

Asiatic Division Mission News



VOL. 5

SHANGHAI, CHINA, MARCH 1, 1916

No. 4

The Call to Duty

Tired! Well, what of that?
Didst fancy life was spent on beds of ease,
Fluttering like rose-leaves scattered by the breeze?
Come! Rouse thee, work while it is called today!
Coward, arise—go forth upon the way!

Lonely! And what of that?
Some must be lonely; 'tis not given to all
To feel a heart responsive rise and fall—
To blend another life into its own.
Work may be done in loneliness; work on!

Dark! Well, and what of that?
Didst fondly dream the sun would never set?
Dost fear to lose thy way? Take courage yet;
Thy steps will guided be, and guided right.

Hard! Well, and what of that?
Didst fancy life one summer holiday
With lessons none to learn and naught but play?
Go, get thee to thy task; conquer or die!
It must be learned—learn it, then, patiently.

No help! Nay; 'tis not so.
Though human help be far, your God is nigh.
Who feeds the ravens, hears His children cry.
He's near thee wheresoe'er thy footsteps roam,
And He will guide thee, light thee, help thee home.

—Selected

ADVANCE IN AMERICA IN TWO YEARS

Great Increase in Membership and Offerings

A few items gleaned from the minutes of the North American Division Council held at Loma Linda, Nov. 5-21, will be of interest to our NEWS readers.

One thing was noticeable,—the brevity of the reports of the union conference presidents. There seemed not to be one superfluous sentence, each being filled with facts and figures. From three to five minutes was all the time taken by any president in giving his report. We will only give an item or two from each report, taking them in the order given.

Pastor R. D. Quinn reported for the Atlantic Union. During the first nine months of 1915, \$49,449.91 was raised for missions, and about 500 souls baptized.

Pastor R. A. Underwood said an excellent increase had been seen in offerings to missions in the Central Union, in some places the offerings being doubled over the previous year.

Pastor B. G. Wilkinson reported over 1,100 members for nine months of 1915 in the Columbia Union, with \$132,552.58 raised for missions.

The Canadian Union, the smallest union in the Division, over which Pastor M. N. Campbell has charge, reports 116 new converts for 1915, five new churches organized, and their quota for missions almost assured.

Pastor L. H. Christian, president of the Lake Union, gave a most cheering report. \$107,000 worth of literature had been sold in nine months of 1915. The Battle Creek Church, with a membership of 500, paid \$13,000 tithe, and also raised their quota for missions.

Pastor Chas. Thompson, reporting for the Northern Union, said that for 1914 and nine months of 1915, 1,145 had been baptized, nineteen churches organized, and fifteen church buildings added. \$112,998.65 was given to missions.

Pastor C. W. Flaiz spoke for the North Pacific Union. In 1914 and nine months of 1915 the gain in membership was 1,663. This was eighty for each month of the year. Offerings to missions were steadily increasing.

Pacific Union, with Pastor E. E. Andross as president, reported that for nine months of 1915, 1,081 had received baptism. There are four sanitariums and three educational institutions in this union. Both sanitariums and schools are well patronized.

Pastor S. E. Wight said the Southern Union had sold \$57,000 worth of literature in 1914. During nine months of 1915 the gain in membership was 119. This union is conducting eighteen church schools and fourteen rural schools.

Pastor O. Montgomery reported for the Southeastern Union. Last year 339 souls were baptized, and for nine months of 1915, 455 had received the rite. During 1914 and nine months of 1915, fifteen new churches have been organized and fourteen new church buildings erected.

Pastor G. F. Watson said there were 1,263 accessions to the faith in 1914 and nine months of 1915 in the Southwestern Union.

Pastor H. S. Shaw spoke for the Western Canadian Union. With a membership of 1,845, organized into sixty-three churches, they received in tithes last year

\$45,500, and for missions \$16,500. During the first nine months of 1915, 459 had received baptism.

Following these good reports, Pastor W. A. Spicer stated that the soul-winning work going forward in the North American Division, he found was having an encouraging influence in the fields abroad. They were looking to this country with renewed courage as they saw an increase in the membership. This sentiment was also expressed by Pastors W. J. Fitzgerald, L. R. Conradi, and R. C. Porter. Their remarks were very much appreciated.

Many more items could be given and will be later, if they do not appear in the *Review*. We know all are anxious to learn the names of those coming to our field, but the list not being complete, and not all having been heard from, we will not be able to give it here.

If all works as planned, Mrs. Porter and I will set sail for our field March 7th, coming by way of Seattle, as we can get nothing from San Francisco for months to come. Our hearts are with you, and we hope to be with you in person by the last of March.

R. C. and HATTIE I. PORTER.

Nanking Language School

In response to a request of one of the editors of the Asiatic Division Mission NEWS, I am writing a little in regard to the Language School at Nanking.

A class of fifty members, coming from twenty different states and colonies, has met in the Nanking University for the avowed purpose of grasping the language sufficiently to warrant them in going forth into nineteen different stations in China to begin their life work. Eight of our class are undecided as to their destination. Sixty-six different institutions of learning are represented. The number of degrees held is as follows:—Bachelors of Arts or Science, twenty-four; Bachelors of Medicine, six; Bachelors of Divinity or Theology, five; Masters of Arts, four. Fourteen different boards are represented. Sixteen members of the class will engage in educational work, fourteen evangelistic, ten medical, five publishing and clerical, one Y. M. C. A.; four are undecided. The students are now living in twenty different homes or missions in Nanking.

Our school opens every morning at eight-thirty with worship; and every class during the day is opened with prayer.

We are given for the school year 1,000 characters on printed sheets to read, 500 to learn to write, and the speaking vocabulary will exceed this considerably. The printed sheets are not placed in our hands until we are made familiar with the meaning of the new characters on them, and are able to use them in conversation. As quickly as one lesson is mastered, we are given another.

The first two or three weeks of school were spent with all members of the class together, the object being to give us a little working vocabulary, so that when we were given private teachers we would be able

to speak with them some, and ask the meaning of words and terms. This was thought to be a better way than starting us with private teachers before we were able to converse with them any.

Thus far through the course one hour each day, early in the morning, has been spent in giving us new characters. In the giving of these new words and characters, the instructors are very tactful, endeavoring to present the new matter in such a way as to make a lasting impression upon our minds. A real situation is created, in which no other word will fit, except its synonym, and make sense, and no pains are spared in making this situation real and vivid. Sometimes it will be acted out; pictures will be drawn, etc; and after much thinking and guessing, if we are wholly unable to produce the new word, we are given a little aid in English (sometimes), and oh, how soothing! When new words are given, they are repeated over and over in conversation in connection with the previous characters, until they are firmly fixed in the mind.

Our class is divided into odd and even numbers. After the new material is given, the even numbers go to private teachers and the odds review the new work for one-half hour; and then the classes change, giving the evens an opportunity to review.

We also have question or conversation classes, composed of eight students. These meet twice a day. The teacher asks questions, and we have to reply.

The first hour after dinner the entire class meets in one room. This hour is spent as seems best to the instructors. We usually have writing three times a week at this hour. Sometimes one has to stand before the class and address it in Chinese. This is interesting until your time comes.

The entire day is well filled, but we do not follow any stereotyped plan. Our curriculum is rather elastic, and the study of Chinese is really made very interesting instead of a drudge. The very best spirit prevails every hour in the day, and we are again made to see that Christianity is something nobler than all our interpretations of it.

When some of us were leaving Shanghai for the school, Pastor Porter was encouraging us in the study of the language, and gave us what he had learned in two years,—"chih-liao-fan-muh-yu" and "Ping-an." He also stated that if it were his privilege to remain in China a few years more, he felt he would be able to grasp the language. If his keenness to comprehend the language were linked up with the unequalled advantages offered at the Language School for a few months, only the future would reveal what he would be able to say in Chinese.

Personally I feel it is the opportunity of my life to have the privilege of attending the Language School, and am endeavoring to make the very most of it. It would seem the very quickest way to get young persons into the field with sufficient knowledge of the language to begin their work.

ROBERT JAMES BROWN.

The Honan-Hupeh Evangelists' Institute

In the home lands the ministerial institutes have come to be a regular part of the yearly program. The need of something along the same line here in China for our Chinese evangelists is more evident from year to year. Many of our evangelists are men who are woefully lacking in general education, and up until the present only one out of ten of them has had the opportunity of attending our Training School. For this class of men our literature is a help, but it comes far short of doing for them what even a short course in school, or in lieu of that a systematically conducted evangelists' institute, can do. Those who are acquainted with the work of the ordinary Chinese evangelist know that he does not understand how to go about the choosing of a fitting text, building a sermon, preparing an outline, etc. Very, very few of them ever undertake to follow a course of sermons such as we follow in a tent effort in the home lands.

With a view of getting something definite started along the line of special training for our evangelists, Brother Fred Lee and myself gathered in all the evangelists from Hupeh and Honan and held a four weeks' institute with them in Yencheng. There were eleven evangelists present from Hupeh, seventeen from Honan, one from Kiangsi, and Pastor Liu was present from "Gospel Village," Shensi. There were eight others in attendance, making a total of thirty-eight. The daily program consisted of devotional meeting, class periods and quizzes. It was heavy work for all, and some of them testified to the fact that in the writing connected with the daily class work, they secured more drill in writing than they had ever had before.

We gave them work along pastoral training lines, such as,—how to choose a proper text, how to analyze the text, how to gather material for the sermon, how to prepare a sermon outline, presentation of the sermon, pulpit manners, how to conduct a prayer meeting, how to conduct a testimony meeting, how to get the most help from your private Bible study, etc. These subjects were not only discussed thoroughly with the evangelists, but we prepared and put on the blackboard quite full outlines of every subject presented. Every evangelist copied these outlines word for word in his notebook.

We chose twenty-eight topics such as would be given in a regular tent effort. A full outline of each sermon was first put on the blackboard. After each man had copied it in his notebook, one of us would preach a sermon from the outline, aiming in this way to show them how to make use of the material in the sermon outline. In addition to the above we gave as much time as could be sandwiched into our already full program to round-table discussions of a wide range of topics having to do with the management of their stations. Several test sermons were given by men previously appointed, and following the sermon his effort was analyzed and in most cases quite

thoroughly criticized, using as a standard the principles laid down in the daily class work.

Before the institute opened we had some misgivings as to whether the evangelists, so many of them being our seniors, would take kindly to a regular daily program of class work. A little stiffness was noted the first few days on the part of two or three, but as soon as we got into the swing of it they all worked heartily. Of course it is too early to say just how much was accomplished in this institute, but those in attendance testified to the fact that they had received help of a kind they had not had heretofore, and felt sure that they would be able to do a more efficient work in the future.

This institute is but a start, and I hope that it will not be long until the evangelists' institute becomes a regular feature of the yearly program in every part of this field. There are two further points that I would mention,—first, that in order to do the best work the attendance should be limited to the regular evangelists on the mission pay roll. If all are allowed to come who desire to attend, it will greatly interfere with the successful conduct of the institute, i. e., if you undertake to have regularly conducted class work; second, an institute of a month or more with regularly conducted class work is very heavy work for two men to carry, especially when full Chinese outlines for each subject are prepared; and I consider the outlines a very important and almost an essential part of the institute work.

A. C. SELMON.

Nine Schools in Honan

While for years a school has been conducted at our central station, yet the school work here is still in the making. Something over a year ago we opened a boys' school in north Honan, which has developed into a boys' and girls' school with an attendance of some twenty-odd.

A girls' school at Hsiang Cheng has been conducted now for more than a year, with a competent lady teacher in charge. Last fall, at a venture, we opened six other schools at outstations, all of which have been conducted with more or less satisfaction. We are working on a seven-year schedule, preparatory to intermediate work. All told, we have an attendance of one hundred twenty, employing thirteen teachers, and one industrial teacher for our girls in the central school here. The girls have all learned to knit and crochet, and some very acceptable pieces have been turned out, most of which have found a ready sale.

We have had calls to open other schools but have deemed it wise to continue for a time yet with those already in operation. At our central station a charge is made which barely covers student board, books and supplies to be paid for as used.

O. J. GIBSON.

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

A Sad Calamity

The sad news has already reached our workers of the loss of Prof. H. R. Salisbury when the P. & O. liner "Persia" was sunk by a German submarine in the Mediterranean on December 31st. Professor Salisbury had been attending the Council of the General Conference held at Loma Linda, and was hurrying to get back to his field. A number of the brethren in America had urged him not to go across the Atlantic, but to return as he had come, across the Pacific. But it was impossible to get passage on a boat coming this way for several months, and as he was anxious to get back to India without delay he decided to risk crossing the Atlantic, intending to get a Dutch boat from London. This he failed to do, and finally took passage on the "Persia" from Marseilles, France. A letter from Pastor J. S. James, vice-president of the Indian Union, written ten days after the disaster, says that the officials of the steamship company hold out no hope whatever that Professor Salisbury was among the number saved. Up to that date not the slightest word had been received as to his whereabouts. He speaks of the terrible shock which the news brought to the workers in India, and says; "Professor Salisbury was highly esteemed by all the workers, and we all feel that in his death India has suffered an irreparable loss. He was indeed a most able executive, a sympathetic, large-hearted, congenial associate, an indefatigable worker, and a true friend and brother to us all. He loved the cause in India very dearly, and did not spare himself in any way to see the work go forward. We feel that our loss is especially great because he had been absent from the field nearly four months and was hurrying home with all the news of the Council, and plans for the work in India for the coming year. This has been a terrible blow to his poor wife, but she is bearing up wonderfully well, and is exerting all her willpower to keep from giving way to her grief." Needless to say, all the workers in our Division share with us in extending heartfelt sympathy to Sister Salisbury and to the workers in India in this hour of their deep distress. It is hard to reconcile ourselves to the loss of this valuable worker, but we know that the Father in heaven still "ruleth over all," and "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will," and He will bring His cause out triumphant, in spite of things that appear to work against and retard it.

"God's ways seem dark, but soon or late
They touch the shining hills of day."

NOTES

Brother K. H. Wood has been spending some days at Dzang Zok, near Soochow, starting the evangelists there in a public effort. He reports an excellent interest, and large crowds coming every night to hear the gospel. As great a number of women as men come to listen, and they are nearly all a good class of people. We hope to hear ere long of a good, substantial company of believers being gathered out at Dzang Zok.

Pastor M. N. Campbell, president of the Canadian Union Conference, has been chosen as superintendent of the India Union Mission field, to take the place of Prof. H. R. Salisbury, whom death has removed from that responsibility.

An epidemic of influenza has visited our compound during the last week. Pastor George Harlow and Mrs. B. Miller were the ones most seriously affected, they being confined to their beds for some days; but we are thankful to say that they are both rapidly regaining strength.

Brother Woodward passes on a letter from Brother Cush Sparks, at Berrien Springs, Mich., which breathes courage and faith in the work. He says: "Pastor Porter was here last week. It seemed almost like a trip home to hear him tell about the work over there. Our hearts are in the work there, even though we are here. The workers in China have our earnest prayers. Mrs. Sparks is feeling quite well again, for which we are thankful."

A word from Brother Merritt Warren from Szechwan says that they have temporarily moved with Pastor Allum's folks into the one house which is completed in Chungking. He says the workmen are pounding bricks directly under their bedroom window, but doubtless even this has a musical sound to them, as they know that every stroke declares the completion of the house which will offer them a permanent habitat that much nearer. He also tells of the removal of their chapel to a larger and better building in a more desirable part of the city.

Nearly every mail brings us news of more workers being added to the list of recruits booked for the Asiatic Division. The latest is a printer for the Signs Publishing House,—Brother Warren P. Henderson of the Pacific Press, who, with his wife, left Seattle Feb. 22 for China. Brother Joseph Hall and wife of the Washington Seminary are also scheduled to sail with Pastor and Mrs. Porter on the March 7 boat; as are also a Brother Cole and his wife from the Review & Herald office, who come to Japan to take the treasury work of the Japan Mission.

Sister Woodward sends in the following word from the Sabbath School Department: "The Sabbath school goal as voted at the recent Council at Loma Linda is, 'The Third Million Dollars for Missions during 1915 and 1916.' Let us not feel that because we are in a mission field our responsibility is lessened in the matter of giving, but each week remember to give as suggested by the General Conference. On March 25 our Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings are to be given for the benefit of our work in the Philippines. By having neat, well printed 'Missions Quarterlies' in the native tongue, our believers will see more clearly the great cause for this call, and will more liberally respond on this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering day."

Dr. Bertha Selmon writes that Dr. A. C. left Feb. 11 for Changsha to assist in an evangelists' institute to be held there, and will not return to Hankow until about the last of March. She is remaining at home and helping to direct the interests of the church school in Hankow, together with her other work. She says: "Our little church school has added two pupils and changed teachers since we wrote you last. The teacher we have now was married to one of our Hankow evangelists last week. They were married in the chapel. She has not been baptized yet, but seems to be favorable to the truth. She is a bright girl only twenty-two years old, and has previously taught in another school."