

Asiatic Division Mission News

VOL. 5

SHANGHAI, CHINA, FEBRUARY 1, 1916

No. 2

My Burden

God laid upon my back a grievous load,—
A heavy cross to bear along the road.
I staggered on and lol one weary day,
A mighty lion sprang upon the way.
I prayed to God, and swift at his command
The cross became a weapon in my hand.
It slew my raging enemy, and then
Became a cross upon my back again.

I faltered many a league until at length.
Groaning, I fell, and had no further strength.
"O God," I cried, "I am so weak, and lame!"
Then straight my cross a winged staff became.
It swept me on till I regained the loss,
And leaped upon my back again a cross.

I reached a desert. O'er the burning track
I persevered, the cross upon my back.
No shade was there, and in the cruel sun
I sank at last, and thought my days were done.
But lo, the Lord works many a blest surprise;
The cross became a tree before my eyes!

I slept. I woke to feel the strength of ten;
I found the cross upon my back again.
And thus through all my days from that to this,
The cross, my burden, has become my bliss;
Nor ever shall I lay the burden down,
For God some day will make the cross a crown.

—L. C. Beckwith.

The Loma Linda Council

The Council at Loma Linda, California, closed several days in advance of scheduled time.

The forenoon of each day was occupied by the General Conference, and the afternoon by the North American Division.

The delegation numbered about 250, composed largely of union conference presidents, state presidents, leading officials and heads of departments.

The evenings during the Council were given to reports from mission fields and to the older ministers of the denomination—Pastors Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell and J. N. Loughborough. These tried and loyal workers confined their remarks largely along the line of the spirit of prophecy; which was all so timely.

The Far East received its full share of attention. More interest, sympathy and liberality for our work and field could not have been given or desired. Our every need by way of men and means was supplied.

The best of the flock were not withheld when it came to workers for our Division, but a covenant by sacrifice was made by both the worker and the field releasing the worker. It was the day of God's power, for men and women were made willing to give themselves as well as the means over which God had placed them as stewards. There was no spirit manifest of holding back a part of the price, but a readiness to balance or distribute more equally the workers and the funds. We extended sympathy to those who came expressing regrets that age prevented their launching out at the front for the finishing of the work in lands beyond the sea.

We cannot give at this writing the names of all those who will make the Far Eastern Division their field of labor, but those whom we know "have joined" are Pastor and Sister J. E. Fulton and daughter Jessie, Brother H. W. and Sister Barrows, Brother C. E. and Sister Weaks and Brother J. G. and Sister White. These will come early to the field. A goodly number will, without doubt, be in readiness to come at the time we leave America, the first of March. We are sorry that we were not able to return sooner, but there was no chance whatever for booking before this date on account of the return of those who, from the Orient, have attended the Panama Exposition.

The South American field was organized into a Division with Pastor O. O. Montgomery of the Southeastern Union as its president. There was an adjustment of the organization of the European Division, in order to meet the war conditions which prevail in that field. More responsibility was placed upon local superintendents. The one great object in all the plans was the speedy finishing of the work.

November 23 we left Loma Linda for Hamilton, Missouri, where a Thanksgiving family reunion was held at the home of our mother. All the children were in, and thoughts of the great reunion above filled our minds.

Sabbath the 27th was spent at Hamilton. December 4th we will be in Kansas City, and December 11th, the beginning of the week of prayer, will be spent at College View, Nebraska. From College View I will go east, stopping at Nevada, Iowa, Chicago, Battle Creek, Berrien Springs and Washington, D. C. There will be other appointments before sailing. We are in good

health and courage, and already feel refreshed by the winter breezes that are beginning to blow from the snows of the north.

All mail sent from the Orient in January will reach us at Hamilton, Missouri. Later than this date address us at Mountain View, California.

R. C. PORTER.

MRS. R. C. PORTER.

Colporteurs' Institute in Nanking

As the work of the message grows in China it is inevitable that all departments will develop into the same complete organizations as we have in the home fields, for it has been demonstrated that the scheme of organization given this people by God fits almost all conditions, wherever the message finds its way. The plans used in other countries for the development of the colporteur work are just as effective in China.

Six months ago when we introduced the straight commission plan of circulating our literature, it was said by our colporteurs to be doomed to failure, but it has taken only a few months to prove to the satisfaction of all (colporteurs included) that this is the only truly satisfactory plan for the colporteur work in this country.

We have just closed a very satisfactory colporteurs' institute for the East China field in the city of Nanking. During the holidays from the language school we were able to devote our full time to this work and during the second week part time was given to it.

There were twenty colporteurs in attendance, a number of whom were present also at the Shanghai institute six months ago. At that time these men had many misgivings, as we were then introducing the commission plan in their work. At the meeting just closed it was an inspiration to see the confidence of these same men after a six months' trial. It is true that some had not made good, but the majority had had good success, one man securing in eighteen weeks no less than 930 subscriptions besides selling a large number of single copies.

At this institute instruction was daily given in the principles of gospel salesmanship and for two hours a day we engaged in canvassing drill. In addition to this a daily Bible study and a preaching service were held, so that the program was pretty full.

It was truly encouraging to see the remarkable improvement in their canvassing made by these colporteurs after a week of such training. I have never had the privilege of instructing a more responsive class of men anywhere, and I am convinced that when we have the language sufficiently well to be in the field all the time, helping and training these men, we will soon have a force of well trained and successful colporteurs who will be as great a credit to the cause as are our faithful colporteurs in any country in the world.

That spirit of peculiar enthusiasm which always pervades our colporteurs' meetings in the home field

was not lacking in our Nanking institute. There is something about the colporteur work which takes a grip upon the men who devote their lives to it and brings into their gatherings an enthusiasm and interest which only comes after serious battles and victories won on the firing line over many difficulties and discouragements.

One advance step taken at this meeting was the selection of our most successful colporteur as field agent. He will work under direct foreign supervision, and we hope that by careful training he will develop into a strong and successful worker.

We ask your prayers for the success of our colporteurs as they pursue their arduous work amid the many difficulties which constantly beset them.

H. M. BLUNDEN.

Hunan

I have just returned from visiting all of our churches and companies in this Province and am glad to report a good interest in many places. During our itinerary, covering over two months' time and over 4,000 Chinese miles of road, we were privileged to witness thirty-two souls buried in the watery grave and arise to walk new men and women in Christ, willing to rejoice with us, and also if need be patiently to suffer until their full redemption comes.

Altogether we visited twenty companies of believers, and at fifteen places partook of the emblems of our Lord's sacrifice for man. At one place eleven persons came 100 li to attend a short institute, after which seven of their number received baptism and partook with us of the Lord's supper.

While in the south of the Province I traveled 200 li to investigate an interest, through territory which had never been passed over before by any foreigner.

Our canvassing work continues to go well and the workers have been faithful with a monthly settlement of fifty per cent of their sales. It is now one year since we were left alone in Hunan without the aid of other personal foreign help, and we certainly long to see another family enter the Province, for with almost fifty workers to direct and keep accounts for, and the many interests to consider, it is beyond the capacity of any one person.

S. G. WHITE.

To Those Who Use Chinese Literature

Once more the attention of those who use the Chinese paper, *The Signs of the Times*, is called to the necessity for orders being received early in the month. Some have recently been disappointed in not receiving what they desired because their orders were late and had not been planned for in the printing orders.

With our limited facilities it takes about three weeks from the time work is started on printing the covers until the papers are all finished and shipped, and in order that the papers may be received in the

various fields on time it is necessary to begin printing the covers not later than the 7th or 8th of the month preceding the date of issue. To be certain to receive all orders it is well to have them reach this office by that time.

We are receiving a regular stream of subscriptions all the time and provision is made for these in the printing orders, as far as possible. What is said above has reference to changes in club orders. It is also quite desirable that when clubs are to be reduced this information should reach us early.

Our regular readers are certainly the ones who receive the most benefit, and the friends of the paper will be pleased to know that our regular subscription list is now close to 30,000 monthly. The prospect for not only the paper but our other Chinese literature during the coming year is very bright at present.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES PUBLISHING HOUSE.

Words of Courage from Workers on Furlough

The following extracts from a personal letter from Brother F. E. Stafford, we are sure will be read with interest by our workers in this field:

"I just received the Asiatic Division News, and as usual read every word in it with interest. I noticed the little item about subscriptions, and as I am not sure whether I subscribed or not, I am enclosing fifty cents in stamps, and ask you to put me on the list, as I do not want to miss a number. I think we enjoy reading that little paper better than any other periodical that comes to us. You may send it to Mountain View, care of the Press, as we expect to return there as soon as Mrs. Stafford is able to travel.

"As you have doubtless heard, my wife had a serious surgical operation about three weeks ago at the Glendale Sanitarium. She got along nicely for the first two weeks, but unfortunately she became chilled and caught cold, and suffered a nervous collapse, and was in a very critical condition for a few days. However the Lord heard the prayers which were offered in her behalf, and the crisis is past now and she is resting easier, with good prospect of making a full recovery. I have now taken her away from the sanitarium, and we have rented rooms nearby, and I have a special nurse with her continually until she is able to get up.

"The Lord has blessed me in a special manner, and is restoring me back to health in a way which is surely miraculous. I am in better health now apparently than I have ever been before, and weigh fifteen pounds more than when I left China. The children have both improved and are gaining in flesh continually, so we feel we have much to praise the Lord for, and we can not but feel that this signal manifestation of His healing power for us is an evidence that He is preparing us for future service for Him in the field that we have learned to love so well.

"It is certainly true that we find although we are living in America, yet our hearts are still in the land of

our adoption, and in my dreams as well as my waking hours I find myself continually going over the scenes of the work around Shanghai, visiting and talking with Brother Ts, Li, Miaw, and the other workers in the different outstations, and always our prayers are ascending to God for strength and power to be given to both our native workers and those who have gone from here to devote their lives to the preaching of this message and the finishing of the work.

"I had a letter recently from Brother Wood telling me of the rapid growth of the work and many new openings around Shanghai, which filled my heart with joy, as I realized that the years of seed sowing in that district are now commencing to bear a harvest of souls for the Master's kingdom.

"That, however, which has cheered me the most is the host of Chinese letters which I am continually receiving from the workers and believers, many of whom I regard as my most intimate friends. Most of these letters contain very cheering news,—of faith in God, of the growing interests, of new additions to the faith, etc.

"The brethren here feel that as we are making such good progress healthwise, we should plan to return to China, probably next fall; so if that is the Lord's will and nothing prevents, we will expect to see you at that time. I will spend the next six months making preparation for my work, dividing the time between the Press at Mountain View, where I shall take special work in the line of book and magazine illustrating, and the Pacific Union College, where I shall specialize in Bible and evangelical lines."

NOTES

The statistical report of the General Conference for the year 1914 is an interesting document. It shows a very encouraging and quite remarkable increase both in donations and in membership over previous years. The number of persons baptized during the year is 14,999, a gain of 2,205 over the year 1913; the total contributions from all sources for the year 1914 amounted to \$3,090,484.80, as compared with \$2,866,727.40 in 1913, a gain of \$223,757.40. This more than triples the amount of donations received in 1904, ten years previous, which was \$856,714.28. The number of converts in non-Christian and non-Protestant countries during 1914 is 3,583; nearly 1000 of these are from the Asiatic Division. Total number of adherents in these countries, 23,342; total number of foreign missionaries, including wives of missionaries, 749; total native helpers, 1,153; number of organized churches, 766, a gain of 70 over 1913; languages in which publications are issued, 89; mission printing plants, 14.

The Training School students and Press employees reached a record mark in their donations for the last quarter of 1915. The amount received was \$100.46. The thirteenth Sabbath offering amounted to \$50.22.

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

Pastor C. P. Lillie passed through Shanghai January 9, on his way to Nanking to attend the general meeting held there.

A Christmas present of unusual worth and acceptance came this year to the home of Brother and Sister A. L. Ham of Canton, when the stork brought them a little daughter.

During the first week in January a general meeting for the workers of the East China Mission was held in Nanking. We hope to be able to publish a report of this meeting in our next issue.

Reluctantly we record the illness of another tried and faithful worker in China,—Sister J. P. Anderson, who is found to have contracted the dreaded sprue, and is obliged to seek a more favorable climate. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to these workers in their trial.

On account of poor health of both Pastor and Sister George Harlow, and their apparent inability to withstand the climatic conditions in south China, on advice of members of the Asiatic Division Committee, they have come to Shanghai and taken up their residence in our compound. Brother Harlow is feeling better already, and is studying hard on the Mandarin language, hoping in a few months to work with the people who speak that tongue.

A neat little calendar, of condensed form but comprising much information on its ten small pages, has been received from the Singapore Training School. It announces the object, equipment, general rules and regulations, curriculum, etc., of the school in clear, comprehensive language. The members of the faculty are as follows: K. M. Adams, principal; Mrs. J. W. Rowland, music; L. Fox, English; Miss B. Coombes, English; S. Rantoeng, Malay; Mr. Low, Chinese. Those wishing copies of this folder should correspond with Prof. K. M. Adams, 300 Serangoon Road, Singapore, S. S.

The reason there was no paper last week is because there was no material in hand to put into it. Yes, it's an "honest fact," when the day for issuing the NEWS for January 15 had arrived there was not a report from the field to incorporate into it; and so we did the only inevitable thing—we deferred its issuance. We were very loath to do this, but you know the News is depending on YOU to furnish the material for its construction, and when you forget to send in the timber, then we have to delay building until it is

supplied. You can not make a dress without cloth; neither can we make a paper without the essential ingredients. Of course the editors can collect sufficient material to publish a paper, but then they would be obliged to style it other than the "Asiatic Division Mission NEWS"—if it did not act according to its name in giving news of doings in the Asiatic Division Mission. But further philosophizing is unnecessary; you see our point, and we anticipate that from this time forward we shall receive regularly live, brisk contributions from every member of the Asiatic Division family.

We learn of the completion of the printing house for the Philippine Islands in Manila, and at the last writing Pastor Finster said that the house for the manager of the plant was nearing completion, so we presume it is finished by this time. Pastor F. A. Allum writes also from Szechwan that the two houses in Chungking for himself and family and Brother M. C. Warren and his family are nearly ready for occupancy. Pastor F. A. Detamore has made final arrangements for the construction of two dwellings and a school house in Padang, Sumatra. He writes about an excellent piece of property in Sandakan, Borneo, which is available for purchase for our headquarters there, which they hope to procure. There are about six acres in the property, and a large house, which is at present occupied by the American Consul. It gives us pleasure to learn of these acquisitions in property and in new buildings to our work, as it indicates increasing strength and permanency to the work in these fields. It also insures comfort and healthful conditions to our laborers who enjoy their benefits.

Some of the laborers down in the Straits Settlements have been having interesting experiences in distributing the Harvest Ingathering *Signs*. Professor K. M. Adams writes very enthusiastically concerning his part in this campaign. He says: "We are in the midst of the Harvest Ingathering. I was out yesterday for about two hours, and with sixteen papers I secured \$34.00. This is about \$19.00 gold. There were only about three men who refused to give anything. The least donation was a dollar Straits money. We can only reach a few, as there are only about four thousand here who speak English. So many have gone to war. If we had a Chinese ingathering paper next year, there are thousands and thousands of rich Chinese we could call on and get good donations from. The largest donations I received were five dollars cash and they were, one from a Chinese lawyer, and another from a Chinese storekeeper. A Chinese druggist gave three dollars, and the Chinese consul two dollars. When one mentions the missionary work among their own people they are glad to give." Professor Adams will be glad to learn that a Harvest Ingathering number of the Chinese *Signs* is planned for this fall, and we anticipate that it will be used with good results in all parts of the Chinese field.