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# PRAYER BELL

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## RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

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## THE NEW YEAR

We cannot lift the veil which hides the future,  
We cannot see the path which must be trod,  
We only know the 'Way of Faith' leads upward  
And ends at last in Light and Love and God.  
We cannot tell how many rugged mountains  
Or shadowed valleys we shall have to cross,  
We only know, the Lord our hand enfolding  
And leading us, the way will not be lost.  
The New Year all unknown, but ever trusting  
In Him who lived this life and knows the Way,  
We surely know His Word and presence always  
Will courage give and strength for each new day.

To you, our loving friends who have brought us and our family, courage, strength and victory through another year, we give thanks to our heavenly Father and for His faithfulness we give Him praise. We would like to express our prayer that every blessing may be yours as we serve Him together in 1953.

The missionaries have each presented requests for you in order that you might praise and pray with us concerning the needs in each department.

### *Miss Craddock*

Praise for the matron, Divalibai, who, though frail in body, is strong in spirit and cares tenderly for the blind under her care.

Prayer for the matrons in charge of the work departments, to whom so often comes the task of pouring oil on troubled waters, when the workers get the rope entangled, or inadvertently two women may collide. Such minor incidents give the enemy opportunity for triumph.

Pray for the older women, that they may begin to loose their hold on temporal things and look forward to things eternal.

Pray for the younger ones that they may grow in grace daily and find joy and satisfaction in the knowledge that they serve the Master as they carry out their daily duties in the compound and in school.

### *Miss Woodward*

Praise for the matrons who serve so faithfully in the cooking department.

Praise for an abundant supply of food for Christmas and also for the supply of our daily needs.

Pray for the unsaved women from our Rescue Home, who help in the cooking department.

### *Miss Morris*

Praise God for improvement in some of the teen-age girls.

All the girls need prayer, but especially Padma, who could be something for the Lord if she would only let God have His way in her life.

Pray for Sarojini, that God may create a desire in her heart to follow the Lord.

Jayawanti, a troublesome one, needs to be prayed through into a life of usefulness.

Praise for Chandri in the Rescue Home who is going on with the Lord. May she, who has been led out of Hindu darkness, be used to help others to Christ.

Praise for Tara, another recently converted Hindu girl, who is attending the baptismal classes. Her mother, who is still a Hindu, is trying to make some arrangements for her to be married to a Hindu, so please pray for her.

Pray for Rosa, a Roman Catholic girl, that she might find Christ as her Saviour.

### *Miss Fletcher*

Praise for the gift of money from New Zealand to buy 44 Bibles for the children of the House of Palms. But this gift needs the backing of your prayers that these children may really come to know Him as Saviour and Lord and love His Word.

### *Miss Schrag*

Praise for God's blessing on our fields, and thanks for your prayers. With the exception of our fields, there is little or no grain or fodder in this area. This means that food for man and cattle has to be brought in from other places.

Pray for rain in order that we may have sufficient drinking water.

Pray for work to open up in this area for the many, who, because of the drought, have had no harvest to bring in, and who have no means of earning a living. Because there is no work they cannot earn money for food and clothing.

Pray that God may open the eyes of many that they might acknowledge their need of salvation.

### *Miss Callan*

Praise for health granted to weak babies in the Baby Buds' Compound.

Pray for the little ones brought to us, that they may grow up to love and serve our Lord and Master.

Pray for the young women who care for them, that they may be given the needed grace and love.

Praise for those who can now read the Word of God as a

result of attending our literacy classes. Pray that this may be the means of bringing many to the Lord Jesus.

Pray for the teachers in the Literacy School, that they may seek to win those whom they teach.

Praise the Lord with us for His undertaking for all who have come to the Outside Dispensary for medical care. There have been several children with paratyphoid. All have made a good recovery.

Pray that all who come for medical aid may realize their need of a Saviour and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for Krupa, who has to remain in bed for 4 months because of non-healing of a bad fracture in the hip.

Pray for ten old women in Sunset Home who are very frail, that in life's sunset they may be given the joy of His presence.

Praise the Lord that the Book of Isaiah has been prepared for printing in our printing press and progress is being made on the Book of Jeremiah.

Pray for the women who do this important work, that the Word of God may be blessed to their hearts. Pray too, that this work may soon be completed.

Pray for God's blessing on New Testaments, Daily Lights, tracts and booklets sent out from this department.

#### *Miss Harishchandra*

Praise to the Lord for the House of Peace and the spirit of peace and contentment among the women there.

Pray for a widow named Louisebai, who recently came into the House of Love. Her three grown-up sons took everything from her and drove her out of the house. Pray that in her sorrow she may come to know the Lord Jesus.

Now that Christmas day is past, may the spirit of love that came on this day still remain. I pray that it may abide with us throughout the year.

#### *Miss Rohrer*

Pray that Hannah, Hershawati, and Sunder, born leaders, may give their hearts to the Lord and thus lead others to the Saviour, using their talents for His glory. Though only young Blossoms, their lives, if yielded to Him, can show forth the Saviour's beauty.

Pray for Ramchandra, who is in my village Sunday School. He is very interested in the gospel, but holds back from accepting the Lord as his Saviour.

#### *Miss Bollman*

Pray for Prema, who is recovering from tuberculosis. Pray for the health and salvation of this young girl.

Pray for Leah and Esther, who find it hard to forget their village life and to adjust to Christian standards. Do love these girls and fellowship with them at the Throne.

Strength, initiative and spiritual power are needed in the club programme. We need your prayers.

*Miss Nicholson*

Pray for a little eight-year-old who joined our little girls in Fruit Garden this year. She had wandered on the streets with her father from babyhood, so it has been hard for her to settle down. Her mentality is severely warped.

Pray for children in the village of Kedgaon, to whom we go with the gospel each Sunday. These are days of famine for them physically and how much they need the Bread of Life!

*Miss Doerksen*

Praise for young teachers in the school who are more and more showing concern not only for the academic but also for the spiritual needs of the children.

Praise for a real interest and response towards the gospel from the Hindu village children attending the school. Many of the older boys are eagerly reading the Scripture portions given them, not only at school, but also at home to their families, and taking them out to the fields and reading the Word of God as they herd their cattle.

Pray that the reading of the Word may result in real salvation and witness for Christ. In villages where there are no Christians, may these children lead their people to Christ.

Pray that our teen-age girls, completing their studies, may study faithfully and be guided into God's appointed paths of service and training.

*Mrs Rebeiro*

Praise for excellent health of the Buds during the past year.

Pray that the Lord may touch little Miriam, born a Cretin of a type known as Mongolianism, in order that her life may be a joy instead of a burden.

*Mr Rebeiro*

Pray for a 15 cwt. truck for building work and general use in all departments of Mukti.

*Mr and Mrs McMillen and Jewel*

Pray for help in the study of Marathi and for health and strength as they feel the strain of the constant study.

## ANOTHER JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

Long before Christmas Day rolled around, the morning air was filled with the singing of praises of the Christ Child, as young and old worshipped Him in their morning prayer-time.

Christmas at Mukti is a busy time, but oh, what a joyous, happy time! Amidst all the preparation and busyness, the fact that the birth of Christ is being celebrated is never forgotten. Many days before, school children were busy planning and rehearsing for their annual programme. In clubs the children were busy making decorations to hang in their compounds. Older girls were busy sewing on gifts that they were making to give away. Women were busy making Christmas sweets, and thus all were happily engaged in preparations of one kind or another.

A week before Christmas several hundred Hindus, along with Christians, gathered to see the birth of Christ depicted by the school children and to hear songs about His birth. During the programme many prayers arose that, from amongst these people, some would realize that the Christ Child came into the world to be their Saviour.

Tea parties in the various compounds followed this with a happy time for young and old and many good things to eat. The children all received new dresses and their ribbons and cards from far across the seas. How much delight these always bring the children and how we thank the friends at home who bring them this happiness!

Finally, the long-awaited day arrived, warm and clear. As light pierced the sky, we were awakened by the singing of carols outside our doors. Later on, all gathered in the church to worship anew the Babe of Bethlehem, and to hear again the old, yet ever new message, of our dear Saviour's birth. As we looked over all the girls and women seated there, our hearts thrilled anew to think that because of the life of one woman, dedicated to the Lord, these hundreds were now worshipping the true God, instead of idols of wood and stone.

After the service, each one left the church, eagerly clutching their gifts. The afternoon was happily spent in trying out new balls, jumping ropes, slates, marbles, buses, and aeroplanes. Of course, the lovely dolls from America had to be bathed and dressed many times too.

We sat at dinner that night, weary, yet rejoicing, that once again the Lord had made it possible for our large family to have such a happy Christmas. We praise the Lord that in this dark land there are those into whose hearts the light of the Gospel has shined, bringing peace and hope. We thank Him too, for those who, by their prayers and gifts have brought joy to many in this sad land.

'What are you going to give Jesus *this* year?' This question was pondered over and prayed about many days before the decision was made. Then came the time when each one was able to give their Christmas thankoffering to the Lord. It was a blessed time as each one came bringing their sacrificial gifts. Some of the children gave all of their money, in spite of the fact that they were going to be able to go to the market the following week. They knew that this would mean that there would not be any money left to spend. Others gave their cherished ribbons, balls, slates, and sugar. The older girls and women gave cloth, soap, or fruit. It was touching to see that even with the scarcity of food grains, there were wheat, rice and other grains presented to the Saviour. Even chickens were brought and had their part in this thanksgiving service. We know our heavenly Father rejoiced as He looked down on these sacrificial offerings of His people, expressing their thanksgiving for all His goodness to them, most of all for presenting to them the world's greatest gift—His Son. We trust that lives too, were laid anew on the altar to be used for His honour and glory in the new year.

—ELSIE ROHRER

#### THE LITTLE GRAVE THRICE DUG

Four Baby Buds graduated last week into the Compound of the Bigger Buds. Our hearts were warmed with thanks to our heavenly Father for bringing them through hard, difficult months that had threatened their weak, little lives so many times. Especially we thanked the Lord for fair, sweet, smiling little Latika, who many times had defied death and rallied when all hope was gone. The pitiful sight of a little bundle of sharp bones held together by transparent skin, which was her body, was a sight one turned away from quickly, and she seemed even too weak and lifeless to cry. Three times her little grave was dug when there seemed no possibility that she could live through the night, but three times we saw God stand by and the grave had to be closed in again.

Gradually, after months of constant care and love, the eyes lost their stare, the high cheekbones receded as life came into the little cheeks, and how can one possibly describe the joy experienced the day a happy smile fell across the little white face.

More months went by and Latika learned to play and laugh; to crawl and stand alone. But now, an especially sweet and happy child, she has aspired and, with three other sisters, is no longer a baby, but a healthy and happy growing Bud, learning to eat alone, to dress and to help herself, and learning

to live, laugh, play and pray with forty-six other Buds, unfolding and preparing to be Blossoms in our Garden here. What plan was in the Master Gardener's mind when He would not allow the grave to swallow this little one? Your prayers and ours can make that plan a reality in her life as she grows up to know and love and serve Him here.

—LILLIAN DOERKSEN

### FAMILY NEWS

We are glad to report that Miss Amstutz has at last received her permit to return to India, and that she will be returning to the work at Supa, which needs her so badly, just as soon as she is able to get a sailing. We praise the Lord for answering prayer.

We gratefully acknowledge a gift from the readers of *The Life of Faith*, per R.M.S., of £2.

The Ramabai Mukti Mission is an international, undenominational Mission of evangelical faith, with representatives in the home countries as follows:

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