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TAKE A FRESH START

I. H. EVANS

WHAT a glorious privilege, that life offers us many opportunities of taking "a fresh start."

The man who starts afresh is never defeated. Only when we say we can not, and so do not try, can it be said, "There is no hope."

Again and again in the affairs of life, we have to take "a fresh start."

When misfortunes come, and losses and ruin stare us in the face, we "take a fresh start." Instead of saying, "It is of no use to go on; I can not succeed," the brave-hearted man will roll up his sleeves, wipe the sweat from his brow, and try again.

We often say, "He who will not surrender knows no defeat." So it is in every walk of life. The obstacles we meet are often not so much hindrances as they are God's grindstones to sharpen our faculties for better service. The man who fails is he who is unwilling to do battle over again. An individual suffers everlasting failure if, when confronted by obstacles, he refuses to gird up his loins and take "a fresh start."

The earnest Christian takes "a fresh start" every new day. His mistakes impel him to seek help from God. Every time he sins, he tries anew, and struggles to reach a higher plane.

Has any soul become discouraged in the service of God? If so, why not take "a fresh start"? It is fatal to remain away from God. A fresh start toward the kingdom is the only way of escape from eternal ruin.

Why should not God's people everywhere take "a fresh start" for the kingdom? There can never come a better time than to-day. Everything in nature, in society, in politics, yes, everything in heaven and earth invites us to take "a fresh start," for the coming of our Lord draweth nigh.

"Every day is a new beginning,
Every morn is the earth made new!
Ye who are weary of sorrow and sinning,
Here is a beautiful hope for you--
A hope for me, and a hope for you.

"Every day is a fresh beginning!
Listen, my soul, to the glad refrain,
And spite of old sorrow and older sinning,
And troubles forecast and possible pain,
Take heart with the day, and begin again."

Reports from the Field

In South China

FREDERICK GRIGGS

I have attended the annual meetings of the North Fukien, the Swatow, and the Kwangsi Missions; and if conditions make it possible for our workers to get to Canton from their respective fields, I shall also attend the Cantonese Mission meeting before going on to the Philippines the first of December.

There is a spirit of courage and progress throughout the South China Union that is very cheering. The wars and (the) rumors of wars are not stopping the efforts of either the native or foreign workers. The meeting at Foochow was interrupted by the overturning of the government and consequent street fighting. In one of these skirmishes, which took place just outside our compound, eighteen were killed. Yet we had a good meeting there.

After the meeting of the Kwangsi Mission, held at Wuchow we left on what was said to be the last boat going down the river, owing to the change of government; although we did not know this until we were on the boat. As we came down the river below Wuchow, the Kwangtung border was being closed with great rafts. However, our workers seem to have become accustomed to these conditions; so they go steadily on with their work wherever they are at all permitted to do so.

Pastor Maloney and Brother Quade with their fellow workers are of most excellent cheer in pushing the work of the North Fukien Mission. A good baptismal service was held at the close of the meeting on Sabbath afternoon. The number of baptisms this year is not far from what it was last year. Pastor Maloney has not been able to get out over his field as he did last year; but in spite of this handicap he has kept well in touch with his workers and chapels.

In the school there has been a very good spirit, and Brother Quade feels that good substantial work is being done.

The annual meeting of the South Fukien Mission had been held a few weeks previous to my visit. I attended a general meeting at Hai Lung, to which some of the workers, and members of other churches were

called. This is a small town several hours' ride up the river from Amoy, and we have an excellent interest here. At this place we dedicated a good chapel. The church here has a membership of about ninety. The evening meetings were so well attended that the police came to see about it, fearing that such large meetings might be productive of government disturbances. At the last meeting fifteen stood to signify their desire to continue the study of the truth. This number of persons with perhaps an equal number of others who are studying, makes about thirty persons with whom our evangelist and Bible women are working.

The school work at Amoy is going steadily forward, though Brother Carman tells of the efforts of student organizations to get control of it.

At Swatow a beautiful new chapel was dedicated. This is one of the best chapels I have seen in the Division. Such a place of worship will help the growth of our work in that Mission. Provision is made for living quarters for two families, and for the church school. The conditions in the province were such that Pastor Nagel felt warranted in taking a long itinerating trip, and Mrs. Nagel with her son and daughter is planning to go with her husband.

I have had the privilege of visiting all the chapels and schools in the Cantonese Mission field save five. These we could not reach because trains or boats were not running, or from want of time. Two churches were organized. One of these is in a town near Canton, and is the result of the work of the Young Peoples' Missionary Volunteer Society of the Canton Middle School. This society has for some time conducted a mission school and evangelistic work at this place. As a consequence they now have the pleasure of seeing a well-organized church of nearly twenty members, and a flourishing school of about fifty pupils.

The cheer and courage of Pastor Ham and his workers is inspiring, and this can be said of all the workers in all the missions. While they are not permitted to go on with their regular school work in Canton, yet a strong Bible school is being conducted by Professor Wilcox and his faculty. A good elementary school is in progress also.

The Kwangsi Mission meeting was very successful, the workers being together between two and three weeks. Instruction was given in methods of work in all departments. Pastor Thomas has the hearts of his workers, and is leading them in a growing work. Our literature has been distributed and sold throughout the province, and a strong foundation has been laid for future work.

A pretty little chapel has been fitted up in Hongkong in which to hold meetings in English. Pastor Shaw has a developing work here, and it seems certain that before long we shall have a strong church center in Hongkong.

Union Mission headquarters are now being provided in Hongkong. Land suitably located has been purchased and plans drawn for the houses. Altogether our Cause is certainly onward in the South China Union Mission.

Notes from East Visayan Mission

DURING the first part of September the writer visited Baybay, Pomponan, and Albuera, baptizing twenty-three believers. On another visit a little later to Babay and Mahaplag, sixteen were baptized, five of whom were from Hindang. Mahaplag is a little town away back in the mountains about 35 kilometers from Baybay and requiring a hike of 28 kilometers, from Buena-Fista on. Although the way is difficult, we were amply repaid for the effort; for at the end of the journey we met a fine company of Sabbath-keepers who are holding up the truth before the people in a splendid way. This church was organized September 23, 1927.

Through the activities of the church over thirty have been baptized at San Antonio thus far this year. Brother Pableo Postrero and Alejandro Alquino did the work of studying with and preparing these for baptism.

At present our records show sixty baptisms in Mindanao, and with the Cagayan addition we have about seventy thus far for the conference year. May God bless Pastor Kintanar and his associates, so that by redoubled effort Mindanao may reach its goal of one hundred fifty by conference time, April 9, 1928.

Baptisms for October for the entire Mission total ninety-eight, thus increasing our membership to 1648.

Note and Comment

An Encouraging Report from Kulangsu

B. L. ANDERSON

A DAY or two ago I received a letter from one of our evangelists working at a place where a chapel has lately been opened. He writes: "On Sabbath day, October 29, our Heavenly Father greatly blessed at the meetings held in the chapel at Phu Kiong. Counting all, men, women and children, there were from seventy to eighty people present, who listened quietly and attentively to the preaching of the gospel. The seats were all filled and many stood; but strangely enough, nearly all remained through the meeting. At the close of the services invitations were given for any who wished to be listed as inquirers after the gospel. Ten persons raised their hands to signify their desire, and their names were registered as inquirers. Remember the preaching of the gospel at Phu Kiong in your prayers, and pray that a strong and zealous church may be raised up.

Though the country has been more or less disturbed by opposing political factions, yet we have endeavored to continue the preaching of the message. Quarterly meetings and other services have been conducted at the different churches and chapels. To date this year thirty-seven souls have been received into the church by baptism. Others are waiting for this rite at places farther away.

British North Borneo Annual Meeting

L. V. FINSTER

THE British North Borneo annual meeting was held at Kudat, October 1 to 10.

At this meeting it was planned to divide the British North Borneo Mission into two districts, putting in charge two of our oldest Chinese workers, thus giving Pastor Mershon more time to devote to the work of the inland tribes. Our workers returned to their homes with new courage and determination. After the meeting it was my privilege to visit some of our stations among the former head-hunting tribes of the interior of Borneo.

At Tenghilan we have a new school started among the Dusun people, and I was very much encouraged to see the interest taken by the people of that place in the school. Some very promising young people are in attendance. While at Mengattal, it was our privilege to organize our first Dusun church. This is the first church organized among this tribe by any denomination. Brother Pasariboe, who has spent nearly four years in working among the Dusuns, is now beginning to see the fruits of his labor. Arrangements were made for one of these young Dusuns to assist Brother Pasariboe in his work of carrying the message to these people who have never yet heard that Christ came to this world.

I also had the opportunity to visit our school that was started a few months ago among the Muruts, another inland tribe. This school starting with an enrollment of thirty, had some of the finest young men that I have ever seen anywhere in this field. The influ-

ence of our teacher is having a wonderful effect upon the people. Let us pray that God may greatly bless the labors of these faithful workers, and that in a short time we may see many churches, organized in the interior of Borneo.

Encouraging Words from Korea

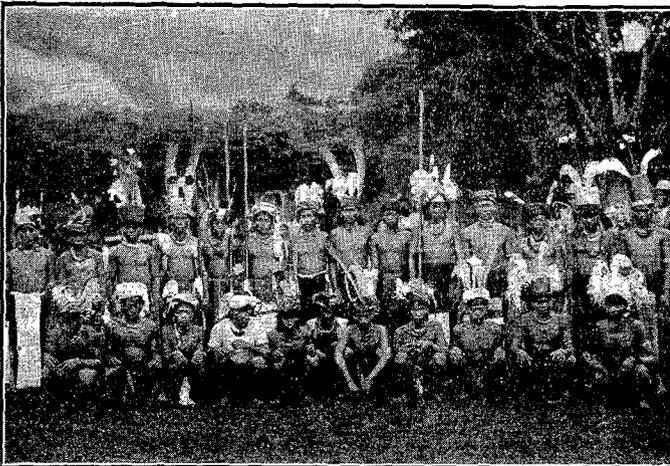
E. J. URQUHART

THE tent meeting held recently at the city of Taikyū, near Keizan, was one of the most successful that we have conducted. Thirty adults attended the church on the first Sabbath after the meeting closed. A former believer, one of the men who visited Japan in 1904 and brought the truth to Korea, after being in a backslidden condition for some sixteen years' was again baptized at Taikyū, and rejoices once more in present truth.

We found good interests at several other places, especially at Chin-ju, where five hundred yen from the extension fund, together with other money, was used in the erection of a representative little chapel. There are good prospects before us at Chen-ju, as this is one of the largest places in the south and is the center for a fairly large district.

Studying the Mongolian Language

EIGHT men have already been assigned to service in the Mongolian section of the Sungari-Mongolian Mission. Four of these, with six women, are studying the Mongolian language at the present time in the city of Hailar in the northwestern sector of the province of Heilungkiang, Manchuria. Two of the men who are at work among the Mongolians have been following a group of herdsmen during the summer and fall months, but have come back to spend the winter at their base, a considerable distance north of Hailar. One worker traveled this summer in the south and one in more distant regions of Mongolia. It is planned that following the close of the winter upon which we have entered, the laborers for Mongolia who are now studying the language shall go in groups to various sections where prospects are good for teaching the people concerning salvation through the Lord Jesus and preparation for His coming.



A group of Dusuns. Brother Finster reports the organization of the first Seventh-day Adventist church among this people.



Central China Union workers gathered at the general meeting held in Hankow November 10-20

Central China Meeting

H. W. MILLER

AT the time of the Central China Union meeting, held in Hankow from November 10-20, more than a year had passed since our brethren in Central China had had opportunity of coming together; and for nearly half of that time our workers had been in touch with the stations only through correspondence, or through reports coming from those who from time to time have come from the distant parts to such centers as Hankow and Shanghai, the latter instances having been very few. Since this field has been in the midst of the political and military storm of the past year, we having at times despaired as to the condition of our work and workers in this great Union, the privilege of attending that workers' institute surely brought courage to us all.

Previous to this meeting, Brother James had visited his old station at Kiukiang, and Brother Davis had been down to Changsha to look over the situation there and get in touch with mission work. Brethren Strickland and Hilliard had been up to Yencheng, Honan, and Brother Graham had reached his field of labor, Hupeh.

The call made to our Chinese workers to attend this general meeting at Hankow was sent out in faith, and when the day came for the opening, it found seventy-four of our leading workers present from our various church centers within the five provinces that

make up the Central China Union. All the workers except three in the northern part of Honan, three from the province of Hunan and two each from Kiangsi and Hupeh, were able to attend. These ten were cut off by war conditions, being unable to get through transportation; but all thought that it was a special act of providence that the way had been prepared for such a large group, hitherto unable to get together, to come at the date appointed. While the institute was in session, Hankow again changed governments, the one army retreating and the new Nationalists' army entering and settling in the camps around the city; and although the city was in a very great stir and confusion, our meetings went on quietly without the slightest interruption.

Brother Frederick Lee, from the Signs Press, former superintendent of the Central China Union, and Brother D. E. Rebok, together with the writer, were invited to attend the meeting. We arrived there one day late owing to delays on the Yangtze river. Pastor Lee gave one Bible study each forenoon, as well as carrying the evening service throughout the time of the Institute. Professor Rebok conducted a series of studies on *Righteousness By Faith*, which were greatly enjoyed and very instructive. The afternoons were devoted to round table discussions, testimony services, and reports.

We wish that space would permit us to report some of the interesting experiences related by our workers: for

truly many of them were experiences comparable to the trials of the Apostolic church. Throughout all the testimonies there was a strong note of courage—evidence that our church of Central China has been greatly strengthened by the trials through which it has passed.

Our attention was called to the fact that our church lost in all thirteen workers and members, who had been put to death violently by bandits, robbers, and labor organizations. An equally large group were present who had suffered at the hand of bandits and various local organizations, had been beaten, placed in prison, and in some instances, threatened with death. But these brethren had only words of praise for the sheltering care of the Lord over them during these trials. Our work seems to have suffered equally in the four provinces of Hupeh, Honan, Hunan, and Kiangsi. No single place escaped.

Pastor N. F. Brewer, superintendent of the Central China field, conducted the round table discussions, this being the first opportunity he has had of meeting with the workers of his newly appointed field. These were conducted in an interesting and helpful way; and all through the meeting not the slightest incident occurred to affect in any way the unity of the session. Through it all there was a beautiful spirit of cooperation and an earnest desire manifest for more efficient ways and means to carry forward the work

in this, the largest union mission of the world.

Plans were laid for entering new territories, and for the immediate reaching out to and strengthening of all the churches. It was arranged that Pastor James devote his entire time to field work in the Union, and also to look after the interests of the Sabbath School Department.

Pastor Liu Chung Kwang was invited to take the directorship of the Kiangsi Mission. Pastor Liu was one of those who had been put in prison. He has shown special capability in the ministry, and was considered well qualified to take this important responsibility. Mr. Tai, the present treasurer of the Hunan Mission was invited to join Pastor Liu in his work, becoming treasurer of the Kiangsi Mission. At present the Shensi Mission has no director, but Brother Chung, who has looked after the work in Shensi during the absence of our foreign workers, was made treasurer of the Shensi Mission and will temporarily care for the interests of our work there. Notwithstanding the fact that we have lost considerable in membership in this Union our losses have not been as great as was at one time anticipated. Our brethren were able at this meeting to report the addition of a number of new members and of some new companies. Thus it is evident that the spirit of the Lord is at work upon hearts.

On the afternoon of the last Sabbath a call to renewed consecration was made, to which all responded heartily, dedicating themselves, their time, strength, and energy to the finishing of the work. Then the ordinances were celebrated, the service being conducted by our local pastors. There was a unanimous expression regarding this meeting, that it was one of the best in the history of our work in Central China.

Our brethren feel that within two years, with the blessing of God, we should be able to double our membership in this Union. We have great reason for believing that the way is now opening for us to again enter upon our work in the Central China Union.

Through sincere prayer we are brought into connection with the mind of the Infinite.— *Mrs. E. G. White.*

Institute Work in Kiangsu and Chekiang

MRS. B. MILLER

AFTER an itinerating trip in the two provinces of Kiangsu and Chekiang which lasted for two months, I returned yesterday with our Bible women to Shanghai. During this time we remarked how good and kind our Heavenly Father was to us, to protect us from all harm and danger. Stopping at a few places to hold meetings with a few believers, we were three days by sedan chair in reaching our farthest station. Our dear brethren and sisters received us gladly wherever we went. The third angel's message has the same power in China as everywhere else in the world to unite His children as one family in Christ Jesus.

Though our country people were rushed with work, many gathered for daily Bible study, and we realized much of God's Holy Spirit in our midst. At one place one of our brothers came to the chapel sad in heart. He told us his son had been ill for twenty days with typhoid fever, and was dying. We knelt down before God and prayed in faith that if it were His will He would heal the boy. The next day this man sent a messenger from his home to tell us that when he returned from the prayer service he found the boy restored. Jesus is still performing miracles in the midst of His people, to make great His name among the Gentiles.

At another place one old brother related this experience: He said that on the day of fasting and prayer observed last spring, he had gone up into a high mountain and there fasted and prayed for three days. He told me during this time he neither felt hungry nor thirsty. Two years ago this old man was a devout idol worshiper. He could not read. To-day he can read his Bible and hymn book, and the love of Jesus beams forth from his face.

On the itinerary just completed I have been comforted in many ways. We can see that God is working in the hearts of these dear people, and the honest in heart are being gathered out. Ere long the last one will be gathered in, and Christ will come. Then from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, will go forth the cry, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us." May God help us to trust Him to finish the work; "for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Isa. 26:4.

Opening Work in Japanese Saghalien

H. F. BENSON

IN July of this year, two colporteurs began a systematic canvass of the island of Saghalien. Japanese Saghalien lies between parallels forty-six and fifty, and is the empire's most northern possession. A number of interested ones were found in different places, but in Shiritori (a city too new to appear on any but the most recent maps) was a company of inquirers thirsting for more light. The leader of this company was a man who had been reading our magazine for several years, but the colporteur was the first of our workers whom he had met.

I received a call to give this company further instruction, and, accompanied by Brother Yamamoto, I visited Shiritori in August. We held Bible studies with the group of interested ones, and were also asked to hold meetings in the home of one of the most prominent merchants in the city. The attendance at these meetings was good, and the call now comes for us to locate a worker in Shiritori. This city, which is about eighty miles south of the boundary between Japanese and Russian Saghalien, is the third in size in the island and is one of the most promising fields that I have visited. No church has a worker located within a hundred miles of this place. Land is cheap, but it is advancing in price rapidly. A worker and a small amount of money expended for a good location for a church and a home for the worker, if available in the near future, should bring large returns in souls. The people will gladly attend meetings, especially during the long winter evenings. They want something better than the cheap theatres and movies that are flooding this outpost of civilization. Will you come to the aid of the Lord of the harvest, that this work may be started now?

In the Kirin Province

Pastor F. M. Larsen, director of the Kirin Provincial Mission, writes of a recent visit by Pastor Esteb and himself to Tsitsihar, in Heilungkiang province, and at Harbin. More than \$1,300 Mexican came to them through Harvest Ingathering.

The South Chosen Provincial Mission—Biennial Report

C. W. LEE

(Synopsis of report rendered by Pastor C. W. Lee, director of the South Chosen Provincial mission, during the 1927 biennial session of the Chosen Union)

THE South Chosen Mission embraces the four south provinces and seven prefectures of the provinces lying to the north. The reason for including these prefectures is that the routes of travel cross them and that they are easy of access from the south. Our territory is about one third of all Chosen, and the population is about forty-four per cent. of the whole of Chosen. There are eighty-six prefectures and five incorporated cities in our territory. We have believers in each one of the cities, and have a mission-owned church in one, with a rented building in another. We also have believers in thirty-three of the prefectures. Our believers are in fifty-six different places. This means that there are scarcely two places in the same prefecture, where our believers are to be found. Our work is widely scattered.

Should one start out from Keizan north and make a circuit through the whole field without returning home once, making no allowance for Sabbaths and other things that would lengthen the time (such as delays in getting boats or being hindered by storms), staying one night in a place and going the next day, it would take a total of eighty days to cover the field.

Our Constituency

During the past biennial period, 1925-1926, we baptized 169, and made a net gain of 121. This makes our membership at the end of 1926 four hundred twenty-six. We thank God for these gains.

At the end of the last period we had seventeen companies (some fully organized and some only organized as a Sabbath school), and twenty-one isolated families or individuals, making the total places represented thirty-nine. Besides our organized churches, we now have twenty companies and thirty-three isolated believers.

Church Buildings and Property

At the end of the former biennial period we had fourteen mission-owned houses of worship. At the present time we have twenty-one. The present seating capacity is approximately seventeen hundred, and the value of

our church property has increased to approximately 11,000 yen.

Colportage and Tract Society Work

During the past two years twenty-nine have reported colportage work, aside from distribution of literature by evangelistic workers and home missionary societies. Out of the twenty-nine colporteurs twenty-three have devoted six months or more to this work. The tract society sales have been 23,544.17 yen during the past two years, a gain of 5,883.22 yen over the former biennial period.

Nor do we count it all in books sold or in total of sales. Our colporteurs have done much evangelistic work. As a result we have many new places of labor. The reason that our work is so spread out is that the colporteurs have made the openings in the majority of cases, and it has kept our evangelists so busy caring for the interests thus created that we have not been able to select new places and enter them. This literature work is our hope of reaching every part of our territory.

In closing Pastor Lee reported the tithes and offerings, the Sabbath school gifts on missionary endeavor, and the activities of the young people during the biennial period. Progress has been made in every line.

The needs of the South Chosen Mission are many, but God is blessing the brethren and sisters as they are endeavoring to do their part in an effort to meet these needs insofar as their resources and their sacrifices permit. Considerable is being done to gather the children into our own schools. Plans have been laid for aggressive evangelistic efforts in various sections. In South Chosen there are many evidences of the Lord's special blessing and leading.

Getting Back into Nanning

ON Tuesday afternoon, November 1, Pastor P. V. Thomas, Dr. D. D. Coffin, and Brother Loren F. Schutt left Hongkong for Nanning, Kwangsi. Brother Thomas has already made one trip into Nanning since the families left that station; and now the three men of our foreign staff in Kwangsi are going. Their families remain in Kowloon, opposite Hongkong, for a time.

It is planned to hold a general meeting in Wuchow, on the Kwangsi border, in mid-November, and Pastor Thomas will be in attendance at this gathering before he goes on up to Nanning. Professor Frederick Griggs will also be at the Wuchow meeting. Dr. Coffin and Brother Schutt will press on into Nanning without delay. There has been no looting of mission properties at Nanning, and some faithful Chinese have continued running the hospital-dispensary as best they could, meeting most of the expenses of maintenance the past few months.

It was a blessed privilege to spend a farewell hour with the Nanning workers just as they were leaving. The families did not care to be separated, but conditions as yet will not permit of the return of the women and children. The little ship that takes them as far as Wuchow is known as the "Chang-An," and is shown in part in the accompanying view of the party seeing them off. From left to right those in the picture include (1) the younger son of Dr. and Mrs. Coffin (with *amah*); (2) Pastor A. L. Ham; (3) Mrs. Coffin; (4) Dr. D. D. Coffin; (5) older son of Dr. and Mrs. Coffin; (6, 7) Lyman W. Shaw and wife; (8) Pastor C. C. Morris; (9, 10) Mrs. P. V. Thomas and child; (11) Pastor P. V. Thomas; (12, 13) Loren F. Schutt and wife; (14, 15) P. L. Williams and wife.



Party of workers of the Nanning (Kwangsi) mission about to start back to their station. Present conditions forbid the return of the wives and children.

GENERAL ARTICLES

A Prayer

LORD, take my heart; for I cannot give it.

It is Thy property.

Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee.

Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unChristlike self.

Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.—“*Christ's Object Lessons.*”

Get the Habit

FREDERICK GRIGGS

I HAVE often called attention to the fact that it is possible for many of us to do much more reading than we ordinarily accomplish. Two letters which have recently come to my hand from members of the Ministerial Association give evidence of this, and I quote from them. The first one received is from Brother I. C. Schmidt, of Medan, Sumatra, N. E. I. He says:

“The Ministerial Reading Course has been the means of starting me out reading. That is, I used not to read so very much, and now, the Reading Course constitutes but a small part of my reading. I greatly enjoy every book that comes to me through this avenue, besides the regular readings that come to me from Shanghai. They are both a great help and an inspiration to me and to my workers. My wife and I are just finishing the third volume of Motley's ‘*Rise of the Dutch Republic*,’ which we find exceedingly interesting. ‘*Wesley's Century*’ is an inspiring book to read.

“For years we had hardly any thing for our members to read outside the Sabbath School Quarterly, but now we have various books in the Malay, and also a course of reading for our Asiatic workers to pursue. This, I find, is a splendid thing. It is most encouraging to me to see our Asiatic workers develop.”

The other member of the Association from whom we have recently heard is Mrs. Elizabeth Mershon, of Jesselton, British North Borneo. She has become so interested in the Ministerial Reading Course that she has “begun at the beginning,” and has now nearly finished reading all the books required in the Reading Courses since 1914. She says:

“Having finished the books for the Reading Course No. 1, I want to report on same I have been doing some intensive reading this year,

and I am pleased to report having obtained a great deal of pleasure and interest in the books I have read. When I finished the task I had set for myself to accomplish, I felt something like Alexander the Great when he had conquered the world, and had no further fields to conquer. However, I feel that I have further fields to conquer, as this Reading Course experience has gotten me started on reading books not in the Reading Course. Another benefit I have received from this, is the studying up of subjects that I have come across in the course of reading these books. I have felt that I have missed such a lot in not having started on the Reading Courses sooner.

“In addition to reading the books called for in the courses, I have had my husband search his files for everything connected with the courses from the beginning. I have endeavored to do good, thorough work, and I have certainly been repaid by the help I have received in the doing of it.”

God demands the best of every worker. Few of us work to the full measure of our possibilities, and we are held accountable for what we might have done to qualify ourselves for more efficient service for God. The reading habit is one that has to be acquired by most people. Much time often goes to waste that can be thus profitably employed; and it is the duty of every worker, and it should be his pleasure also, to gain through good reading all the knowledge possible to fit him more fully to work for others. Let us improve all our time to the glory of God.

Some Thoughts Regarding Sabbath Observance.

FLORENCE E. WOOD

“REMEMBER the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” Ex. 20:8. Doubtless, this admonition would not have been given had there been no danger that in our busy lives we might forget. We think of the sixth day of the week as “preparation day” for the Sabbath, and such it is, but if on this day only we have the Sabbath in mind, we are certain to fall short of keeping it in an acceptable way. During the week every plan that is laid should be done in such a way that its accomplishment will in no way infringe upon the hours of the Sabbath.

We are careful in many ways that the Sabbath shall not be desecrated. We have become accustomed to lay aside our secular duties; deliveries of merchandise are not made to our homes on the Sabbath; workmen do not come on that day to repair the leaking faucet or electric lights. Everything about

our homes is more or less in readiness, but are there not other things just as essential to proper Sabbath observance which we sometimes overlook?

As a people, there has been a growing tendency among us to utilize the hours immediately following the Sabbath, Saturday evening, for purposes which are perfectly legitimate in themselves and which have their rightful place in our lives, but following so soon after the Sabbath, take away much of its sacredness. Among these might be mentioned,—entertainments, programs, and social gatherings of various kinds. Might not those uncharitably disposed toward our faith feel that having remembered the Sabbath we forget it as speedily as possible?

Not only this, but it is impossible for those responsible for the successful execution of such functions to completely abolish thoughts regarding them during the Sabbath, and immediately at its close enter enthusiastically into preparation for that which is to follow in a few minutes. Is not much mental activity during the Sabbath necessarily expended upon these things rather than upon subjects appropriate for Sabbath meditation? And what of the effect upon the children whom we are endeavoring to bring up in this truth? If the event is something of interest to them, it is certain to engage their thoughts and conversation many times during the Sabbath. We are all aware that even adults frequently experience the same difficulty.

Not only so, but it often happens that time after the close of the Sabbath would be insufficient, so preparation for the evening begins before the sun has even set.

We would not take the position that it is always wrong to hold a gathering on Saturday night. Doubtless, there are occasions when a lecture or other entertainment might in no way interfere with the proper observance of the day which it follows, but as a rule, is the custom of making the hours immediately following the Sabbath a time of special recreation really a good one? Is it right?

The Sabbath was made for man, and God would have him put by his labor on that day, as He Himself rested after His six days' work of creation.—“*Testimonies*,” Vol. IV, p. 247.

Far Eastern Division Outlook

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News Notes

Pastor I. H. Evans, president Far Eastern Division, reached Shanghai December 1, returning from the States, having attended the Fall Council, in Chattanooga.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Longway and children arrived in Shanghai December 1, after a year of furlough. Mr. Longway has returned to take up his work in the Central China Union, his family remaining in Shanghai until conditions are more peaceful in that section.

Two families of workers have recently joined the mission family of the Japan Union—Dr. Edward F. Getzlaff and family and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Thurston. Dr. Getzlaff is to have charge of a Hospital-Dispensary in Tokyo. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Thurston connect with the faculty of the Japan Missionary Training School. These workers have already entered upon language study.

Pastor J. J. Strahle returned to headquarters the 9th of December after an extended trip through the Philippines and Malaysia. He reports that the workers in these fields are of good courage, and that many souls are being won to the truth.

Born, November 26, 1927, in Shanghai, to Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Andrews, of Tatsienlu, Szechwan a son.

Address of Pastor T. T. Babienco

The address of Pastor T. T. Babienco and family, now on furlough, is Islington, Ontario, Canada.

Ministerial Institute for Chinese Workers

Plans have been perfected for the holding of a ministerial institute for Chinese workers during the first three months of the new year, if political conditions in China permit. Recent developments have led to a questioning on the part of some as to whether it may be found possible to gather any considerable number of workers together at the time named. We are living in days when everything is unsettled and when circumstances are constantly changing with shifting armies and with governments rising and falling in a fashion wholly beyond human ken. We shall have to await providential indications of duty and privilege as we draw nearer to the time fixed for the opening of the institute. We trust the way may open for us to carry out the plan outlined by the Far Eastern Division Committee.

In the Midst of Harvest Ingathering in Japan

Every year it takes a new fight with self before I am able to swing out into the Harvest Ingathering Campaign. This year after earnest prayer Mrs. Koch and I started with some calls among our own countrymen, and I went then to some Japanese firms in Tokyo. The result of one week's occasional work was 160 yen, and the sale of several books. Brother Nakafuji, who worked with me one forenoon, also got 10 yen.

According to the plans of the committee, I went then to Utsunomiya, where Brother Kato and one of his Bible students gladly joined the work; and in two days we had about 24 yen. Some of the people visited seemed to have become interested in the truth.

In Mito Brother Hasegawa did his best to see with me all the prominent men of this little town. We called on the city mayor, the perfect of the Ibarakiken and his officials. After a short day's work our magazines were sold out, and we had to go after subscriptions for the "Jicho" and for some of our books. We spent half an hour with the husband of one of the newly baptized sisters, who till that time had shown no interest in the truth. The prospects are good in Mito. It was a great joy to me to spend the Sabbath with the church members there and to recognize what the Lord has done by the efforts of good Brother and Sister Hasegawa.

In Wakamatsu I was greeted at the station by Brother Kaneko and Brother Takaya. The same evening we had a Bible study with the church, when I met the four splendid young men who were to be baptized the following Sabbath. In four days Harvest Ingathering here we got about 40 yen. But of greater value than this small amount, I count, are the new contacts made with persons who, if the interests are followed up in the right way, maybe won to the precious truth.

We pray for a good harvest of souls and the necessary funds to build up the work over here. A. Koch.

An Interesting Incident

Elder W. B. Riffel, director of the Southern Luzon Mission, reports the following interesting incident:

"Yesterday I was out visiting a company of people who have been keeping the Sabbath for some time. In the year 1919 the leader of this company received as a gift 'Coming King,' with some other books from the Presbyterian minister. The man began to read the 'Coming King,' and learned about the Sabbath. He then searched his Bible and found that the Sabbath was the right day to keep. He has been keeping the Sabbath ever since 1919, and furthermore let his light shine until there are now about twenty-five keeping the Sabbath in his district. On learning that this man was keeping the Sabbath, the minister wanted to take the book from him; but he refused to give it up. This man is also paying tithes and abstaining from eating pork.

"To me this is one of the most interesting stories of God's guiding hand. Surely the Lord has a message for this time, and He is calling out a people who will keep the commandments of God.

Week of Prayer Offering

It will be well to stress the need of the mission treasury, during the Week of Prayer season, and request all to bring in a liberal thank-offering for the mercies of the year past. God has been good to us; and now He gives us opportunity to give of our means for carrying light and blessing to others. Let all respond liberally.

Reports for Year 1927

Plans have been perfected for gathering in reports from every mission and institution, immediately following the close of the year 1927. Let all co-operate to the best of their ability. In some instances, as, for example, in connection with districts lying within war areas, it may be necessary to make estimates of some items, but not such as baptisms, etc. Only the known baptisms are reported in our lists; likewise the membership. In some fields the old membership is reported because the later membership is unknown. This is proper to do, and should be done until such time as the increased membership may be actually known.

The co-operation of all concerned, is earnestly solicited and anticipated. In years past many have done their best to get the figures in early, and this has been a wonderful help in many ways to those who must make up the Union reports for forwarding to the Division for transmission to the Home Board.

Obituary

On Wednesday November 9, a cable was received at the headquarters of the Singapore Mission from Kuching, Sawarak reporting the death of Elder Chan Thain-hee. Elder Chan's health had been very poor for some time; yet the news of his decease came as a shock to the workers at Singapore.

It can be truly said of Elder Chan that he was a great man, and a Christian. For seventeen years or more he rendered the cause acceptable, faithful service.

To the work at large, to the Singapore Mission, and to his many friends in Malaysia and in the Far East, his death brings irreparable loss. To the writer his going is a personal and keenly-felt sorrow.

Elder Chan leaves behind him a record for sincerity, kindness, and truth that will never fade from the memory of those who knew him intimately. He leaves to mourn a widow, four daughters, and a son, all of whom love the truth of the third angel's message, and who await the return of the Life-Giver, when in happy reunion with their loved ones they will join in that glorious doxology, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, and we shall live and reign with Him for ever and ever."

Wm. W. R. Lake.