

Asiatic Division Mission News

VOL. 4

SHANGHAI, CHINA, NOVEMBER 15, 1915

No. 15

"The Lord Hath Need of Thee"

"Because the Master is not here, with
His own hand to-day
To feed the hungry multitudes who
throng life's busy way,
He gives the task to you and me; He
bids us hear their cry;
He says that if we turn from them, we
also pass Him by.

"Our eyes are blind; we only see an
outcast at our door;
Yet said He not Himself that they who
feed and clothe His poor
Give unto Him?—Then day by day for
such a royal Guest
Shall we not bring with willing hands
our choicest and our best?"

Hunan General Meeting

We had a well attended meeting in Changsha. There were 220 in constant attendance. All the Hunan Chinese workers were present, viz.: twenty-three evangelists, two Bible women, and thirty-four colporteurs. Pastor Hwang and three colporteurs from Kiangsi were also in attendance. Brother Fred Lee was present to help throughout the entire meeting. Brother Blunden also spent the last few days with us. Mrs. Selmon was present to help foster the interests of the Sabbath school work and women's work.

One of the first meetings was a memorial service for Sister White. The chapel walls were almost entirely covered with scrolls and emblems referring to Sister White and her work. The proposal to hold such a service, together with all the scrolls, was the work of the Chinese believers.

At the close of the meeting eleven were baptized. Many more would have been baptized, but Brother White and two of the evangelists are to start soon on an extended itinerary through the outstations, and in this way the candidates can be baptized in their native places.

The need for more foreign help is growing month by month. No one man can begin to look after such a

large work and such a multitude of interests. We were all sick at heart when we received the word that the family expected for Hunan would not be out this fall. Failing in receiving the help planned for, the only thing that can be done is for Mrs. White and the children to go to Hankow or Shanghai and stay for three months while Brother White is visiting the stations and conducting a two weeks' Bible institute for the churches in the southern part of the province.

A most encouraging feature of the meeting was the report of the canvassing work carried on in the province during the last few months. For the five months from May to September the Hunan canvassers have sent to the Signs of the Times Publishing House 7,614 yearly subscriptions. They have received from subscriptions and magazine sales (books not included) 3,400 strings of cash (about \$2500 Mex.), as compared with 916 strings (about \$674) for the same months last year. This year from the sales made twenty per cent has been returned to the mission, in addition to the tithe, while last year nothing was returned to the mission except the tithe. The canvassers are all greatly encouraged at the way the canvassing work is shaping up. Thirty canvassers were sent out after the meeting. From now on 50 per cent of all sales and subscriptions revert to the mission, in addition to the tithe.

At the time of this meeting, it was decided that in view of proximity and ease of access, the Hunan mission, for the time being, look after the interests of the work in the central part of the western border of Kiangsi.

We were glad to find Brother and Sister White of good courage, and bespeak for them and the work in Hunan the prayers of the NEWS readers.

A. C. SELMON.

Brother O. A. Hall has just returned from conducting the general meeting at Ying Shang Hsien, Anhwei, and reports the baptism of twenty-three candidates at that time.

On November 8 baptism was administered to twelve persons at Shanghai, all of them men who have been brought into the message under the labors of Brother K. H. Wood in the Shanghai district.

"What Hath God Wrought"

Since the above words were flashed over the telegraph wires, God has and is doing greater wonders in the earth than was accomplished on that memorable day. In this busy age we scarcely take time to ponder the great marvels of this wonderful time. As we see the onward and rapid progress of the cause of God all over the world, we are led to acknowledge the divine guidance of the Almighty in the finishing of the work in the earth.

We have now been in Manchuria one year, and in China two years. During the first year we acquired a sufficient command of the Chinese to be able to do a little as soon as entering Manchuria a year ago, and during this past year the Lord has given us so much more of the language that by this time we can converse, teach, and preach with considerable freedom. We are still studying. During this past year nine souls have been won for the truth, and have followed their Lord and Master in baptism,—five during July and four on October 7th. We have an organized church in Mukden with a present membership of fifteen. On the 8th of August last, we rented a large, clean place on one of Mukden's largest and most frequented streets for a chapel. This has been repaired to suit our needs, and is our place for meeting in Mukden. We are now preparing to start a new series of meetings at this place. In connection with the chapel is a room for literature. One of the first men who came to hear the doctrine last fall has charge of the book store.

After having had calls from the north for a long time, our evangelist, Feng S. S. and wife, were sent to Shwang Cheng Pu the latter part of July. Afterward Brother Petersen went up, and on August 25 a chapel was rented, also a house in the rear where Feng S. S. lives. This is not far from Harbin, and is in the province of Kirin (Gi-lin). Here also we were fortunate in securing a frontage on a large street. As lumber is very low priced up in this locality, the cost of benches, chairs and general repairing was comparatively small. Feng S. S. has been conducting meetings since the latter part of August.

During last winter and spring our canvassers made several trips to Liao Yang, south of Mukden, in the interest of magazine and literature work. Several began to study the truth, and soon urgent calls were made. We finally answered these calls, and after several consequent visits and some waiting, it was the writer's privilege to sign and exchange the papers that made us leasers on September 9th of a very suitable chapel in that city. This one too is on a large, well thronged thoroughfare. Thus just eleven months to a day from the date of our arrival (October 9th, 1914), we had three chapels rented in Manchuria, all in large, important places. Two of those recently baptized were from Liao Yang. This chapel has been repaired, and we are preparing for an effort there now.

From many parts of Manchuria letters are constantly arriving, and inquiries are being made about our doctrines. We correspond with these and send

them literature. Many seem to be in real, sound earnest. In these different places we must go to tell the good news of the Lord's return as soon as possible. Truly the field is ripe unto the harvest in Manchuria now.

It has also been our good lot to purchase a large, very suitable tract of land for dwelling purposes, and for whatever the future may indicate. The price was very reasonable, and the location is ideal. The deal for the transfer of the land was signed over to us on the 29th of July, and the deed was stamped by the Chinese authorities on August 21st. Compare this with the ordinary waiting for deeds to be stamped, and one is led to believe that the hand of Providence was directing in this affair.

As we see how the Lord of the harvest has opened up three chapels for us within one year, helped us establish a church of fifteen members, created an interest in many places where we have not been able to go so far, the writer has chosen for a title the familiar words "What Hath God Wrought." As we look back upon the trials and struggles of the pioneers in the great missionary movement of a hundred years, and see how they labored on for years and years, sometimes not obtaining a single convert nor a place for worship; as we compare their hardships in obtaining the native language, in renting or buying property, in overcoming the fear and hatred of the people for whom they were laboring, obtaining support from the home base, communications, travel, etc., etc.; with the rapidity with which the message goes to-day, and present very favorable conditions, we are forced to the conclusion that this is the day of God's visitation. Remember the work in Manchuria before the throne of grace.

O. J. GRUNDSET.

Worshippers of Buddha Forsake Their Idols

I moved here September 19 to open up the work. This is the strong center of Buddhists in northern Japan sea coast. Most of the people think if they listen to the gospel Buddha will punish them. For instance, one young girl who was working at one of my friends' home ran to her home to-day because her master is studying the Bible. All churches closed their doors before I reached here, hearing that the Seventh-day Adventist pastor is coming. But some who never heard about the gospel welcome me to visit them. The Lord directed us to secure the new building in a good location.

Before I left Kagoshima, where I was laboring for some time, again five dear souls were buried with their Lord in baptism. One of them is an influential physician in that city. He studied the Bible for several years, and knowing the message pretty well, joined church with us.

I preached in the tent meeting at Fukuoka, where Brother Webber and a young Japanese worker started the work this spring. One night after the discourse I

asked the audience to stand to show their desire to be saved and to get more instruction concerning the message. Twenty-five wrote their names and addresses and gave to our workers.

I had baptized one couple in Hiroshima Sabbath afternoon, September 18. The work in Hiroshima is progressing. Doctor Tatsuguchi is working hard to win souls, leaving his business in younger brother's hands a good part.

We hear a good report from every direction. Surely the Spirit of the Lord is moving upon the hearts of men and women who were darkened by false religion. Time has come to push.

H. KUNIYA.

Manchurian Women Thirsting for Truth

I have been very busy lately, looking after our interest among the women in Mukden. There are six women studying regularly, who appear to be very much interested. I give them studies twice a week. Have just returned from the chapel in the city, where I gave them a Bible study to-day. I was detained at home until late, and when I reached the chapel I found that two of the oldest women had returned home, thinking I feared the very strong wind and would not come. I told them that would not keep me at home, so they could always depend on my being there unless it should be very rainy and stormy, when I felt quite sure they would not be there.

Well, we began our study, and when we were less than half finished, one of the old women who had left before I came returned. That shows how eager they are to study. This woman has bound feet, too, and she lives some distance from the chapel. It is certainly a pleasure to work for them. I enjoy it so much. They are so appreciative, and sit so attentively, seeming to drink in every word that is said. They are getting along nicely, but of course it takes a little longer to get the women to understand than the men. One thing is good, and that is that everyone can read at least some. It is not often that I have to tell them a character.

Mr. Petersen and I go out together occasionally and visit among the people, that we may become better acquainted with them. They like it very much that we visit them, and are anxious for us to come again.

We are very happy in our work here. We do not worry if things do not always go smoothly, for

"If we trust, we don't worry;

If we worry, we don't trust."

How true this is! I guess I will have to copy it in my Chinese Bible too, for I use that more now than my English Bible. Here is a quotation which I think is pretty good:

"The traveler who goes round the world prepares himself to pass through all latitudes and to meet all changes. So man must be willing to take life as it comes; to mount the hill when the hill swells, and to go down the hill when the hill lowers; to walk the

plain when it stretches before him, and to ford the river when it rolls over the plain."

MRS. B. PETERSEN.

School Work in Sumatra

Some four years ago Brother Judge commenced a Mission school here as an opening wedge for evangelical work. Soon after Mrs. Yates and I came to the field we were the only workers in Sumatra, and on the advice of our superintendent we assumed the responsibility of keeping the school going until some workers could be sent here to relieve us. The school has been a success so far, at least in a financial way, as the tuitions for this month will amount to over two hundred guilders, which is over twice the amount of its receipts when the school was turned over to us less than a year ago. We have sixty-seven pupils enrolled, including day school and private classes, who are now in attendance,—some Dutch, some Eurasians, others Malays and Kluigs, but most of them are Chinese.

No doubt the school is a good opening wedge, but an opening is of little value if there is no one to take advantage of it. As our time has been almost wholly taken up with the school and in learning the language, we have been able to do little else; however have sold some literature, and done a little Bible work besides, and are looking forward with great anticipation to the time when the teachers will be here to relieve us of so many duties, and we can take advantage of the open doors.

I might add that two of the six who have been baptized since coming to Sumatra were first interested in the truth through the school.

J. S. YATES.

Trophies of Victory from Kobe, Japan

The reports of advance throughout the Division which have come to us from time to time since our Shanghai meeting, seem in keeping with the earnest prayers and resolutions that were then made, and bring courage to our hearts. We gladly join in telling what the Lord has done for us in this field. We held a tent effort in the city of Nagoya during the summer months, at the close of which six souls were baptized. Three more were ready for the ordinance, but happened to be away at the time, and will go forward in the rite at the next opportunity. A second series of meetings in the tent is now on, with a fairly good attendance.

We have also kept in touch with the interest at Yoka, where we were privileged to bury four in baptism.

Though no special effort has been conducted at Kobe, new inquirers have come to us, and two new members have been added to our church here by baptism.

The sanitarium has been having a good patronage all through the summer, and though sickness among

ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

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

EDITOR: MRS. R. C. PORTER; ASSOC: FLORENCE SHULL
ADDRESS: U. S. BOX 523, SHANGHAI, CHINA

the workers has made it hard for them, the doctor and nurses are courageously battling with the situation, even beyond the limits of their physical strength.

May God's almighty power and guiding hand still be with us here and throughout the field.

B. P. HOFFMAN.

Truth Helped by Opposition

October the first I had the privilege of baptizing twenty-three persons, about seventy English miles from the railroad and near the Yellow Sea coast. This company had waited all summer for us, and had come out primarily as a result of a missionary's effort to show a ministerial class why Sunday should be kept instead of the Sabbath. It took him three days to do it, and the people said he did not produce any Bible argument, but only made excuses. They said that before this they had been satisfied, but after seeing that there was no Bible authority for Sunday, they could not keep it any more. So we see the message goes even as a result of the opposition.

RILEY RUSSELL, M.D.

NOTES

The China Missions Training School commenced its session for the year 1915-16 on November 1st. To the present time sixty-two have enrolled, and possibly others will come later.

Mrs. S. G. White and her two children arrived in Shanghai from Changsha on November 7th. They will occupy the Rest Cottage for three months, while Brother White is itinerating in Hunan.

Word from South China tells us that Brother B. L. Anderson has completed a five-months' trip in the southern portion of his field; also that Brother and Sister Hankins have just returned home from a three-weeks' visit to Foochow.

Our school is coming right along. Eight more boys from Battakland came yesterday. The enrolment is seventy-five now. We have many more students than we thought we would have the first year. We can see the hand of the Lord in it. —K. M. Adams.

Notice has already been given regarding the necessity of sending in subscriptions to the NEWS for the future, but doubtless some have overlooked this. According to instructions, we shall be obliged after December 31 to drop from the list those whose subscriptions have not been received. This further

word is given that all may have an opportunity to send in their orders before that date.

On account of serious physical conditions, Brother and Sister W. E. Gillis and Miss Olive Osborne have been granted furloughs to America. They left Shanghai November 6 for Japan. However, the rather disconcerting information was received here on the 8th that the "Persia" was delayed in Hongkong, and that her sailing was indefinitely postponed. This will doubtless be a disappointment to our friends who expected to sail on that boat, but we are trusting that other provision may be made which will enable them to get early passage to America. Our prayers follow them as they leave us, and we trust that they may speedily recover their strength and return to the work which needs them so much.

"We have just finished our Panayan book, and are working now on a book in the Ilocano language. We have also just finished the "Gospel Primer" in the Tagalog, and have printed a part of the "World's Crisis" in the Tagalog. This we are combining with the first history of the war, which we think will make a good selling point for the book. Our work continues good, and at nearly every church that I visit I find some who desire to be baptized. Thus far this year we have baptized 198 people. We had set our aim for 250, but I do not know whether we will be able to reach it or not. In one of the churches we have the chief-of-police as our missionary leader. I think we should be able to keep order. At another place we have a Sabbath school student who is 137 years old."

—L. V. Finster.

The Wedding Ring

In response to several requests, we print the following testimony from Mrs. E. G. White on the wearing of the wedding ring:

"Some have had a burden in regard to the wearing of a marriage ring, feeling that the wives of our ministers should conform to this custom. All this is unnecessary. Let the ministers' wives have the golden link which binds their souls to Jesus Christ, a pure and holy character, the true love and meekness and godliness that are the fruit borne upon the Christian tree, and their influence will be secure anywhere. The fact that a disregard of the custom occasions remark, is no good reason for adopting it. We need not wear the sign, for we are not untrue to our marriage vow, and the wearing of the ring would be no evidence that we were true. I feel deeply over this leavening process which seems to be going on among us, in the conformity to custom and fashion. Not one penny should be spent for a circlet of gold to testify that we are married. In countries where the custom is imperative, we have no burden to condemn those who have their marriage ring; let them wear it if they can do so conscientiously; but let not our missionaries feel that the wearing of the ring will increase their influence one jot or tittle. If they are Christians it will be manifest in their Christlikeness of character, in their words, in their works, in the home, in association with others; it will be evinced by their patience and long-suffering and kindness."—*Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers No. 3, August 3, 1892.*