

Asiatic Division Mission News



VOL. 4

SHANGHAI, CHINA, NOVEMBER 1, 1915

No. 14

PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS

Work Rapidly Advancing—Baptized at 136 Years of Age

When we returned to Sandakan after our visit down the Borneo coast, the regular steamer had already left, but we were fortunate in finding a little 411-ton revenue cutter which was just leaving for a tour among the islands, stopping also at Iloilo, Panay Island; so we procured passage on this, and within an hour after arriving at Sandakan we were starting on our journey toward the Philippines.

After stopping at one or two islands, on the way to Balabac Island we encountered a typhoon, and although our little cutter handled herself well in a rough sea, we found her motions too active for our comfort as passengers. Both Pastor Detamore and I found it very easy to part company with all the food we had eaten for some time. We were glad to run into the harbor of this island, and the captain decided to remain a couple of days, hoping that the worst of the typhoon would pass during our stay. After forty-eight hours' delay, the storm seemed rather to be increasing than abating, and the captain, fearing a change of the course of the wind might rush the sea into our open harbor in a way to make it difficult to handle the little vessel, decided to risk the open sea, and make an effort to reach Iloilo. As soon as it was light in the morning we weighed anchor, and started in a direct course for Iloilo. This threw us quartering of the heavy sea, which we found to be easier than the direct forward pitching which we had encountered previously. After this experience we felt that we could better appreciate Paul's statement, "A night and a day I have been in the deep."

On landing we learned that there had been a severe typhoon sweeping over that district, and we felt very thankful that we had reached our destination safely.

We were welcomed by Pastor E. M. Adams and wife, and enjoyed the hospitality of their home during our stay. We were quite surprised to find Iloilo an enterprising city of 10,000 inhabitants. We found a little church organization in that city of fifteen members. The foundation for this work was laid in canvassing done by Brother Floyd Ashbaugh, who has now returned to America to finish his education. Among them are some very bright, intelligent young people who desire to attend school in order to fit themselves for evangelistic and Bible work. We attended two evening cottage services conducted by Pastor Adams for those enquiring for more Bible truth. In each instance all the available space in the cottages where the meetings were held was packed with atten-

tive listeners. The morning of the last day we spent in Iloilo, the superintendent of the Presbyterian Mission called at Pastor Adams's place with an auto and invited us to make a tour of the city with him and visit the Baptist college and the Presbyterian dormitory. We accepted the invitation, and enjoyed a very pleasant visit with the pastor and the teachers in the college. The Baptist college has an attendance of 200. It is conducted on the industrial training plan, and is operating very successfully. We were invited to conduct the chapel service, and as we looked into the faces of these bright young people, we were impressed that one of the most important needs of our work is training schools into which such young people may be gathered and educated and prepared for service in giving the message. A local training school conducted on a small, inexpensive plan in a place like Iloilo would gather in many dear young people who otherwise would not be reached by the message. Brother Adams is very anxious to see such a school started in the near future.

On reaching Manila we found our work pushing ahead with the same vigor as when with Pastors Daniells, Salisbury, Fulton, and Johansen we visited the place before. Last year 150 were baptized during the year. Already this year they have baptized 170, and a number of others are awaiting baptism. At Baliwag, where Pastor Daniells spoke in a tent during his visit, a church of thirty-seven members has now been organized.

After a careful search for a location for the headquarters of our work upon which to erect the printing plant and training school, a very nice location lying in the suburbs of Manila was selected. There is a fairly good American residence on the lot, which is covered with fruit and ornamental trees, and has a nice, grassy lawn. The place is situated not far from the sea, so that it is a healthful location.

The city water does not reach these lots, but the city offered to put in an artesian flowing well, they to pay two-thirds of the cost, and we were glad to accept their proposition.

Something over two and a half acres were purchased, which will be ample to accommodate our entire headquarters requirements for the present, and from all we can see now it will be all that we will require for the future in that locality. We also procured a good location in the midst of the Philippine city for the erection of a church to accommodate the 230 church members in the city and the general meetings that will convene there.

Our Filipino brethren were greatly encouraged to see the plans laid for the advancement of the work being carried into effect. They are manifesting a most commendable interest, and pushing their work with very zealous devotion to the cause. We are glad to be

able to aid them by providing the necessary facilities for the development of their work.

While there Pastors Finster, Detamore and the writer visited two country churches, spending an evening in each place. We greatly enjoyed the services with these devoted country people.

While at Santa Rosa, we visited Tibursio Nielo Platero, at Binang, who was baptized into the Santa Rosa Church July 24th, 1915, in the 136th year of his age. The night of our visit there his wife walked a distance of between two and three miles in the rain to attend the service. The next morning about six o'clock we called at their residence, and had a very pleasant visit with this aged couple. He is still quite strong, and walks about the premises as sprightly as a man of eighty. He is now living with his third wife, who has also been married the third time. He was married the first time at nineteen and the third time at 121 years of age. His wife is about sixty years old. When asked what he had eaten in order to preserve his health to so great an age, he replied that with the exception of eating a little fish occasionally his diet had been fruits, grains, nuts, and vegetables.

Our aged brother said that during his entire life he had worked early in the morning until it became hot, and then laid aside during the heat of the day, and resumed work as the sun began to decline, and worked until late in the evening, thus avoiding the extreme heat of the day in the tropics. If our missionaries would observe this rule, many of them would save a nervous breakdown, and still perform all the labor that nature will bear in a tropical climate.

This aged couple are rejoicing in the message, and the life of this brother reaches back to 1779, which covers the fulfilment of most of the last-day signs that were immediately to precede the second coming of Christ. He is cheered by the thought that this generation shall not pass until all be fulfilled.

R. C. PORTER.

First Church Building in Fukien

We have just returned from the dedication of our little chapel in Chioh-be, which is the first mission owned building in this province. We called our brethren in that section together for a five days' meeting, and then sent out invitations all over the city to be present at the meetings. The result was that we had a splendid meeting. The day services were largely attended by our own people, with a fair attendance from the outside, but the night meetings were well attended from the city, so that our chapel was well filled every night.

We arranged our subjects so as to be of the greatest possible interest to the heathen, and our interest increased from night to night. Our brethren said that the meetings were causing a great deal of talk among the people in the city who discussed the things that were presented each evening. The last two nights we called for signers to cards of all those who would like to enter a class for Bible study. We received fifty-six names in all. Our attendance in the evening ranged from about 100 to 150. The chapel is only fourteen feet wide, but is seventy feet long, so can be made to seat quite an audience. We have left Pastor Keh Hok-siu, a young man who has recently been ordained, and another young man there to follow up the interest. Many of those that came were of the better class, and we hope to interest some of that class in the gospel. A few of the lower officials came to some of

the meetings by special invitation, and seemed to have some interest in the gospel.

We are putting forth every effort in that place to bring out a good company from among the heathen. Most of our congregation were heathen. We hope you will remember this place in your prayers, and pray with us that a good, solid work may be built up. The brethren there have given about \$200 Mex. toward the buying and fitting up of the chapel. As there are only about three or four men there who have been baptized, you can see that much of the money has been subscribed by men who are interested, but have not yet joined the church.

The first part of October I expect to go to Foochow for a two or three weeks' stay. The reports from there are all encouraging. School opened with an original enrolment of seventy, which they expect to increase to about 100. Pastor Keh writes that he hopes the money will soon be forthcoming to build, for the present quarters are getting almost too small to hold all the scholars that apply.

We are all well, and everyone is doing nicely. Sister Bates has had no more hemorrhages, and is improving daily.

W. C. HANKINS.

Journeying in Malaysia

The past few months have been filled so full that I have not found time to write much for publication. After returning from Kelantan, where two were baptized, I was at home for a couple of weeks, and then started to Borneo on July 4th to meet Pastor Porter and to visit our work there, which is directed by Pastor R. P. Montgomery.

It takes about eight days to go to Sandakan, our headquarters for the mission, from Singapore. We have believers at three places on the way before reaching Sandakan, and we have a worker at Jesselton. It was a real pleasure to me to meet these brethren as I went from place to place, and to hold Bible studies with them. From Labuan Brother Wong accompanied me to Jesselton so as to interpret for me there. Our worker at Jesselton was holding meetings and studying from house to house. A man from the country came in while I was there, and he told of a settlement of emigrants from China where he was living about five miles out from Jesselton. He said they were dissatisfied with their religious teachings, and some of them wanted a Seventh-day Adventist worker to be sent there. He took a large supply of our Chinese literature with him when he returned, and distributed it among his neighbors. Our worker, Brother Kong, and Brother Wong went out to visit these people and found some of them very much interested in the truth.

At Sandakan I found Brother and Sister Montgomery living in a small place above the meeting house. They had but one room for parlor and bedroom, and another very small room for kitchen and dining room. For the sake of their health it would seem that they should have a mission home as soon as possible.

A nice company of Sabbath keepers live at Sandakan and meet from week to week. The house is filled on the Sabbath, and all hearts beat in sympathy with the truth. A school of about twenty has been started, and is being conducted almost on a self-supporting basis. This is a great blessing to the work there, and from it we shall soon be getting workers to send to our training school at Singapore to prepare for the ministry.

Pastor Porter arrived on Sunday in time to preach to our people who had met for this purpose. We were all glad to welcome him to Borneo for the first time, and his counsels concerning the work were much appreciated. The day after his arrival we took ship to Jesselton, and from there we went into the country where the Dusuns live. They are natives of Borneo, and are susceptible to the influences of the Christian religion. We believe that a splendid work could be done for them had we the workers to teach them.

While we were at Jesselton this time several men came in from the country where the interest spoken of before was. We felt impressed that no time should be lost in getting our work started, and so arranged for Brother and Sister Montgomery to go there as soon as they could do so. This they decided to do, and the Lord has blessed their work so that several have already taken their stand for the truth, and doubtless others will follow.

While at Jesselton Sister Montgomery was taken sick and had to return to Sandakan alone, while he remained to get the work more fully established in the new field. Surely we should have two foreign families in such a place, so that one of our sisters will not have to remain alone when her husband is called to other places. We believe we should soon have a new family to join Brother Montgomery in the work, especially as he has been voted a furlough, and will soon have to leave for a rest.

From Borneo we went to the Philippines to visit Brother Finster, and to help him to locate land for his school and printing plant. Surely the Lord has blessed the work in and around Manila, and it is very evident that it should be pushed ahead at this time with all speed, for the way may soon close against us.

When I returned to Singapore Brother Merston and Brother Adams had arranged for baptism. Five students from the school, and two others, making seven in all, were ready at this time, and others are soon to follow. Four of the students were from Batakland, and one was from Kuala Lumpur. The latter is a Tamil and was not keeping the Sabbath when he came to the school. We feel that God is blessing our school, and that it bids fair to be one of the best investments we have made.

F. A. DETAMORE.

Shensi Pleading for the Message

I have just returned from a two weeks' trip among the churches in southeast Honan. I traveled 570 li and visited 10 churches and companies. I started out with our cart, but the roads became so bad because of rain that I had to leave the cart and make the rest of my trip by horseback. One day our cart tipped over in the mud, and the next day both horse and cart became stuck in the mud. We had to unhitch and first get the horse out, and then unload and get the cart out. The mud bog must have been an eighth of a mile long. The horse's shoulders became so raw that we could not ride, and had to walk in the mud all day. However we are thankful that we have strength enough to get out among the brethren again, and help to encourage them in the truth.

The prospects for our fall general meeting are encouraging, and the word comes that a goodly number are preparing for baptism. There are many new openings in Honan which we can hardly fill.

But the most urgent call comes from Shensi to the east of us. It is a call we can not resist, and with our already overburdened workers, we must send someone

to answer these calls. Only one canvasser has been out there selling papers, and everywhere he goes there are scores wanting to hear the truth. And these places are writing us urgent letters to send someone. Now is our opportunity in Shensi. We have just sent two evangelists to visit these places, and they will report to us at general meeting.

We are opening five new church schools in Honan, making a total of eight. Two more should be opened soon. Brother Gibson has an outlined course of study for these schools, and the older students of last year's school are going out to teach. So now we are beginning with the bottom to get a good, uniform system of schooling for our students. We will give them four years of church school, and then four more years here at Loho. From there they can go to Hankow.

I am happy to say that our land has been purchased. It is going to be a fine thing for our headquarters here. Brethren Woodward and Gibson have looked the ground over together, and have agreed upon a general plan of building for the compound. I hope the brethren in council will permit us to go ahead as soon as possible with these plans. If another foreigner is to come here, his house should be ready for him when he comes. And surely he should come quickly, for we are becoming crowded with work that we can not handle unless another family comes. This you may readily comprehend by thinking of the many new calls coming to us all the time.

We need our church building soon. We can not handle the people at general meeting. We will have to hire a tent for our services, as we have no room large enough to accommodate the people.

We hope and pray that this means may be quickly furnished us that we may go ahead as soon as possible with this work.

I am quite well and strong again, for which I thank God.

FREDERICK LEE.

Women's Work in Kiangsu

We held during September a very interesting and profitable institute with some of our women converts and other interested ones, whom we called from Shanghai and surrounding districts. The services of the institute were held in one of the rooms of the China Missions Training School, the women occupying rooms in the girls' dormitory. There were twenty-four women in attendance, ranging in age from sixteen to sixty years. Most of these women had had absolutely no education, but the readiness with which they grasped the truths of the message as they were daily presented to them showed that they had sought to the true Source of wisdom for ability in understanding the hidden things of His word. Their minds comprehended them quite as readily as many foreigners who have had years of schooling, when they first hear the message. Two hours a day were employed in teaching them to read, and the rapidity with which the women mastered the characters of this difficult language is surely a miracle of the grace of God. One dear old soul fifty-four years of age—an ordinary country woman—who had doubtless never before seen a character in the Bible, learned to read six chapters in the gospel of John during the two weeks and a half of the institute, and in the succeeding three weeks she completed the book of John.

Special efforts were made thoroughly to establish the women in the truths which they were studying; hence we reviewed each phase over and over again,

ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
THE ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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And so as we look forward to this year, we do so with great courage, knowing that if we trust God, the year's success is not to be doubted. We feel very thankful for the cooperation of the brethren, and we ask the prayers of all in the field for the success of the school.

H. J. DOOLITTLE.

calling on the women at various times to stand before the class and repeat what they had learned. Thus they acquired an intelligent foundation for their faith, so that each of them can give an answer for the hope which is within them. We hope to develop three or four of them into Bible women.

We believe that each of the women experienced a real new birth, as was evinced in the joyous testimonies which they bore of victory over sin, in the social services which were held on Friday evening. Our hearts were indeed made glad as we saw nine of these precious souls on the last day of the institute go down with their Lord into the watery grave, and their happy countenances as they came out of the water indicated that they had had the experience of crucifying the old man, and had risen to a new life in Christ Jesus.

As we see these souls forsaking their idol and ancestor worship, with all its attendant degrading practices and lusts, and giving their lives in willing service and sacrifice to the God who rules the universe, we feel well repaid for all the labor and self-denial which it has cost us, and shall consider it our highest joy if we may be found working here among them when the Master comes.

MRS. B. MILLER.

Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

December 25, 1915, is an important occasion, when the eyes of our people throughout the denomination will again be directed to parts of the Asiatic Division. The thirteenth Sabbath offering to be taken on that date has been set apart by the General Conference for our work in Manchuria, East, and West China. Leaflets bearing important information pertaining to the progress of the work in these needy fields, have been received and read with interest. Our hearts greatly rejoice that it is our privilege to unite with the brethren and sisters of every country in making this occasion one of profit to our work in the Far East.

It would greatly advance the interests of the world if these pamphlets, as a whole, could be translated and printed in the native tongue. I appeal to workers throughout the Division to give this matter immediate attention, so that before the allotted time, our brethren and sisters may become enlightened as to the purpose of this offering, and the great need of our taking an active part in encouraging our people in every part of the field to give abundantly and willingly of their means on this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering day.

NANNIE L. WOODWARD.

China Missions Training School for 1915-1916

The prospects for the China Missions Training School for another successful year seem very promising. Although we have only heard from the East China Mission, yet from this division alone we will have nearly the same enrolment as the total number enrolled last year. Of these Anhwei ranks first, Kiangsu second, and Shantung third. We have not heard from Central China as yet, but we are expecting several students from there. Some of the students are already in, and are assisting us in getting things ready for school November 1st.

Our course of study is, with a few necessary exceptions, nearly as strong as last year.

When the call came to us only last September to take the school for the ensuing term, it was not without much hesitancy and serious thinking that we telegraphed in the affirmative, for we had had no special preparation for this work, and the opening of school only six weeks off. Besides this, there would be no foreign help on the teaching force, as Miss Osborne is having to go to America because of poor health. Then to give the situation a still more undesirable aspect, the work of business manager and treasurer were added to the principal's duties. But we have pledged ourselves to God's cause, and to His bidding, and since we felt that He had called us through the Committee, we accepted, although we felt our insufficiency and inability to cope with so difficult a situation; yet we trusted Him. Nor have we found responsibilities and duties less than we had expected. But as we meet each new difficulty, each new trial, we ask Him who has promised to help us to give us wisdom and judgment, and we have never found Him to fail.

NOTES

A little missionary arrived at the home of Brother and Sister Wangerin, at Keizan, Korea, October 13th. Her name is Miss Mabel Eleanor Wangerin.

A letter from Pastor B. L. Anderson reports the arrival of Pastor and Sister George Harlow in Hongkong, they having just returned from their year's furlough in America. We also learn of the arrival, on the same boat, of two families going to Malaysia,—Brother and Sister J. W. Rowland and Brother and Sister I. C. Schmidt. They will presumably take up work in Java.

Since the associate editor has the responsibility of issuing the NEWS for several months to come, she hopes for the cooperation of all its readers in keeping it up to its standard as a live, up-to-date messenger of cheer. We hope to receive reports regularly from all parts of our field, as heretofore. As you are interested in hearing of progress in the work in other sections, so others are cheered as they read reports of advance in your field. So we are depending on you to fill the Asiatic Division Mission NEWS brimful of live items of interest and growth twice a month.

TWO NEW BOOKS.—I have just received a copy of the revised "Heralds of the Morning." It has been carefully rewritten in some portions, and it is well illustrated, and printed on good paper with very clear type. The other work is the new "Gospel Workers," by Mrs. E. G. White. It is a work printed on thin paper, and contains 534 pages, and filled with most excellent instruction for gospel workers. Every worker in the Asiatic Division should have this book. Orders may be sent through your mission treasurer.

R. C. PORTER.