

Asiatic Division Mission News



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The Last Day

Were this the last of earth,
This very day.
How should I think and act?
What should I say?
Would not I guard my heart
With earnest prayer?
Would not I serve my friends
With loving care?
How tender every word
As the hours wane!
"Like this we shall not sit
And talk again."
How soft the beating heart
That soon must cease!
What glances carry love—
What heavenly peace!
And this fleeting life
Is one last day;
How long soe'er its hours,
They will not stay.
O heart, be soft and true
While thou dost beat;
O hands, be swift to do,
O lips, be sweet.

—SELECTED.

Ichang, Hupeh

Knowing that the readers of the News are interested in every advance move that is made in God's closing work, I take this opportunity of telling them that Brother Warren and myself left Shanghai for Szechuan via Hankow March 3. We had a very pleasant trip from Shanghai to Hankow, and while on the boat the writer sold forty Chinese "Signs" in thirty minutes at two cents each.

We were met at Hankow by Brethren Lee and White, and had a very pleasant visit with the brethren there. The work in the Hupeh Province is prospering, and there are a number of new places calling for the representative of the message to go and teach them the truth.

On Wednesday, March 11, we went from Hankow to Yencheng, Honan, by train. The day we left Hankow the daily paper had an account of the killing, by White Wolf's band of robbers, of a Norwegian missionary named Doc-

tor Froland; they also severely wounded another missionary of the same mission. This took place at Laohokow in northern Hupeh.

However, we had a very pleasant and safe journey to Yencheng. We saw numerous bands of soldiers who were on their way to fight White Wolf and his robbers, estimated to be about 3,000 men. The railway seemed carefully guarded, and at nearly every bridge soldiers were stationed. In eastern Honan conditions, according to the reports of native Christians, have improved, but the western part, which is very mountainous, is still in the hands of the robbers.

We were met at Yencheng Station by thirty or forty Chinese Christians. To me it seemed like coming home, so warm was their welcome. Truly these Honan brethren grip one's heart. They had met the train daily for four days, not knowing the exact day that we would arrive. One of the evangelists said that when they met the train day after day and we did not come, their disappointment was like the disappointment of God's people in 1844; but now that we had arrived their joy was in some measure like their joy would be when Christ comes. Such is their knowledge of the message.

We were very glad to meet Brother Westrup once more. He gave us a hearty welcome and we enjoyed our visit with him very much.

Our object in going to Honan was to select Chinese workers to go with us to Szechuan. Elder Cottrell and his committee generously allowed us perfect freedom to select any workers that were willing to go. After an earnest season of prayer with Brother Westrup and the Chinese members of the Honan committee in which we prayed that God would hinder wrong men from going with us to Szechuan, two committee men were chosen. Their names are Dju Dzi

Ih and Shi Yung Gwei. Both men expressed their entire willingness to go wherever God called them. One of these men had to travel ninety li (thirty miles) on Friday to his home to acquaint his wife with the suggestion that they now labour in Szechuan. These devoted people packed their belongings Saturday night after sundown, and on Sunday travelled ninety li to the railway station in order to take the train the next morning for Hankow. The other evangelist got ready equally as fast. This shows how the spirit of this message can stir the oriental and make him truly God's minute man.

We had a very pleasant return trip to Hankow. Here another worker was selected. He also is a Honan man, and is a good faithful man. His name is Li Fah Kung. We did not see him before we left Hankow, but have since received a telegram telling us that he is on his way, and so we are waiting for him in Ichang, which place is 400 miles west of Hankow, and 1,000 miles from Shanghai. As soon as he arrives we will take a native boat for Chungking, Szechuan, which place is over 400 miles from Ichang. We have been very fortunate in securing our house-boat, which has three good sized rooms, and plenty of deck space; in fact it is the largest Chinese boat that I have ever travelled on. The Captain has several letters of recommendation, written in English, from well known missionaries in which they state that the Captain is a reliable man. In all this we recognize our heavenly Father's leading. Our ordinary crew numbers twenty grown men, but when we pass the rapids this number will be increased to about one hundred. The price for the boat, including such Chinese food as they serve, is \$115 mex (about \$75 gold). Another man who has travelled over the same journey a number of times told us that the best price

that he could obtain was \$200 mex. for the same kind of boat. This favourable price is due in a large degree to our faithful evangelist, Dju Dzi Ih, who has the work of God near to his heart. This man, while on the boat on which we travelled from Hankow to Ichang, sold twenty-three papers in less than thirty minutes at two cents each. He is also selling at Ichang and will soon be sold out, as our literature has not arrived yet and we are afraid that it will not arrive before we leave this place.

We are now living in a Chinese inn, but hope to leave here next Friday morning. The Captain of our boat guarantees in his written contract to land us in Chungking twenty-one days after we leave Ichang. We have arranged to have the boat stop every Sabbath from sundown to sundown. We will improve the Sabbath in preaching to the people at the places where we stay over Sabbath.

We will write more at a later date about our journey, as the interesting and exciting part of the way is just before us.

In concluding these remarks we wish to ask the readers of the NEWS to SPECIALLY remember us in your prayers:

1st, That God will bless and in a SPECIAL MANNER PROTECT the loved ones that Brother Warren and myself have left in Shanghai during the ten months that we will be compelled to be absent from them while opening the work in West China. Our faith takes hold of the assurance found in 2 Tim. 1:12.

2nd, That God will give us a safe journey, that we may be kept in health and strength, and further that we may be kept in that close relationship to Him that we may have Divine guidance in laying plans for this new mission.

3rd, That the Lord will bless with good health our Chinese workers, and give to them the consecration that is so necessary in the work of God.

F. A. ALLUM.

The Philippines

Brother C. N. and Mrs Woodward and Mrs. Porter joined me at Hongkong and accompanied me to Manila. We enjoyed (?) a rough passage most of the way on a small steamer called the "Chipching," and by the way it tossed us about on the waves, we thought it rightly named, and for short called it "a chip."

We entered at once upon the work mapped out carefully and

wisely for us by Elder Finster. Each morning there was conducted a Bible study for the workers, setting forth individual consecration as fundamental to successful work. A live interest was taken in the studies. In the evening we attended the tent meetings that were in session, and close attention was paid to the unfolding of the scriptures, even though the audience was larger than the tent accommodations. Elder Finster reports in this issue of the NEWS the number of baptisms as the result of the tent effort. The afternoons were largely spent looking for a location for our headquarters in the city of Manila, and before leaving the providence of God opened the way for the purchase of a very desirable location at a reasonable price. Elder Finster writes that the plans are rapidly maturing for the building of two foreign houses, the printing plant having already been removed to a building in the rear of the lots.

On Sabbath, in company with Elder and Sister Finster, Brother and Sister Woodward and Mrs. Porter, we went by train to Malolos where the first church building in the Philippines was dedicated. The building was of bamboo structure, and a very neat and comfortable place of worship for the little company of believers, twenty-five in number, who have shown commendable zeal in its erection.

The Province of Cebu was just then being entered by Doctor and Sister U. C. Fettebert, and Brother and Sister R. E. Stewart. Elder Finster has judiciously planned, and stationed his workers where the message will most quickly reach all parts of his field. Thus the light of truth is spreading in the Philippines, and the outlook for the future of the work is most promising.

R. C. PORTER.

Japan

Brother C. N. Woodward accompanied me to Japan. We went direct to Tokyo and spent three weeks assisting Elders DeVinney, Burden and Okokira, in the institute for workers that had been in progress since the beginning of January. Brother Woodward audited the books, and assisted in the study of important financial problems.

The three months' school for the training of workers was very practical, and I am confident that it will be the beginning of a strong soul winning campaign in Japan.

Considerable time was spent

looking for a location for the headquarters of our work in Japan, but on account of difficulties peculiar to that field, the effort was not successful when we left.

Elder Butterfield, who met us there for council, rendered valuable assistance in the study of building plans, as well as in the institute.

In planning for the distribution of laborers, each division of the field is provided with white superintendence. This plan will greatly strengthen the work. We have strong confidence that there will be a steady advance in the work in Japan.

R. C. PORTER.

Items from the Philippines

The printing press has been moved into the barn on our new property and we are fixing it up temporary for our print shop. We are now working on a new tract in Ilocauo, and a new tract in Tagolog, besides the monthly paper. Our canvassers are selling a larger number of books than at any other time. May God greatly bless the seeds of truth.

Our tent has been removed to Santa Rose and is in charge of Emelio Manalaysay and Augustine Pananga. Thus far they have had a very good hearing. I visited them a week ago and gave a stereoptican lecture on the Second Chapter of Daniel. The brethren report that already there are six keeping the Sabbath.

One very interesting thing took place in connection with our last baptism, that shows the power of living the truth. A sister accepted the truth some years ago in opposition to her husband. He did every thing possible to keep her from obeying the Lord, but she was faithful, and has so lived the truth and recommended its power in her life, that her husband was one of the number that called for baptism yesterday. We may not all be called to do public service for the Lord but we may all preach the truth where we are and win souls for Him.

L. V. FINSTER.

Our Signs Magazine

It is now six months since the committee invited me to connect with the editorial work of our magazine, and six very interesting months have they been, as I have endeavored to do my share of the work, and at the same time pursue the study of the language.

Editorial work in China is quite different from editorial work in

Malaysian Mission

We are glad to report that the blessing of the Lord is resting on the work in Malaysia, and though we cannot report as large numbers of converts as some other fields, still there are some. With the many peoples and languages, and Christian and heathen religions, our field is a difficult one, and the battle often goes hard, but not too hard for the Lord, and thanks be to Him that the shout is one of victory all along the line. Seven have recently been baptized in Borneo, and there are good interests in Java, Sumatra, and Federated Malay States.

Several are ready for baptism in Batavia where Sister Tunheim has charge of the work. She has been holding open-air meetings in the market place through an interpreter, and reports some interest.

In Singapore there are a few awaiting baptism, and several others are interested. Most of the time since Brother Detamore left us, over three months ago, we have had studies almost every night in the week. At present one young Chinaman is at the place where he must decide one way or the other. If he keeps the Sabbath he will lose his employment at \$35 gold a month with poor prospects of anything else to do. It is a severe test, but we pray that he will come through it all right. Two of our members have already made this sacrifice, and are practically penniless, living on what is given to them, which is not much. This is one of the most difficult things we have to face in this field. There is little or nothing open to the Sabbath-keeper in the way of work. We need your prayers in seeking the Lord to open up some means of livelihood for these brethren. We have been able to relieve one to a certain extent by giving him the janitor work of the church, but this does not provide him with a living. These brethren are still strong in the faith, but these facts make it difficult for others taking their stand. Several are holding back on this point. One Englishman has arranged so

that he has three Sabbaths free each month, but he must work on the other Sabbath. However he looks forward to soon being able to keep all the Sabbaths of the Lord, and becoming one with us. He frequently comes for studies, and whenever able attends Sabbath services and prayer-meeting.

During the past quarter the Singapore Church Missionary Societies have shown more interest in home missionary work, and there is quite an improvement in the amount of work done.

Our financial report for the entire Malasian field shows a gain of \$140 in receipts over expenditures. However this includes \$335 received from literature sales, all of which is not clear gain. The finances are an encouraging feature of this field, as it comes very near being self-supporting. Tithes for the past month amounted to \$259.70 gold, and donations to \$195.35. We thank the Lord for this.

Miss Yarnell arrived the end of March, and took up her duties the 1st of April, thus relieving Sister Sharp of the school, which, with her other duties, was proving a tax on her strength. Sister Yarnell is doing good service, and enjoying her work.

We were pleased to welcome Brother and Sister Yates to our field. They spent five days with us before proceeding to Sumatra, their appointed field of labor. We pray that the Lord will bless their efforts in that place. Brother and Sister Judge will now be able to leave for Australia on furlough, and as they are in need of a change, they will probably leave at an early date.

All our workers are of good courage in the Lord, knowing that "this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

H. E. SHARP.

Sandakan.

Last Sunday afternoon, April 5, the little company of believers, and a few interested ones, met at our meeting hall, and then walked together about a mile out to the seaside where baptism was administered to seven Chinese, — four women, and three men.

These new converts have been attending our services for several months, and are thoroughly acquainted with all points of our faith. These precious jewels are now rejoicing in the message of God's saving grace. It was a severe test for the women to give up their jewelry, especially their ear-rings, but they bravely laid all aside. Wherever they go they are witnesses to the transforming power of the threefold message of reform.

May the dear Lord give us many more souls from the Island of Borneo. R. P. MONTGOMERY

Training School Dedicated

At the time of the opening of the China Mission Training School last summer, the buildings were in a more or less unfinished state. Because of this, the dedicatory services were postponed for the time, and were held May 3rd.

We were grateful that there was a slight let-up in the wet weather, thus enabling the Shanghai Church to attend, also our friends of the Seventh-day Baptist Mission.

It was a cause for rejoicing to those present that the liberality of those of like faith in the homeland made it possible, not only to dedicate a school for the training of young men and women, but also to dedicate buildings that were free from indebtedness.

The dedicatory address was delivered by Elder R. C. Porter, and at the close of the address an appeal was made to those present, that we not only dedicate this building to the Lord's service in China, but that we dedicate ourselves anew to this same service. The appeal was responded to by practically every individual in the chapel.

I am sure if those who have given so liberally for the erection of this building could be here and see the company of young men and women in attendance, and note their earnestness, they would feel that it was an earnest of what the Lord will accomplish through this school for the giving of the message in China.

A. C. SELMON, M.D.

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NOTES

—Elder and Sister Harlow and Edith are spending their vacation at Wai Chow.

—Sister Mamie Yarnell has entered upon her school work in Singapore. She reports finding the school in good condition, and is quite at home already in her new field.

—Brother and Sister Yates, after a short rest at Singapore, passed on to their new field, Padang, anxious to get to work. We trust our readers will soon become acquainted with these new workers through the columns of the NEWS.

—Elder Allum and Brother Warren are still living in the houseboat, but negotiations are under way for a house. Their provisions not yet having arrived was giving them a taste of pioneer mission life at the front.

—In the Kiangsu Mission Notes last month, the proof-reader cut down the membership of one newly organized Sabbath-school from thirty to thirteen. Please read it thirty, not thirteen. Since the report appeared the membership has increased to forty-five.

—Elder R. C. Porter, Mrs. Porter and C. N. Woodward left Shanghai May 15, for Korea. They expect to return by way of Mukden, Manchuria, Peking and Hankow, reaching home about the middle of June. The interests of the work in these places demand early consideration.

—Elder Finster writes: "I am glad to tell you that our work here was never more prosperous. Brother Manalaysay has been at Santa Rosa for two months, and he reports that over twenty are keeping the Sabbath there. We are having splendid meetings here in Manila. Our mission house is now having the roof put on."

—Elder Geo. F. Enoch, superintendent of the West India Mission,—after sixteen years of faithful work in the foreign field, seven years having been spent in India—and his family are returning to America for a year's furlough. They will pass through Shanghai about June 10, stopping for a few days' visit.

—The thirteenth Sabbath, March 28, was one of special interest to

the Shanghai Sabbath-school, as it doubtless was to all the schools throughout the Asiatic Division. One week previous to this time mention was made of the special offering to be taken and an interest was aroused, the result of which was shown in the liberal offering of the day. A program was carried out consisting of songs, missionary talks, and a full explanation made regarding the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering plan. At the close the offering was taken amounting to \$47.78. Mrs. O. A. HALL.

—By the last mail received from the mission board we are informed that Elders A. G. Daniells and O. A. Olsen will attend our Division meeting in November. It was not thought best that Elders Daniells and Spicer both be away from headquarters for so long a period. There is also a possibility that Professor Salisbury will attend; this is in case Elder Olsen cannot.

—For the benefit of our newcomers to the Orient, we quote a few lines of caution from Elder J. E. Fulton, a man of wide experience in mission work: "When I first went to Fiji, I was young and full of energy, and used to laugh at the lazy people who were afraid of hard work in the hot sun. But I know, after the sun had wilted me for awhile, I had more sense and less energy."

—Brother and Sister J. P. Anderson are preparing to move to Swatow. Thus it will be necessary to vacate the beautiful home they have enjoyed but for a few brief months. But there is never a word of complaint from the lips of our devoted workers. When the call comes to move on in the interests of the work, they are always ready and willing to go. Some day such will be moved from earth to heaven, where moving time will beat an end.

—All will read with special interest the report of Elder Wilbur in this issue. It was received a day or so before the sad news was cable telling us of his death. Truly he fell at his post, and with his face Zionward. No particulars have as yet been received, but we hope for something before going to press. Our sympathy goes out for the lonely wife and mother so far from home and friends in this hour of trial, but the Lord is near, and His presence comforteth as no earthly friend can.

—Before another issue of the NEWS reaches its readers, one of our most faithful laborers will be returning to the homeland. Elder J. J. Westrup, of Yencheng, Honan, Central China, leaves May 31. He has

staid faithfully by his post of duty alone for over two and one half years, Sister Westrup being ill in the States. His place will be hard to fill, and his co-laborers greatly deplore his having to leave China. His crown of rejoicing will glitter with many bright stars as the result of his faithful labors in the Orient.

—A few lines gleaned from a private letter from the former editor of the NEWS, Mrs. I. H. Evans, will be appreciated by our readers:—"I don't know why my thoughts turn so often to China. As I read your letter to-day, a great wave of homesickness for the place came over me. I forget the mosquitoes and the fleas, which were my greatest affliction, and remember only the lovely things. One thing sure, I would go back—instantly, if I had the chance, and STAY BACK forever, or till the Lord comes. Mrs. Plummer says I have the returned missionary's vocabulary. Anyway, it is a perfectly honest thing, and no affectation about it. Woodrow Wilson is credited with having said that 'Not all of life is running to a fire,' and I think I can make another epigram on the same lines—'Not all of life is drinking unboiled water.' What you say about the young workers and the progress they are making in the language, and their earnestness and zeal in study and work, makes my heart glad. The work is to the young, and I feel sure that there is a great blessing in it, and it is encouraging when those who go out to the field like it, and are willing to work in it. And it means work, too. I feel sorry for those sisters whose husbands have gone to Szechwan. It seems to me that I know as few others do, just what it means. We have been married ten years this month, and how few wedding anniversaries we have had together. Last year Mr. Evans was on the Pacific; this year he will be on the railroad from Texas to Michigan. I am sure that not four years of our married life have been spent together. But I have been blessed in having a daughter who is always a comfort as well as company. The longest Mr. Evans has been away at one time was fifteen months. Tell those brave sisters I think they have the right spirit. I know they will miss their husbands dreadfully, but they are doing it for the Lord, and it will be an example to others. I can assure you that our hearts are with you in your great field. We pray for the prosperity of the work in that land, and are encouraged by every token of success."