

THE YOUNG WOMEN

TUNI.

NOTE.—This letter was written for the 'teen-age girls' camp, held in July under the auspices of our Sunday School Board. It will be of equal interest to Young Women's Mission Circles.—Ed.

Godavery Dr., India, May 19, 1920.

Dear Young Friends:

The time of your summer gathering is drawing near and in my heart is a great longing that it may be a gathering together unto Him Who waits to be gracious unto us and to enrich our lives until they overflow.

How everything in nature teaches us that the great purpose of being is to contribute something to the whole, the flowers, the shade trees, the fruit trees, the birds, everything contributes to our pleasure and welfare. What a wonderful thing is our life, so full of possibilities for good or ill, and in these days God is giving our young people such wonderful opportunities of learning to find out their part in His great plan, and these summer gatherings are precious because they call you apart from the strenuousness into the quiet, where you can hear Him speak. And so I pray that your hearts may be hushed to listen as He tells you of His great love and of His great purpose to make your life worth while. I am writing this up among the grand old Nilgiris, up above the heat and strain of the plains. Miss Murray and Miss Jones are with me, and we are in a missionary home, with a number of missionaries from different parts of South India with whom we have happy fellowship.

One of the treats is the English service on Sunday, then there are the talks about our work, the walks around the hills and into the woods, and sometimes a picnic. We three have chosen I. Corinthians for our Bible study, as that is one of the books our helpers have to prepare for the next exam. What a wonderful Book the Bible is, so full of precious things which we are so slow to discover.

It is good to be back among the Telugus again. I would love to invite you to meet in Tunj next time and make you acquainted with some of our people: Cornelius, our pastor, who was in Tunj when I came in 1893; Isaac, my house servant, who has been with me since 1895, and who would see to it that you were well served with the best food Tunj could supply; the Bible women, some of whom have toured all over the field with me, and our children would be delighted to sing some of their hymns for you.

As you cannot come I am going to tell you of some whom you can help by prayer. A little Bengalee woman, whose husband is in the railway department, has come to live in Tunj, and we have found out that she is so hungry for God and heart rest. I sent for a Bengalee Bible for her before coming up here. Pray that she may hear Jesus say to her: "Come to Me and I will give you rest." The morning I was leaving for here a Brahman gentleman sent a request for a Bible. As I had none on hand for sale I gave him one that was given me in Toronto to give to some one here. He is well educated, and let us pray that the Holy Spirit may shine upon the page as he reads, revealing to him his deep need and Jesus Christ as his Saviour. That same evening a Brahmin lad of some about seventeen, who has been coming each Sunday afternoon along with some of his friends for an English Bible lesson since my return, called to see me. He said his small brother wanted to come with him, but he told him he wanted to talk with me about sacred things and so could not bring him. His special request was for a marked text, for, said he, "my holidays are come and I shall have leisure to read and study, so I wish you would give me a Testament and point out passages for me to memorize during my holidays and when you return I will repeat them to you." I wondered how many of our young people at home are looking forward to their holiday as a time of leisure to study and memorize God's Word!

Here are these three to pray specially for while you are together. May the joy of His presence fill all your hearts and may each one know the life abounding, overflowing and overcoming which He came that we might have.

Your loving friend,

ELLEN PRIEST.