

PRAYER BELL



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INDIA



**How many beyond the hills are still waiting to hear of the Saviour's
love? When will their darkness turn to sunrise?**

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
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WHEN DARKNESS TURNS TO SUNRISE

By CAROL TERRY

The darkness seemed to give no promise of dawn as I looked up to the sky above on Easter morning. The quietness of night lay on the whole compound. There was a feeling of being alone as nothing stirred. Then a soft breeze, gentle as the loving touch of a child, stirred the air, and my eyes lifted to the stars above. Their solitary brightness flashed the message of my heart, 'Not alone, but alone with God'. I stood for some minutes watching them in that quiet early morning. In those few moments the past five and a half years went quickly through my mind. The first few years seemed filled with the darkness of the night about me, with problems, struggles, heartaches, tears and tiredness to the point of exhaustion, until at last His touch upon one after another put stars in hearts and lives, stars in eyes, and stars in souls.

As the darkness above started to give way to the grey preceding dawn, giving promise of the glorious sunrise to come, thoughts turned to these last two years when the Lord took us to our knees in intercessory prayer such as many of us had never known before, and how, as a result of these hours of agonizing prayer when the Holy Spirit strove through us for the souls around us, He worked in a burst of glory so mighty that we could but bow before Him in worship and adoration, for He did wonderful things in our midst, greater than we had dared hope or even dream, as He went through Mukti like a cleansing fire and touched each one of us.

My reveries were suddenly broken as the Easter dawn began to break, as bells began to ring and 'Christ is risen' was called from every direction. Soon the procession towards the hill started, with our hundreds of children and women singing hymns of victory. As we sat on that rugged, rocky hilltop listening to the story of the resurrection, the coming of the sun seemed to be delayed by heavy clouds on the horizon. We sat on in perfect faith, singing hymns of the resurrection, knowing without a doubt that the sun would come. When it appeared in a burst of glory, we realized anew that His coming again is just as sure and will be in a fulness of glory such as we cannot now even imagine. We gave ourselves anew to Him out there on that hilltop, and I realized that I was coming to the close of this term in India more deeply yielded to Him than ever before in life. As I watched that glorious sunrise, these words came to mind which were written by Jim Elliot, whose story of martyrdom by the Aucas is so stirringly told by his wife in the book *Through Gates of Splendour*:

'I walked out to the hill just now. It is delicious, to stand embraced

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Baptismal Group

MY FIRST EASTER IN MUKTI

By JUANITA HARRELL

One of the special features at Easter-time here is the baptismal service on the Saturday before Easter. I had been trying to think, 'What will I write about it? Will I talk to those who are having girls baptized in their families and see what is particularly interesting about their conversions and baptisms?' But before I knew it, the day had arrived and when I went to the service this afternoon, I immediately realized how unnecessary my thoughts had been. What a rich and wonderful experience it is to go through baptism with our Lord! One cannot help but be inspired as one witnesses such a service. Since I have been in India, baptism has taken on a deeper meaning for me. Here in the east more than any other place else, I believe, it must mean a complete break-away with old things. There is much thought, prayer and study put behind every decision to be baptized. I have seen three baptismal services in India, and each time a person steps into the water, signifying the washing away of all that is not of Christ, as a witness of being born anew by the Spirit in Christ—each time I see this, a lump comes into my throat and tears come to my eyes. New life had been wrought in each one, and the baptism was a witness to all that a miracle of grace had taken place.

Before us sat four girls from our Rescue Home. But for the grace of God, those girls would be out on the streets, Satan using them to satisfy and fulfill his work. Farther down the bench sat two girls who had been here since babyhood, and another who had been put here for protection when she was fifteen years of age. Then there was a Hindu woman who, because she had accepted the true Christ, is now rejected by her people. Another young woman; who was a

nominal Christian before coming here to live with us, sat beside her. She has now put on the garment of salvation, and is a new creature in Christ.

Two young boys from the Christian community near our mission gave testimonies that rang clear and unashamed of Christ's saving and keeping power. Pray for these boys. God needs young men of India to go forth for Him.

Two young girls from the families sweetly told how Christ showed them their need of the Saviour of whom they had heard since their babyhood. One young girl, who is in our boarding compound, told of the assurance of Christ's salvation in her life.

After the thrill of the baptismal service the Lord had yet further blessing for us. At five o'clock on Easter morning the bells rang out and we arose to go to the hillside for the sunrise service. We marched out in family groups singing praises to our risen Saviour. As we gathered on the hillside for the message from God's Word, the quietude of Christ descended upon the large crowd. Christ was indeed glorified throughout this entire service and hearts were filled with His worship, wonder and praise. Blessed be His name!

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by the shadows of a friendly tree with the wind tugging at the coat-tail and the heavens hailing your heart, to gaze and glory and give oneself again to God—what more can a man ask? Oh, the fullness, pleasure, sheer excitement of knowing God on earth! I care not if I ever raise my voice again for Him, if only I may love Him, please Him. Mayhap in mercy He shall give me a host of children that I may lead through the vast star fields to explore the delicacies whose finger ends touch His garments, and smile into His eyes—ah then, not stars nor children shall matter, only Himself.'

'O Jesus, Master and Center and End of all, how long before that Glory is Thine which has no long waited Thee? Now there is no thought of Thee among men; then there shall be thought for nothing else. Now other men are praised; then none shall care for any other's merits. Hasten, hasten, Glory of Heaven, take Thy crown, subdue Thy kingdom, enthrall Thy creatures.'

I came down from the hilltop asking only one thing for furlough—that it be filled with my blessed Lord, with an increasing and unceasing consciousness of His presence, with His leading, His ways, and most of all—Himself.



Dorcas

**WILL YE BE MY WITNESSES
HERE AND BEYOND
THE HILLS?**

Three of our girls have recently graduated from Bible school. They have written of the challenges that lie before them and we translate them for you and present them to you for your special prayer.

DORCAS My heart is full of praise because, unworthy though I am, the Lord gave me the precious privilege of studying His Word in Bible school.

The Lord has saved me, washed me, in His precious blood and redeemed me. Now my Bible training is completed and I am ready to serve Him. His call to my heart as I realized how many there were in the villages and beyond the hills who were lost, was 'Will you be my witness?' He has blessed me so much and I ask your prayers that I may always be a faithful witness for Him. I know there will be trials, disappointments and difficulties as I witness for Him before the needy people of this land. I want to serve the Lord faithfully and joyfully before them. My heart is full of praise. He is not willing that any should perish and my prayer is that by His Holy Spirit He will increase my compassion and burden for the many still without Him, and help me to bring them into His Kingdom.

USHA: I thank the Lord and praise Him again and again because He has given me the privilege of studying His Word for three years in Bible school. He spoke to me through His Word and taught me so many things. The Lord has lifted me up out of the miry clay and made my foot steadfast. In Bible school I realized the importance of prayer and how to pray effectively. I praise God for this.

I was born in a Christian home and thought because of this I was a Christian. But I realized that this would not do and that I needed to be saved. I used to sit in church but only in body did I take part in the services, for my thoughts always wandered far away. I am so glad that all is different now and thank God for bringing me out of this condition.

Now I have graduated and I know that God has chosen me to serve Him. He has given me His precious Word which has become such a comfort and help to me. I love Isaiah 41:10 'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will

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Usha and Mary



LOVED WITH EVERLASTING LOVE

By LEELA SINGH

When I was reading Jeremiah, I stopped reading at chapter thirty-one and verse three ' . . . I have loved thee with an everlasting love : therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.' This verse attracted my attention. The words went right through my heart and I began to think over them. While thinking about them, I remembered my childhood. At that time I had no idea of God's love, but day by day as I grew up, I gradually realized His wonderful love for me.

Now, when I was in Bible seminary I understood, not fully, but much more than before, God's ever-winning love, His long-suffering, His great patience and His loving, watchful eye upon me.

One day He showed me another aspect of His love through His words in Isaiah 6:6, 7 'Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar : And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin is purged.' In seminary many times I had bitter experiences. He sent the seraphim with live coals in his hand. He used sharp pruning knives to purge me. I had to suffer sharp criticisms. Sometimes it seemed to be my boss in the class, sometimes the person I disliked, sometimes the back-biters, but His grace was sufficient for me while I was undergoing this pruning process, and in my difficulties and trials I tested Him and found Him ever-faithful to me. He was by my side, encouraging me, keeping me happy and contented, teaching me to keep quiet in difficult times.

He opened my spiritual eyes to see His wonderful promises while I was studying His Word. He made me to know that He had a special plan for me. He changed my goal in life and now it is Philippians 2:5 'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.' Every day I am praying that God will give me the humble, forgiving and ever true mind of the Lord Jesus and that in every action of my life I will be a blessing to somebody. I pray that He will keep me unnoticed by the world and humble but overflowing with living water, giving joy and satisfaction to those with whom I am.

I cannot express in words my thanks to the Saviour for His love but I challenge you to taste and see 'that the Lord is good.' He is helping me in my work in the hospital and as I am looking after a family of children here in Mukti. I feel His guiding hand upon me. This is the first experience in my life of having the responsibility of a family group. There are sixteen girls in my 'family' and now I feel the great responsibility of their souls and long that each and every one should be saved.

For the great task He has given me I require your helping hand of prayer. It is a privilege to share one another's burden, and I would like to share yours, too.

HE IS MY STRENGTH

BY ANNE SIEMENS

Isaiah 41:10 'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.'

When I returned to Mukti I came with some trepidation because I was launching out on a new work. Though I had some training in work with the blind, it still was a very new and strange kind of work for me. However, with the assurance that God had led me into it, and taking the above promise, I went into the work. The Lord has met me in many wonderful ways and has indeed proven to be my strength and all I needed.

As I look back, I am reminded over and over again of His loving faithfulness and His patient dealings with my blind family and with me. In answer to prayer we have seen Him defeat the powers of darkness, give victory and deliverance from bondage. He is the Almighty God.

Preparing for furlough, of course, I have been looking forward to a reunion with my loved ones, especially my dear mother. However, these were my plans and not His plans for me. My heavenly Father saw best to take my loving mother to Himself and deliver her from what could have been months of severe suffering. Naturally, this came as a shock, but the Lord again met me through His precious Word, Job 23:14 'For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me.' That is one of the precious promises He gave me. How wonderful to have the assurance that only that which is appointed for me will He perform. He has given precious victory and heaven seems so much nearer since mother is there. May this experience make my life a richer blessing to all I meet as I go on furlough. May He be uplifted and glorified in everything during this furlough.

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strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.'

During our training days we were privileged to go to the villages in evangelistic work. The Lord gave me such a burden for the many still in such great darkness. How will their spiritual hunger and thirst be satisfied unless we tell them of the Saviour? How great my burden is to tell them and what a burden the Lord has given me to pray for them!

MARY: I am so glad to give my testimony. God has given me the wonderful privilege of going to Bible school. I did not want to go but I am so glad I went, for I know the Lord planned it. He has chosen me for His service. During the three years in Bible school God blessed me much and taught me many things.

At first I did not enjoy the quiet time which was set apart for private

Bible study and prayer. One of the most precious lessons I came to learn was the value of this quiet time with the Lord each day. I thank the Lord for this and have determined to always be faithful in this.

While studying in Corinthians about the Macedonian Christians, I learned how, even though they were poor, they faithfully gave their tithe to the Lord. I realized that all I had belonged to the Lord, and I had not given what I ought to Him. I determined to give the Lord my tithe faithfully, and I have been blessed in this.

I realized, too, that He had called me for His service and I want to serve Him faithfully. Going to the villages in evangelistic work, I saw so many who had not even heard the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we told them about Him and asked them to say His name, they could not even pronounce it. How badly I felt and I have determined to pray for them, and since the Lord has given me such a burden for them, I will tell them the sweet gospel story every opportunity I get.

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