

PRAYER BELL

INDIA



*MANU FROM THE HOME OF THE BLIND
WITH HER NEW SISTER TAI*

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

July - August - September 1961

**Yale Divinity Library
New Haven, Conn.**

“ Tai, Oh My Sweet Tai ”

By : ANNE SIEMENS

“ Please call Manu out of the class to come and see her new little sister who has just arrived and feels so strange.” Manu, our little six-year-old in the Home of the Blind came dancing out of the class-room.

“ Where is my new sister ? ” called Manu. “ Oh, here she is. What a wee little sister. I love my sister Tai. She is such a sweet child. Tai is my sister. Oh, how I love my Tai. Tai, let us play. You take all the blocks. I’ll take only three. Just give me three, Tai. Oh, I love her. Tai, oh my sweet Tai.” All these endearing terms were showered on Tai while Manu was patting and hugging her.

Suddenly a question arose in Manu’s mind. “ Auntie,” she said, “ where will Tai sleep tonight ? Our children’s room is just all full.”

Auntie replied, “ Manu, don’t you think you could find a little corner for Tai to sleep ? ”

“ Yes, Auntie,” said Manu, quick as a flash, “ Tai may sleep on my mat tonight. She is my sister now. I love my Tai.”

That first night Tai slept with Manu on her mat and since then they have been fast friends. Manu, the older sister is just six and Tai the younger sister is five years old. Manu helps her wash and dress and leads her all around. Tai is becoming adjusted to her new home very quickly.

We count it a privilege to take in this little one and give her a home. However, you have seen the concern in the mind of little Manu about a room for Tai to sleep. That is our concern at present also. We are crowded with no room to spare. We hope to move into a larger room soon, but are delayed by the need of adequate sanitary arrangements. We firmly believe that the Lord will soon meet this need in order that our little blind children may have a larger room in which to live.

As you pray for little Tai, for all of our blind family, and for our needs, we know that God will answer all these faithful prayers and enable us to provide the necessary accomodation for the blind children.

“ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in lory by Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19.

“ He is faithful that promised.” Heb. 10:23



New Challenges

BY : BETTY GRAY

Mukti had bid Miss Morris farewell while I was still in the hills writing my Marathi examinations. This left the Rescue Home with its large family, of 70 destitute widows, unwed mothers and the 70 little children, without an "Auntie" until I could take up Miss Morris's work.

Life has been eventful and challenging as you can imagine, with so many from varied backgrounds, all with such varied needs, living so closely together. Some are Hindus, some Mohammedans, some nominal Christians, and some have come to know the Saviour and want to live for Him. It seems that in these first few weeks I am meant to experience a taste of the wide variety of incidents that can happen in my new work.

Daily something has called for special attention. There have been a number of new ones who have come for admission, and only one mother has left us to return to her home, taking her baby with her.

There was the day when I was called to show some of my babies to a gentleman who longed to complete the happiness of his home by adopting a child. Carefully his case was considered and a week later he and his wife left us, each of them with a contented twin baby in their arms. We were delighted with the way the children responded to these who had chosen them as the objects of their devotion, and we were assured that God had provided a Christian home and all that could be desired for these twin baby girls.

In contrast to this joy, was the evening when I was called to my elderly matron's side and witnessed for the first time the suffering that is caused by a painful, though not-too-harmful scorpion bite. Then one evening we killed a poisonous snake near the place where the children always play.

The greatest challenge, however, comes in seeking by counselling, prayer and love to win these girls and women for the Lord and to help them obtain deliverance from the poisonous, subtle ways of the enemy of the soul.

While I sit here to write, I am reminded again that the day's work is really comprised of many interruptions and duties, for the routine supervision of the care of so many mothers and children tends to amount to many callers, each with some specific need or problem.

These are days of language tests, too, as I endeavour to comprehend what is said to me. Study must continue along with my other duties, too, for there is still another prescribed course in Marathi that must be completed.

I rejoice to be in this chosen corner of Mukti which is a vital part of the Lord's work, and I praise the Lord for so many who bear the weight of the challenge here by prayer.



The Hidden work of God

By : LEELA SINGH

In the teen-age class of the Daily Vacation Bible School this year there was one question to be answered for the girls who joined the "happy school" for ten days. The question was this "What profit have you had from the studies and what profit has God had from you?"

I was amazed when I read the answer in one of the girl's note-books. When I looked at the girl, I knew she was one of the most troublesome ones. As we saw her, she seemed far away from the Lord. Her answer was this, "In these ten days the Lord showed me how to worship Him reverently and sincerely. The Lord is changing my mind after His own image. This is my profit and I have given my life to Him to worship Him most sincerely. That is God's profit."

Isn't that a wonderful answer? Though nobody considered her sensible and good, still deep down in her heart the God of impossibilities is working, and I am sure there are many hearts who may not show the changes outwardly, but down in whose hearts a work is being done.

For several months before we started the school, we were praying that the Lord would do some marvellous things. We wanted this year's "happy school" to be especially profitable, and one ever to be remembered in our girls' lives. We did not want the girls to feel that "happy school" was a formal or routine thing, and I am glad that the Lord really did wonderful things.

When we were coming close to the starting date we were tested everywhere—financially, about leaders, and in our own various families. We learned how to trust the Lord and we found Him faithful. Our theme song was "Great is Thy Faithfulness," and we found it true in our lives.

From the first class up to the high school girls' class we had the same motto "We worship the Lord." The handwork was also based upon the theme. We learned nine different ways of worshipping the Lord: (1) In our family worship (2) By giving (3) By praising (4) By praying (5) By reading His Word (6) By showing reverence in God's House (7) By observing the Lord's Supper (8) By telling others about Jesus (9) By worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth.

The morning worship service was especially refreshing and a most helpful time for all of us. We used the life story of Sadhu Sunder Singh in the assembly period, and it challenged most of us

I am sure that those who did not take part in the "happy school" were praying earnestly for us. We were in the front and they were backing us up with their faithful prayers. I really thank the Lord and say with the Psalmist "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good."



Marching to Zion

BY : PHILIP BOUDEKAR

To-day our life is a battle-field as well as a pilgrimage. We feel that even the children of our land should be aware of the fact that we are not only pilgrims, but warriors, too, marching on to fulfill the special purpose and plan of our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Besides the Daily Vacation Bible School for the several hundred girls in Mukti, we had another "happy school" for the boys and girls from the village this year in our outside chapel. It was my privilege and responsibility to direct this. The number of children was between 50 and 60, and this included some Hindu and Moslem children, as well as the boys and girls from our Christian families.

The worship hour began with the children and teachers gathered together at 7:30. Marching along the road and in order, singing "We're marching to Zion," we began each day's activities with fresh blessings from God on high.

The motto of the "happy school" was "We worship the Lord," teaching true reverence to God. The children were divided into four tribes—the tribes of Benjamin, Zebulun, Levi and Judah, each one striving zealously to possess the promised land (of course in contests through getting good marks in the day's activities, recorded each day on a big map of Palestine.) All the tribes sought to advance quickly to possess the land, but any weakness in their armour or report of disrespect in worship shown, meant that the enemy had been strong enough to drive them back and hinder them.

The children studied about the Tabernacle, God's dwelling-place on earth, and especially about the Ark, which pictured the presence of God among His people.

The study of God's Word and the story of a great Indian saint, Sadhu Sunder Singh, were a great inspiration in our ten-day "journey" during these days. The story of this man's great devotion to God, stirred the boys' and girls' hearts, and challenged them to make their march through life more meaningful for God.

Many in India still have not found the Way in this dark land and it has challenged us to be filled with the Spirit of God and to live in His presence, that others may be led to worship our almighty God, too. Unless our boys and girls who know God carry out all that He has taught them through His Word, there is a danger of the "beautiful-looking tabernacle," or worship, of which they studied becoming just a spiritual "show." Let us pray that God in His infinite mercy will enable our children to worship Him, who dwells in their hearts forever, in spirit and in truth. Then our marching to Zion can be happy and blessed forever.



What D. V. B. S. Meant to Me

(*Translated from an account written by one of the leaders,
Shakuntala Khare*)

Soldiers on the battle-field are well-trained. They are required to be well-equipped in every way and always ready to fight. They are expected to be quick, courageous and prompt.

Christians have to fight against Satan. To fight with and against Satan, a Christian has the Word of God. Every boy or girl, young or old, has to face Satan and fight him at some time or other. To be strong, a Christian has to learn many a portion by heart. God has very wonderfully provided our children with a summer vacation school, for which we are very grateful to Him.

Different types of worship have been introduced to the girls in those ten days. As a guide to proper worship the children studied from old Testament characters. Some of the things they learned was that God's House is a house of worship; God is holy; to please Him we must respect God. Various things such as keeping silence in God's house, and listening to God's message with all our minds were learned. As a result, many were blessed and the lives of some were changed.

Though we had little time to prepare for the handwork classes, four purposes were fulfilled through this. These were praise, worship through God's Word, prayer, and giving our offering to God.

Through the studies on worship the children learned that they should be faithful in work and that they should do it happily and punctually. To stress the importance of worship, the children sang their theme song in the beginning each day and entered as assigned groups into the house of worship. This year's D. V. B. S. was very different and there was a new interest. Much prayer had ascended to the Throne of Grace and as a result, God supplied our needs and I thank God for the blessings I received.



News and Reviews

BY : LILLAN DOERKSEN

New Children to Cherish and Lead to the Heavenly Shepherd

Four small babies and one little blind girl have been brought into our Mukti fold during the past weeks.

A little one over a year old, weak and pitifully under-developed, peered listlessly through long, dark lashes when she was brought, and deserted

by her mother. Eyes that should have been filled with laughter were large, dark pools of sadness. It seemed so long before she learned to smile again.

One sad old man travelled twelve miles with his little 6-day old grandchild tied onto his bicycle and sadly gave her to us. The mother had died at child-birth and the father was unable to care for the little one.



New Baby

The story was repeated a few days ago when a father brought his 2-months old baby. With tears he told of the sudden death of his wife 15 days previously. There was not another soul who could care for her, so he had made an attempt to feed and look after her. When she became sick, however, he knew he could not keep her or she would die. He brought her here and begged us sadly to take her.

That same day brought another wee one just two weeks old. A widow, who had been deceived, brought her baby because she had no strength to care for this little one and her other five children as well.

A lovely 5-year old blind girl came to bring joy to the Home of the Blind, especially to little Manu, who was overjoyed to have a playmate. Pray that as each one is tenderly cared for, these will grow into strong, healthy happy children who will give their hearts and lives to the heavenly Shepherd, the One who led them to our fold.

Weddings

Three of our girls have left our fold to establish homes of their own in other places.

Sharada, a teacher, is very happily married and will find avenues of service for the Lord in her new home and surroundings.

Elizabeth, who was married in May, and her husband send letters brimming over with happiness.

Daya was married to a fine Christian young man who works in the Boys' Christian Home Mission not very far from here.

May these young women who have established new Christian homes be true to the Saviour and witness of His grace in their new surroundings. **Pray** for them,



Daya's Wedding



*Sharada with
Lotus Family*

Many Girls Sent For Further Training

A large number of our young girls who were successful in the school examinations have been sent on to boarding schools to obtain high school education. Some have gone to teachers' and nurses' training.

Pray for them as they leave the shelter of Mukti for these places of training in the cities, that they may be true to the Saviour and loyal witnesses for Him.

Pray, too, for the extra responsibility which this involves, that every financial need may be supplied.

New Mobile Unit

Praise for the gift of 7000 dollars, donated by the Student Missionary Union of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in United States, for the purchase of a Medical Mobile unit, through which our medical and evangelistic outreach can be extended to hundreds of villages.

Praise Him, too, that permission has been granted for importing it into India.

Pray for all the plans and preparations for the extension of God's Kingdom through this means.

Champa Passes

Praise the Lord with us for Champa Sable's success in the B. Sc. examination. She passed with second class honours. She was unable to get entrance in any of the medical schools, but was accepted at the Christian Medical Centre in Vellore to study Pharmacy.

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Printed by V. R. Shingre, at Sarvodaya Mudranalaya,
450 Budhwar, Poona 2, India.