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Then Now and Future

DR. H. W. MILLER

IN our China field, what we had then, referring to the beginning of our work, and what we have now, is only one of the many truly marvelous evidences of God's outstretched hand toward the completion of His work in this our day.

At this writing I am returning from the Harbin general meeting, having attended all the union sessions except West China, starting in at South China with the meeting held at Waichow and ending in the north with the Sungari Mission.

In February of 1907 we held our first general meeting of the China Mission at Shanghai, with Professor W. W. Prescott and Elder Gates of Australia present. Our entire working force, excepting three young men who remained at their station, were represented at that meeting. We then had nine families and six single workers located in eight mission stations - - five in Honan, one in Fukien, and two in Kwangtung. Our China institutions consisted of a small printing office and a girl's school in Honan, and a girl's school in Canton. If we were to call our workers together now on a similar basis of representation, how different it would be! In the Central China general meeting alone there were more than 700 present in the Yen-cheng church, including workers from the Central China Union Mission and many of the church members from Honan.

Today we see our union mission sessions functioning as they do in other parts of the world field, with committees, departments organized for work, and all the sessions conducted in the Chinese language. How inspiring to hear strong promotion of plans and entreaties for resources in men and means to open work in new centers, coming from those who are the fruit of the efforts of workers during those early days, men who are consecrated, earnest and talented and who occupy responsible posts in our organized work!

Today we have 1,181 workers scattered about in the six union missions of the China field, one worker to each 405,000 of population.

As we review the past and make comparisons, there is much to encourage us for the task of evangelizing China in this generation, especially when we hear a report such as was given by the director of the North China Union for the biennial period of 1929-1930, showing 345 new members added as compared with 350 gained previously through 14 years of effort.

A great work yet lies before this church for all the 1,900 hsiens in China, for we have believers and Chinese work in less than 250 hsiens; or only ten per cent of our territory has been worked. In one or two local missions we have covered all the hsiens with our literature and in one local mission we confidently expect to have churches organized within every hsien by the end of this year. But these instances as yet are rare and we hope each year to hear more and more of our local missions sing the Jubilee Song because of having entered all their territory with the message.

In speaking of the future of our work in China, I can not do better than quote a few lines from "Great Controversy," page 612:

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. -- Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand."

Biennial Session, Central China Union, May 1 - 10, 1931

CENTRAL CHINA ADVANCES

H. W. Miller

Twenty-eight years ago, when we entered Central China, we had no baptized Chinese Sabbath-keepers, no school, no publishing house, no standing in the community. To-day, as we met in the beautiful auditorium of our Yencheng, Honan, headquarters, and entered upon the biennial session of the Central China Union Mission, we had many delegates and others in regular attendance, seven hundred of our brethren and sisters, comfortably seated and cared for in our own buildings, and with hearts warmed by the truths they hold precious.

The net gain in Central China Union Mission during the past two years, has been 366 baptized Sabbath-keepers, bringing our total up to 1,961. That is notwithstanding the many, many unfavorable circumstances surrounding our work and workers because of war, famine, communism, and other influences making difficult an advance. God has blessed. He has especially helped the colporteurs, who have sold Mex. \$83,465.29 worth of literature the past two years, under the able leadership of Pastor E. L. Longway and associates.

In Shensi, where the work was started fourteen years ago, we have had but 59 members. Last year alone, however, 74 were added to the church of Shensi by baptism. This is a marked evidence of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. During our Yencheng meeting, it was arranged that to the Shensi Mission in charge of Pastor Wu Dzeh Shan, there be assigned, to assist, Brethren Z. H. Coberly and Harold Shultz and their families.

On the last Sabbath, Brother E. L. Longway was ordained to gospel ministry.

In arranging for the year's work, it was decided that Pastor W. E. Strickland be asked to serve as union evangelist; Pastor E. H. James as director of Honan Mission; Pastor H. L. Graham, Hunan; Pastor C. H. Davis, Hupeh; Pastors Wu and Liu continuing in their directorships of Shensi and Kiangsi.

During the years since first we entered Honan, our medical work has steadily progressed until to-day we have a well-equipped plant at

Yencheng, under the superintendency of Dr. R. J. Brines. This Hospital-Dispensary has been made a union institution, and is an excellent center of influence and training.

Pastor N. F. Brewer, union superintendent, plans with his associates for a largely increased membership by the close of the biennial period upon which the Central China Union is now entering. To this end, much will be made of public preaching and of every other evangelizing agency.

During the meeting a letter was received from the two colporteurs pressing on into Central Asia. They had rested during the Sabbath day, "according to the commandment," while fellow travellers of other faiths went on their journey. Hiring carts following the close of the Sabbath, our colporteurs pressed on toward those who had gone ahead during the Sabbath, and caught up with them, only to learn that while quietly resting on Sabbath, their fellow travellers who did not keep the Sabbath, met robbers along the way and lost nearly all they had. Surely God honors those who choose to honor Him. Our colporteurs on this journey are praising the Lord for His deliverances, and while mentioning hardships, nevertheless rejoice over the privilege of pressing on into Chinese Turkestan.

With the development of lines of communication and transport into the farthest limits of China, reaching into the heart of Central Asia, we can see God at work, opening the way for an advance, which already is being undertaken by pioneers who have felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to press into regions hitherto unentered, that they may seek and save that which has been lost, and proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel and the special message for our day.

The Central China Union biennial session closed with consecration service, and now the workers are undertaking with renewed faith and determination their great task of laboring in cooperation with Heavenly agencies for the spread of present Bible truth throughout their territory with its population exceeding that of the entire United States of America. Let us pray that God's blessing may attend them, and that they may have an abundant harvest of souls won for the kingdom.

CENTRAL CHINA UNION

N. F. BREWER

(Synopsis of biennial report rendered by Pastor N. F. Brewer, superintendent of the Central China Union Mission, during their biennial session held in Yencheng, Honan, May 1-10, 1931. This report covers the years 1929 and 1930.)

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isaiah 32: 4.

THE Lord has certainly fulfilled this promise to us in Central China during the past two years, and it is with hearts raised to Him in praise and thanksgiving that we are gathered here under circumstances so favorable. The work in nearly every province has gone forward. Serious have been the troubles met from various sources; yet while other missions have lost many tens of thousands of dollars worth of mission property, our damages have been slight, and usually our workers have enjoyed special protecting mercies. We appreciate most of all the loyalty of our workers throughout these troublous times.

We welcome new workers who have come in among us, including Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Brines (Yencheng Hospital-Dispensary), Miss Josephine Holmes (Honan Mission, and stationed at Yencheng), and the Misses Evelyn Larkey and Abbie Dunn (still at the Peiping Language School).

The departmental secretaries report a general advance in their several lines. The accomplishments of those connected with the publishing department, are nothing short of miraculous. During the biennial period Mex. \$83,465.29 of literature was sold. Strange as it may seem, record sales were made in the troubled areas of Hunan and Kiangsi. Kiangsi has been able to work in only 16 of its many *hsiens*, the others being closed against all Christian propaganda. Into our Union are coming monthly about 23,000 copies of the Chinese *Signs of the Times*, to regular subscribers. Where our colporteurs, under the leadership of Brethren E. L. Longway and Dzou Pei Hsin, can not place a yearly subscription, they endeavor to have all colporteurs leave with such homes, one or more of our message-filled tracts.

Two Years of Progress in the Central China Union

Among the attainments of the home missionary department, may be noted the raising of *Mex.* \$3,533.26 for Big Week, and \$23,218.33 for special Harvest Ingathering enterprises. Follow-up work has been successfully undertaken in connection with our campaigns for funds. Brother T. A. Shaw and associates in the home missionary department are doing their best to get every church-member at work.

There has been a net gain of 600 in the number of Sabbath school members in our Union; the offerings for the two-year period totaled *Mex.* \$9,664.76—a gain of \$3,357.49 over the previous like period. Our goal had been set at \$1,000 a quarter; we reached \$1,200.

Our one medical institution is at Yencheng; the Lord has greatly blessed this "right arm of the message."

In the educational department Brother Carter has worked hard to bring up the standard of our schools, and has taken a keen interest in our young people. We have 25 church schools, and three schools with grades 1-9, the total enrollment is 567, of whom 376 are children of men and women of our own faith. This year we have at Chiao Tou Djen only 25; we shall make a careful selection of others to attend there this coming fall, if present plans carry.

During the troublous years through which Central China has been passing, we have had a fluctuating membership; but the trend has been upward, notwithstanding some losses during years when not a few suffered martyrdom, or were driven from their homes and persecuted because they were Christians. The baptisms have been for the years 1926 to 1930, respectively, 90, 31 (our hardest year), 273, 278, 292. The membership has run thus for five years: 1719, 1577, 1595, 1772, 1961 (at the close of the year 1930). During the past two years our net gain has totaled 366. The period upon which we have now entered, should be especially fruitful; this is our constant prayer and aim.

During the biennial period the total mission offerings (including H. I.) were *Mex.* \$43,637.73; total native tithes, *Mex.* 17,973.02. These figures, though much larger than hitherto,

should be substantially increased in order that the cause may be sustained and new areas entered. Some encouraging items of finance may be mentioned. In 1922 we had 52 chapels in this Union, all rented and budgeted. At present we have 86, of which only 30 are rented. A total of 56 are either owned, or fully provided for locally. Of the church-buildings provided for in full during the past two years, and at present mission-owned, are two large structures --- one the three-story building in the city of Hankow, with its commodious auditorium; the other the church at Yencheng, with seating capacity of 700, and with mission offices below. Our goal is to provide in some way soon for the chapels still included in our annual budget requests, thus freeing funds for aggressive evangelism.

And we do need to advance with gospel truth into new territory. As yet we have no company of believers in the entire province of Kansu. While our colporteurs have worked there year by year, we have no evangelist, no chapel, for the benefit of the six millions dwelling in that province. (*Note.* -- During the biennial session, it was arranged to send two evangelists to Kansu at once, thus entering permanently upon the work of building up a constituency of believers in the province hitherto unentered. -- Editor.) And in the provinces where we have been laboring for years, there are many *hsiens*, or counties, not yet occupied. Surely the time has come for planning definitely in behalf of these needy districts.

Two colporteurs have been chosen and are already on their way to Sinkiang (Chinese Turkestan) --- a mission field of the China Division. Some time ago the Central China Union offered to provide two colporteurs to go out into this scattered, far-away territory. Sinkiang has an area of 550,000 sq. mi. --- more than that of the entire Central China Union. Sinkiang is more than eight times as large as Honan. The population is estimated by some as being 2,552,000. Our colporteurs face many hardships as they journey westward.

The outlook before us in Central China, is bright with hope. Now, as never before, is the harvest ripe for the reapers. There seems to be a

great interest on the part of many, to know the meaning of the conditions we see all around us. There is a willingness to read and to listen. In Shensi, where there has been severest famine, and where after fourteen years of labor we had only 59 members, last year seventy-four more were added by baptism. Surely the Holy Spirit is at work; we must plan to organize our churches to care for their own church work, thus releasing the evangelists to spend their time largely in preaching in new places. We wish to carry on intensive efforts, and raise up new companies everywhere. Our motto for this Union session is, "Go quickly everywhere and make disciples of Christ." In the Spirit of prophecy we read:

"My brethren, the Lord is coming, and we need to bend every energy to the accomplishment of the work before us. I appeal to you to give yourselves wholly to the work. Christ gave His time, His soul, His strength, to labor for the benefit and blessing of humanity."—*Gospel Workers page 115.*

Let us respond to this appeal by giving our all unreservedly to Christ for service. Let us put away everything that would hinder the free flow of the Spirit through our lives to others. May the Lord baptize the workers and members of the Central China Union with a new power for service, and give us a deeper burden for perishing souls.

INTO SINKIANG

The journey of the two Chinese colporteurs who have started on their journey to Tihwa, Sinkiang, is being followed with deep interest; and the prayers of all are solicited in behalf of these evangelistic colporteurs faring forth into regions hitherto unentered by any representative of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission. Both of the men who have gone, are of proven experience in soul-winning, one of them having been a successful licensed minister of the Hunan Mission, until he undertook this special journey as a colporteur-evangelist. Our "Evangelistic Advance" is all-inclusive, taking in every consecrated worker whose purpose is to win souls for the Master. Those making this pioneering trip into Sinkiang, are Brethren Djeng Hsiang-pu and Beh-Djin-jien.

Reports From The Field

FROM BROTHER COSENTINE

During the winter Professor R. M. Cossentine, of the Manchurian Union, wrote of the progress of the cause in that field. "Trials we have, and some have been tempted to give up the faith; but God has been working in their behalf, and they are again uniting fully with us."

Brother Cossentine writes of experiences that have helped open the way for the brethren to plan definitely on locating the medical institution in Mukden instead of in Changchun.

"About thirteen miles out of Mukden is developing a village interest that, with God's blessing upon the local worker there, promises to be perhaps the most remarkable evangelistic development ever seen by our mission in Manchuria.

"I expect to spend March holding home missionary conventions in the Liaoning Mission, and April and into May in the Kirin and Heilungkiang Missions.

"The missionary volunteer convention at Wen Kwen Twen recently, was the first convention of that sort in the Manchurian Union."

Brother Cossentine requests the prayers of God's people, that the laborers in Manchuria may be used of Heaven to bring much blessing to the people.

BAPTISMS AMONG STUDENTS

In a letter written June 11 by Pastor N. F. Brewer, superintendent of the Central China Union, he reports that while visiting Changsha recently twelve of the students from the school there were baptized.

The school at Chiao Tou Djen reports a baptismal service, at which twenty-six received this rite.

During the closing weeks of the Kiangsu Middle School five of the students went forward in baptism.

Following the baccalaureate service of the Far Eastern Academy, six of the students were baptized.

Thus the work is going forward. Doubtless there are many other students who have gone forward in baptism this year if we had reports from other institutions.

The goal for souls won during 1931 is two thousand, and the prospects are good for reaching this goal.

THE ANHWEI MIDDLE SCHOOL BENGPU, ANHWEI

RAYMOND H. HARTWELL

On May 25, a very successful school year was brought to a close at the Anhwei Middle School. Pastor Pan Swei Ru has served as principal of the school during this first year of its existence in Bengpu. He with his faculty, consisting of five other teachers, has done hard, solid work all year, and progress has been made as a result. A total of sixty-five students have been enrolled, most of these being boys.

The school is situated in the country about two or three miles out from Bengpu, which city is on the Tientsin-Pukow Railway, and is conveniently reached from all parts of Anhwei. The buildings consist of the main school building with class rooms, offices for the principal, treasurer, and registrar; and separate dormitory buildings for boys and girls. All the buildings are new, and in spite of the fact that they are not fancy or expensive, yet they house a very lively, happy family during the school year. Property consisting of over fifty mow of land fenced in with barbed wire, has been provided for the youth of Anhwei.

Practically the entire faculty has consented to serve for another year, and no providence preventing the year 1931-1932 should bring added progress and growth to this educational plant.

The writer was invited by the graduating class to give the usual addresses at the time of its exercises, and together with Pastors Larsen and Kuhn we visited the school at that time. A bright class of twenty-two young people finishing either the fourth, sixth, or ninth grades, were granted certificates and diplomas May 24. A very pleasant program was conducted by the students. It must have brought much joy to the large group of parents, as well as to the teachers who witness the happy little group of graduates filing past the desk to receive the diplomas.

The graduates presented the school with a very nice mirror of large dimensions, and this will prove of practical benefit in the future. In spite of the fact that Christian education has come face to face with real problems, yet there is a great God who knows how to solve such difficulties in His own way. Mountains are only removed by faith. With God directing and helping, the youth will be trained quickly and the work will soon be finished in Anhwei, and all other parts of the Master's vineyard.

A CONSTANT INFLOW OF NEW NUMBERS

IN a detailed analysis of various features of the development of the Anhwei Mission to the close of the year 1930, Pastor O. B. Kuhn has given information on one item that has been reported similarly from other parts of the China field; namely, that practically half the present membership of our churches is made up of those who have been in the faith for a period of only from one to three years. In the Anhwei Mission 217 of the total of 432 baptized believers, received baptism during the past two years—fully half; and furthermore, one-third of the total came into the church the past year.

Reports such as these press home upon our consciousness anew the grave importance of our heeding the injunction, "Feed the flock." The Saviour Himself has said, "Feed My sheep; . . . feed My lambs." Our church paper, the *Mo Shi Mu Sheng*, is fittingly named; and our evangelists and other leaders are indeed "shepherds." Aggressive evangelism inevitably brings to us the responsibility of careful shepherding.

"The elders, which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, . . . Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

FROM FOOCHOW

Brother O. A. Hall, superintendent of the South China Union, writing under date of June 5, from Foochow, reports an excellent meeting in that place. "All the workers were in, with the exception of one or two who were unable to come because of conditions in their section of the field. Martial law is in force, and it is hindering some in getting around. In spite of these conditions, plans are being laid for a strong evangelistic work during the summer. They seem to have good openings, and we feel sure they will have a harvest of souls."

A work that requires no sacrifice does not count for much in fulfilling God's plan—J. R. Miller.