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PRAYER BELL

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Mr. McMillen and a helper in the new book shop and reading room. God's Word given out will not return void.

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

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Overweights Of Joy

BY : JEAN MCGREGOR

“What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits toward me ?” (Psa. 116 : 12)

As our car stopped in front of our familiar flower-covered gate, I looked along the lines of excited children and older people. The fact that I had waited fourteen months for this day did not seem to register

as my return became a reality. Through the showers of garlands and bouquets of fragrant blossoms and shouts of “Auntie, do you remember me ? What is my name ?,” I walked as in a dream. There were lines of children and older people from the front gate to the door of my room.

As I stepped into my room, I found two more very precious surprises, sitting very much alive in the middle of my rug. One was the baby I had had to leave fourteen months ago and who is now three and a half years old. The other was a new baby called Nandeenne. She is just a year and a half.

Giver of Delight, the baby I had left, seemed to remember me. At least she came to me quickly. The new baby just sat and stared, making it evident that she wanted a few days to think things over.

If you can be in “seventh heaven” on earth, I felt that I was there. I was back in Mukti—at home—surrounded with those I love and whose love and prayers were with me all the days of furlough.

I learned one thing especially, during this past furlough. It is this: God allows times of difficulty and trial, but later He always overbalances the hard times with joy—pure joy.

Here are a few of His overweights of joy :

My physical condition was not as it should have been. I was told that I must go to two different specialists. However, it was necessary to wait for two months to see these two doctors. By the time that they were available, God had so wonderfully answered prayer that they could find nothing wrong.

When I reached my sister’s home, she said that I could do just three things in her house. I could eat, sleep and play with her three little girls. This was the beginning of a gaining in weight which continued all during my furlough.

When I moved from California to Washington State, a very dear friend opened her home to me, and there again the eating and sleeping treatment worked miracles.

When I received a letter from India saying that among other things, one assignment would be to assist in Publicity, I wondered what I would do, since my much used typewriter was beyond repair. The very day that the letter arrived, a dear friend called to say that she had bought a new typewriter for me.

In another home, I was taken to the room of their teen-age daughter who showed me all the things that she had bought for our kiddies. Her room was filled with dresses, toys, baby layettes, etc., for our children. Her twelve year old sister had also saved pocket money to buy things for our children and for me. I found it difficult to keep back the tears as I thought of the love and sacrifice revealed in the gifts of these two young people.

When I went to my first meeting in my own home church, I found that they had made over sixty long cotton-print skirts which are used by our ten, eleven and twelve-year olds.

Another dear friend and her family offered to support and pray for the new baby in my family.

Near the end of my furlough I felt that I needed more clothes and did not really have the money to spend for them. Another friend invited me to dinner at her home and later in the evening brought out three lovely dresses, a suit and a top coat.

What shall I render to the Lord for all these, His overweights of joy? I would again with the Psalmist remember His cup of salvation so freely offered. I would daily call upon His Name. I would pay my vows to Him each day in the presence of all His people—my vows of Romans twelve, the giving of my all to Him continually, a sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is my reasonable service.

MY CONVERSION

BY : SAMUEL KIHIR

India is a country of many castes and sub-castes. I come from one of the lowest castes, called the Bhangi or Sweepers' Caste.

My father was working as a sweeper for an English officer. He used to tell me then that Christianity was the best religion. Since then I started thinking of this new religion. I had a hunger in my heart to know this religion and its God. I came to Kedgaon and got acquainted with Pastor N. A. Hiwale of the Mukti Church.

The Pastor told me about the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death for mankind and His resurrection from the dead. The story of the prodigal son touched my heart. I recognized my fallen condition. I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. I was baptized on the 13th of November.

God has loved me and made me a new creature in Jesus Christ.

Oh ! you cannot imagine how happy I am in the Lord Jesus Christ. He has put a new Spirit in my heart to witness for Him to the idolatrous people around me.

Please pray that I may shine as a light for Jesus Christ and brings many souls to His feet.



Give Me A Book

BY : HOWARD McMILLEN

"Which book do you want?," we asked the young man who had come up to the large open window of our new book shop. "Give me a book that explains what is true and what is false." What a thrill it was for us to be able to sell to this sincere inquirer a book that would clearly answer his questions. As he left our shop saying, "I like your Christian books," a silent prayer of thanksgiving went up from our hearts because we believed that God's Word had gone forth and that it would not return to Him "void".

A few weeks ago when the decision was first made to open a reading room and Christian book store in our busy village market place, God's Word to us had been, "So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where to I sent it." Isa. 55 : 11.

For some time it had been our desire to have a book room in our village market, but it was not until one of our Christian men recently said "Saheb, we must have a library and book stall in Kedgaon," that we began inquiring about a proper location.

The local authorities were cooperative and helpful in arranging permission for a small but ideal spot just at the entrance to the rail-road station compound and near a bus stop. Our Mission carpenters were soon enthusiastically preparing the building frames. One morning, to the surprise of the near-by tea and cycle shop owners, about twenty of our workmen lifted the sides of the building and carried them one by one to the bazaar and joined them together in one day.

On the eve of November 27th it was with satisfaction and praise to God that we as a staff in Mukti gathered at the entrance of our new book center and listened as Philip Bowdaker brought a challenging message and Bhimabai Harishchandra dedicated this new work to the Lord in prayer. Many from our Christian community had come to the service. Several leading citizens expressed their appreciation for the reading material that was being made available to them.

Throughout the following day, which was market day in Kedgaon, the book store and reading room was open to children and adults alike. Many folks being attracted by the new red building, and by the phonograph music over the public address system, crowded into the open door way. A Hindu school teacher was pleased with his purchase of Your English Pocket New Testament. Some declined when we offered them a Gospel, saying that they could not read. But we explained,



*Reading a Gospel in
shoemaker's shop next door*

“You can have your children read it to you.” Small boys with their curious eyes studied the small transistor loud speaking system.

On the opening day, two different men came and offered their services as proprietors of the shop. Everyone was helpful. Old and young alike wanted to loosen the wing nuts on the magazine and newspaper clamps to see how they worked. Even the shoemaker next door is most interested and spends his spare moments in the book shop, asking questions or reading.

In the evening our Christian helpers believed that it had been in answer to prayer that so many had read God’s Word, accepted tracts, borrowed Christian literature, and purchased Gospels that first day.

Please join us in prayer that as the Word of Life is held forth, believers will be strengthened and those still outside of Christ will find Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.



The Harvest Is Truly Ready

BY : ADRIENNE MOCATTA

“Therefore he said unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Luke. 10: 2)

“So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Now he that planteth, and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” (1 Cor. 3:7, 8, 9).

“There is a place where thou canst touch the eyes

Of blinded men to instant perfect sight.

There is a place where thou canst say. “Arise!”

To dying captives, bound in chains of night;

There is a place where thou canst reach the store

Of hoarded gold and free it for the Lord;

There is a place upon some distant shore

Where thou canst send the worker and the Word.

Where is that secret place—dost thou ask ‘where?’

O soul, it is the secret place of prayer.”

There are many villages within easy reach of Mukti, and for many years the gospel has been faithfully and powerfully preached. The seed has been planted, and is being watered—the harvest is truly ready.

Just now the crops of grain are almost ready for harvest, so until they are harvested, the crops have to be protected from the birds. Watchers are posted on raised platforms in the midst of the crop. They carry slings, and when the birds come to pick the grain, they shout and sling the stones at them. As soon as the grain is ready the harvesters quickly go out and bring it in. It is not often that the farmers get a good crop, because there are so many things with which to contend. Very often the ground is stony, and this year, because of the bursting of two big dams, there is a serious lack of water.

In our ministry of sowing the precious Word of God, if we looked at the very evident difficulties, we would very soon lay down our tools and give up. But this is God's work. He is the Living One. The Almighty One. He is able to raise the dead, and give sight to the blind. He has chosen and ordained us to be His yoke-fellows.

Every Monday, a band of Bible Women travel by jeep to some village. Before setting out they spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to go before and prepare the hearts of the village people. After reaching the village, they sing some gospel songs, and play gospel records, waiting for the people to gather. Then one of the Bible women speaks, showing the way of salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. In almost every village the people listen well. Occasionally a man or a woman will try to cause trouble, and prevent the others from listening. In the villages that have been visited over the years, there are men and women who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is the true God. But we can praise the Lord that there are also those who have truly been born again of the Holy Spirit of God, and they have made an open confession of our Lord Jesus Christ, as their Lord and Saviour, making a clear break with Hinduism.

Every Tuesday the bazaar is held in the village of Kedgaon. People from the surrounding villages come by cycle, bullock cart, and bus, to do their bazaaring. They also avail themselves of the opportunity to bring their sick folk to our hospital. One of the Bible women comes every Tuesday to the hospital to speak to these patients, seeking to show them their need of salvation, and the One who has met that need.

On Wednesdays the women visit the villages and houses which are within walking distance of the Mission, and on Thursdays they go further a field by tonga (bullock cart).

Friday is the day when the evangelistic work is combined with the medical roadside work. The doctor, a nurse and the Bible women go out by jeep to the villages round about where there is no medical service for the people. The people are very appreciative of this help.

Every year in the months of January and February, for six weeks, an evangelistic camp is held for the villages which are further a field than we can cover in our daily tours. Please pray for the ministry of this coming camping season, that God will grant unto the people a sight of their lost condition, and then a sight of their Saviour. Please pray also for the Missionaries, Bible women, and evangelists, who will be ministering, that each one will be given boldness to preach the Word powerfully, and wisdom to lead the seeking souls to the Lord, that they may become firmly established in Him. Pray as we look expectantly to the Lord for an abundant harvest.



Dear Friends of other Lands,

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

We in Mukti here wish to thank you for making our Christmas such a joyous time. Would you like a glimpse into our happy day?

Such excitement in the air! Each family paid a visit to their Missionary Auntie's room and received their gifts—one for each child and matron.

At 10 o'clock the church-bell called all to come and worship the Christ Child, the Saviour of mankind. From every corner of Mukti our families and women and also the men, women and children from the villages around Mukti, converged on our big cross-shaped church. Inside a gay scene met the eye. The children, rainbow-coloured flowers in a big garden, had gay ribbons on every head, which looked like so many poised butterflies of every hue.

One of the special joys of Christmas is the new frock each child receives. The frocks which many of you so lovingly sewed, had arrived in Bombay, but it took time to obtain permits for them. Much prayer and every effort was made to get them here for Christmas. "If not," we prayed, "dear Father, prepare the hearts of our children to be thankful even though there are no new frocks. The permits arrived a week before, but the shipping company failed to get the clothes here for Christmas.

Our hearts were thrilled as we saw the children, without a word about new dresses, wrapped up in the true joy and message of Christmas. Our prayers continued to rise to the Throne of Grace when it looked as if the barrells and boxes might be lost. Then, what rejoicing when they arrived the day after Christmas! It seemed the Lord had withheld them, only to extend our Christmas joy. It seemed like Christmas all over again as we unpacked all the lovely dresses, bedding, and warm night clothes which were the gifts of your hands, and if only you could see the joy on the face of each child as she receives her Christmas dress and ribbon, you would be more than compensated for the time it took to make and purchase them.

"Thank you" has been said a dozen times and they mean every letter of it. We, too, join with them in saying "thank you".

All gifts given in Christ's name, whether small or great, bring blessing and joy, and we know the givers, too, will be blessed by Him.

*Sincerely yours in Him who gave His life that we might live,
Gladys Fletcher.*



New Challenges For Praise And Prayer

By : LILLIAN DOERKSEN

Daily Needs

Praise : For God's provision day by day in these difficult days. First, flood and now drought disasters have taken their toll in this area. Other years our wells have been replenished and our fields watered at critical times by water that came in the canal several days each year. Since the flood in June when the dams broke, there has not been a drop of water though it is badly needed. Food and fodder prices have soared sky-high.

Pray : That God will have mercy on us and the people around us by sending rain and somehow providing for the needs.

New Book Shop

Praise : For the new book shop and reading room which affords many new opportunities of witness.

Pray : For each one contacted with the gospel and God's precious Word through the reading room and through the groups of Bible women and the evangelists who visit the villages daily. May the Word lead many to salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Baptisms

Praise : For the joy and zealous witness of the Hindu young man whose testimony appears in this issue. He recently witnessed of his new-found salvation and joy when he followed the Lord Jesus Christ in baptism, to witness to all with a radiant smile of what the Saviour meant to him.

Praise : For a number of our girls, seen in the picture above, who also have borne witness of new life in Christ Jesus and have also followed Him through the waters of baptism.

Pray : That these may be kept faithful, true, and used to lead others to the Saviour whom they have come to love and serve.

Evangelistic Camp

Pray : Especially for the camping season in January and February, when an intensive evangelistic effort means long hours of exhausting but joyful sowing of the Seed in villages further afield and not easily accessible. Pray for protection as the missionaries and Bible women travel over dangerous roads and live in tents in unprotected areas. We count on intercessors that there might be a fruitful harvest.

Returning and new missionaries

Praise : For bringing Janet Callan and Jean McGregor back to us in health and strength, and for new workers, Laura MacFarland in Ireland and Heather Johnson in Australia who have answered the call of the Lord of the Harvest and who are preparing to come to Mukti as soon as their support and passage are provided.

Pray : That God will meet every need and prepare them by His Spirit for a fruitful ministry here for His glory.

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