

vilage, but does that mean the prayers have been unanswered?

"Unanswered yet? Nay, do not say ungranted; Perhaps your part is not yet wholly done; The work began when first your prayer was uttered And God will finish what he has begun.

If you but keep the incense burning there,
His glory you shall see, sometime, somewhere."

Naturally we must expect to wait many days before having the joy of reaping much harvest in school; but we have not been shut up alone to belief that God has been hearing and answering prayer. It has been most encouraging to notice the change in a number of the boys. Some, who at the beginning of the year were so indifferent, so utterly lacking in response to the truth, and clearly showed that they suffered the Christian teaching for the sake of the secular advantages, have been quickened—they now evince a good interest and respond to the Word. In the case of some, I have felt that were it not, humanly speaking, so absolutely impossible for them to do so, they would certainly make a public profession of their faith in Christ, for I really believe that, secretly, they do believe. Such boys need your prayers, oh, so much, for as long as they remain in their heathen homes they must, at least outwardly, conform to idolatrous customs, and this cannot be otherwise than most deadening to any spiritual life.

The lessons during the past months have had a very personal application to the boys. Gideon's act in destroying his father's altar of Baal seemed to make a deep impression upon them. When we make practical Joshua's cry, "Choose you, this day whom ye will serve," the perfect quietness and the serious faces of the boys made us feel that the sword of the Spirit was piercing more than one lad. After school that evening one of the Third Form boys told me, that six months ago he decided that as for him it would not be the gods of his father but the living and true God whom he would henceforth serve. Judging from his daily life, I have no reason whatever for doubting his genuineness.

I find he reads his Bible daily, and not only reads it, but finds in the portion read some special application to himself. He frankly says he is confronted by the question of baptism and feels the great hindrance of obeying this command, not so much what he would have to suffer physically, perhaps, as leaving his father and sister. He feels

he cannot say in all sincerity that he loves God more than these, but I noticed when we had prayer together that evening that he asked God to enable him to put Him first, and to be willing to leave father and all for His sake. But his heart yearns to have his father come too. He asked me to pray that he might. I pass his request on to you.

From the tiny tot to the oldest boy, the pupils have been, and yet are, greatly exercised over their examinations now in progress. This has occasioned very earnest talks on the final great examination and the preparation necessary for it. In these talks we believe God has given the message and "winged it with His power." Since beginning this letter a member of the most advanced class, just returned from the Middle Examinations held in Vizianagram, came to say good-bye to me before leaving for his home, some forty miles distant. We had another talk on that great day when all must stand before God. Before going away he asked for a book to read during vacation. When asked what kind of a book he preferred, he replied, "I want a book about God."

You remember Akalayya—the little fellow who made such a brave effort to come and stay with us—do you not? He attends my Sunday School class. Last Sunday, when asking the children for their requests for prayer, this lad said, "Next week we have our grading examination and I want to pray that God will help us to pass." To-day he returned to give thanks, for said he, "I prayed to pass, and I have!" He was then ready to talk of that greater examination. Poor little fellow! we wonder how he makes any progress at all. One eye is quite useless, while the other is so near-sighted he is compelled to press his slate or book close to his forehead in order to see at all.

Well sisters, you see God has been with us. Do not forget the school work that is being carried on at our different stations. It affords an excellent opportunity for teaching "the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom." Pray on, and

"Though years may pass, do not despair,
The Lord will answer you sometime, somewhere."

Very sincerely yours,
IDA M. NEWCOMBE, in *Tidings*.

Payment of arrears, renewals and new subscriptions we always gratifying to the Editor.