RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

PRAYER BELL

Sept. - Oct. 1920

Construction of Sanitorium
OUR DEAR PRAYER HELPERS:

You will all have read the Report and we trust you have somewhat entered into the joy of your answered prayers. Somehow God seems to be speaking more loudly than ever about the efficacy of prayer. "If ye ask I will do." We so often feel we must be doing instead of asking. Affairs in China have been an object lesson to us along this line. The authorities are forbidding Christian teaching in schools and forbidding Christian gatherings and services, but no one can forbid them to pray. Is this a mighty call to the Christians of that land to "Ask" and let God do?

In India the strife and unrest are still active, but there are signs that God is working. May there be no hindrance to Him from working out all His Will for this land. Oh that there might be a mighty asking for this, too. May the Lord in His infinite patience go on teaching us what power in prayer means.

We have just finished some C. S. S. M. meetings among our girls. The Lord was in the midst, and as the truth and preciousness of the Word of God was pressed home, hearts were touched and lives were deepened, and fresh determination was aroused to daily read and dig into the precious book. We praise the Lord for Mr. Chowdari's visit, and pray that God will use him as he goes up and down among India's young people.

When Thanksgiving Day came round, the girls were told that the offering was to be for the Children's Special Service Mission, and they gave nearly £4, which showed how much they appreciated the meetings.

Since the Report was sent out, the Master Gardener has been among us, and He culled two flowers that He wanted for His heavenly garden. We miss them here, they were two of the sweetest, but we have the comfort of knowing that they have run their short race and have reached the goal.

You will all praise the Lord with us that He has given us a doctor. She is Danish, and been trained in America, and knows India a bit. We hope she will sail in October and be with us ere long. Will you take her on your hearts and earnestly pray that she may be equipped to fit in here, and be enabled to overcome all the peculiar difficulties she will meet in such a community life, and that she will be one of God's blessings for Mukti and the villages round?

It will save us so much financially to have a doctor. We have had seven girls in the Poona hospital lately and the traveling expenses coming and going do amount up. On Sunday we had to send to Poona to get one of the sick girls home. Her tongue had come out bit by bit. She died an hour and a half after we got her home and we laid her away the same day. On Tuesday we had to go again to Poona to get another one of our girls who had developed leprosy. Miss Wells is taking her to the Ellichpur Leper Home. So you see we do need a doctor.

You will all enjoy the following from Miss Wells. Words cannot express all she has had to contend with, but the Lord brought her through:
“Except the Lord build the House, they labour in vain that build it.” “Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

It is not always easy to see the truth of this text, although we know it is true.

Most of the time since last September has been spent in rebuilding the Sanitorium, picture of the building of which appears on the cover. I fear there was no real plan to work from, save to make it as nearly like the old one as possible. We were obliged to use as much of the old material as was at all fit, and occupy the old building at the same time. You can imagine what confusion we were in, but no one minded much, as our imagination looked forward to the new hospital. The foundations were laid out and the work actually begun September 10th.

By the end of October the walls were up four feet all round. We have built in a hollow square (which is not quite square) 136 feet by 90 feet, with a garden at the back outside the wall. You may wonder why a wall all round.

The Sanitorium is in an open field, fully a quarter of a mile from Mukti, where everybody else lives. The girls and women are there alone and need the protection, and, besides, usually there is a very strong breeze which delicate people cannot endure, and the wall shelters them. Lots of room out-doors, even inside the walls.

As we proceeded with the work it began to look so big, so much bigger than the old building, although all the difference in the measurements was three feet in the width of the dormitories. I got quite a fright and wondered if the money would hold out. I confess I was worried; of course we prayed. We said nothing to the other ladies. Guess there was no need. Probably one’s face told of the anxiety. A few days later Miss Hastie said quietly to me, “There is £50 more in for Aeneas (that’s the name Ramabai gave the Sanitorium when she built it first). £50! More than Rs. 650! That would buy lots more bricks.

The workmen tried my patience sorely, because they would not work faster. You all know Kipling’s advice: “It is not good for the Christian man to worry the Aryan brown.” Some times we had to stir them up, and for a few days things would go better. When discouragement came we asked God to help, and He said to me, “P-L-O-D on, and it will be finished.”

One day we had an inspiration. As we said, the building looked so big. Would we ever need so much room? Then a Moushie suggested a room for the doctor. The last 30 feet in the front line was still not completed. In a few minutes we had a plan for room and bathroom for the doctor. At that time our Dr. Talbot, who has always been so interested in the Sanitorium and has helped many of the former patients to health again, was booked for England, herself broken down. However, the germ of the plan worked on, and now there is a good stone-floored room, 20 feet square, with a big bathroom, verandah in front, light, air and comfort for the doctor, or some poor tired distracted Mushie, who might want a few days’ rest and quiet for some special writing that must be done.

It is all very pain, but still void of furniture. Meanwhile the Lord was getting another doctor ready for us. She will be here in December (D.V.), God’s own choice for us, we must believe.

Not the least of the joys of working at the Sanitorium has been the privilege of getting better acquainted with the 18 inmates. A few are well, but prefer to remain there because it has become “home” to them. One, a woman about 40 years of age, returned to her compound cured. Three have been sent to us from other missions to try the lifegiving air and sunshine, and they are improving daily. Another boarder has been added lately. All need your prayers. “Peter said, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole.” To Him be all the Glory.
We must hasten on to other things. The fifth carload of flag stones is ordered direct from the quarry. During the hot season we were able to put stone floors in four large rooms in the worker's square, also the kitchen and an office room have been done since. An outside stairway was about to tumble down and had to be repaired. Two new ceilings were put in. A very large schoolroom stoned and fitted up for living rooms. The usual white-washing and tiling were also going on.

The last weeks have been occupied in installing the engines and pumps in the wells. The problem of elevating the water for household use and help with the irrigation also has been solved.

Were you to come to Mukti today I am sure some of you would wonder what had been done, because there is still so much work to be done before we look really respectable.

In all the material-building we trust character-building has not been altogether neglected. One is often reminded that the time is short, and we must take some time to prepare for our Blessed Lord, who may be coming for us soon. How terrible not to be ready, no matter how hard we have worked or how busy we have been. May He teach us how to always keep the upward gaze and hold things with a loose grasp ready to go when He calls.

May we each one know how to plod, and in the plodding be kept singing,

"How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend."

We count it a wonderful privilege to be "workers together with Him" in leading India's daughters to know Jesus as their Saviour, and we thank the dear ones in all the different lands who work with us, and one day, in the presence of the King, we'll all sing a great, glad "Hallelujah," and feel it was worthwhile.

Yours looking for His coming,

EUNICE WELLS,
M. LISSA HASTIE.

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

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Special prayer is needed for Miss Wells.
Miss McGregor went to Australia on furlough, therefore the farm and oversight of all the cattle has fallen to Miss Wells in addition to all her other work, which is superintending the new buildings and management of the entire institution.
Miss Brazier, who had expected to leave America October 4th, to return to Mukti, was taken seriously ill two weeks before that time. After six weeks of intense suffering she was called "Home."
Miss Wells writes: "For a little our hearts almost fail as we think of the year ahead. Miss Brazier was a burden-bearer and we had looked forward to her lifting some for us. But our God makes no mistakes and we must accept His will and go on with the great promise that "As thy days so our strength shall be."
Pray that Dr. Esbem, who is expected to reach Mukti December 15th will speedily fit into the work and be a great blessing.
Pray for additional support for one of the new missionaries.
Pray for Miss Loud as she travels throughout the United States in the interest of the work in India.