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# PRAYER BELL

May-June 1956



BLIND SHALINI WALKS IN LIGHT

**RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION**  
**INDIA**

Eric Divinity Library  
New Haven, Conn.

## FROM MANY LANES TO CALVARY

Twenty-three young people stood before the crowd of Mukti's big family and gave testimony of their having accepted Christ as Saviour during recent months; twenty-three lives in whom the Lord had wrought His miracle of redemption; twenty-three hearts cleansed by His precious blood and made into vessels for the Master's use. As we witnessed the baptism of these young people at Easter time, our hearts thrilled again to the power of the old-time gospel. From different circumstances, from different walks of life each had come, and we let the missionaries who dealt with each case tell their stories.

## FROM THE BLIND

By ANNE SIEMENS

Almost seven years ago a missionary visited a small village where she saw a little blind girl begging by the roadside. Her heart was deeply moved as she talked with the child, who was from a very poor family. She visited the home and asked the parents if she might take the blind girl to a place where she could learn to read with her fingers. Eventually the parents consented, and blind Shalini came to Mukti. Her story is known to many, for her heart soon opened to the Saviour's love. On the thanksgiving Sunday following her first Christmas in Mukti, Shalini was among those who went forward in the church to lay a gift for the Lord on the altar. The gift was the most precious thing she had in all the world. A few days previously on Christmas she had received from the Mission a doll, the one and only doll she had ever had in her whole life. There was a smile of heavenly joy on her face as Shalini tenderly and lovingly placed her precious dollie on the altar, a thanksgiving gift to the Lord who had brought her to Mukti. Since that day there have been powers that have tried to draw that child aside from the pathway of deep love that she had chosen, but she has gone forward with Christ. Years passed, and the child is now growing toward young womanhood. She asked for baptism because of her desire to witness to all that Christ is her Saviour. As you look at her picture on the cover, will you uphold her in the prayer she prayed after baptism: 'My dear Lord Jesus, help me to be strong in Thee, to always love Thy Word, to pray much, and never to turn from the Way. Keep me always walking close to Thee'.

## FROM THE FRUIT GARDEN

By GLADYS FLETCHER

Easter time this year will never be forgotten by three of our twelve-year-old girls in the Fruit Garden, as they went through the waters of baptism. Tara Dongre came to us as a wee baby, and now has grown into a tall, lively girl. Last year during some special New Year's meetings, the preacher spoke of Christ as the Door. Tara realized that she still held the key to her own heart's door and all inside was dark and sinful. Then and there she accepted Christ as her Saviour and surrendered her heart to Him.

Aruna Shinde also came to us as a babe in arms. Today she is a quiet, dignified girl. One night she lay thinking about a message she had heard on Romans 10:9. She was unhappy and felt her need of a Saviour. All around her the other girls were asleep; but she knelt on her mat and asked the Lord Jesus to save her and make her clean. In her own words she says, 'He came into my heart and gave me peace and assurance of sins forgiven'.

Shakuntala Kamble was a very weak little girl of six years of age when Mukti opened its doors to her. One night four years ago, when she was only a 'Blossom', the missionary spoke about Christ as the Light of the World. Later that night the Holy Spirit showed Shakuntala that her heart was dark and full of sin. She asked the Lord Jesus to let His cleansing blood make her heart clean. Now there is light where before there was darkness.

It was with great joy that I watched these girls go through the waters of baptism. Easter Sunday morning they were received into the church and partook of their first Communion. May your prayers surround them as they walk life's uneven ways.

## FROM THE CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

By HOWARD AND CORENE McMILLEN

Beside a railway gate stands the keeper's house. Over the doorway is a red cross, a sign to all that Christ is Lord of that household. Within those walls is a boy growing into young manhood. He was among those selected to be sent to a Youth for Christ conference. The son of another Christian family and a daughter from our laundryman's family were also sent. When the three returned, the joy on their faces told the story of their hearts, for each one had found Christ as Saviour at that conference. It was a blessing to have a part in their baptism.

## FROM THE HOUSE OF JOY

By ELSIE ROHRER

Umedi's name was one that I learned quickly while in the Blossoms' Compound. You could almost always count on her being at the bottom of any mischief that was going on at any time. On my return from furlough, who should be among the group of teen-agers assigned to me but Umedi! But what a changed Umedi! She had given her heart to Christ and had become a new creature in Him. It was a joy to see her go through the waters of baptism, knowing of past battles and the victory won. There will be battles ahead, so will you pray that she may be a daily overcomer in Him?

Sara and Prabha were always known as 'good little girls'. One day in some special meetings they realized their need of a Saviour and responded to the invitation to accept Him. It was sweet to hear their testimonies at Easter time, as they followed Him in baptism, of what the Lord meant in their lives. May He grow sweeter to them every day, as they walk life's road with Him.

## FROM BETHLEHEM

By CAROL TERRY

She was mute with fear the day she came. A cruel grandmother had sealed the child's mouth with many beatings. Years of tender love at Mukti followed, and on Easter Sunday Margaret stood with radiant face in the waters of baptism, a testimony to the transforming grace of Christ, her Saviour. Many years of loving care and faithful teaching stood between the day of beatings and the day of baptism.

Remembrances of Suli are of a child's being obstinate and sulky, of adolescent storms and stubbornness, even to bed-wetting when she was still in her teens. The miracle of love which took Suli through the waters of baptism as a changed girl is the miracle of Calvary. Now she is clean in her heart and clean in her habits. A quiet sweetness has replaced sulkiness. A problem girl has become a joy.

Tuberculosis threatened Prema for several years; but the months on a hospital bed were not in vain. There came healing for her body and healing for her soul, for during those long months of illness and quiet and faithful treatment, Prema realized her need of the Saviour. He cleansed and healed when she opened her heart to Him. As she came up out of the waters of baptism, it was indeed a symbol of new life for her.

## FROM OUR BOARDERS

By JEAN MCGREGOR

*(Written for Lillian Doerksen, who has gone on furlough)*

Suman is thirteen. Her mother grew up here in Mukti, and Suman had a background of Christian training all through childhood. However, during the New Year's meetings this year she felt the touch that convicts and changes, making all clean and new. A message on the lost sheep awakened her to her need. She gave herself to the Good Shepherd at that time.

Lucy was a child of eight when she came with her mother. The mother stayed for a time but soon tired of rules and regulations necessary in a family as large as ours. She wanted to be off again and told Lucy they would leave, but the child refused to go. She saw that other children her age at Mukti could read and write, and she said, 'Mother, I want to do something more with my life than follow the buffaloes and pick up their droppings for fuel for the fire. You go if you wish, but I will stay'. The mother left without her; and we knew it was the Lord who had held Lucy here, for He soon touched her with His love.

Vatsala was a child who seemed to be two persons rather than one—so sweet on the surface, but so underhanded and deceitful as soon as one's back was turned. During some special meetings she was transformed. The transformation was evident to all, and we praised Him anew as she stepped into the waters of baptism.

Elizabeth is a very quiet girl of thirteen years. In school she often is first in her class, and is one who was sent here for protection. It was in some special meetings that she heard the call of the Good Shepherd.

Usha has known what it means to go about in rags and how it feels never to have enough to eat. The mother brought her to Mukti, pleading that we take her, in order that the child might not die of starvation. Usha found more than food at Mukti; she found the Saviour.

May we often remember in prayer these who by baptism have given public testimony of their faith in Christ. May they climb ever upward.

## FROM THE RESCUE HOME

By ELIZABETH STONE

Five of the young women from the Rescue Home were baptized at Easter-time. Three of these were from nominal Christian homes, and two came out of Hinduism. As I talked with those from Christian backgrounds, they with one accord said that they had known nothing of the need or way of salvation before coming to Mukti, though one of them was quite well versed in the Scriptures. 'Only here do we get such teaching', was their comment. How grateful they are for having been told the way of eternal life. One of them is now helping out as a junior matron in the compound.

Of the two out of Hinduism, one is a bit older, an ignorant, village woman, but the light of the gospel has shined into that heart. She really knows that she is saved, though her knowledge of the Scriptures is very meagre. The other is a younger woman. Her conduct with other girls was questionable. In her testimony, she said that as she was sitting one day thinking wicked thoughts, the Word of God spoke to her heart through Mark 8:36, 37, 'For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?' It convicted her of her deep sin and need of salvation. Her experience seems deeper because of the great need. Pray for them and also for those who have not yet accepted Christ. There are many such in the Rescue Home.

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'Lord, Thou dost touch us with Thy glory,  
Thou dost place us near Thy throne.

Thou dost tell to us the story  
That through Christ we are Thine own.

In the stillness of the night  
I lie and think upon Thy love;

The wonder bursts upon my sight,  
That inner sight from Heaven above.

And as I feel this holy peace,  
My heart o'er flows with grateful thanks;

As from sin comes sweet release,  
I take my place within Thy ranks'.

## FAMILY NEWS

By JANET CALLAN

### Thank you, Miss Butler

In 1946 when Mrs Barrett found the work of Honorary Treasurer in England for Mukti more than she could manage, Miss Elizabeth Butler, who had spent some years in Mukti, was approached about this work. She was already a busy lady in a full-time office post; but she kindly agreed to take over this work for the Lord. She has throughout these past ten years done much correspondence and book-keeping for Mukti, giving freely of her time, talent, and energy. Now, as she feels that the burden is too heavy, we have reluctantly relieved her of it. We know that she will remember us in prayer; and that our fellowship with her will continue. We thank you, Miss Butler, and ask for you God's richest blessing on your ministry in Liverpool.

We ask our friends to uphold by their prayers another Mukti friend, Miss Gladys Tillet, as she takes over from Miss Butler. She also has been on the field and knows the work well. She is kindly giving of her spare time to this work. To many she is not a stranger, as she has been sending out Mukti literature to friends of the Mission for these past ten years. May she be blessed and made a blessing in this service for the Master.

### Wedding Bells in Mukti

The middle of April was wedding week for Mukti. One of our nurses, who has been a staff nurse in another mission hospital for the past three years, came home to be married. She is Suriya Rathod, one for whom much prayer has been made. She goes to be helpmeet to a widower who is teacher and registrar in a large girls' school. The bridegroom is preparing to go into the ministry, as he studies along with his work.

On April 18 Dayawanti Powar, one of our teachers, was married to a young man who is a fine Christian in a good position on the railway. She will be living near Bombay, so we expect to see her from time to time. We would value your prayers for these new homes, that they may truly be to the glory of God as witness to all in their neighbourhood, even as they were challenged to be by Rev. F. Schelander, who officiated at both weddings.

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

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