

seems to be awakening to a deeper interest in the Truth; from all sides come tokens of a desire to be identified with us. The children are coming more and more under our influence and through them we reach the homes.

We have one great anxiety however, and that is the scarcity of workers. We should have at least two more male missionaries in the Mhow district alone. I would be quite willing to give up Mhow to a new comer and go to the frontier and begin work anew if I could get any one to take my place. It is a matter on which we cannot speak too strongly. We must have men and that at once or the work will be seriously retarded, and needy, perishing souls remain without the Gospel.

But we have faith in God, we have faith in the Church at home. The ever manifest presence of the Master who has guided and watched over our work and who has cheered and comforted the workers during the past year has made our hearts very trustful. We feel it is *His* work and nothing can interfere with its success. We have had many tokens also during the past year from different parts of the Church at home which show deep interest in our work. All these and many kind greetings and letters show a deep interest in our work, at home. We believe that our appeal for help will be heard, and that the Presbyterian Church, Canada will not be found unworthy of her trust in India.

MISS ROSS' WORK IN MHOW 1892-93.

Another year of work, in this heathen land, is numbered with the past, and from out of the darkness gleams of light have shone.

We have seen the idolatress listen attentively to the Gospel message and admit that she has sought salvation in her own religion in vain: more than one has told us that she prays daily to the living and true God. We know of others who daily read God's word although they have not yet publicly confessed Him.

The women in our Bible class take a more living interest in the Bible lesson and we believe that Sursu one of our pupils who lately passed from earth, has gone to be with Jesus, which is far better. She was sitting warming herself one morning when her "sarric" caught fire and before help came she was so badly burned that she died the following day.

For months she had been very attentive to the Bible lessons and we noticed that her behaviour was much improved but we feared that she had not accepted Jesus as her own Saviour. I went to see her parents after her funeral, and they told me how that for months Sursu had always asked a blessing on her food, prayed and loved to sing hymns about Jesus. They were sorely grieved to see her act thus and told her, that, if she took the name of Jes school to say

nothing about Him at home as that would injure their caste. She replied that she would take the name of Jesus both at home and at school, that their idols were of no avail. Her poor parents were indeed troubled, but as she was an idolized daughter, she pursued her course, and her sorrowing mother told me frankly how they had spoken to her but in vain.

This news gave me great joy and I said that Jesus is the living and true Saviour and not to mourn because Sursu trusted in Him. We had a long earnest talk together. The father seemed somewhat impressed, but the grief stricken mother spoke constantly of Sursu's approaching marriage. Alas! as is too often the case in Christian lands the never dying soul was forgotten and the concern was all for this world.

When we opened school in June after the hot season holidays we were distressed to see our attendance greatly reduced; several families moved away, a number of girls had been married, others feared that their children might be influenced by Christianity.

We looked at the school reduced to sixty and said, "the attendance must be increased." We called the women together who bring the children to school. Dr. Fraser suggested that each woman who brought seven new girls per mensem should get a reward at the end of the year in addition to her monthly pay. With this inducement we tried to inspire the women to put forth greater efforts to persuade the people to let their daughters come where they could learn something beneficial to soul and body. A native woman's word often has much more weight with the people than ours; but we too pay many visits to the wretched homes, in search of little girls. Before the end of July the attendance was seventy six, in Oct. one hundred and four, in Dec. one hundred and twenty, and now it is one hundred and thirty.

These calling women as they are termed need to be encouraged, they meet with many disappointments in a land where men think that through education women become proud, disobedient and useless. It is true when the glorious principles of liberty are imbibed by our poor down-trodden heathen sisters they are less willing to submit to the idolatrous tyrant who believes woman was made only to be his convenient slave.

It is a constant cry "Miss sahib I want leave" there is fasting in our house today, there is a dinner, a son has been born, there is going to be a wedding (a ceremony which requires weeks for one couple), there is to be poojah" &c.

The days for fasting, worshipping and feasting follow each other in such quick succession that with our eyes open and our minds alert, we often feel that the day for successful work is still in the distance.