

# Asiatic Division Mission News

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## A Resolution

To keep my health ; to do my work ; to live ;  
To see to it I grow and gain and give ;  
Never to look behind me for an hour ;  
To wait in weakness and to walk in power ;  
But always fronting forward to the light.  
Always and always facing toward the right,  
Robbed, starved, or defeated, fallen, wide astray—  
On, with what strength I have,  
Back to the way!

—Selected

## The "Gospel Village"

A most interesting work has lately sprung up in Shensi Province. Twenty-six years ago a Christian Chinese from Shantung Province located in Shensi. Having a desire to give to others the gospel which had brought joy to his own heart, and being a man of influence and of some means, he was instrumental in building a village known as the "Gospel Village." This village is built on the plan of the character 井, meaning a well; the center square of which is reserved for chapel and church purposes, and the houses built in all the other squares around it. All the inhabitants of this village are Christians, and have been chiefly self-supporting, with a little help from the British Baptists. There are about sixty other small villages surrounding it all laid out on the same plan, and many of the people in these villages are also Christians, and hold Gospel Village as their model and look to its founder as their leader.

Not long ago when this man—an ordained minister—went north to meet his daughter, who was returning from a school in Japan, he obtained some of our literature, and at an inn later on in his journey came in contact with one of our colporteurs, who heard him and his daughter singing a gospel hymn, and went and spoke to them. More literature was supplied and instruction given. The man became more deeply interested, and at considerable expense made the six days' journey by cart, and then train, to Hankow to attend a general meeting, where he received more of the truth. Later he attended another meeting, and is now deeply grounded in the faith and has received baptism. He carried the truth back to his townspeople in Gospel Village, and a number of them have also

accepted it as far as they have heard it. Our native minister, Liu Djen Bang, from Hupeh Province, has spent some time there on two occasions instructing the people; and now Doctor A. C. Selmon and Pastor Frederick Lee, accompanied by Pastor Liu Djen Bang, have just returned from a six weeks' trip into this Province. Doctor Selmon tells of the development of the work there in the following paragraphs of a letter written a few days after his arrival in this section.

"Today is the Sabbath, and we have just closed our third and last meeting for the day. This is the first Sabbath we have spent with the interested ones. We are holding a two weeks' series of meetings here for the interested ones. The attendance at the first was between forty and fifty. With the exception of the children, all of them have been Christians for a long time,—some for thirty years. A number of them have been evangelists and school teachers for years. Today we had Sabbath school with them. There were nine classes, with ninety-four students.

"These people who are attending the meetings are all farmers, and almost every one has his own land,—a very unusual thing to find in China. From the Chinese standpoint they are in comfortable circumstances. We have three meetings a day, and sometimes four, beginning at ten A. M. They take in the truth better than any company I have met thus far in China. Of course their standard of Christian living is low. It is just what the Baptists (British) have taught them. Sunday keeping has, to them, simply meant going to meetings on Sunday, and the remainder of the day they worked as upon any other day. They almost all used both tobacco and wine (the foreign missionaries here both smoke and drink wine). But as we present the Bible teaching on these matters they accept it and confess that they were living on a very low plane, and were hardly worthy of the name of Christian. I was impressed with their candor in confessing their former condition and their eagerness to learn what the Bible outlines as the right way to live a Christian life.

"They have for years laid great stress upon educating their children, and we have here some of the finest material to train for workers that I have seen thus far in China. The children show the influence of Christian parentage. They have been in school since they

were old enough to attend. Before leaving here I will make provision for running four schools for the children of the interested ones. We will also organize three Sabbath schools, possibly four. There is much promising material for evangelists, colporteurs, and church school teachers. There are forty or fifty who would like to be baptized, but with the exception of a few, they should reach a higher standard in the matter of Sabbath keeping, etc., and so we will probably ask them all to wait until next fall.

"The interest in the truth centers in three villages. All three are walled villages, and have from 300 to 1000 inhabitants. Gospel Village is, in Christian circles, one of the best known places in all northwest China. At one time as many as three families of foreign missionaries lived in that place. The Baptists still have their houses there, although they have neglected caring for the place for ten-odd years.

"As soon as we arrived and learned that the Baptists claimed the church building and schools in Gospel Village, we felt somewhat as Abraham did,—that we would not use even so much as a shoestring that belonged to them, and so we rented a building temporarily.

"Before leaving here I will pawn a compound in Gospel Village. The pawning procedure is like this: I turn over \$70.00 Mex. to the owner, and he allows us the entire use of his property for, say, five years. At the expiration of five years he returns to me the \$70.00 in full, and I vacate the property. This property I plan to pawn will furnish buildings for a boys' and a girls' school, a meeting-place, and living quarters for an evangelist's family.

"I should mention that the truth is spreading far beyond the few villages in this section. It is going away up to the north almost to the border between Shensi and Mongolia; and, moreover, people are attending our meetings who have business interests out in the capital of Kansu, and they will soon be returning to Kansu.

"Pastor Fred Lee is releasing Pastor Liu Djen Bang to come and look after the work until a foreigner can be procured to locate here. He is with us now, and will return to Honan and get his family and move out here.

"Robber bands are pillaging all through this plain. They go in bands of several hundred, all well armed, and break into cities and villages and plunder everything they can get their hands on. The soldiers sent out against them are not able to overcome them."

In our next issue we will print another letter from Doctor Selmon telling of their experience in falling into the hands of some of these robber bands on their return trip to Hupeh.

In our previous issue we stated that Changchuan is 100 miles north of Mukden, but Brother Grundset writes that this is a mistake, and that the distance is 200 miles.

### Triumphs of the Cross in Japan

It gives us great courage to hear of the splendid progress the work is making in various parts of the Orient. This part of the great East is daily becoming more and more dear to our hearts. The better we become acquainted with the Japanese, the more sympathy we have for them and the greater love is awakened in our hearts. We find that there are many things we have in common. Their emotions and ideals are often coincident with our own. Especially is this true when the light of the truth has been admitted into the dark recesses of their hearts.

I find it a great privilege to work along with the men in this division of the field. Kato San, our evangelist here, was one of the "human bullets" in the Russo-Japanese conflict, but now he is engaged in a better warfare. Dr. Tatsuguchi, though not a regular mission worker, is rendering most efficient service outside office hours. His experience as a worker in California several years ago is valuable to him now as he labors in season and out of season to proclaim the message to his people.

All our people will rejoice with Dr. Tatsuguchi in a recent victory he gained after long and earnest prayer. Kazuo San, the older of his two little boys, who until recently has been attending the kindergarten conducted by the Methodists here, came to the age of six, when he must enter the grammar school. Desiring to give his son the best education possible, Dr. Tatsuguchi applied to the model school of the Higher Normal School, one of the very best schools in Japan. After a rigid examination, Kazuo San was admitted to the highest of three divisions, based on social and financial standing in society. But some of the professors told the doctor it was no use to attempt to have his boy excused on the Sabbath. The law requires six days' attendance each week, granting a holiday only on Sunday and such special occasions as the emperor's birthday. After Kazuo San had taken the second Sabbath off, his father received a note from the school enquiring the cause of the child's absence. Dr. Tatsuguchi immediately went to the principal of the school and had quite a long interview, the outcome of which was that Kazuo San is now excused each week by special order of the principal. We rejoice with our brother and his family who, in spite of Satan's opposition, are living the truth amid this heathen nation. Little Kazuo San (whose name, by the way, means "peacemaker") will be giving a splendid testimony for the true God, who gave the Sabbath as a sign of allegiance to Him.

We are about to begin our tent effort in Hiroshima. At first Satan tried to hinder us from obtaining a location for the tent. Being an old city, there are very few vacant lots, unless one goes out to the little suburbs. There was a place near a carline juncture that seemed to be just what we wanted. But upon measuring the plot we feared it would be too narrow for the tent. However, after a little planning we

found we can pitch there very well. Then there was trouble in obtaining permission from the city. Last year someone had left the grounds in a bad condition, so some of the officials were opposed to renting them again. After earnest prayer, permission was finally granted. The site is located near the center of the city, where it can be seen from all sides. The tent itself will be a good advertisement. We have done and are doing everything we can think of to prepare for these meetings, and are determined to sow the seed in the best way we know how, trusting the Lord of the harvest to give us a good yield. As we see the degradation and sin all about us, and then think of the splendid perfection of character that, like the lotus growing out of the slime of the ancient castle's moat, may be developed in the most unpromising individual, we are determined to use all our energies, under God, in pushing the triumphs of the Cross in Japan.

A. N. ANDERSON.

**Progress Under Opposition**

Every advance step in the Christian life, as well as every advance move in the work of God, will be met by added attack from the wicked one. But he that is for us is greater than he that is against us, and "always causeth us to triumph in Christ." Thus it has proved in our work the past year. Never before have we met such bitter opposition in our tent work, and we can also say, never before have we had such glorious meetings.

**Tent Meeting in Manila**

Our tent had been started but a few days here in Manila when a tent was pitched just across the street, run by a Filipino Independent church, for the one purpose of attacking our work. From the first night they have continued their tirade against the message of God for this time. We decided to discuss the matter in the same "plain of Ono" as Nehemiah of old, as we "are doing a great work, so that we cannot come down; why should the work cease whilst we leave it.?" Neh. 6:25. The Lord has given the victory, as many come to us and say, "When we come to your tent, we hear the Bible explained, but when we go to the other it is only railing accusations." Thus far we have nearly thirty who have begun to keep the Sabbath.

**Tent Meeting at San Pablo**

This town is three hours' ride on the train from Manila in the great coconut fields of Laguna. Here is where our canvassers awakened a great interest more than a year ago, and after some further instruction by our Bible workers, a company of eighteen was baptized. Our tent was pitched in November, and from a small audience the first few nights the attendance soon more than filled the tent. Some nights more than one thousand people were listening to the truths for this time. Many walked for miles in the rain and darkness and would never miss a night. Not only were they present but,

**A Compelling Power from God**

was there to seal the messages given. Men and women have been rescued from their gambling, stealing, tobacco, drink and immoral lives. The changes have been so great in many that their old friends are astonished.

Our work here also has met opposition. The Church of Christ has held nightly opposition meetings. But we know "nothing can be done against the truth, but for it."

A new opposition has been met in this line of work. In many places the priests have publicly forbade their people to take the books ordered from our agents. Nearly all Protestant members have been warned. Nevertheless the work moves on. Last year our book and periodical sales amounted to about \$25,000 as compared with \$1,453 the year before. A number have come to a knowledge of the truth through the printed page. We are now printing in the Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuan, Panayan, and the Pampanga languages.

Brother Wallace, our new printer, has arrived from Australia and is taking hold of his work with courage to get our printing work in better order, and to make this branch of the work a power for good in finishing this message. Last year two hundred thirty-seven were baptized and taken into church fellowship.

When we remember that nearly all this work has been accomplished by our faithful native brethren, our hearts rejoice, and we press on in the training of other workers. Pray for the work in these dark and needy fields.

L. V. FINSTER.

**Sabbath Schools in Honan**

It may be of interest to those in other parts of the Division to know that tithes and Sabbath school offerings in Honan are working up. We wanted \$100.00 for the Sabbath school donations this last quarter, but missed it by \$11.43. I give below comparison for the last two years, corresponding periods:

Tithes for first quarter 1916	were	\$145.71
Tithes for first quarter 1915	were	\$ 81.27
	a gain of	\$ 64.44
S. S. Offerings	" 1916	\$ 88.57
S. S. Offerings	" 1915	\$ 42.90
	a gain of	\$ 45.67

Or a total gain of \$110.11

In other words, we more than doubled our Sabbath school donations, and had we received \$14.06 more we would have doubled both. We must make allowance here for the liberal donations which our people are making towards our new church and school building which is now under construction. Approximately \$400.00 was pledged towards this last fall at our general meeting. So far almost one-half of the amount has been paid in. And with the building under way I am sure most of what remains will come in rapidly.

# ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

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for a real interest has been taken by our people in this undertaking, which all feel will be a waymark in the success of the work in Honan.

O. J. GIBSON.

## Singapore Training School

Our school has an active junior missionary society. Most of the students take part, though some are not of our faith. The young men who are preparing for the work do well in spreading our papers among the people of Singapore. There are fourteen in the Literature Band. Most of them are Chinese, as we have practically no literature for the Malays in Singapore. They report every two weeks. Here is the last report from this band: Papers sold, 232; books, 74; tracts given away, 200. In this work the boys are getting money to help them through school as well as spreading the message, and getting experience that will help them when they devote their entire time to the work.

The enrolment of the school is now ninety-six. We shall more than reach our aim of one hundred for this year. We are thankful that God is blessing the school, and the efforts put forth to advance His work. The devil is always at work to hinder, but we take that as a hopeful sign, for if our work were counting for nothing, we would not be bothered by Satan. Pray that we may have more of God's blessing, and that we may serve Him more faithfully.

K. M. ADAMS.

## NOTES

Pastor O. A. Hall returned June 5th from his long itinerating tour through Anhwei Province. We are sorry to learn that he is not in good health, but trust that after a few days' rest he will be as well as usual.

Brother H. M. Blunden is conducting a two weeks' canvassers' institute at the Training School, with twenty in attendance, sixteen of which are students. He hopes to start twelve new canvassers into work at the close of this institute, in addition to four who have had previous experience.

The latest word from Mrs. J. P. Anderson is that she is making steady improvement. She and Pastor Anderson have been invited by the General Conference to come to the Washington Sanitarium, where she can receive the personal care of Dr. H. W. Miller, who is a specialist on oriental diseases.

"Mukden had a bomb throwing last Sabbath, May 27th. The military governor was out, and two bombs at two different places on his route were hurled. He was not hit, however, and escaped to his palace unharmed, but at least three soldiers escorting him were blown to atoms. Quite a large number also were wounded. Mrs. Grundset was coming home from Sabbath school in a riksha at the time, and was near to the place of the first bomb when it exploded. A great tumult at once ensued, and she rode into an alley, and meandered around the place of trouble without knowing what had happened. Thus we see the protect-

ing hand of God over His own in times of danger. It was not far from our place that the tragedy occurred."

—O. J. GRUNDSET.

A new project has just come to our ears,—the gathering of funds for the erection of the Ellen G. White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, for the use of the Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists in giving their medical students the clinical experience necessary in connection with their course. This movement was started at the Loma Linda Council last fall, and is being propagated by some of our aggressive sisters in America. It was felt, on account of the many and heavy financial burdens of the General Conference, that they could not assume this additional responsibility, while the need of such an institution was recognized; so some of our sisters who were present at the Council volunteered to take it upon themselves to solicit funds for the erection of this hospital, which it is estimated will cost \$61,000. Some of the leaders in this movement are Sisters S. N. Haskell, Josephine Gotzian and Doctor Florence Keller. Late reports are that they are making good progress toward their goal.

An interesting providence in connection with the war internment camps in Australia is the case of Brother E. Bernoth, a teacher in the church school at Wahroonga, N. S. W. Brother Bernoth is of German parentage, and on account of residing in British territory was required to report periodically to the military authorities. Having neglected to do this once, he was suspected of disloyalty to the British government, and arrested and sent to a German detention camp. He was later released, however, on the ground of his father having naturalized, thus constituting his children British subjects; and also because of the good report of the police in his district. During the time that he was in the camp he interested two young Germans—brothers—in the truth, and before Brother Bernoth was released they commenced keeping the Sabbath. He might have been released earlier, but he requested that he might remain and spend the first Sabbath with them. He started them on different lines of Bible study, and left certain books and other smaller literature with them, and they are now regularly receiving copies of two of our missionary journals, and of some tracts, pamphlets, and small books. Who will say that this experience was not of the Lord's ordering, that these honest-hearted German prisoners might receive a knowledge of His message? "God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

Not all the foreign missionaries are in heathen lands. For instance, we have just been handed a letter from a dear sister in Australia whose son is laboring faithfully and strenuously in our own field China, but she did not consider that she had fulfilled her duty when she gave her son to the work in China: she also feels an interest in the hundreds of devoted missionaries of other denominations and a burden to give them the light of this truth; so she now sends \$30.00 gold to America with an order for the *Signs of the Times* and one other journal to be sent to these missionaries for twelve months. And she says, "I trust to send \$30.00 more before the year is out. I feel sure now is the time to work, and it is the printed page that will do the work. By and by it will be too late. Give our united Christian love to all our workers over there." Perhaps some have already guessed that this missionary-hearted sister is the mother of Pastor F. A. Allum, who is working in far-off Szechwan.