

Asiatic Division Outlook

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TRUE MISSIONARIES: THEIR CALL AND THEIR WORK

Selections from a "Review and Herald" editorial by W. W. Prescott

A MISSIONARY is one who is sent by another. This is the meaning of the word. The missionary spirit is the spirit that desires to be sent. This is the spirit of the gospel. One who has the missionary spirit is listening for the call, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" and then promptly responds, "Here am I; send me."

The Great Missionary

Jesus regarded Himself as one who was sent to represent another. Over and over again He used the expressions, "The Father which hath sent Me," and, "He that sent Me." Such a form of reference to His Father occurs over twenty times in the Gospel of John alone. While it was the desire of Jesus to be sent to this world as its Redeemer, yet His will was so completely submitted to the will of His Father that He did not come of Himself. He was sent by His Father, and He was sent to represent His Father. He said, "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."

The Missionary Commission

When Jesus had finished His work which He had been sent to do, He commissioned His followers to represent Him in the work of saving men. His words are, "As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." And His parting command was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." The followers of Jesus are missionaries, persons who are sent to represent another. This distinguishes them from those who go without being sent by the Lord, and who represent only themselves. The apostle Paul understood this commission, and regarded himself as a representative of Jesus and so completely identified with Him that he applied to himself the prophecy to the Messiah and His work. In justifying his turning to the Gentiles with the gospel message after the Jews at Antioch in Pisidia had refused to receive it, he used the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 49:6, saying, "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." The life of Jesus was so fully manifested in the apostle Paul that he became a

light of men and for salvation to all. Thus the Saviour of the world carries forward His work of salvation through men who by their union with Him become saviours of others.

The Missionary Work

The primary work of the missionary is to represent the One who has sent him. In reality this is his only work. There is much done by those who profess to be missionaries which is in no sense missionary work. One is not necessarily a missionary, and is not necessarily doing missionary work, simply because he has gone to a distant country to work under the direction of some board or conference. Those only are genuine missionaries, and are doing missionary work, whom the Lord has sent, and who really represent the Lord in their daily life and in the character of their work. Those who represent themselves and work according to their own ways, are not the Lord's missionaries, although they may be called missionaries by men. The true missionaries can say: "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ as though Christ did beseech you by us: we pray you, *in Christ's stead*, be ye reconciled to God." Such missionary work as this is possible only when Christ dwells in the heart by faith. Paul's experience as a missionary was the natural result of Paul's experience as a Christian, which he expressed in these words: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ that liveth in me." And this is the only basis of successful missionary work. We cannot of ourselves imitate the life of Christ. We can represent Him only as He dwells in us and reveals Himself through us. "It pleased God . . . to reveal His Son to me, that I might preach Him among the heathen." The man who has the same kind of Christian experience as the apostle Paul had, will have the same kind of missionary experience as he had. "Of the apostles of Christ it is written, 'They went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.' Still the heavenly universe is waiting for channels through which the tide of mercy may flow throughout the world. The same power that the apostles had is now for those who will do God's

service." The cry is coming up from many a field, "Come over . . . and help us." Some hearts have been touched by this call, and have said, "Here am I; send me." And still the Lord is calling for genuine missionaries for the work nigh and afar off.

The Missionary as a Handler of Trust Funds

THE erection and maintenance of schools, hospitals, and printing presses, and the employment of native helpers, involve the handling of considerable sums. This money goes from the board to the treasurer of the mission and is by him paid out through the station treasurers to the individual missionaries, who, in turn, disburse it for the work that is under their immediate care. The boards have, of course, certain rules governing these expenditures. They provide blank forms for this purpose, and they expect a strict accounting, certified by an auditing committee and approved by the mission.

Missionaries sometimes complain about these rules, and occasionally one is offended by them. The difficulty ordinarily is that such a missionary has gone to the field directly from a theological or other professional school with little or no business training. Unaccustomed to the methods of business life, he chafes under the "red tape" that is required of him. We knew a missionary who, when asked to sign a receipt, indignantly inquired whether the board distrusted him. It is unfortunate when a missionary is so ignorant of business principles and methods.

The missionary is, in an important sense, a business man, charged with fiduciary responsibilities. The fact that he is a missionary does not absolve him from those obligations that rest upon those who administer trust funds anywhere else. No degree of piety or devotion can take the place of straightforward business habits. No man is morally justified in handling other people's money as a trustee, without taking the precautions that are accepted by business men everywhere as indispensable to the intelligent and safe conduct of such enterprises. The boards have a right to demand vouchers for all missionary expenditures, and they are forced to have them, for those expenditures are checked over by auditing committees.

Everything about a missionary's financial methods should be above the suspicion of carelessness. He should be conscientious in making out the estimates for his work, and his associates should be equally conscientious in passing upon them. He should never borrow mission funds, except in health emergencies, and then only in ways authorized by the rules of the board and approved by the mission. The mission or station treasurer who accommodates missionaries by personal loans of the money commit-

ted to his care is guilty of a breach of trust, and the missionary who asks him to do so shares in the wrong. A broad distinction should be observed between personal and mission funds, and any use of the latter that would be improper in a bank cashier is improper in a mission treasurer. A great enterprise cannot be wisely conducted without business rules, and when a missionary is called upon to observe them, he should not imagine that the board has any want of confidence in him.—*Dr. A. J. Brown, in "The Foreign Missionary," pp. 137-139.*

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Power in the Word of God

WE often read with interest the changes that were wrought in the lives of men by the Word of God in Bible times. But to-day miracles of grace are seen as in times gone by. God's Spirit is working upon the hearts of men now in many places, to bring them back to Him. Our hearts are often made to rejoice here in the Philippines as we behold some of these works of God.

A little over a year ago one of our canvassers sold some books containing Bible studies to the people of Paete, and then passed on. Two families studied the books very carefully, and compared them with the Bible. After several months they decided to leave their wicked life, and to follow the Lord. From week to week these two families studied and prayed together. At the end of six months they came to Manila, desiring baptism. After several days' instruction, they were baptized, and with joy returned to their homes. They then began to work for their friends and neighbors, and soon we learned that they had established a Sabbath-school. It was not long before their tithes and Sabbath-school offerings began to come to our office. They worked and prayed until their membership grew to thirteen. At our last conference, five came to Manila for baptism. The word of God, without the help of human instrumentalities, has caused these men to leave the cockpit, to give up their tobacco and vices, and to follow the Lord against much opposition.

In the town of Gapan, a young man bought a book, and after reading it, felt convicted to leave his wicked life and follow the Lord. He battled with his evil vices for several months before victory came. Although all alone and amidst the opposition of his parents, he decided to obey the Lord in all things. He is now one of our evangelistic colporteurs. A happier man you cannot find than he while bringing the words of life to those who are still in darkness. The great change that has been wrought in his life since he decided to obey is a marvel, even to himself.

While at Luta a man from Sto. Tomas happened to enter one of our meetings. The words spoken there continued to ring in his ears. He soon decided to walk eight or ten kilometers back to Luta that he might learn more about the Bible. This he continued to do for many nights. After he had learned for himself, he began to tell his friends at home. As the result of the word of God working in his life, changing him from a very wicked man to a child of God, we now have eight or nine believers at Sto. Tomas. The last time I visited Luta, this brother besought me most earnestly many times, to send a worker to his town that the people might be fully instructed.

L. V. FINSTER.

The Institute at Amoy, South China

THE institute for the workers in the Fukien Province was held at Amoy, commencing Tuesday, February 26, and closing Tuesday, March 12. It was expected that several days more would be devoted to this work, but the boat schedules made it necessary to change the program.

There were present Brethren W. C. Hankins and F. E. Bates and their wives, of Amoy, with Chinese evangelists from that part of the province; Brethren J. P. Anderson and D. E. Rebok and their wives, of Swatow, with their Chinese workers; and Brother C. H. Morris and wife, and Brother N. P. Keh and several evangelists from Foochow. The total number in attendance was between thirty and forty.

We had a good time together. There was an earnest desire on the part of all to make the most of the opportunity in obtaining new views of the message of truth and a new personal experience in fellowship with the great Teacher of the truth. Time was given each day for study and prayer, and for a thorough review of the instruction given. This proved to be a valuable feature of the meeting. As there were no conference or committee meetings, all the workers were able to give their undivided attention to the truths presented in the studies, and the results were manifest. All rejoiced in the blessed truths of the special message for this time, and returned to their various fields of labor with fresh courage, with revived hope, and with new plans for making known the truth to others.

During the second week of the institute the school resumed its work with the largest attendance since it was opened. Brother Bates, the principal, is putting forth earnest efforts to make the school a blessing to the students personally and a recruiting base for supplying workers for the field.

After a stay of about twelve years in China, Brother and Sister B. L. Anderson left Amoy for America the opening day of the institute for a well-earned furlough in America. The prayers and good

wishes of all their associates in this field will follow them.

It was almost exactly eleven years between my first and second visits to Amoy, and the changes were quite marked. So far as I remember, Brethren W. C. Hankins and N. P. Keh were the only workers then in the field who attended this institute. There has been a large increase in the number of believers during these years.

I earnestly hope that the blessings received at this institute will be carried to many who do not know the glad tidings of a crucified and risen Saviour, and that there may be a greater ingathering of souls in the Fukien Province as the result of this time spent in study and prayer.

W. W. PRESCOTT.



Students of the Foochow school in training for evangelical work, and their teacher.

West Java Mission

THE work in our field is onward. We are glad to report the arrival of five of our boys from the training school in Singapore. They have come to enter the canvassing field, so long neglected for lack of laborers. A sixth canvasser surprised us when he called upon us yesterday. This was our Chinese boy, who has attended the training school for almost two years, and whom we thought to be still in Singapore. He handed us 266 addresses of Chinese persons who had subscribed to the Chinese *Signs of the Times*. As I went over the list with him and counted the addresses, I wondered if he would be able to pay the several hundred guilders required to meet such an obligation. I was happily surprised when he handed me three one-hundred guilder bills, and paid the sum of 320 guilders in one lump (.4 of this amount is the amount in gold). His face beamed with joy as he paid in the fruits of his work, and I was very happy myself. The addresses indicated that he had been from one end of Java to the other.

When we first sent this boy to school we did not think he would make a canvasser, but rather expected him to become a Bible-worker. We praise God for this victory. The future looks bright to us since the canvassers have come, and we believe that an abundant harvest of souls will be reaped as the result of the faithful work of these young men. Pray for the work in Java.

I. C. SCHMIDT.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

The Singapore Training School

Christian Education

THE omniscience of God, His infinite knowledge, His illimitable vision, indicate to us the boundary lines of Christian education, the beginnings of which we have but faintly discerned. The telescope illustrates in some measure how broad and yet how minutely great is the knowledge of God, and how narrow and greatly minute is that which man calls knowledge. On a mountain near Shanghai is a large telescope through which one can see down the mountainside and across the plains, and, following the narrow paths with the eye, can distinguish and pick out the travelers upon them. The telescope brings within the range of the human eye objects otherwise invisible. True learning, like the telescope, gives a clearer vision and a broader outlook upon life.

Knowledge is broader and deeper than many realize. Education is a term often used, but its full sense is rarely grasped. God is the foundation of education; He is the Author and Finisher of knowledge. In Christian education is included "every good gift and every perfect gift" that "cometh down from the Father of lights." This is the education which we all need.

M. G. CONGER.

ON the fifteenth of January, 1915, the Singapore Training School opened with an attendance of thirty-six. The enrolment for 1915 was eighty-two. In 1916 the enrolment was one hundred twenty-two; while in 1917 it reached one hundred forty-four. The number of teachers has increased from two to six, and we are still in urgent need of another teacher who can help in teaching Bible to the training classes.

The school has prospered financially. In 1915 the amount received for tuition was \$450.78, gold; in 1916, \$676.63, gold; and in 1917, \$903.40. In Singapore, the British government gives a subsidy to recognized schools. This subsidy—of which there are three classes—is based upon the average daily attendance. Our school receives the second-class subsidy. In 1915, we received from the government \$217.01; in 1916, \$300.11; and in 1917, \$404.87. These figures are in gold. In 1915 the income of the school was 15.36 per cent of the gross expenses; in 1916, 22.44 per cent; and in 1917, 29.98 per cent. From this it can be seen that the school is gradually reaching up toward self support.

The school is divided into three departments: Malay, Chinese, and English. In the Malay and Chinese departments, the students prepare for work among their own people. Practically all the schools



Present home of the Singapore Training School. It is hoped that within two years permanent quarters can be provided for the Malaysian Union Conference Training School in Singapore

in the Straits Settlements are conducted in the English language, as that is the language of the government. Our church-school work is carried on in this language, and students prepare for the work of translating, and for office and press work. Those in the English department take the government examinations. Of the forty-two from our school who have sat for government examinations in the last three years, all but five have passed.

The subjects taught in the English department are in grades one to ten. In the Malay and Chinese departments, grades eight to eleven are carried. It is rather difficult to conduct three departments in the same school, as they are wholly separate, almost like three distinct schools; but the Lord has blessed us.

Twenty-three students have gone from the training school to work in the harvest field. Several are in the ministry; others are in Bible work; while others are teaching and canvassing. As a result of the labors of these students, about thirty souls have already been won to the truth. The reports coming from the directors of the fields show that these former students are doing earnest, faithful work.

During the three years of the school's existence forty-seven of the students have been baptized, and several in Singapore have accepted the truth as a result of the labors of the teachers and students. Each Wednesday at the chapel hour, the English-speaking pupils conduct a missionary meeting. The Malay and Chinese students have separate organizations, and all carry on aggressive work. Practically all of the young men spend a portion of their time in canvassing in the city, and during vacation they go out to neighboring provinces to carry on this work.

There are many nationalities represented in the school. Among these are three kinds of Chinese, Tamil, Chingalese, Bongali, Battak, European, Eurasian, Monadonese, Javanese, Malay, and Amboynese. These pupils come from British North Borneo, Dutch Borneo, Timor, Celebes, Java, Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, and China. The Malaysian field is well represented in the school.

More than fifty live in the school home. Worship is conducted in Malay at one hour and in Chinese at another. With so many nationalities it is impossible to set a common boarding table, so the students cook for themselves, club together and employ one of their number to do the cooking, or board with some of the married couples in the home.

The school is well supplied with desks, blackboards, and other equipment. The library has eleven hundred volumes in English, Chinese, and Malay. At present we are located in a rented building, which is not suitable. The rent is excessive—\$100, gold, per month. The school has an important

work to do in training workers for the Malaysian field, and we hope that in the near future funds can be granted for the buying of property and the erecting of a school-house that will be better adapted to our needs.

It is fitting that we express our appreciation of the loyalty and unselfishness of the teachers, and of the faithful work done by them; and most of all, that we express our thankfulness to God for His help and blessings. We ask that the prayers of our people may join with those of the workers connected with the school, that many students may go forth from this institution to reap bountifully in this part of the harvest field.

K. M. ADAMS.

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Consecration Day in Kalgoorlie, West Australia

THE Sabbath-school consecration service at the close of last quarter was truly a season of rich blessing to the church in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. When the call for consecration was made, nearly all present rose to their feet. All were asked to be seated except the children, and they were invited to speak a word for Jesus. It was good to hear them testify, one after the other. Those who seemed at a loss for words were asked to say a line of the hymn.

"I will early seek the Saviour,
I will learn of Him each day;
I will follow in His footsteps,
I will walk the narrow way."

One repeated the first line, another the second, and so on until all had spoken. There was hardly a dry eye in the company. They then sang the hymn through.

Next the young people were called upon to rise and testify to the Lord's goodness. You would have rejoiced to hear some of them speak. After they had been given an opportunity to speak, they sang the hymn, "Lord, I'm Coming Home." How our hearts thrilled as their sweet young voices sang those touching words, we firmly believe, from their hearts.

Then the older members were given an opportunity to speak. I wish I could give you word for word some of the testimonies. The Spirit of God worked mightily on the hearts of both old and young. This is the first time some of our children and youth have testified in meeting, and we feel they have gained a signal victory. And not only they, but some of our new Sabbath-keepers among the older ones spoke for the first time.

One man seventy-eight years of age, who has smoked ever since he was a lad of fourteen or fifteen, took a definite stand in regard to his pipe. This had been a stumbling-block to him for some time. His testimony rejoiced our hearts; we have prayed

for him for so long. He is fully determined now, and we know the Lord will be near to help him in his struggles to break this habit. This brother testified that he had been in meetings in the early days of Methodism in England, where the Spirit of God was so manifest that the building seemed to shake, but he had felt the workings of the Spirit even more in this meeting, and it was the best he had ever attended.

The offering on that day is a record one for our school. Our people not only praised God in word, but also in deed.

We had indeed a blessed time and a great spiritual uplift, and I am sure it is a day that will live in the memory of many for all time. However, the blessings of to-day will not suffice us for to-morrow, and I am sure all, as their testimonies expressed, are determined to go on and gain deeper and richer blessings as the days go by.

R. BRITTEN.

DIVISION NOTES

FOR three weeks or more our mission workers in Shensi were wholly cut off from the world without, because of roving robber bands, numbering hundreds of irresponsible outlaws, stopping all lines of communication into the province, including the government post roads. In several places in North China, persons are being captured and held for a ransom. A merciful Providence is overshadowing our workers, although they were brought into a very strait place during the time the gates of Sinan were closed and all communication was cut off from the outside world.

PASTOR F. A. ALLUM returned from Wenchow, Chekiang Province, March 25, and went on to the headquarters of the North China Union at Hankow, the 27th. He reports excellent meetings in Wenchow and in surrounding country districts. Many are studying the scriptures and seeking for the light which God always causes to shine from the sacred page when men inquire after Him with full purpose of heart. Pastor Allum promises detailed reports of his visit, with photographs, at an early date.

CONDITIONS in many parts of China make difficult the sale of gospel literature. In many places where our colporteurs have been laboring, the revolution has been taken advantage of by irresponsible bands of robbers who know no law, save that of force. Along the Yellow River in North China, many are suffering from a scarcity of food because of the heavy floods of last fall. In some parts famine prevails. Noble efforts are being put forth by the Chinese Christian Church of all denominations for the relief

of the sufferers. Very little can be done by the colporteurs in such places. Writing of these conditions, Brother H. M. Blunden, Field Missionary Secretary of the North China Union, says:

"I have just returned from a trip to Houan in the interest of our colporteur work. At present this line of work is extremely low in our union, owing to the condition of revolution which exists in many parts of the country, and where revolution is not the trouble, our colporteurs seem to be unable to work on account of the robber bands, which are springing up in every direction and taking advantage of the situation. This is certainly a hard country in which to conduct this line of work, and yet we know that the Lord is in it, and it must go. We have faith and courage to believe that in spite of these conditions, it is largely through the printed page that the message will be given to China."

In the Central-Southern Luzon Conference five tent companies are at work in as many different places. Recent correspondence from the Philippines indicates that the brethren conducting these meetings are having a splendid hearing, and are hopeful of a goodly harvest of souls. Despite hot weather now prevailing in those parts, Pastor Finster is endeavoring to keep close to the evangelists by going from company to company and strengthening their evangelistic campaign in every way possible. Last year the baptisms in the Philippine Union totalled 301. Shall we not pray that the faith of our brethren who are planning for much larger results the present year, may be abundantly honored of God?

"MANY souls are stepping out on to the side of truth as a result of the tent missions that are being conducted in Victoria," writes Brother P. G. Foster, secretary of the Victorian Conference, with headquarters at Melbourne. He also reports the securing of a good location for the Victorian camp-meeting which was held during February. The camp-meeting season in the Australasian Union runs from October to March.

OUR mission workers in Tsinan, Shantung Province, China, were compelled to face a most serious situation because of the outbreak of pneumonic plague in that city. Some cases developed close by our mission compound. Special meetings were in progress at the time of the outbreak of the epidemic, and the authorities, in their efforts to check the spread of the plague, requested that no further meetings be held. Brother J. W. Hall, in charge of the Shantung work, was glad to unite with his associates in co-operating heartily with the authorities.

The papers report that the plague has been stamped out in that city. Trains are now stopping regularly as before in the chief cities of Shantung.

Refugees from Plague-stricken Nanking

ON the morning of March 21 the workers in the Asiatic Division compound were glad to afford shelter to our threemission families who have been compelled to flee from our Nanking station on account of the prevalence of pneumonic plague in that city. Knowledge of the outbreak of the plague in Nanking had reached us the day before, and we thought best to counsel the Nanking workers by wire to come down to Shanghai, where they would be more favorably situated. An excellent property for our mission compound had been purchased, but no homes have been erected thereon; and in the present rented quarters, where our workers are compelled to live, the surrounding sanitary conditions are unfavorable, especially when an epidemic such as the plague is raging.

Our friends from Nanking have been assigned a house by themselves in our compound, where they are kept isolated until the passing of the customary few days of quarantine. It is problematical when they will be able to return to their field of labor. Pastor Doolittle, in charge of the Anhwei-Mission, is itinerating in districts far removed from telegraphic communication.

The health officers of Shanghai are co-operating with Nanking officials in an attempt to stay the ravages of the plague in that city, and to prevent its spread to other cities in the Yangtse valley. It will be nothing short of a miracle if by the most stringent measures the plague can be kept from breaking out in Wuhu, Kukiang, Hankow, Soochow, and Shanghai. Thousands of refugees have sought immunity by finding temporary quarters in these and many other cities along the Yangtse river, and but few are kept in quarantine. As the editor of a local daily has observed, "Shanghai is confronted with a grave menace, graver than any in years." Prompt measures have been taken by local officials to safeguard the health interests of the city. All the heavy local traffic between Shanghai and Nanking has been stopped, and it is just possible that the dread disease so close to our doors can be kept from entering this city. But whatever the future may bring, God's children may calmly pursue their appointed work, knowing that He who rules in the heavens has a compassionate care for those that are His.

A Thousand Baptisms During 1917

THE statistical reports already received from various union conferences comprising the Asiatic Division, indicate that in Japan, Chosen, Manchuria, China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Burma, and India,

there were during 1917 nearly if not quite a thousand persons baptized and admitted into full Christian fellowship with us. Half as many more were baptized in the Australasian Union Conference. For this record we thank God, and take courage. Surely the Lord has been blessing the efforts of His servants in lands where the truths of the gospel are so little known.

This record of conversions and baptisms, while properly a cause for rejoicing, should at the same time be counted as a solemn call to us, individually and as a body of believers, for renewed consecration and zeal and for a humbling of heart because of our seeming inability to achieve far greater victories for God and His truth. Surely the call of the hour is for a closer walk with God, in order that in the fullest possible sense we may be living channels of grace divine. Thus, and only thus, may we hope for full success in our endeavors to lead the honest in heart to a knowledge of Jesus as their Creator and Redeemer. We may profitably meditate, with all seriousness and with much prayer, on what God would be pleased to see wrought in and through us, to the glory of His name and the upbuilding of His kingdom, in these lands during the year 1918.

Liberal Grants for Publishing Work

DURING the constituency meeting of the Review and Herald Publishing Association held February 13, 1918, liberal grants from accrued profits were made by the association for the translation and illustration of gospel literature in Oriental vernaculars and in the languages of other lands. For these purposes, funds totalling \$2,000 were assigned to the Asiatic Division. \$1,000 to the South American Division, and \$1,000 for Africa. A further grant of \$3,000 for strengthening the publishing work in the Asiatic Division along other lines was made. The Review and Herald constituency took an action recommending that during 1918 a grant of \$10,000 from profits be made in behalf of publishing enterprises in needy mission fields. The benefits that will come to the Asiatic Division and to other fields from these grants, are immeasurable.

We rejoice in the prosperity that has attended the Review and Herald Publishing Association during the past two years. With the price of materials as they are to-day, and with unsettled world conditions, it is not to be expected that the profits of former years can be realized henceforth. This makes all the more munificent the grant of the sums named from reserve funds. May heaven's richest blessing continue to attend this oldest of all our institutions in the States.

C. C. CRISLER.

THE ASIATIC DIVISION OUTLOOK

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BROTHER AND SISTER G. A. WOOD sailed March 1 from Java, on furlough to Australia.

AN addition is being made to the dispensary in Kalyan, Bombay Presidency, India. The dispensary work in this place is prospering, the small staff of workers having all they can do to keep up with the demands of this growing enterprise.

HERE are some interesting figures recently received from Pastor W. B. White, president of the South African Union Conference:

"During the last quadrennial period the cause has made good advancement in Africa. Recently 317 natives have received the truth, and have united with the church. In 1917 there will be more than this number. Our native membership here now is very nearly 1,100, and the white membership is 1,000. During the last four years our finances have also had an encouraging increase; the total tithe for 1913 was \$42,550; in 1916 this had increased to \$70,200. Our offerings to foreign missions in 1913 were \$3,920; in 1919, \$5,312. Book sales four years ago were \$9,000, and in 1916 they were \$30,665. We are of good courage in this field, and are endeavoring to push the work forward in this field with all the vigor possible. We are just now engaged in changing our school, which has been in existence for twenty-five years at Claremont, to a country location in Natal. This will make 1918 a very busy year for us."

The General Conference Session

DURING the days remaining while our brethren from various lands are conferring together in San Francisco regarding the extension of the gospel message of salvation to the ends of the earth, it is our privilege to pray most earnestly that their vision may be clear, their faith firm, and their courage strong. The conditions prevailing to-day are such as to daunt the stoutest heart whose trust is not in Jehovah of hosts. Only in proportion as we recognize God as the great Leader of our missionary advance, have we naught to fear. As laborers together with Him we may preach the Word with holy boldness, however forbidding the circumstances we are compelled to face during these troublous times. So let us continue to present before the throne of grace our petitions in behalf of those who are now laying plans having so vital a bearing on our work throughout the world.

The Fireside Correspondence School

CORRESPONDENCE schools have fully demonstrated their value. Thousands of people in the home lands have been benefitted by them. They are becoming numerous in China. Already thousands of Chinese are enrolled, and these students are found in every province, and even as far inland as the mountains of Tibet. Missionaries are enrolling for various courses. Why should not our missionaries, English-speaking workers, lay members, and young people, more fully recognize the value of the Fireside Correspondence School conducted by this denomination? Enroll for at least one subject, and be convinced.

We have received from the principal of the Fireside Correspondence School the following notice, to which we invite your especial attention:

Study at Home

"If you cannot attend one of our training schools, why not form the habit of studying at home. The Fireside Correspondence School will teach you how. Elder A. G. Daniells, president of the General Conference, says, 'I believe your school is conferring an unspeakable benefit upon our people.' Let us tell you more about this matter. Address C. C. Lewis, principal, Takoma Park, D. C." S. L. FROST.

Thirteenth Sabbath Returns for the Publishing Work

A RECENT communication from Sister L. Flora Plummer, secretary of the General Conference Sabbath-school Department, brings us the most encouraging word that up to March 6 the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering made by our brethren and sisters throughout the world, the last Sabbath of 1917, for the creation of working capitals for our publishing houses in Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Manila, Singapore, and Lucknow, had reached the sum of \$42,292.99. This is \$12,000 and more above the \$30,000 which had been named as a minimum. Further returns from foreign fields not heard from at the time Sister Plummer wrote, will swell the total a little.

By pre-arrangement, the overflow from this offering is to be used in increasing proportionately the minimum amounts named as a necessary working capital for each of the publishing houses established within our boundaries. The possibilities wrapped up in a wise and continuous use of these funds, are well-nigh limitless. We rejoice in the added strength that will henceforth be ours in connection with our efforts to speed the message of present truth through the medium of the printed page all through these lands of the Far East. We know that our brethren and sisters in the home lands are rejoicing with us in the substantial benefits promised by these good working capitals so bountifully provided for the spread of gospel truth in printed form.