

Asiatic Division Mission News

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HEADQUARTERS FOR MANCHURIA

A Splendid Site has Now Been Purchased near City of Mukden

We have finally obtained our long hoped-for land. We just closed the deal to-day, and I hasten to forward on the good news.

We are very glad that we are now finished with the purchasing of land for our headquarters. It has kept us quite busy for nearly two months. But we have come to realize that we cannot rush the people of the East, and that we must be patient with them.

As will be recalled this is the third piece of land that we have tried to buy, but in each of the two previous instances, when coming right up to the time of closing the bargain, there was a hitch and the deal called off. It was suggested to us, if we could not get the other pieces, to try and get this one that we have now purchased. This is a much better piece of land than either of the other two, it being higher and leveled off. For some time it seemed that we could not get this piece either. The Llama priest asked \$200 (small money) per mow, and at the same time wanted 300 taels for the house standing on the property, 60 taels for a well and 40 taels for a large tree. We did not feel that we could pay that, and so we started in by offering him \$145 a mow. Well, we still continued to negotiate, thinking we might bring it down a little further, and finally he consented to sell the land for \$170 (small money) per mow, 30 taels for the well, and nothing for the house and the tree. It is customary here for the buyer to pay for the well even if he cannot use it. When we saw there was no use urging further reduction, we accepted his proposition, and are fully convinced that we have obtained the land at a very cheap price.

Mr. Tang, secretary to the American Consul, went to see the governor about the place. He saw the governor's secretary, who said he would call the Llama and induce him to sell us the land. He stated that if we should have to pay \$400 per mow for the land, it was worth that much. The land just across the road from where we have purchased is sold for 250 taels per mow. So it can readily be seen that we have made a bargain in getting this property. We are all very

much satisfied with this place. It is near enough to the city, and at the same time we will be outside the noise and the dirt. There are twenty-nine and a fourth mow in this tract of land (five acres), for which we paid \$1700 gold.

The American Consul was very glad that we finally obtained this tract of land. He has been very desirous of seeing us get a good place, and he said to-day that he would send the deed to the Chinese official to have it stamped. He further said that we are the first American missionaries here in Manchuria, and he hoped to see our church make great progress here in this field.

This being mission property there will be no transfer taxes to pay. If it had been personal property we would have had to pay nine per cent of the value of the land. The officials have already stated that it is to be stamped free of charge.

We think that it will be too late for us to build this year, for we could hardly get started before the first of September, not knowing if we could get the money, and then there would be only two months to build, as the frost starts here in November, and it might be difficult to get the houses dried by that time. At the same time it will be impossible for us to stay where we are another year. We must find a more sanitary place. We are now in the rainy season. During the last month it has rained almost every day without fail, sometimes all day as well as all night, and we still have a few weeks left of this season. A large pond joins hard against our compound and it is filled with all kinds of filth. At times we can hardly breathe for the terrible stench coming into the houses. Our houses are very damp. In some of the rooms the walls are wet more than four feet up from the floor. There is no outlet for the water, and this makes the rooms smell very damp and musty. Then, too, the barracks are right near us, and the soldiers are constantly disturbing our sleep, as they often start to practice at 3:30 in the morning. Mrs. Petersen's nerves are not any too strong for the kind of music the Chinese soldiers furnish. There is a prospect of us getting a little new Chinese compound where it is much better than here, and we could be very comfortable until we can build. We are thinking of moving there, as it is also nearer our purchased land.

I am planning to go north next week to look after an interest. We have sent a man there to open the work, and I will now be free to help him get located and started in his work. We are planning on opening another chapel in a large city south of Mukden, where there is an interest and one has begun to keep the Sabbath. Other places are calling to us to help them, but these two places will probably be all we can manage with our present staff of workers. We are in dire need of workers, but we must be patient until they can be sent us or developed here. Just today a man came in from a city about a hundred miles from here stating that there were some there who were very much interested in our message, and desired that we should come and instruct them. We are doing what we can, and are glad to see the work moving forward. Others are preparing for baptism and we look forward to the time when we will have a strong work here. The ten months that we have been here witnesses a good beginning made.

B. PETERSEN.

CHINA'S CAPITAL CITY

Doctor Selmon Meets with Success in Locating Workers in Peking

All these years the northern tier of provinces, Chihli, Shansi, Shensi, and Kansu have not had a single herald of this last message. Eight years ago the secretary of the Mission Board wrote urging that we do something to start the work in Chihli, for this being the province in which is located the nation's capital, it was of great strategic importance. But the way did not seem to open because there was no one who could be spared to go. Following the Asiatic Division meeting, at which time we were asked to open up work in this northern field, I made a trip to Peking. Having been there twice before, I was somewhat acquainted with the difficulties that would confront us in getting a start in that ultraconservative city. While en route I prayed the Lord in the words of Abraham's servant, "I pray thee, send me good speed this day."

The Lord assuredly answered this prayer, for we found a friend in Peking who was most helpful. He is a cloth merchant with a thriving business, and is one of the leading members of an independent Chinese church. He helped us to secure a small house for the workers who are located there. The evangelist, Brother Su, and two colporteurs are in this place at present. On the Sabbath he and a friend came to the inn where I was staying. They came at eight in the morning, and we studied the truth with these two men until two in the afternoon, dealing with many of the important phases of the message. The merchant is a very good Bible student, and professed to be thoroughly convinced of the Sabbath truth and the second coming. He has already been paying tithes for a long time. This man has a very wide circle of acquaintances among business men and officials. We are earnestly

praying that he will come out and take a strong stand. The latest word I have from there is to the effect that he meets with our people on the Sabbath, but as yet has not closed his shop Sabbaths. He is anxious that he may find a way of giving his friends this new-found truth.

The outlook is most encouraging, but we should not delay in getting new workers out from the home base who can be preparing to help in looking after the interest that will soon be aroused in and about Peking. It will cost us heavily to secure a place suitable for a preaching chapel and for living quarters for foreign workers. The city is full of those who are officials now, or who have once been officials, or are prospective officials. The population is a mixture from every province of China and its dependencies. We solicit your prayers in behalf of the work in China's capital.

A. C. SELMON.

New Church Formed in the Philippine Islands

About eighteen months ago our canvassers entered the town of Baliwag with our books. After they had finished their delivery, they reported that a large number desired that we should hold some meetings there. They promised an attendance of one hundred if we would send a worker, but it went along nearly a year before we were able to enter the place. A tent then was erected with Bibiano Panis in charge, and two Bible workers as assistants. The attendance was soon four to six hundred every night, but at this time Brother Bibiano was taken ill with appendicitis, and Brother Emilio Manalaysay was called to carry on the interest. The Lord greatly blessed him in following up this interest, and on our return from Shanghai we found about fifty keeping the Sabbath. Brother Bibiano Panis then reunited with the tent effort, and a week ago Sabbath we held our baptismal service. There were thirty-seven baptized, and many others will receive the rite at a later date. They had been holding a baptismal class every night for three weeks, so when I arrived I found an excellent spirit among the people. After three days' meetings we were glad to bury them with their Lord to rise to walk in a new life. The workers are holding meetings in several of the barrios and are still having a splendid interest.

Our baptism was held at six o'clock on Sabbath morning. The ordinances of the Lord's house were celebrated and a church was organized and officers elected. It is a marvel to many of the people of Baliwag to see the great changes that have been made in the lives of these people. They have left their tobacco, gambling and other vices, and are now earnest Bible students. Men may convince their fellowmen of the truthness of doctrine, but it is the power of the Spirit of God that transforms the lives of men; and the Spirit of God works the same on all hearts. We pray that God's blessing may continue to rest with this new church at Baliwag.

The following Sabbath we baptized thirteen at Norzagaray. This church now numbers sixty-five. It was at this place that about a year ago I baptized a lady one hundred five years old, and I was glad to see her still faithful at this meeting and rejoicing in the present truth.

We have just received word from one of our canvassers in Batangas, where our books have been sold in time past, that there are now fifteen keeping the Sabbath, and they are calling for some one to come and help further enlighten them. Our great lack is trained workers to fill the many calls that are open for work here at the present time.

L. V. FINSTER.

God's Providences Manifest in Kwangsi

The Lord has been very good to us, and His blessing has been on the work in Kwangsi Province. This year has witnessed a worse flood than last year, the water rising about eight feet higher than last year. If we had been living still in the house occupied last year we should have been forced to move into a sampan, for last year the water was ten feet deep in our house, lacking only about ten inches of entering our rooms on second story. Now you see with eight feet more water the second story was almost full of water. We are very thankful not to be in the house. The houses are all covered except in the very highest part of the city. The suffering as a result is terrible. Many, many houses were washed down, and in one house near our chapel more than ten people were killed when the house went down. Our chapel had five or six feet of water for two days. We were so high that the flood last year did not enter this chapel at all.

Just before the flood came, but after the hard rain had begun, we had planned to have baptism on the 4th of July. On the previous day (Sabbath), we thought perhaps it would be best to postpone until the rain was over, but one man (a candidate) said, "No, we must not put off the baptism. I have faith to believe that to-morrow will be a good day; at least the rain will stop long enough for us to get all through." According to his faith, the next day the rain stopped, and we all took boats and went to a quiet place up the river, and there I buried twelve precious souls in the watery grave. We came home and even got our clothes dried. That evening the rain came down in torrents, and continued nearly a week, and then the flood came.

We expected five more to be baptized at this time, but these were hindered by sickness and urgent calls to go home. They will be baptized later.

The evening of the 4th we organized a church of nineteen members. This is our second church in Kwangsi Province in about sixteen months.

Our canvassers are having good success with the papers. The men are all new in the truth, and at this kind of work, but in the last two months we have sent in two hundred and eighty-three semi-yearly and yearly subscriptions for the *Signs*.

We have been unable to do any work for several weeks on account of the flood, but with another experienced canvasser just returned, we will push the work harder than ever after the water goes down.

My family are located in Kowloon, until we can move to new quarters in Nanning. Pray for us that the Lord may bless the work in this province. We have rented a chapel in Nanning, and an evangelist and canvasser are ready to move down there as soon as the flood is over.

This makes us five light centers in the province, and we have also a location in Nom Hoong, where we are soon to locate a worker. No denominations have gone there yet, and we will enter first with the truth.

DR. LAW KEEM.

Floods in Kwangtung Abating

A few days ago I returned home from my trip into the Kwangtung Province. Before leaving there the great floods had subsided, and traffic and business was again being carried on in the usual way.

At Waichow where the water was so high that sampans could come right to the door-steps of Brother Nagel's house, the river had again resumed its normal height. I am pleased to say that though the recent flood experienced at Waichow was quite severe, yet no serious damage was sustained. The new church, that was just finished before the flood, apparently received no serious damages from the water, though it stood about four feet high above the floor. With some small repairs the building was again put in good condition. On Sabbath July 24 our people from the city of Waichow and the near-by stations, gathered in this new house of worship, and after the usual Sabbath program, which was conducted in an orderly and most interesting way, this new church was dedicated to the service of the Master. Ninety people were present, and many more would have come had they received the notice in time. This church is 34 x 48 feet and will seat about 200 people. It is the second church erected in the Hakka field and was dedicated free from debt. We are indeed glad that our brethren at Waichow have such a good place in which to worship the Lord.

At the close of the Sabbath fourteen souls were buried with the Lord in baptism and added to the church. It seems good to see these people turn from heathen darkness and come into the light of the gospel.

B. L. ANDERSON.

Watching the List Grow

This is a fine topic of discussion this month. It gives one joy to contemplate it. For instance, note these details of interest: December 31, 1914, our list stood,—Wenli 6,187 addresses; Mandarin 4,355 addresses. At the present writing, August 17, 1915, it stands as follows: Wenli, 6,739; Mandarin 11,452; a total of 18,191 subscriptions on the single wrapper list.

ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

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It will be noted that while the Wenli paper has gained imperceptibly, the Mandarin paper has almost tripled.

There is another feature of this increase that is quite cheering, and that is the territory represented. There is India, Malaysia, America, and all but four of the provinces of China. The four not represented are Yunnan, Kansu, Kweichow, and Shansi. We are asking the Lord for laborers for these provinces. Are there not many honest souls in those unentered lands just as much entitled to this truth as those in the more favored places?

Shantung, just entered last year, has a list of over 500. Szechwan, also entered a little over a year ago, has a list of more than 500. Our largest list is in Hunan, over 5000.

This month the postage cost per month on this growing list for the first time turned the \$100 mark.

W. E. GILLIS.

Death of Sister E. G. White

This notice will not cause surprise to any of our readers, for doubtless all will have received word of the passing, July 16, at "Elmshaven," St. Helena, our dearly beloved sister, friend and counsellor. It can truly be said of her, She has fought a good fight, she has finished her course, she has kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for her a crown of life, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give her at that day. This was our sister's hope and confidence, and it is the confidence of all those who knew her.

Her work is done.—faithfully done, and we that live and remain shall see her again standing on the sea of glass having a harp in her hand, and singing the song of victory. Her example and works remain for our admonition, and the light she has given us will light our pathway down to the end of time.

In the rifted Rock she's resting,
Safely sheltered she abides;
Where no storms or foes molest her,
For within the cleft she hides.

Long pursued by sin and Satan,
Weary, how she longed for rest;
Then she found this heav'nly shelter,
Opened in her Saviour's breast.

NOTICE

Those having oversight of the taking of subscriptions for the Chinese *Signs of the Times* will please remember the following points: Only yearly or half-yearly subscriptions will be accepted. Half-year subscriptions, when sent in lists of greater proportion than one to ten yearly, will be charged at a premium. It is of the greatest importance that every list state distinctly whether it is Mandarin or Wenli *Signs* that are desired. Be sure and have a competent writer list all subscriptions on the blue forms furnished for the purpose, and don't use lead pencil. Carefully see that the time to run is correctly stated. This is a common point of error.

W. E. GILLIS.

NOTES

A fifteen days' canvassers' institute has been conducted at Soonan, Korea.

We have had a peaceful and quiet voyage, and the day at Honolulu was especially delightful. Missionaries of all denominations were taken for a half day's ride about the city, and to the aquarium, free of charge. The number of missionaries traveling by our boat was about one hundred thirty. We have worked what we could in a quiet way and with our literature, and trust some of the seed sown may bear fruit in the future. To-morrow morning (July 20) if all is well we shall reach San Francisco.—*R. F. Cottrell*

We were shocked to receive by the last mail from America the news that Brethren A. J. S. Bourdeau and Edwin Andrews, and Brother Bourdeau's little daughter Marguerite, were struck by lightning on July 19th, in front of Pastor Daniells's home in Takoma Park. Brethren Bourdeau and Andrews died instantly, and little Marguerite was stricken unconscious, but may recover. This will bring sadness to the hearts of Brother Bourdeau's many friends, he being well known as a religious liberty worker in the denomination. Our deepest sympathies go out to the bereaved loved ones. What a lesson of the uncertainty of life should this be to us who still hold this priceless treasure, and the importance of living momentarily prepared to meet the great Judge!

Pastor R. C. Porter reached Sandakan, after four days from Hongkong, July 19. Here Pastors Detamore and Montgomery met him, and a few minutes after landing he was in the pulpit preaching to a congregation of our people numbering about twenty-four. A full program was arranged for him, and the following days were spent inland visiting some stations where we have work started. On their return to Sandakan they were disappointed to find there was no regular steamer going out to Manila, their next appointment, for a full week later. But there was a little light-house inspection steamer leaving at once, going to Iloilo, P. I., and operated by Americans, and they were taken aboard this little vessel of 411 tons, 148 feet long. As they pulled away from the wharf at Sandakan Pastor and Sister Montgomery stood there and waved them a good-by until lost to view. Pastor Porter said, "The sight of that lonely couple standing there alone, the only foreign family we have in all North Borneo, haunts me every time I think of it. The very loneliness of it causes a lonesome feeling to steal over me. We must have another foreign family there soon." Going by Iloilo, they were privileged to visit Brother E. M. Adams and family, a place Pastor Porter had long wanted to visit, but opportunity had not up to this time afforded it. En route the little vessel encountered the typhoon of July 28, which did so much damage and caused so much loss of life in many places, but being near a secluded harbor they did not venture out upon the angry waters until they had somewhat calmed down. Here, shut away from everybody and everything, they profitably spent the time with the Captain and men of the boat, whose guests they were, in talking of things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and reading His word. From Iloilo a good steamer was leaving for Manila on which they secured passage, and arrived several days ahead of scheduled time, for which all were glad, as there was much to do in the time allotted to them here before their steamer on which they had booked would be leaving for Hongkong. A full report will be given of Pastor Porter's trip in a future issue of the NEWS.