

Asiatic Division Mission News

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Through an Enemy's Land

A scrip on my back, and a staff in my hand,
I march on in haste through an enemy's land;
The road may be rough, but it can not be long;
And I'll smooth it with hope, and I'll cheer it with song.
H. F. LYTE

A Filipino Tent Meeting

A tent company of Filipino brethren was sent out about five months ago to San Pablo, in the Province of Laguna. They pitched their tent and arranged their seats of planks with no backs, and started their meetings. I watched with interest their logical arrangement of subjects from week to week. Every phase of the gospel message was fully covered. I paid several visits to see how they were getting along, and saw that the town was being mightily stirred. The tent was literally packed. Men and women came from many miles around. Many would be there an hour before meeting time in order to get a seat. One night at the tent I think there must have been nearly twelve hundred people present.

After about four months' meetings every night, they started their class for those who wished to be baptized. This class continued nearly one month, and in the end one hundred thirty gave in their names for baptism. I went out there recently to baptize those who were ready. Upon arrival I first spoke to their baptismal class, which numbered nearly two hundred, and the Spirit of God came very near as I spoke to these searchers after truth.

They have been meeting bitter opposition from their Catholic friends, who asked them what their new name would be after baptism, and who was to be their god-father, god-mother, etc. Their greatest opposition, however, came from the Protestant members of other churches. They went in crowds from house to house to persuade them not to be baptized. They used the usual arguments against baptism, and then would tell them that we would put them under the water and strangle them. But through all this, I was glad to note on the record of the leader that nearly every one had been present every night during the whole time of the baptismal class.

The next day we went to the place of baptism about one and one-half miles from San Pablo. As about two

hundred people in solemn procession wound their way under the beautiful palm trees, it was a scene long to be remembered. Many lessons from the words of God came fast into my mind as we passed along. The Psalmist likens the growth of the Christian to the palm tree. It grows from within, and not from without, as do other trees. It is always green and bears its fruit at the top. So it is with the Christian, the growth must be from the heart and not only cutting off the outer bad habits. Our last experiences should be the greenest and brightest of our life; we cannot be satisfied with the experiences of the past; we can bring forth fruit even in old age.

Soon we came to a beautiful lake. Here many lessons of Jesus as He taught by the sea of Galilee came to mind. At one side we came to the lovely clear stream where we were to have our baptism. Here we held another service, although it was hot and the perspiration ran down our limbs until our shoes were wet. This was the most beautiful spot for baptism I have ever seen. The banks were covered with palms, and rose at right angle so all could be seated very close and see all that was done. As we started our baptism a hush came over the congregation, and during all the time while I was baptizing one hundred four people hardly a whisper was heard. I have assisted in baptizing at camp-meetings where many helped in the service, but never before have I been called upon to baptize so many alone at one time.

Sabbath morning at eight o'clock we gathered in the home of one of our brethren for the services of the day. It was necessary for them to remove part of the partitions in order to seat 200 people. After a talk on "the Christian race" we held the Lord's supper. About all of those baptized had come from the Roman Catholic church, and so our services were very different from the "mass" which they had been told was the offering up of Christ again as a sacrifice to God. The hearts of our brethren were made very glad when they were able to read from God's word that the bread and wine were "remembrances of His sacrifice made on Calvary." that "this He did once," and by this one sacrifice He "obtained eternal redemption for us," and "by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."

In the afternoon at two o'clock, we met again and held our Sabbath school. It was an inspiring sight to see the interest of these people in their study of the word of God, of which they have been so long deprived. After the Sabbath school, we spoke again on the "church of God," its organization, officers, etc., after which a church of one hundred sixteen was organized and officers elected. Thirteen others gave their names desiring baptism as soon as they could be more fully instructed. We thank the Lord for the fruits of His Spirit.

L. V. FINSTER.

Distributing Literature Among Women of Japan

Women's work in Japan still progresses, slowly it is true, but surely. We continue to sow the precious seeds of truth, praying the Lord of the harvest to bless that they may yield fruit to His praise, and we are sustained and comforted by His promise that "my word . . . shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." He also tells us to sow morning and evening "for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

By His help we have been trying to sow beside all waters by scattering thousands of pages of tracts and papers on the streets, at the stations, and on the cars. Our Japanese sisters have been with us in the distribution of our literature in the little village near the mission compound. Each week after our regular meeting of the "Fujinkai" we have placed a leaflet on present truth in every house, thirty-three different topics, each subject in order. Each member had her territory to cover, giving her thirty-three different visits to each home. In case any were unable to attend to her own route, one of the other members added it to her own, so that it was not missed or neglected. This gave every soul in this village a chance to know of the true God, and of the truth for these days. It seems very difficult to get the people interested in Christianity; but we are trying to do the best we know how to help them to our loving, heavenly Father and our precious Saviour. How very sad it is to see these poor, dear souls so contented and satisfied with their idols, with no hope beyond this life, and so very little in this. But we know that the Lord knows the desire of every heart, and in His own good time and way He will help us to win every honest heart for His kingdom. We are planning to hold our meetings in the village this summer, hoping to be able to interest and gather in some living there that we otherwise would be unable to reach.

One reported from Nagoya as converted through the work of our society last quarter has been a great encouragement to us all. We are happy in the service of the Lord, and not discouraged, though the work seems to go slow and hard; but rather thankful that the Lord lets us serve, and have even a small part in the finishing of His great work.

Please remember us in your prayers.

Mrs. F. H. De Vinney.

Japan Mission Training School

Our school year 1915-16 has just closed, and all our students are now out in active missionary work, and we have been receiving some very encouraging reports of the success they are having in their work. Most of the students are in the canvassing work, but quite a number were ready this year to enter other branches of the work. Some have gone out as tent masters, others as Bible workers, and one each in the church school and printing house. Three Bible workers from the school are opening up work in a district of Tokyo that has as yet been unworked by us.

Our tent masters in Japan have a very responsible position and need a very thorough training for their duties. The climate is such that in a very little time a tent will be ruined if not properly cared for. This year all the students received special instruction in the art of erecting and caring for tents.

One of our student canvassers has reported as high as \$2.25 (gold) worth of sales in a day, and this has been chiefly for sales and subscriptions for a magazine that sells for two and a half cents a copy. Others are not doing quite as well as this, but all reports show a very good return for the time spent.

We have a church school here in Tokyo for the first time, and our enrolment is about fifteen. The superintendent of the public schools for this district has recognized our church school and grants government certificates to our students, which enables them to enter any government school without examination.

The Lord is blessing our educational work, and we are praying that we may be kept from making mistakes that will hinder the progress which lies before us. Pray for our schools and for the success of our students.

H. F. Benson.

Perils Among Robbers

(Concluded)

There is only one road in all that section, and it is the east and west road that goes through the mountain pass at Tung Gwan. And when I tell you that this road is quite a little over two thousand years old, and that it is worn down so that the bottom of the road is just wide enough for a cart to pass, and the sides are like walls almost perpendicular, and rising to a height in places of one hundred and fifty feet, you can see that one in a cart can not have much choice as to the road he takes.

We proceeded with all haste to Tung Gwan. This place has great walls and gates as massive as those at Peking. The gates were closed and locked, but by pushing my card through a crevice and telling the soldiers who we were they opened and let us through, we knew the place would soon be attacked by the robber band, and since there were only a couple of hundred regular soldiers there, we felt sure that they would retreat without making much of a fight. We wanted to push on to the east at once, and cross through the mountain pass and get into Honan. But the roads to the west

of Tung Gwan are over a foot wider than those to the east, and so at this place it is necessary to change the axle on your cart before you can proceed. So we drove up to an inn and dumped out our stuff. There was a panic in the place, for the people knew they would soon be at the mercy of the robbers. Everything was shut, and we had difficulty in finding a carpenter to change our axle. While we were at work changing our axle we heard firing at the west gate, and knew that the robbers were attacking it. As soon as the firing began people took to their heels, and so there was nothing to do but for us to wait in the inn and trust the Lord to deliver us again.

I should mention that as soon as we entered the city and reported to the soldiers what we had met with, the band of soldiers at once gathered up bag and baggage and took a straight line for the east gate. They left the city entirely without protection. In fifteen minutes after the soldiers had marched out of the east gate the robbers were firing on the west gate. They evidently had accomplices in the city, for it was only a matter of a few minutes until we saw them running in through the gate. They set a guard at the east gate, and anyone trying to get out was relieved of everything he had except the clothes on his back.

We saw that there was no hope of our escaping the band of plunderers who were stationed at the east gate, and since there was no other way to get out we simply waited. It was dusk by this time, and everyone was on the keen edge, because it was absolutely certain that looting would soon begin.

We picked out some of the things that would be most needed in our wanderings through the mountains, and each man made up a small bundle that he could carry on his back. We decided that as soon as we heard the firing begin, which would necessarily accompany the looting, we would jump down from the back wall of the inn and make a run up on the city wall. We felt sure that when looting began the guard stationed on the city wall would come down for a share in the loot. We found a long rope in the inn, and planned to fasten the rope at the top of the wall and slide down on the outside, a distance of over fifty feet. While waiting, expecting at any minute to hear shooting, suddenly there was a crash of thunder, and it began to pour down rain, and it rained from about half-past ten that night until daylight next morning. The day of miracles is not past. We know that the Lord sent that rain to prevent the looters breaking loose.

Early the next morning we began looking for the robber chief to see if he could devise some way so we could get out of the city. We succeeded in finding him about eleven in the forenoon. He said he would send one of his secretaries with us, and one of his "trusties", and he thought he could get us through the east gate. So we hurriedly got our stuff together; but before we had got it out of the inn a force of over a thousand of the mounted bandits entered the city and took possession of all the inns and important business places. Before we were aware of it, almost, there were a dozen horses and mules and as many men in the rooms that we were occupying. They at once began helping themselves to our stuff, but just then a man came from the robber chief and told them the chief had pledged himself to protect us, and they put most of the stuff back.

When we reached the east gate, the looters were there in full force. They were stripping everyone clean. Those who tried to get through with a cart managed to get the empty cart through by pulling it themselves. They had to leave their horses, mules, and baggage with the looters. As soon as we got up to the

gate they ordered us to get down out of the cart and leave all our goods with them. The chief's secretary expostulated, but they paid no attention whatever to him, and they began to get nasty because we did not comply with their demand instantly. Just then one of the squad of looters spoke up and said, "Aren't you the people we cleaned out yesterday back there on the road?" We assured him that we were the identical ones. Then he spoke up to the crowd and said, "We cleaned them up yesterday; let them go." At this the crowd stepped back, and we drove on. We did not take the trouble to tell them that after they "cleaned us out" we got part of our stuff back again.

We got out of the city and across the pass, saw no more of the robbers, but all along the road we came up with people who had been robbed of everything they had, down to the few hundred cash that they were carrying for road expenses.

We might have started a day or two earlier and escaped all this, but we were loath to leave the company of enquirers there about Gospel Village, and so we remained with them up until within four days of the time we had previously set for our departure. Since we left at just the time to meet with the experiences that I have mentioned above, I feel that the Lord must have desired that we pass through these experiences, and that He had some purpose in mind. Suffice it to say, He made good to us His promises in the 34th and 91st psalms.

A. C. SELMON.

Women of Culture Accepting the Message

We often hear of people accepting the truth through our tracts, papers, and books. I will relate an instance of interest along this line. About six weeks ago in Shanghai we had some special meetings. Brother Wood got out some advertising matter announcing the meetings, and among other things he had a leaflet showing the picture of the crown of the pope, and the different subjects of the week announced. Two ladies walking up the street saw one of these sheets, picked it up, and read the subjects to be preached upon. They immediately looked up the chapel, met Brother Tsu, and asked for the foreign Bible woman. He told them to leave their address and I would call on them.

We found these two sisters very devout Christian women, their father an Episcopalian minister, and they brought up Christians from childhood. They told us they had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, but we found them ready to accept the message. They have kept four Sabbaths, and are happy in the truth as far as they have seen it.

I ask that you will remember these two women in your prayers, as they will meet great opposition from their church, husband, and children. One is a widow, whose husband was a Mandarin. The Chinese say he was a man of renown in the city. The husband of the other woman is a man of influence in Shanghai. She voluntarily gave a donation of ten dollars to the church, and told the Bible woman she wanted to donate one thousand dollars to God's work.

I believe the time has come when the Lord will give us many precious souls with their means to help finish the work in this great land. His Spirit in these last days is moving on the hearts of rich and poor. May we have the faith of Jesus which will enable us, in spite of all obstacles, to bring out every honest soul from heathenism and Babylon, is my prayer.

Mrs. B. Miller.

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NOTES

Little cards received announce the arrival of Virginia Ruth Davenport, a little lady of eight pounds, at the home of Doctor and Mrs. Davenport on Mokanshan, July 5.

Mabel, the little daughter of Brother and Sister R. C. Wangerin, at Keizan, Chosen, died of meningitis on June 3, after an illness of some weeks. We extend our sincere sympathies to these dear friends in their sorrow.

"The work of north Chosen is onward," writes Doctor Russell. "We have organized four churches and one company this spring and summer. Tomorrow we start a tent effort in a walled town where there has never been any work carried on, and hope to see one more company added to the list."

Brother S. G. White reports what we believe to be quite a record made by one of the Hunan colporteurs, Hsu Gin Tang, who took one hundred twenty-two orders for the Signs of the Times in four days, or thirty-one hours, and was only prevented from taking more by his subscription blanks giving out.

Doctor A. C. Selmon, Pastor George Harlow, R. J. Brown, and E. H. James, with their families, and C. H. Davis have gone to Kuling for the summer. This has been a bad season for such trips, as several of these arrived at Kuling in a drenching rain, but late word states that the beautiful scenery and fine climate on the mountain more than repays them for their inconvenience in getting there.

The friends in Shanghai, on the evening of the 2nd inst., bade good bye to a party starting for the States, consisting of Dr. A. G. Larson and family, and Miss Olive Osborne, and Mr. Crofoot and family of the Seventh-day Baptist Mission. These all sailed from here on the "China," and were to be joined in Yokohama by Doctor Russell and Pastor Wangerin and their families, of Korea, and Mrs. C. C. Hall and children of Tokyo.

Recently the editor of the *Signs* has received several very encouraging letters from a company of Sabbath keepers in the province of Kiangsu, who until the present time have never seen an Adventist other than the man who took their subscriptions for the magazine, but have been faithful readers of the *Signs* during the past year. The result is they say they are now fully in harmony with all principles of our faith, and wish to be baptized and received into church fellowship. The petition calling for a worker to visit them was signed by six of the leading men of the city, and said that there was a company of several tens awaiting the visit of one of our workers. A recent letter urges that they be visited at once, and says that they are sending a committee of three to visit the headquarters in Shanghai.

The Ellen G. White Memorial Hospital

A Sister's Suggestion

Since mention was made in the NEWS of the "Ellen G. White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles," a suggestion has been sent us by one of our missionary sisters in the Asiatic Division. She thinks best not to mention names, so I am not disclosing hers. This sister decided she wanted to give the Lord \$50 (gold) for this institution, where medical evangelists are to be trained. After thus making known her desire to help in this way, this sister says, "I wonder if there are not other sisters in this great Division that would like to join in with our sisters in America in helping to raise the fund to erect this building, to train our medical evangelists for the Lord and His service, and also a memorial to His faithful servant. So I am taking this opportunity to inquire of you about it, and taking the liberty to make this suggestion that you mention it in your paper. that any of our sisters who would like to contribute to this fund may do so, and their gifts would be forwarded to America."

This is an excellent suggestion, and we feel sure there are some of our sisters who would join in with this sister and our sisters in America, who have undertaken to largely finance this great work. Any sums of money for this purpose, large or small, will be gladly forwarded through our office here in Shanghai. Who will follow this suggestion? J. E. FULTON.

From Far Away Savage Island

The South Sea Islands are now a part of this Division, and it is proper that our workers should from time to time hear a few words about them. The "isles wait for His law." For some years we have been planning to place a missionary on the island of Niue, or Savage Island, but for one cause or another we have been unable to do this until now. From a letter received from Pastor S. W. Carr, written the day of arrival, we learn that Pastor and Mrs. Carr, after a long three weeks' trip in a small sailing craft, reached the island in safety and were welcomed by a young native sister who attended our college in Australia, and also by the few Europeans on the islands. Mrs. Carr is the fifth European lady on the island. J. E. F.

From Farther Away Pitcairn Island

Mention was made of the building of a small boat on Pitcairn. This is now nearing completion, by last reports. This sail-boat is to carry the products of the island to Tahiti. Our people there have been making donations and giving their tithe in kind, but as they have had no certain way of conveying the same to market, the products most frequently spoiled. Now they are hopeful of helping more in the advancement of the great message. A campmeeting had been held on the island with a number of conversions as a result. They leave their homes, build booths in the woods and have a larger place for meetings, and conduct a ten days' campmeeting. J. E. F.