England who would like ' Thanksgiving Boxes' that they can be had from Miss Kathleen Wright, 91 College Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

To the friends in every land who are—many of them—pouring out their lives for the work, in self-denial, in labour and in prayer, we know not how to voice our thanks. The tears often come to our eyes as we receive gifts that seem to us to have meant blood, and that are surely noted in heaven's records, and while we say out of full hearts, 'Thank you.' 'Oh, thank you so much, we could not carry on without you'—the day is drawing very nigh when the Lord of the Harvest with wonderful tenderness will give His reward.

FINANCE

In presenting the financial report I can say from my heart, 'Praise the Lord,' for the gracious way He has sent in supplies for our Indian family and ourselves. The needs have been many and varied, but He is a bountiful giver, and loves to give. Money is a mighty power for good on the
mission field. How we thank you for your hearty co-operation with us. As workers together with Him, much more can yet be accomplished. We need to keep busy, as the enemy of souls is never idle.

Now as to the sanitary work. You may think it rather a curious mixture—finance and sanitation—but they are both necessary here. Hands are often soiled, but why worry, they are washable. The helpers in both the sanitary and municipal work are drawn from the mentally defective division, but, as they are much better employed than being idle, we make good use of them, and they do splendidly considering their afflictions. At times their minds take a peculiar twist, and much patience and tact is required. Somehow we always get through, and the work goes steadily on, and the place is kept clean and fit to live in.

The people in the surrounding districts have suffered heavily from cholera, plague, and smallpox, but the Lord in His mercy has not allowed these diseases to come nigh our dwelling. Truly His love is wonderful.

Please pray that we may be kept faithful, and not fail Him who faileth not.

Annie Jackson.

I am sure all our friends will feel like singing His praises with us, as they read of 'what God hath wrought' in this corner of His vineyard.

We are living in serious days. Gandhi has set something going that is now beyond man's control, so our eyes are unto the Lord, and we are asking Him to work things out and do what He wants done in India. 'All His ways are perfect.'

Ramabai Mukti Mission,
Kedgaon,
Poona Dist., India.

Eunice Wells,
M. Lissa Hastie.
Balance Sheet, year ending March 31st, 1930
RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION, KEDGAON, POONA DISTRICT, INDIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
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<td>Rs.</td>
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<td>April 1, 1929, to Balance on hand</td>
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<td>Mukti Mission Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial Account</td>
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<td>School Books, Stationery and Postage</td>
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<td>Food and Clothing</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous and Traveling</td>
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<td>House Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical &quot;</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Building &quot;</td>
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<td>&quot; Printing &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Church Building</td>
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<td>&quot; Gospel Tonga</td>
<td>334</td>
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<td>&quot; Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; New Dispensary</td>
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<td>&quot; Pumping Engine</td>
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<td>&quot; New Stove</td>
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<td>&quot; Tractor</td>
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<td>Total Rs.</td>
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I have this date audited the above account, and certify the same to be correct.

_April 10, 1930._

B. B. Siegel, B.Sc.