

Asiatic Division Mission News



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Interesting Experiences in East China

On September 20 Mrs. B. Miller, Mrs. Hazel Blackenburg-Severns, and I left Shanghai for a trip into the interior of Kiangsu Province, also taking with us a Bible woman to start work in one or two of the places which we visited. Mrs. Severns accompanied us for the purpose of getting an insight into real Chinese life, and she feels quite satisfied with the little glimpse which this trip gave her,—she thinks it will last her the rest of her life.

Arriving at the Shanghai-Nanking R. R. station at 8:30, with the intention of taking the 8:40 train for Kunshan, we learned that the train schedules had changed, and that the train had already left ten minutes earlier, and were told that the next one did not leave until one o'clock. On closer inquiry, however, we ascertained that there was a fourth-class train, special for coolies, leaving at nine o'clock, but the ticket agent insisted that it was out of the question for us to consider going on this train. However, it was choice between this and waiting for four hours until the one o'clock train, thus preventing us in making our destination that day; so we chose the former course, being required, however, to pay third-class fare for fourth-class tickets. We walked the full length of the train, which was composed of coaches resembling cattle cars, searching for a little empty space where we might at least find standing room and place to store our luggage, but in vain. Every foot was crowded with half-clothed, jabbering coolies, and when we finally inquired of an under-conductor if he could not find us room to ride, the reply came, "O don't come in here, they are so dirty! they stink!" This did not sound very inviting, so we walked back again toward the baggage coaches, hoping perchance to be allowed the privilege of riding in one of them. We met a Chinese official whom we asked to help us find a place. He said, "Wait a minute," and ran back to the station, soon returning with a special permit for us to ride in the caboose at the rear end of the train. This privilege

we greatly appreciated, as it relieved us of the necessity of jamming in with a hundred curious, foul-smelling coolies.

Mrs. Severns and I climbed to a high seat on an iron chest, while Mrs. Miller sought comfort on a bench of like material. A rich Chinese and his wife, who had been likewise unfortunate in missing the earlier train, were also admitted to our "private car," and soon showed themselves very sociable, offering us a smoke from their fine, heavy-brass water-pipe, which courtesy we declined with thanks.

After two and a half hours of jolting and bumping, we arrived at Kunshan, where we were to transfer to a small launch at one o'clock. As we ate our lunch in the small station waiting room, we were surrounded by an interested group of on-lookers—men, women, and children—who gathered about us, curious to see what the foreigners had to eat. They crowded in the doorway and peered in at the windows at us as if we were monkeys performing at a circus. Notwithstanding this we relished our lunch, and were in good spirits for our launch ride up the beautiful Grand Canal.

Our evangelist at Dzangzok is working diligently to bring men to forsake their idols for the worship of the Creator, and we were cheered to find some true-hearted souls who listened gladly to the message of salvation which we presented to them from the Word. The people of this place are like the people of Athens as Paul found them—too superstitious—and on every hand we found evidences of idol and ancestor worship, the people seeming to be more devoted to their idols than in other places which we visited. However, those who are most religious in their heathen worship, when converted are the most zealous Christians, so we hope ere long to see some of these same heathen as loyally worshipping the true God.

We lived in a tiny room in the chapel at Dzangzok, the room also being occupied by a Chinese woman; but here we had a good chance to play the "glad game"—we were glad we had a place to lay our heads, in spite of close quarters and oppressive heat. Mrs.

Severns remarked that she thought all the demons in existence had been turned loose around our chapel, for there seemed to be no cessation in the pandemonium of shrieking, shouting voices, which seemed rather to increase in volume until the "wee, sma' hours." To a newcomer it certainly is rather a startling experience, to speak mildly. Our chapel is in a very noisy section, and opens right on the street, and it is hoped that quarters in a more desirable location may be procured in the near future.

We took a small houseboat from Dzangzok on September 25, and this was our home for several days at Tseutsaung, a small village where an evangelistic effort is being conducted by one of our workers. As a result of our evangelist's zealous work a number of persons have identified themselves with our message, and there is a lively interest among others. We evidently were the first foreigners many of these people had ever seen, and consequently were more popular than we desired to be, as we were followed and pressed about by great crowds of natives wherever we went, all crowding and scrambling to get a look at the foreigners. Some little children came running up and stood at a safe distance looking at us with wide, frightened eyes, and others came up to feel us to see if we were real flesh and blood, and investigate what kind of clothing we wore. At one country place two women who came up, at first sight of us, stood for several minutes and laughed and tittered unrestrainedly. We certainly were queer specimens to them.

We thought to hold evening meetings for the public while here, but after an attempt the first evening, when the mob surged and roared like the huge breakers of the sea, and which it was apparently as futile to try to calm, finding that we were unable to make our voices heard above them, we abandoned this idea, and concentrated our energies on giving house-to-house Bible readings during the day. Our hearts were rejoiced at finding some women of high culture and learning (all relatives of our Bible woman who accompanied us), who listened attentively and hungrily to the gospel. We are earnestly praying that the enemy may not come and snatch away the seed that has been sown in their hearts, but that it may take solid root and may result in a harvest of souls from women of Tseutsaung.

Several trips were made into the country around this village, and we were interested, though shocked to see the way the people lived. In many of the small houses, which were without windows and entirely closed up at night, pig pens occupied half of the living room, and in one of these a poor sick man was lying on a miserable bed right beside the pig pen. We had another opportunity to play the "glad game"—we felt no further inclination to complain at our soft board beds on our tiny boat; we at least had plenty of pure air to breathe at night, and congenial companions.

From Tseutsaung we went to KaungYeng, where we also have a chapel and a small work. We found here also some honest souls who are deeply convicted by the message. One old lady who has done Bible work for the Presbyterian Mission for twenty-two years has been convicted by the truth, and a year ago severed her connection with their work and has now fully identified herself with us. She also has one daughter and a grand daughter who have taken their stand with her, and are very earnest in their new-found faith.

As we go about among these millions of heathen who do not know Christ, we are impressed with the tremendous responsibility that rests on us, a mere handful of foreigners, in proclaiming the last message to these people before the Lord comes, and pray for undivided hearts and unceasing diligence in performing the work which He has committed to us.

FLORENCE E. SHULL.

The Work in Great Britain

By private letter to C. E. Weaks, our publishing department secretary, from Sister M. E. Graham, we have been privileged to take a paragraph regarding Pastor Spicer's report of the work in Great Britain, as it will be recalled he has just returned from that field. "He said he was much encouraged by what he saw. The attendance at the Union Conference was much larger than he expected, and all the reports showed that in spite of the war, considerable progress had been made. The colporteur work has suffered more than any other branch, as most of the young men have been called into government service, and it is also difficult to get the people to buy big books at the present time. On the other hand they are selling large quantities of papers, pamphlets, and small books. It is quite probable that they could do more with the large books if they had the men to do with. . . . Both their sanitariums have been running full, and they have never had better success than they have had this past year. They are getting a good standing with the public, too. The food factory is doing well."

He also said that "while there is some suffering among the very poor class on account of the high cost of living; and that the upper class are finding their means considerably cut down, on the whole the people are prospering more than they have for many years. They are earning high wages, and spending their money freely. He says they are surprisingly cheerful, and they seem to accept the situation with a sort of dry humor. I asked him about the Zeppelin raids and he said the damage they have done is so small that really it is not worth considering; and that the people seem to look upon these raids as a sort of a free show, for as soon as one is signaled there is a rush to get to the places where the people can see the bombs fall. . . . His experience over there showed him that no matter whether war rages, or whatever happens, the work of the Lord goes on."

God's Way Higher than Ours

During the Council of the Asiatic Division Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, held at Shanghai, China, August 28 to September 8, 1916, the following resolution was passed:—

Since death has taken from us three of our valued workers, namely: Professor H. R. Salisbury, superintendent of the India Mission, who while returning, buoyant in faith to his field of labor, met a tragic death; and Clarence C. Hall, secretary-treasurer of the Japan Mission, who, having but begun his work with promise of marked success, succumbed after a very brief illness; and Sister C. H. Davis who laid down her life on the altar of China's Missions soon after coming to the field;

Resolved, That we, the Asiatic Division Committee in council assembled, bow in humble submission before the mandate of One, who "in all our afflictions is afflicted," who dealth nor ruthlessly with his servants, for of Him it is written, "A bruised reed will He not break, and the dimly smoking flax will he not quench," That we pledge anew our consecrated service for the finishing of this work, determined to close the gaps made in our ranks by the enemy, death, and shoulder to shoulder press on until we have attained the fruition of all our hopes, when the "sea shall give up the dead that are in it" and the Life-giver's voice shall rend the portals of the tomb.

Report of Hupeh General Meeting

The Hupeh general meeting was held at the Hankow compound from September 27 to October 8. This meeting was held especially for our own believers, and but few outsiders attended, owing to the distance from the residential part of the city. However, our tent was well filled at nearly every gathering, the interest shown was excellent, and very encouraging to all the workers.

We feel very appreciative of the help given. Elders Fulton, Cottrell, and Lee took the leading parts in the preaching. Brethren S. G. White, J. G. White, Brown, James, and Davis rendered valuable help in arranging and caring for the services and in conducting prayer and social meetings, while our Chinese workers gave good assistance in pitching the tent, preaching, and keeping the grounds in order.

We were glad to witness the baptism of sixty-two candidates last Friday. There were others who presented themselves for this rite, but that we might become certain of their Christian experience, advised them to defer the matter until some future time. This large number are no doubt the fruits of the combined labors of former workers with those of the present. We are thankful for the Lord's help in giving such a harvest of souls, and ask an interest in the prayers of all our Asiatic Division workers for more fruit in the future.

GEORGE HARLOW.

India Supplied with Superintendent

From the *Australasian Record* we read that in response to the earnest request from the Asiatic Division Conference for Pastor W. W. Fletcher to take the superintendency of the India Union Mission, Brother Fletcher was released from the vice-presidency of the Australasian Union, and Pastor W. J. Westerman was chosen to fill the vacancy. Brother Fletcher left Sydney September 14, spent a little time in Melbourne, and intended to visit the Western Australian camp meeting on his way to India.

We join with our brethren in Australia in expressing our hopes that the sacrifice made by Brother Fletcher and family in leaving that field, and going to India may bring joy and happiness to themselves, and light and salvation to many who now sit in darkness.

Singapore Training School

Since we last reported we have had two baptisms in the school. Eight took this step about two months ago, and to-day fourteen were baptized. Of this number nine were students and three had been brought into the truth through the efforts of our Chinese teacher.

We received word through one of our students that there was a relative of his in Penang who had studied the truth and was wanting baptism. I visited him there and persuaded him to come to school to prepare for the work of the Lord. This man has been a preacher in the Basle Mission for over twenty years, and is well educated in Chinese. He has five bright children, three of whom are in school. He is now teaching advanced classes in Chinese language in the school.

During the vacation many of the boys went to towns near by to canvass and take subscriptions. They have never had any instruction along these lines, but they are eager to work. In Malacca two boys took in, in two days, about twenty-two dollars gold worth of orders. The following is a report of seven of the older boys and two teachers, for the period of the vacation:—236 magazines sold, 248 papers sold, 306 books sold, 181 tracts given away, 101 subscriptions taken, 49 missionary visits, 36 Bible readings, 32 hours Christian help work. This work was done in Singapore, Malacca, Johore, Riouw, Tampin, and Medan, Sumatra.

The enrolment is now one hundred seventeen for this year. Twenty-five students have been baptised. We are very glad to have Miss Mead with us, for it will allow me to spend more time with the ministerial classes. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts in His work.

K. M. ADAMS.

She Sleeps until the Resurrection

A card from Sister Wood from East Java, received a short time ago, tells me that poor old Saripah has closed her eyes in death. Saripah is a Javanese woman who came out from Mohammedanism, and who learned to love our dear Saviour and this precious truth. It may be of interest to you to know a little of the history of Saripah, and how the mighty power of God can change the hardest of hearts, and make them like Jesus.

Saripah was one of the women from a colony of poor, sick people that we had charge of for several years. She was not good looking by any means, and she had the queerest, stubborn, and most disagreeable disposition of any human being I have ever seen, consequently no one liked her; but one could read on her countenance that there was a real longing for friendship and sympathy. Oh, how many poor souls there are in the world to-day, with the same longing desire, yearning for a little sympathy just like this unfortunate one.

At night when I would sit quietly in my little bamboo hut, studying hard at that difficult language, Saripah would creep in quietly and squat down on the ground floor in the doorway. After a few nights she would come still nearer and sit right beside me, and finally bend her head over into my lap. Often she would look right up into my face with a pleasant smile, saying, "Koelo tresno sampejan" (I love you). I could not in return express to her in words that Jesus had placed His love in my heart for her, but I would show it by stroking her hard, black hair, that was shining from the daily smearing on of old rancid coconut oil.

This poor unfortunate soul, who had been friendless and so very unhappy in this world, began to be brighter and happier. Her former gloomy life was changed little by little, and she learned to love the One who through infinite love had given His life for her. It was not long until she gave up her filthy betel nut habit, and so many, many other bad habits that she possessed, and became neat and clean in her work.

She has been with us for nine years. The last two years we have had to isolate her up near our mountain home, because the bronchial cough she had for years finally turned into consumption.

When I visited her a year and a half ago she was so happy to see me. She was weak and could walk only a short distance, and this with great effort, but she would come struggling along daily, and offer to make some clothes for me. Even now when I look at the neat button-holes, and all the fine stitches of love that she made with her thin shaky hands, tears come to my eyes. A great change had come into her life, so quiet and gentle.

When I was about to leave she came again and again to me saying, "Koelo adjeng nderek ndoro" (I

want to follow mistress, I want to follow you until I die). I said, "No, Saripah, you can not follow me now; we have to go through the bitterness of parting here below in this land of death, and sorrows. You must plead earnestly to be covered with the perfect and pure garment of Christ's righteousness and become like Him, then soon we shall meet in that glorious home where we shall have the joy of being together always. There you will have a strong and perfect body, reflecting the beauty of our Redeemer. He will place a glorious crown upon your head more brilliant than the beaming sun."

The long years of Saripah's suffering, which she has borne so patiently, is now ended. She sleeps in Jesus, awaiting the glorious resurrection morning that is soon to take place, when the King of kings shall appear in His glory, with all His holy angels. Then shall also Saripah's grave be opened, and she will be called forth clothed with immortality. Then I hope to have the joy of clasping her hand in mine, and there together, without once hearing that sad word of good-bye throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, we shall sing praises to Him who has redeemed us. What a joyful anticipation!

PETRA TUNHEIM.

Trip to Tsinan Fu

From a recent letter to Brother Porter from Brother O. A. Hall, who with Brother K. H. Wood has been making a trip to Tsinan Fu, we pass on the following: "Tsinan Fu (the city of a thousand springs), the capital of Shantung, with a population of 350,000, is one of the most ancient places in Shantung, beautifully situated between mountains, near the Yellow river, and is one of the cleanest places in China. Although during the last ten years many foreigners have lived here, Tsinan Fu has kept its old Chinese character up to the present time. The same old walls, an interior one and an exterior one, which surrounded the city 1,000 years ago, are still standing to-day. The same ancient custom of closing the city gates at night is still observed. The surrounding mountains are of volcanic origin and old temples are situated on nearly every one. The mountains are covered with cypress and juniper trees.

"In the city there are also the 'Holy Springs,' and various interesting monuments, a rich collection of stone reliefs of the Han Dynasty, etc.

"West-Tsinan is to quite a large extent a foreign city. It has fine roads, electric lights, etc. It is owned by the Chinese Government and is being leased to foreign business firms on a thirty years lease in lots such as may be desired. There are many fine buildings erected here, among which are consulates, hospitals, banks, railway offices, foreign stores, and residences.

"The churches are quite well united here in the city and have some fine buildings. One is a large hospital, and they also have the finest museum I have seen anywhere in China. We visited it the other day and were much surprised at what we saw there, all home talent. We also walked out to the Yellow River and saw the large bridge across the river. It is a splendid construction. They guard it very closely these days. We were not permitted to step on it, but had to be satisfied with what we could see from the end.

"About two and one-half hours' ride on the train from here is Taishan, China's most holy mountain, and the highest mountain, in Shantung. The distance from the foot to the top is about forty li, requiring four hours to make the ascent. I understand there is also a fine summer resort on this mountain. About forty miles further south from there is Chu Fou, where is found the tomb of Confucius. In talking with those who have been here a number of years, we find that the teaching of Confucius has a strong hold upon the people, and the religious bodies have found it difficult to get a footing in this section. This is, however, not confined to the one section, but is a condition which exists to a large extent all over Shantung.

"As to the location of Tsinan, relative to the rest of the province, it is eighty miles from the northern boundary, one hundred ten miles from the southern, and about one hundred miles from the western boundary. I should judge that about one-fourth of the province lies west of the Pu Ko-Tien-sin R. R. line. From here there is a daily train service from east to west to Tsing Dao, and return."

Japan

It is always a pleasant occasion when Pastor De-Vinney stops off to see us on his travels. This time he found us in the midst of our tent effort. While the cold nights have greatly diminished our attendance, still a number come every night regularly. The meetings have been quite a benefit to a number who have been studying the truth for some time. Four of these received the rite of baptism during Elder De-Vinney's visit. We were all greatly benefited by a short series of studies on the subject of organization. A few more converts are ready for baptism, but were either absent or physically disabled at the time.

One of those who received baptism is a young man who gives promise of permanently connecting with the work in some capacity. Accordingly he has entered the mission school at Tokyo. Another is one of the oldest Christians in Hiroshima, although recently she has not been connected with any church. She rejoices in the knowledge of the truth as she has become experimentally acquainted with it. We rejoice to see these precious souls united with the remnant church, and trust that they may be the means of acquainting others with the message. A. W. ANDERSON.

Good Meetings at Fatshan

While war conditions in this province have hindered our work in most of the outstations, yet no real harm has come to our work or workers. Some of the boys from the workers' training class who were sent out to help in special efforts have had some narrow escapes, but no one has been harmed in the least.

A very successful effort was conducted at Fatshan where several student workers have assisted. At some of their street meetings large congregations were assembled by the singing of gospel songs and an excellent interest was manifested in the presentation of the Word. At these street meetings an invitation was given to all to attend the regular meetings held in our chapel, with the result that the room was filled to overflowing. Those who became much interested were made members of the Bible class which meets twice a week. This class is doing a very important work in giving a good preparation to those who expect to unite with the church there.

A new interest has been developed at Fatshan and our Sabbath services are well attended. When Pastor Meeker and myself were over there to conduct the celebration of the ordinances of the Lord's house with that church, we met a chapelful of people, and it was about the regular attendance. We had a very good meeting and one which I feel sure will prove a blessing to our brethren there. One old brother kept very busy finding songs and singing them. He hardly ever struck the right note as written in the book, but he struck one "note" which was felt through the meeting and that was CONSECRATION.

The dispensary at this place has been proving a great blessing as an agency for the spread of the Message. It is a very unpretending affair as far as size and equipment are concerned, but during the last three months Brother Wong has given 1,060 treatments and has taken in \$283.65 as receipts. All patients who come to this dispensary have an opportunity to hear the story of the Great Physician. One day each week is set apart for free treatment of those who can not pay for what they must have to relieve their distress and suffering. In order to cover the expense incurred by these free treatments, special donations are made by the Good Samaritan church at Fatshan.

Last Sabbath while we were there the Sabbath school took up a donation to pay for their quarterlies and more than reached the amount planned for. They suggested that they would use the surplus to buy more quarterlies which will be needed because of their increasing numbers.

The Lord is richly blessing the work and workers at this station, for which we thank Him.

A. L. HAM.

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China Remembered

Pastor I. H. Evans writes in a letter to Pastor Porter thus:—"How I would like to be with you in China to visit the entire field in company with yourself. I think of the Far East very often. I think of the various stations where men are located, and try to enter into their work with all the sympathy that I used to when I was there. I certainly did enjoy my work in the East, and many times have wished I could see the workers once again.

"It seems to me you have been doing stunts over there in making progress. The brethren have done splendid work during the last three years. I do not know how anything could be more encouraging. I only wish we had more money and more men to place in the Asiatic field."

With reference to education he says, "More and more I am convinced that the educational work in these fields must be pushed to the front, and men who are set apart for the ministry and colporteur work should take training in our central training school. I look upon the educational work, and especially the training of workers, as of primary importance from now on in the Eastern field."

Of the publishing work he writes, "I have been greatly pleased with the progress you are making in the sale of our denominational literature. I look for a sale of literature in the East that will astonish all of us."

NOTES

We learn that Brother and Sister E. H. James are the parents of a baby girl born the second of October.

Sister A. C. Selmon, M. D., is spending a few days in Shanghai on business. She reports the language school at Nanking to be making excellent progress.

Miss Petra Tunheim spent Monday, October 16, in Shanghai. Sister Tunheim has just come from the States where she has been on furlough, and is on her way to Java.

Sister M. V. Lee is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Frederick Lee, at Shanghai. Sister Frederick Lee will be joined soon by Pastor Lee, and they will start on their furlough to the homeland.

We have recently received word that Miss Olive Osborne, who was connected with the China Missions

Training School, has enrolled at the Washington Missionary College, Washington, D. C.

Having contracted a severe cold which became very persistent, Pastor J. E. Fulton thought best to return to Shanghai after the Hankow general meeting. He hopes soon to be successful in subduing the malady, and to attend the meetings in the North.

Brother H. W. Barrows, treasurer and auditor of the Asiatic Division Conference, is making a trip to South China and the Philippine Islands in the interests of his work. Sister Barrows accompanied him as far as Canton.

A bank note to the value of ten pounds has come through the Strathfield office for the work in China and India; the donor expresses the hope that it may be a little help in carrying the message to the millions in that part of the world. An offering of one pound has also come to hand from one signed "S. M. A." for the Java Mission. For both of these offerings we take this opportunity of expressing sincere thanks.

Pastor Frederick Lee writes: "We are now getting ready for the Honan general meeting. Word from our various outstations states that about 300 will be coming to the meeting. This will be by far the largest meeting we have ever had, and I do believe that the blessing of the Lord will be upon it. Doctor Davenport has visited many of the stations with me, and has gotten in touch with the work in general."

Referring to a wealthy lady in Chicago, who accepted the truth through a tract handed to her in the street, a letter from the periodical department of the *Review* office says: "She ordered six thousand copies of the *Review Extra* to be sent to her weekly for the full twenty-four numbers, and employed clerks to wrap and send them out with letters. Last week she duplicated her order, beginning with the first numbers again, so she is now having twelve thousand copies sent to her weekly." This shows how our literature is valued by one who has but recently become acquainted with it.—*Australasian Record*.

Sister B. Peterson writes of how happy they are at the prospect of soon getting into their new houses which are nearing completion. She says, "We certainly feel thankful for the kind hearts that have made it possible for us to have these houses, and to the General Conference for doing their part in sending the money to us." Last year we had a real day of thanksgiving, for Brother and Sister Gjording came that day, and so did the organ for the chapel. This year we hope to be in our houses by that time, so we indeed have reason for rejoicing. Sister Gjording is beginning to use the language, teaching the children that gather from Sabbath to Sabbath. For want of other helps she uses 'Gospel Primer' and finds the children's interest growing in Bible stories, and in learning the commandments."