

Asiatic Division Mission News

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Visit to a Mountain Home

During the summer preceeding the Chinese Revolution, one of our colporters while working at a small market-place in southern Hunan, sold some literature to a loyal student of Confucius. On returning to his home, this scholar whose name was 王, pronounced "Wang" and translated meaning "King", carefully read the tract entitled, "The Illuminated Pathway."

His interest was thoroughly aroused; he perused all the literature he had purchased, and in the autumn of that year, in company with two friends, made the trip to Changsha to attend the Hunan general meeting. He remained with us about six weeks to study the gospel, and before returning to his home was baptized. The following year he attended the China Mission's Training School at Nanking.

On our recent itinerary through southern Hunan, we accepted Brother Wang's invitation to spend a night at his home, which is ten miles from our nearest outstation, and located on a range of mountains. He provided sedan chairs with which to make the ascent, and on our arrival we were greeted by a large company that had gathered about the farm house. Our friends led the way through the large gateway, and across the courtyard to rooms that had been prepared.

Crowds followed eager to see us, standing about the doors and windows. Why should we blame them? Never before had a foreigner set foot on that mountain range, and but few of them had ever seen a white person. To be favored by a visit from an American and his wife was indeed a great event.

We inquired the name of a number of the people, and in each instance the reply was, "My name is Wang." Finally, we said, "Well, how many Mr. and Mrs. Wangs' live here?" They replied that in their family there were about six

hundred, and that taking all the families of their clan together, there were nearly ten thousand. On the top of this mountain range, the clan owns a tract of land which is about seven miles in length, and three in width; while scattered about here and there are these family villages with several hundred, or a thousand souls in each. On further inquiry we learned that all their young women were married outside the clan, and that all their wives are imported from other villages, for no man will marry a wife of the same surname as himself.

It may not seem so strange that in a community thus constituted, the professional match-maker is indispensable, and has a wide field of activity. We were told that the history of this clan dates back four hundred years; that three Wang brothers from the neighboring province of Kiangsi took "squatter's sovereignty" of this mountain section at that time, and that all the present inhabitants are their descendants.

Soon we were invited to take a walk about the compound. In several of the little family shrines, the images and ancestral tablets had been removed and a ten commandment chart hung instead. In other places the idols still remained. While this whole family are becoming favorable to Christianity through the influence of this one young man, not all, as yet, are willing to part with the gods of their ancestors.

In some of the rooms we saw most beautiful and intricately carved woodwork and furniture, much of which was overlaid with goldleaf; and the people with great pride told us that this had all been done by members of their own family.

In the morning, after a refreshing night's rest, we went for a walk about the farm, the principal products of which are hemp and sweet potatoes. Wheat, rice, and many other things, are also raised to some extent. Some of the mountain

peaks were still high above us, the sides of which were decked with massive rocks, beautiful palms, pines, and other vegetation. We were shown two caves, one of which has been explored for a half mile, and no one knows how much longer it is. We entered for a short distance, and felt greatly repaid by the view of the glistening stalactites.

Returning to the house, we held an hour's service. Only five or six in this big family of six hundred can read intelligently, and these are now all Seventh-day Adventist church-members. They are likewise the head men of the family. As the local dialect differed considerably from Mandarin, we found it necessary to speak through an interpreter.

Massive wooden benches built two hundred years ago, and showing no signs of decay or weakness, had been arranged in the large open court near the main gateway. In the audience of four hundred that convened at the sound of music, were those of all ages from the baby in its mother's arms to the old man of ninety. There were the active boys and girls, the sturdy farmers and mechanics; the cripple, the blind, and the palsied. All listened with marked attention as we briefly told the story of the Cross with its mighty uplifting influence, and also spoke of the Second Coming when sorrow, sickness and pain would be no more; when the eyes of the blind would be opened, and the aged and crippled would have the vigor of youth.

As an illustration of the gospel's power, we related what this message had done for Pitcairn Island, and told them if they were willing to put their trust in Christ, it would do the same for them. We strongly urged them to start a school at once for the children, and also open a night school for the benefit of those who labored during the day, so that ere long every member of their family might quickly learn to

read. This they promised to do, and also expressed their willingness to repair an old ancestral hall for use as a chapel.

A sister in Michigan had just sent us through Brother C. Sparks two dollars, with the hope that we would use it for something special, and that it might be the means of saving someone. So with this we are purchasing several hundred small booklets and gospel portions to aid them in starting their school work.

The service over, breakfast was announced. They served sweet-potatoes, rice, eggs, chicken, fish, steamed bread, and cakes, all of which were tastily prepared.

After breakfast, we were shown their weaving industry, and given a sample of the cloth. They make their own clothes, hats, and shoes. They do all their own carpenter work and masonry. Their lime, cement, brick, tile, and timber, are all produced on their own estate. Never before have I seen a family or village who were so independent. Seemingly they could manage quite well even though cut off from the rest of the world.

The substantial character of their workmanship was also noticeable. Some of the brickwork built four centuries ago was well preserved, while the lines and corners on that which has stood seventy years were still as sharp and well defined as though recently constructed.

As we had other appointments ahead for afternoon and evening, we were unable to remain longer. The leading men of the family came together for a parting prayer season after which one of them gave us a small amount of money as his tithe, the first that any of them had ever paid. This visit was a most interesting occasion, not only as giving us glimpses of life among the mountaineers of southern Hunan, but also for the splendid opening, and the possibilities of a great transformation being wrought, and a large harvest gathered by the power of the gospel in that community.

R. F. COTTRELL.

En Route to Szechwan

(CONTINUED)

March 31. We did not attempt to cross the T sien Yen Rapid until 3: 15 p. m. to-day. However, when we did try, I had the most thrilling experience I have ever had. Brother Warren had already gone safely up the rapid on another boat, and was on the shore taking a picture of our boat as she ascended the rapid. All the Chinese Christians were on shore, and so I was the only one of the party on board. We had seen a good many boats go up safely,

and so did not think we would have much trouble. However, the captain was on shore directing the efforts of the fifty or sixty trackers who were to pull the boat up the rapid, and the pilot in command made the mistake of launching out too far into the rapid, and so allowed the boat to dip into a whirlpool, and she shipped so much water that all the front compartments were filled, and then she keeled over so badly that all thought she was going to turn over. I climbed with difficulty to the highest side of the boat, and prepared to swim for my life. It would have been a terrible swim, for the water was rushing past with such terrible force that it would probably have ended fatally. However, God's protecting hand was over us, and the man in command cut the towline with a hatchet just at the right time, and the boat righted itself. The next danger was that she would sink owing to the large amount of water that she had shipped, but by the frantic efforts of the crew the water was soon bailed out, and the boat was beached on the shore.

During this time I was working hard to get our things out of the hold in order that they would not be ruined. We realize that God's word was fulfilled to us in this experience. We had just read at our noon prayer meeting Isa 43: 2. Surely this Scripture was literally fulfilled to us.

To-day no less than four boats have been wrecked at this place, and one man lost his life. The others were saved by the lifeboats.

Since writing the above I have helped the trackers pull our boat up the rapid. We had over sixty men on shore pulling, and with the men on the boat there must have been over seventy men engaged in this work. These men pull like mules to pull the boat up the raging waters. The "whippers" (leaders of the trackers) screamed, shouted, cursed, and struck the men in order to make them pull the harder. The captain frantically shouted his commands to the first "whipper," and he in turn passed the command along to the next "whipper," and finally it reached the men, accompanied with curses and blows.

We were glad that our boat crossed in safety, and at 9: 30 p. m. all our things were once more on board, and by 10: 30 p. m. we were in bed.

April 1. We left Tsin Tan about 10: a. m., and having a strong favorable wind we traveled fast. During the day we passed several rapids, but they were not so dangerous. We saw a number of

wrecks as we journeyed on. At a small place called Bah Dou, we saw two Europeans and a number of Chinese surveyors engaged in surveying the route for the railway line. Thus it seems as though it will not be long before our field will be connected up with the rest of China by railway.

April 2. At 12: 30 to-day we leave Hupeh and cross the border into Szechwan. We were having our noonday prayer-meeting about the time we entered Szechwan, and we read Rev. 14: 6-14. It is inspiring to us to know that after a delay of five years (it is five years since I was first appointed to this field), the message is at last to go to the 88,000,000 people of West China. Thank God His word will never fail.

April 3. Last night it snowed upon the mountain tops, and so to-day it is very cold. The wind is still favorable, and it will not be long before we reach Kwei Chow Fu, a city of about 40,000 people. We have already traveled ninety li (thirty miles) to-day, and it is only 11: a. m. This is fast traveling for China.

We arrived at Kwei Chow Fu about noon. A little below this city is a celebrated brine well, which is located on a small island or sand bank. The salt water is dipped up in buckets and emptied into wooden troughs, and it runs from these to large iron pans. There is enough brine to keep one hundred and twenty large pans constantly in use during the season the well is worked. One authority says that one million five hundred thousand pounds of salt are made annually. This is above water only from January to May, and the manufacture of salt is confined to these months.

In the city of Kwei Chow Fu is a celebrated Roman Catholic church, said to date from 1662. This shows how early the Papacy entered this part of China.

April 4. We stayed in a small market town over Sabbath. It was called An Pin, meaning "rest-peace." We had Sabbath-school, and then organized our Sabbath-school. Brother Warren was elected superintendent, and Dju Hsien Seng, our Chinese evangelist, was elected secretary. After this we entered the town, and the evangelist and I spoke to the crowd that soon gathered. They listened well, and our own souls were refreshed as we told the story of the Cross. In the afternoon I held a Bible study with a Christian from another boat who is delayed by adverse winds. We studied the three messages together.

F. A. ALLUM.

Foochow General Meeting

We have just returned from the Foochow general meeting, and all are thankful to the God of mercies for His rich blessings towards us during the past few weeks.

Some time before the opening of the general meeting in Foochow, we prayed the Lord for success, and it is very evident that the Lord heard our petitions and answered them by working for and with His servants that are located in that part of His harvest field.

On the whole, I feel that the work in the capital of Fukien Province is on a good footing and well established. We have been able to secure good respectable quarters for our work at a very reasonable price. The meeting held there from the 8th to the 12th of July was a pronounced success. The audiences were large, and the people were of the better class and gave us a good hearing. Forty-seven souls were baptized in the name of our God, and about a half dozen people requested to unite with the church by letter. A church organization was effected with 55 charter members. A large number of these are heads of families and a very intelligent people. A full corps of officers were chosen, with Pastor Keh as elder, to care for and build up the newly organized church in Foochow.

I am very thankful that Elders Harlow and J. P. Anderson, and also Pastor Ang, were able to attend our Foochow general meeting. They rendered valuable help in the preaching of the Word and planning for the growing work in the city of Foochow and the surrounding district.

After the organization of the church, the need of opening a school for girls became very apparent, as a large percentage of those who have entered into church fellowship have large families of boys and girls. Since the beginning of the present year we have had a good, live, and growing boys' school in Foochow, but up till the present time nothing has been done for the girls. As the new believers presented to us the needs of opening a school for girls, we could very clearly see that some definite step should be taken in that direction this coming autumn. The mission committee, in council with Elders Harlow, Anderson and Ang, therefore voted to enlarge the growing work in Foochow by providing a school for the girls this year.

B. L. ANDERSON.

Argao, Cebu

We are busy at work and enjoying ourselves. We are more and more convinced that we are just where we ought to be. We are now in our permanent home and very comfortable. The climate is fine. It is hot in the sun in the middle of the day, but as we do not go out much at that time we do not suffer. In the house it is nice, and the nights are ideal. We are now screening the house as Mr. Fattbert has been having malaria. He keeps it under control with quinine, but it leaves him miserable and dull. As soon as we get the house screened I am sure he will be all right. In the parlor and bedroom we have forty square meters of windows.

We see Brother and Sister Stewart occasionally. They are of good cheer. It is a comfort to us all to be so near together.

We are busy with the language, and are making progress but not as rapidly as we wish. I am glad we have had this experience as it teaches us what it means to work with unorganized languages. We find all our previous language study of inestimable help to us. We received to-day our second tract. Three others are at the office in Manila. It is our plan to get out short Bible studies on the plan of the "Signs of the Times" leaflets on the various points of our faith, and later get out larger ones dealing more fully with the subjects when we know what appeals to the native mind. We have now ready and in the press, "Repentance," "Sabbath Observance," "The State of the Dead," "The Coming of Christ" and the "Reward of the Righteous;" and the doctor is now working on one on "Diet for the Children." This is greatly needed as they are determined to "stuff" their babies all the time, and more so when they are sick. I have never seen such eaters as these people are. Four, five, or six times each day they eat, and when one is sick they wish them to eat every hour, and if the sick person refuses they resort to force. It is a lot of work to get these tracts ready as we have found no one whose knowledge of either the English or of Bible language is sufficient to make them at all reliable as translators. We must go over it all very carefully with several different ones having them translate them back into both Spanish and English, according to the language they use, to be sure that they do not mix in their own ideas of what we meant instead of what we said.

There is quite a good interest in studying the Bible. Yesterday at the Sabbath services there were

fourteen present. Several are doing their best at Sabbath keeping, but oh, they are so slow to comprehend what the very simplest things mean. One man printed over a thousand tracts on his little hand press free. It was his own suggestion, as he wanted to do something to help. His wife attends the services and is obeying all she understands. Our teacher also attends and greatly enjoys her Bible studies with us. I believe there will be a harvest ere long. At the teachers institute in Cebu the teachers from here did a great deal of talking about the truth, and it is making quite a stir. They report that our tract on "Repentance" was read by the Governor and he was pleased with it. Brother Stewart has a class of interested young men in Cebu.

The woman of whom I reported is growing stronger in the truth. She had a great deal of trouble over the state of the dead, but her father's death seemed to settle her fully. She was with me the night he died and we had a nice time talking together. The following day as we stood by his corpse she said that she hoped that in the day of Christ's coming it would be well with her father's soul, but I am sure she had little idea that it would be. While the rest of the family went to the church for mass, she remained with me, and we spent the time talking about the truth. She went to Cebu soon after and fell into the hands of the Presbyterians, but was able to withstand them and came home stronger. It is her brother who printed the tracts. Her sister comes to services, and her nephew is keeping the Sabbath.

So the days go. Some of them seem very encouraging, and some of them do not, but we plod along trusting in Him who has promised that His Word shall not return to Him void.

We understand that we are not to attend the meeting in Shanghai. While it would of course be a great privilege to attend, still we are rather glad that we are not to go. We are just getting started in the work here and much would be lost by several weeks away. Then, too, we are new here and do not need a rest yet. In another year or so we would be glad indeed for such a change, and it would be more profitable to us and to the work than it would be now. I am sure that it will be a good meeting and all who attend will be blessed. We hope that full reports will be sent us so that we may share in the instruction given, for we need all the help that we can get.

ELLEN B. FATTEBERT.

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Asiatic Division Notice

On account of war conditions, making transportation uncertain, we may be obliged to cancel the appointment for the Asiatic Division meeting, Nov. 1-15. In that event we shall call a meeting of the Asiatic Division Committee as soon as conditions permit, and at that meeting we will consider many of the problems laid over for consideration at the Division meeting, and we will plan for a meeting embracing all European workers to convene next year. If Elder Daniells can reach the field, he will in that case make a tour of the Division in advance of the committee meeting. We much prefer to hold the meeting as appointed, and it will only be canceled if necessary.

R. C. PORTER.

Central China Appointments

General meetings for Central China areas follows: Hunan, Sept. 16-22; Honan, Sept. 30-Oct. 6, and Hupeh, Oct. 10-17. These meetings will be held at each of the provincial mission headquarters respectively; the first two in the school and chapel buildings owned by the mission, and the third we hope to hold as a camp-meeting on our own Hankow property.

R. F. COTTRELL.

NOTES

Elder R. C. Porter made a business trip to Mokanshan August 3.

We have word from Sister S. A. Nagel that she is rapidly improving, and hopes soon to be in her usual health.

Brother K. H. Wood came down from Mokanshan the last week in July in the interests of the work in Shanghai. He returned early in August.

Elder C. L. Butterfield of Korea says: "We are having our share of hot weather. It has been the warmest here the past few days, that it has been known to be for several years."

Elder R. A. Underwood is suffering from a hemorrhage of the brain. He is now under the care of Doctor Shively at the College View Sanitarium who reports him as slowly improving.

Elder I. H. Evans is taking the rest-cure at the home of his mother. He has labored beyond what a weakened heart is capable. May his restoration come speedily that the work may not be hindered in the great North American Division.

Our "Signs" subscriptions have increased since last month from 81000 to 88000, and is still rising weekly. Some of China's millions will know of a soon coming Saviour, and be ready to meet Him in peace as the result of the circulation of our good paper.

Elder B. Peterson gave his first sermon in the Chinese language at the Friday evening meeting for the Press workers a short time ago. His thoughts were very connected, and he did not lack for words to express them. This shows faithfulness in language study the last ten months.

Brother H. Blunden and family, and Brother A. Mountain and family sailed from Australia by the "St. Albans," July 29 for the Asiatic Division, and are expected to reach Shanghai August 28. We are trusting the war conditions have not made it necessary to change the plans of these new workers.

Elder George Harlow and family reached Shanghai August 15 on their way to the States for their furlough. Elder and Sister Harlow are both in poor health, and we trust their stay in the homeland will so build them up as to make them ready for another period of hard work for China. They sail from Shanghai on the "Manchuria" August 22.

Here are some good words from Elder G. B. Thompson: "The home missionary work is taking hold well everywhere, and a great revival is seemingly taking hold of our people. That which will finish the work will be every believer going to work for his neighbors with a determination to bring somebody to Christ. . . . The Pacific Press ordered for the first time a car load of paper to print tracts on. This is encouraging. The Review and Herald is working double shifts to keep up with their orders. The outlook is very encouraging everywhere."

Brother C. P. Lillie writes: "I have good news for you. I am going back to work in a month's time. Am feeling quite well now. I think the doctor has decided that (although not normal) I have no disease in my lungs. It isn't clear what produced the symptoms, but they are rapidly disappearing now. I will get back to Honan for the fall meeting, and am planning for

a month's itinerating work before the Shanghai meeting." This certainly is good news. Praise God for His blessings so richly bestowed.

How many in our Division are planning on working with the Harvest Ingathering Review? We feel warranted in saying that the Malasian field is planning for a vigorous campaign this year, as they succeeded splendidly last year, raising over \$400 gold. This year the mission board is allowing the mission fields the entire amount raised in this way to use as is thought best, not taking it from the appropriation. What an opportunity for raising money for that special interprize lying so close to the heart, but for a lack of means could not be undertaken. Hundreds of dollars can be raised in this way, and much good will result. Without doubt the English speaking community in every place where our work is established will gladly take a copy of this message-filled paper, and give a liberal donation for the same. Send your order without delay.

We are sorry to have to report the sailing of Brother Frank Mills, secretary and treasurer of the Korean Mission, from Yokohama the 12th by the "Siberia" for the states. He has not sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to take up his work again, and the physician recommends a furlough. May the prayers of our readers follow these dear workers as they go in search of health, and if it is His will they be returned to finish the work they have so faithfully begun here in the Orient.

The August issue of the "News" reported Elder W. F. and Sister Hills as on their way to the states. A cable stopped them in Japan where they are now in waiting. It may be they will be recalled for further work in China. Our next issue will give definite word.

Excellent reports from Elders Finster and Butterfield reached us just as we were going to press. They will appear in our next issue.

We have word incidentally of the death by drowning of Brother Ang's daughter, of Swatow. A further report will appear in the Oct. issue as we have no particulars at this date.

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