

The China Division Reporter

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No. 5



Pastor C. C. Crisler, on his last itinerary, at Sianfu, Shensi

FUNERAL SERVICE—PASTOR C. C. CRISLER—LANCHOW, KANSU

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 OBITUARY AND LIFE SKETCH
 OF PASTOR C. C. CRISLER

H. W. MILLER

CLARENCE CREAGER CRISLER, the eldest son of Levi Hatten Crisler and his wife, Sarah Jane Crisler, was born on May 25, 1877, at Brooklyn, Iowa, and died of pneumonia at the small village of Titao, Kansu, sixty miles south of Lanchow, early Sabbath morning, March 28, 1936, at the age of fifty-eight years, ten months, and three days. He was reared in a Christian home, his parents having accepted the advent message when he was a child five years of age. He finished a high school course at Orlando, Florida, thence going to the Graysville Academy. He completed his school work in Battle Creek College in the year 1897. His early career was characterized by industry and close application, and he was known for his scholastic ability. When a boy, he became interested in printing, and acquired a small printing plant, of which he was proprietor, editor, and manager. During his student days at the Battle Creek College, he served in several responsible positions in which he was associated with our leading educators of that time. He served three General Conference presidents successively in stenographic and secretarial capacities; namely, Elders Olsen, Irwin, and Daniells, all of whom are now deceased.

He was married in 1905 to Carolyn Hathaway. Their happy union was blessed by a daughter, Beatrice, who was educated in our schools, finishing college and later receiving a call to teach music in the Far Eastern Academy, where she is at present employed. In 1910 he was called to part with his companion. Some years later he was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Hawkins, who joined Brother Crisler as a missionary to China in 1917, and has stood faithfully by her husband in his arduous program.

In 1901 he became the private secretary of the servant of the Lord, Mrs. E. G. White, with whom he remained until her death at Elmhaven, California, in 1915.

During these years Brother Crisler had access to all the manuscripts recording the visions the Lord had given the remnant church through Sister White. He became an ardent student of her writings, having the direct responsibility of receiving first-hand from her, many of the messages which, together with her other writings, have been a fountain of blessing to the church in guiding them into correct interpretation of the Scriptures. He sensed his responsibility to be a living example, and strove to represent the high standards set forth by the testimonies of the Lord given through Sister White. He was a strict vegetarian, an example of Christian modesty and piety, and through his life has done much to establish the faith and the confidence of thousands in the Spirit of prophecy.

Following the death of Sister White, the General Conference appointed a small group of our denominational leaders, including the editor of the *Review*; the president of the General Conference; Sister White's son, W. C. White; Brother Crisler; and Brother C. H. Jones, then manager of Pacific Press, to be trustees in charge of the library and manuscripts of the White Estate.

Part of Brother Crisler's responsibilities with Sister White was to assist in the collection of books, manuscripts, and data, including our denominational literature, as a reference library in connection with Sister White's own writings. At the same time he procured for himself duplicate copies. To this collection he has faithfully added

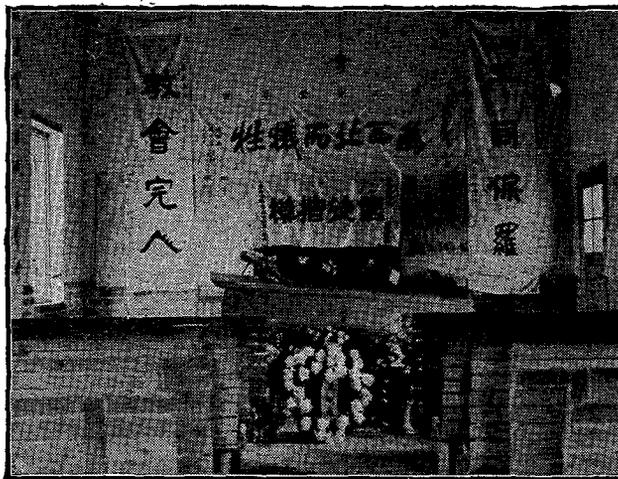
through the years, until he has one of the largest libraries on missions and the advent movement to be found anywhere outside of the General Conference at Washington.

Following the death of Sister White, Brother Crisler again became associated with the General Conference office. In 1916 he was invited to accompany Elder A. G. Daniells, president of the General Conference, on a visit to the Orient, and while on this journey he accepted the appointment of general secretary for the Far Eastern Division.

Hundreds of people will remember Brother Crisler by the fact that he loaned or voluntarily offered them two or three or more volumes bearing on some journey or topic in which he found them to be interested, thus anticipating their wish to become better informed on the subject.

He was ordained to the gospel ministry, and since his arrival on November 19, 1916, had completed almost twenty years of faithful service as secretary of the Far Eastern and China Divisions, serving first with Elder R. C. Porter, then with Elder J. E. Fulton, and later with Elder I. H. Evans, until 1930 when the China Division was formed. At that time he was appointed secretary of the China Division, and worked in close association with Dr. H. W. Miller.

Pastor Crisler was a competent secretary. He not only recorded sermons, remarks, minutes, and records of whatsoever nature, all of which he preserved, but he also collected a large photographic library, maps, and records of the utmost value for the



Interior of School Chapel, Lanchow, in readiness for funeral service

accurate transaction of our mission business. In addition, he was editor of our Far Eastern Division *OUTLOOK* and later of the *China Division REPORTER*, and was an associate editor of our Chinese church paper from its beginning. He was also a member of our editorial reading committee. He has contributed much to the wealth of our literature here in China. He has been a member of the board of directors of the *Signs of the Times Publishing House*, and of our college and sanitarium, from the time of his arrival. His last great contribution to our denominational literature, and to the cause of missions, is his recent book on the history of our work in the border provinces of China, including the Island of Hainan. His world-wide study of missions, as well as his intimate knowledge of China and all parts of the Orient through travel, thoroughly prepared him to contribute a wealth of interesting facts and valuable historical material relating to the progress of the advent message in this field. He presents a careful narrative of the opening of the border provinces, and a ringing appeal to carry the work forward to the triumphant end.

Our beloved brother never spared himself in travel. He was always careful in the use of mission money, selecting the least expensive means of transportation. Among the last words Brother Crisler spoke to me as he was leaving from the North Station in Shanghai by train to go to Sianfu enroute to Lanchow, was an apology for securing a second-class ticket instead of a third-class one, and procuring a second-class berth on the train. He felt that he should do this because of the urgent work that he desired to accomplish on this trip, and in view of the harder lines of travel that he knew were awaiting him beyond Lanchow.

He mingled freely with the people, listening to the appeals and entreaties of all, and championing the cause of the poor and humble, the ordinarily unnoticed.

He has freely braved the dangers of hazardous travel in China, barely escaping death on several occasions, and has been an eye witness to cruel affliction visited upon others. At one time an animal was shot from under his baggage, and Brother Crisler was robbed of his personal possessions. Such experiences, however, never dampened his ardor for his work or caused him to refuse to go on any journey or mission where the needs of the cause seemed to indicate that he was needed. Instead, these obstacles and perils served to create a solicitude for the comfort and safety of other workers who are often called upon to brave dangers and pass through unsafe areas.

Near the close of Elder I. H. Evans's administration, on one occasion in talking to me about the work, he said, "We have one of the best secretaries that could be secured." The China Division was fortunate in being able to retain the services of Brother Crisler. His fine sense of honor, his loyalty to God and to principle, and his unwavering integrity contributed not only to the upbuilding of the work, but also



Scene at the grave

to the confidence and dignity that should characterize Christian administrative business.

Our workers will greatly miss Brother Crisler's cordial greetings at the wharves or railway station on their arrival in Shanghai; they will miss his comforting word, as he followed them to boat or train.

At the last Winter Council, it was arranged that a visit should be made to stations on the Tibetan frontier in Kansu and Chinghai, and that Pastor Crisler should accompany Pastor Appel and other members of our Northwest Union Mission on this journey for a study of our Tibetan work in that union.

Following the meeting he began to make arrangements for his itinerary. He seemed to be under the impression that this might be his last missionary tour. Just a few days before leaving he came to my office to tell me about the work he had been doing with mission records and important data contained in the mission vault. He explained how he was arranging and leaving things so that they would be easily and fully available to others. As he walked out of my office his conversation left me with the impression that he was apprehensive. I had never before witnessed this spirit on his part, and did not feel at ease until I called him back. I said to him that if he was not clear in the matter of going on this trip we would rather he did not take any chances, and warned him concerning getting into dangerous and unprotected areas; but he replied that he had no thought in his mind of not going, but that he knew something of the dangers of those areas in which they were to travel.

On March 3 he set out on this long missionary journey, going by rail to Sianfu, then by airplane to Lanchow. From there he went by motor car with Pastor Appel and others to Sining, returning again to Lanchow. While in Sining they were granted interviews with both the governor and the Panchan Lama, who were greatly

interested in our work, and offered to do all within their ability to open the way for us to work among the Tibetan people.

On March 18 the party that had been to Sining started by muleback on the long journey to Chone, the group consisting of Pastor and Mrs. Appel, Brother Crisler, Brother Davies, Pastor Chen, and Brother Tsai. The travel was strenuous. The very first day the party traveled continuously from ten in the morning to six-twenty in the evening without either food or drink. The trip necessitated their passing over great ranges of hills and high mountain passes at times, the roads being covered with snow and ice.

About three days out from Lanchow, Brother Crisler was troubled by a pain in his side. It was suggested that they return, but he felt that they must go on and that he would be getting better after a day or two, and so they pressed on to Chone. By this time, however, he was very sick, so after only a day there the party started back to Lanchow carrying Pastor Crisler by mule litter.

Telegrams were sent by them on March 25 and 26, but both messages reached Shanghai at the same time. The first stated that Brother Crisler had pneumonia; the second described his critical condition, and asked for help. We sought every means to procure a plane. When one was available it was too late for any helpful service to be rendered, as he was dangerously ill from the first. His illness was very short, and apparently not accompanied by great suffering. During the last three days of his life, in his delirium, he constantly talked of his close associates and of the work that lay so near his heart. On Thursday afternoon he gathered strength to sing through a full verse of the hymn, "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me." He peacefully breathed his last two days before the party could reach Lanchow.

His body was brought by mule litter through to Lanchow, where arrangements were made for his burial.

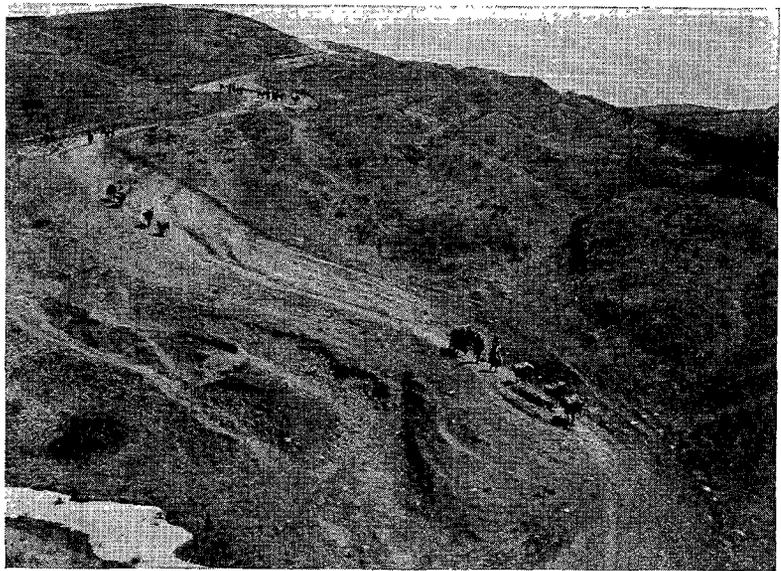
The night before receiving the urgent telegrams regarding his condition, a letter came to me from a friend, offering me the use of his plane whenever I had need of it. We forwarded telegrams for this plane, but it was undergoing repairs. However, work was hastened, and arrangements were made in time to convey a small party, consisting of Pastor O. A. Hall, Miss Bessie Mount, Brother Crisler's Chinese secretary, Sister Crisler and their daughter Beatrice, and the writer, to Lanchow. The funeral services were conducted by Pastors O. A. Hall and G. J. Appel; the principal of the training school, Brother Goh Djao O—an old-time friend of Brother Crisler—representing the Chinese church; one of his Chinese traveling companions on this last trip, Pastor Chen Wen-Hsüeh, in charge of our work in Chinghai; and Dr. H. W. Miller. There our brother rests until the Life-giver shall call him on the morning of the resurrection.

Truly a prince in Israel has fallen. His godly life has been an inspiration to all who knew him and its influence will continue vividly in the memory of the workers of the China Division and of our church at large. There are few of our thousands of believers in this field who have not had the privilege of personal acquaintance with our departed secretary. His many friends and acquaintances throughout the world will all join in mourning the loss of one who has been such a fitting example of an ambassador of Christ.

REMARKS BY G. J. APPEL

It is hard for me to speak at this time. When we came to China Brother Crisler was one of the first to greet us. All these years he has been a true friend to me. I have worked, traveled, and counseled with him, and always have received great inspiration and encouragement from him. I have never heard him say one impatient word. On our recent trip into Chinghai, and at other times when itinerating with him under hard circumstances, he was always ready to help wherever help was needed, and never complained at the hardships of the way. All his thoughts were of the work of God,—how to open the work here, how to carry on the work there, in such a way as to bring a rich fruitage of souls.

When we planned this itinerary, Brother Crisler said nothing to us about feeling that he might not come back. He had spoken thus to others, but we did not know of it. He said we must carry out our plan and go to Chone; otherwise he would not be able to report on the matter at the General Conference. The third day out was the first we knew that he did not feel well, and we thought perhaps it was because he was not accustomed to riding on muleback. We suggested coming back to Lanchow, but he would not consent. He insisted that we must go on to Chone. He thought if he rested a day or so he would be all right.



Nearing Chone, on Pastor Crisler's last itinerary

On Sabbath we rested at a little wayside inn and then pressed on to Chone, carrying him by mule litter. He seemed better at first, and we wondered whether we should, after resting a few days, try to carry out our plan of going on to Labrang.

The next morning General Yang came to see us, and Brother Crisler was able to converse with him; but that afternoon he grew alarmingly worse. We secured a horseman to carry a telegram to the nearest telegraph office, at Mingchow, informing our people in Shanghai of his condition, and we started back toward Lanchow the following morning (Wednesday). He continued to grow worse, and that evening we again sent messages to Shanghai in the hope that Dr. Miller might be able to arrange for an airplane to meet us at Titao. The messages were late in getting through, and when we reached Titao we found no plane and no message.

During all this time Brother Crisler was delirious, and though he did not know what he was saying he talked constantly of how to finish the work in the border fields. Next to the last day of his life, as we neared Titao, he seemed to regain consciousness for a few moments and sang nearly a whole stanza of "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me." He was depending on the Lord's leading. If only we could always do the same!

As we neared the airfield at Titao we saw the wind flag floating on the breeze, and thought it a signal that an airplane was coming; but it was only a banner to tell the direction of the wind. There was no plane. When we reached Titao we tried to make Brother Crisler as comfortable as we could, and he smiled and said, "This is our own sanitarium."

Now he is gone, but his influence is still with us. May we from his life and death receive inspiration to go on with the Lord's work until it is finished. One morning on the way to Chone I mentioned the difficulty of the work for the Tibetans. He spoke of getting into Tibet, and said he was confident that it would not be accomplished without the shedding of blood; but little did we realize that he would be the first to shed his blood in the effort to open the way into Tibet. It is for us who remain to give our lives more unreservedly to the finishing of the work for which he has given his all.

REMARKS BY GOH DJAO-O

IT WAS in North China that I first saw Brother Crisler. Later I knew him in Shanghai, and also here in the Northwest. Our Chinese workers and members everywhere sorrow over his death. He loved the Chinese; they loved him. He had no other aim but to see the message of salvation carried to all China, that all might have a part in the New Earth. Today the hearts of believers in all China are sad. I speak for them an appreciation of Brother Crisler's work. His life exerted a constant influence for kindness and goodness, and whoever spoke with him received inspiration and help. One of the silk banners presented as a tribute from his Chinese friends speaks of him as an example of the believers, and so he was. The Christian is to follow the example of Jesus, and this is what he did. May we all, like him, follow this example.

He worked, not eight hours a day, but day and night for the advancement of God's

cause. He gave me much help in connection with the SHEPHERD when I was connected with that paper. From morning till night he did the Lord's work. He always took time to talk with those who came to him for counsel. He knew the work and the workers in all the fields as no other man did. He had taken pictures all over this field, and he could show those many pictures of workers in different parts of the field, and tell you of this and that worker, whom he knew personally. No one else can do that as he did. Now he has left us. He has given his life for the northwest.

He was always willing to endure hardship in itinerating in the Lord's work. A few years ago he spent six months in West China walking over the mountains with his iron-tipped staff in his hand, and he has undertaken many other difficult journeys in various parts of our division. Especially has he endured hardship in behalf of the border fields in which he was so deeply interested. We must open the border fields and finish the work in this great land. When it is done we shall see him again in the New Earth. Let us follow his example, and be faithful until Jesus comes, even unto death.

A LIFE OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

(Remarks by Pastor O. A. Hall at the funeral service of Pastor Crisler at Lanchow, Kansu)

GREAT sorrow comes to all our hearts as we gather here to pay this tribute of respect and esteem to our beloved Brother Crisler, who has been taken from us so suddenly.

In thinking of what I might say that would be fitting at the close of such a life, and in considering what might be the most appropriate words contained in the Scriptures, setting forth the life and work of our dear brother, my mind has been vividly impressed with the thought found in the twenty-eighth verse of the twentieth chapter of Matthew: "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." This verse, we realize, speaks primarily of the life and work of our Saviour while here upon this earth; but we are impressed deeply today with the thought that such service and ministry has been set forth anew in the life and work of our Brother Crisler. His was truly a life of service for others. In his travels with his fellow-workers he was never known to seek first his own comforts. His thoughts were of others. When needs were to be supplied he was mindful of his brethren, with but little thought of self. The poor and the needy with whom he came in contact were objects of his sympathy and benevolence. In all things and to all men the one predominant principle that governed his whole life was that of loving and faithful ministry.

While this great principle, which pervaded the life, was thus manifested in material things, it was doubly revealed in the realm of spiritual ministry. Here he has left a

worthy example for us all as laborers in the cause of God. In the words of the great apostle Paul is set forth the secret of true living. He said: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." It is the desire of the Master that His life may be reproduced in that of every one of His children. This was the great aim and purpose of our brother. He followed closely the Divine Pattern. Where the Master served would be his place of service. Where Christ would have the word preached, and labor performed for needy and perishing souls, there he was ever ready to go. His last words were those of that beautiful song,

"All the way my Saviour leads me;
What have I to ask beside
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know what'er befell me,
Jesus doeth all things well."

The extreme limit of devotion and consecration and love is brought to view in the last part of our text, "and to give his life a ransom for many." Jesus so loved that He gave. He counted not His life dear. Those who have heard Pastor Crisler's sermons know that the great theme was the love of God toward man. He knew and understood that love of which he preached. That love which led our Saviour from the courts of heaven to this earth and to the sacrifice on calvary, to the giving of His life a ransom for many, has led and will still lead the children of God to love not their lives unto death.

Our dear brother's life was actually laid down in service for the salvation of others. His great burden was for this truth to advance on and on, into the unentered sections of this division. The planning for new work in the border sections of China was uppermost in his mind. He carried upon his heart the burden and constant prayer for workers and means for the preaching of this last message in these outlying districts, so many of which were formerly closed, but which are now providentially opening to the gospel message for these last days. In the midst of it all, he laid down his life in the very work and for the people whom he has carried on his heart in recent months and years. Truly he gave his life on the altar of service and ministry for the many yet waiting for this message.

But while life has ceased and he has gone to his rest, his work will follow on. "Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." The earnest prayers and endeavors, and the sacrifice of life itself for the work so greatly loved, will yet stir the church and each of us as individuals, to such service and sacrifice that again and again will be exemplified the life of ministry for those to whom he gave all.

That Spirit, which was manifested in the heart of our beloved brother, will yet move upon many hearts to respond to the call to finish the work in the border fields of this great division, as well as in all the earth.

Brother Crisler sleeps, but we have the blessed assurance that his life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall he, together with his loved ones, fellow-workers, and all his brethren and sisters, appear with Him in glory.

We feel confident that he could say with the apostle Paul, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

This blessed hope brings to the dear ones who sorrow today, a message of comfort and consolation. It will not be long until the Life-giver will come again, and that life now hidden in Him will be restored.

It will not be long until the work for which Pastor Crisler laid down his life will be finished, and we who sorrow for this loss today will, together with him, receive our eternal reward in that New Earth home where "God shall wipe away all tears. . . . And there shall be no more death, or sorrow, . . . for the former things are passed away." May we all today renew our consecration to this life of service until the Master's work is done and then together enter into the joy of our Lord.

AN APPRECIATION

In Memory of Elder C. C. Crisler

He labored and toiled by day and night,
Nor ceased for weariness or pain,
His only aim to herald the name
Of Christ, and to hasten His promised reign.

He brought no unkind, hurtful word
To one who blundered in the way,
But a message of cheer to allay his fear
And to brighten the gloom of a dreary day.

He ministered to the faint and ill,
With a smile, a prayer, and a helping hand;
He eased the load on life's rugged road
In a language of love men could understand.

He sought no praise from the lips of man,
But served salvation's theme to tell;
No pride of display, or pretense marked
his way—
But a prince has fallen in Israel.

MAY COLE KUHN.

Shanghai, China,
March 29, 1936.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF PASTOR CRISLER

H. W. MILLER

THE China Division has truly sustained a great loss through the death of our secretary, Pastor C. C. Crisler. Daily we are finding things in the many lines of work that he carried to which we must now give attention. Only as we face the incoming correspondence and business to which he so quietly and so efficiently attended do we begin to realize the wide scope of responsibilities that he carried. We need perhaps think only of the high degree of efficiency that he developed in the special field of work in which he served, as well as to add to this the long period of hours out of every day and night that he put into his work, to appreciate that without him there is a great gap felt in our midst.

We all recall how Brother Crisler, with his large bundle of letters, minutes, back numbers of the REPORTER, and maps, came to our committee meetings, introducing much business through correspondence that came from the field, listening to the deliberations while making his minute records, oftentimes taking down the remarks, and motions verbatim. This program was interrupted frequently by his rising to his

feet to join in the discussion. His suggestions were always helpful, in view of his wide background of experience with many administrations, and his thorough acquaintance with denominational policies, as well as with our mode of procedure in cases similar to that under consideration, the records of the work in China for the last twenty years being largely in his mind.

When itinerating, the essential part of his office was usually with him. Whether traveling by boat or train, his typewriter was clicking, and our files bear witness to the full and complete reports that were made out on such journeys. Much of this material went into our REPORTER. Our division paper was always very dear to his heart. He was continually thinking of the good things that he might pass on to cheer, comfort, and encourage the workers.

The Chinese church had always a true friend in our secretary; and he had their hearts, for they knew they could approach him with their problems at any time of the day or night and find sympathetic and fair consideration.

Our force of workers will do well to emulate the patience of our secretary in meeting hard problems. I have traveled with him on many occasions when critical situations developed, of an exceedingly trying nature, and have noted his great patience and kindness and long forbearance

in the face of insults and discourtesies. Never once do I recall a retaliation or an unkind word or any act on his part unbecoming in a Christian, yet he had the faculty of getting things attended to, and of winning the support of those opposing him.

In the dispatching of baggage, or forwarding of mail, or arranging for itineraries of new recruits, he seemed fully to anticipate the many problems that might arise, and to make all essential provisions to enable the program to be carried through successfully.

Brother Crisler was a generous man, parting with his books, his bedding, his food, his money, and always having the ability to do it in such a way that no one would ever dream he was denying himself. His hospitality in his home, to friends and strangers alike, was as generous as that noted on his itineraries. On his arrival at the mission compounds, he was always anxious to make an early round of every home, winding his way about through the Chinese quarters to visit all the households. He was a keen observer, and his perception fully took in a situation, though he carefully avoided giving offense to those to whom he must go on a mission of correction or reproof. He seemed to be able to perform such tasks without causing those thus approached to harbor a feeling of resentment or having been unjustly dealt with.



Pastor Crisler with group of workers at Madison, Tenn., enroute to the 1909 General Conference



Our mission station at Chone (At left center of picture, beyond bridge)

With all his serious and busy life, he had a sense of humor, and wherever he went children as well as grown-ups bore record of his entertaining visits in recalling mission history and telling mission stories. He was always talking about the work.

We do not wish to forget the example he set before the mission force in kindly ways of dealing with people—an example that tends to draw men to the Christian life.

We shall miss him in the office, in our officers' councils, in our committee meetings, in our general assemblies, in our homes, and on our itineraries, but we are thankful for the privilege that has been ours of knowing and working with Brother Crisler. His life can but serve to inspire us to greater endeavor in hastening the message throughout all the hsien of China.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

Whereas, Our beloved secretary, Pastor C. C. Crisler, who had endeared himself to the working force, as well as to the Chinese church of the China Division, through almost twenty years of continuous, earnest, and faithful service, has fallen through sickness contracted while enroute to Chone, on recent itinerary in the northwest.

VOTED, That we as a China Division Committee express to Sister C. C. Crisler and Miss Beatrice Crisler our heartfelt sympathy at this time of their great bereavement, commending them to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Life-giver who is soon to return to earth to reclaim His own. We feel certain that heavenly angels will mark the grave in our Lanchow Mission compound, near the spot where our beloved brother laid down his heavy and arduous burdens for a season.

We further desire to pledge ourselves anew to redouble our efforts to forward the cause so dearly loved by Pastor Crisler, being inspired by his life of devotion, consecration, earnestness, friendliness, patience, kindness, and love for the people of this land; and we shall endeavor to carry out his constant wish, through the provision of more resources in men and means to push forward the three-fold message to those who are waiting within the border provinces.

CONSECRATION SERVICE AT THE CHINA TRAINING INSTITUTE, APRIL 1, 1936

JOHN OSS

AT THE hour that our beloved brother and co-worker, Elder C. C. Crisler, was laid to rest at far-away Lanchow, a consecration service was being conducted at the China Training Institute.

After a stirring message by Pastor A. A. Esteb the students one by one rose and confessed their sins and bore witness to the saving power of Christ; later a call was made for all who were willing to give themselves to Christ and His service to carry on the work laid down by our faithful division secretary and all responded to this appeal.

It was voted to forward to Lanchow the following telegram:

"Entire body China Training Institute today mourn death of Pastor Crisler and with confessions and repentance rededicate ourselves to the finishing of Lord's work praying for double portion of spirit that moved Pastor Crisler. Seventeen have especially covenanted for evangelism. Pray that Pastor Crisler's family and co-workers may receive comfort in the Lord."

A testimony meeting followed that I

shall long remember. The meeting began at 7:05 A.M. and it was hard to bring it to a close at noon time.

One brother said that he had been requested to go to the Northwest China Union to work on the borderlands but had not seen his way clear to go. "Today I stand ready to go wherever I am called and will esteem it a privilege to respond," he said in conclusion.

"I consider this the greatest moment of my life" said a young woman in her testimony as she told of her joy in Christ Jesus.

"I just wrote a note in my Bible," said another student, "that April 1st is to be the starting point of new heights in my Christian experience." Continuing his remarks this student said: "I consider there are three periods in my life,—the first: from my birth to my new birth, the second from the time I joined the church to the present, and the third dates from today when I have seen in a new light the cross of calvary and the meaning of the Christian life."

As we saw a number of young people taking their stand for the first time and many renewing their consecration to the Lord and confessing their short-comings and wrongs, and asking for forgiveness, we realized that the Spirit of God was in our midst in a special way.

The first day of April will always stand out in my memory as a day when I witnessed in a special way the working of the spirit of God. It will always be a consolation amid sorrow as I think of the earnest group of students at the China Training Institute, who on this date dedicated their lives anew to the unfinished task.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

FROM GENERAL CONFERENCE

"THE sad news has reached us of the death of C. C. Crisler, Secretary of the China Division, Friday evening, March 27. The cable states that he contracted pneumonia in Chone, where our new Tibetan Mission is located, and died en route to Lanchow 'via mule litter,' and that Dr. Miller, Mrs. Crisler, and daughter would attend the burial Wednesday, April 1.

"Elder Crisler was a noble man of God, an indefatigable worker, and one who deeply loved the people for whom he gave his life. His mind was a storehouse of information regarding the progress of the work in China and in all the world, and he had a very clear conception of the principles and methods which should be employed in the extension of our work in all lands.

"**Voted**, That we express to Sister Crisler and her daughter our deepest sympathy for them in their great sorrow, in the loss of a loving husband and father, and to the China Division for their loss of a most valued worker."

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INTO THE NORTHWEST

(This report of the Northwest itinerary was written by Pastor Crisler at the close of the first day's travel toward the Chone heights. It is the last we have from his pen.)

ALL unexpectedly it was arranged that the Division be represented in the small group from the Northwestern Union headquarters at Lanchow who are giving study to the future of our Tibetan work in these parts; and thus I have had opportunity to go over the familiar roads once more lying west of Lanchow. Sining, Kumbum (To-er-ssu), Tangkar, have in turn been visited; and Pastor Chen Wen-hsioh, who gave us welcome in Chinghai, is now with us on our round of the Chone-Taochow-Labrang-Hochow districts—all in Kansu, and all with many Tibetans. The last-named center is ruled by Mohammedans. Many are the experiences being met by Pastors George J. Appel, L. H. Davies, and Chen Wen-hsioh, with Brother Samuel Tsai and Mrs. Appel,—all members of our present party enroute to Kansu's Tibetan borderland. Although March is half over as we write, most of the rivers are frozen over sufficient to bear up trains of camels, pack-mules, and even autos and trucks. These lines are being written in a stable—our lodging place for the night; and round about are our fourteen mules and pack-animals munching their evening meal of grain and hay. At daylight on the morrow we are off for the next 120 li.

Enroute, I spent a pleasant day with Pastor Alton E. Hughes and family at Sianfu. Brother Hughes, recently appointed to serve as director of the Shensi Mission, is in better health at Sianfu than formerly in Chengtu, as the climate is favorable on the plains of Shensi.

Following a visit to Pastor Wu Tzeh-shan and his fellow-workers in Ningshia, I hope to return to Shanghai by April 20, D. V. Meanwhile, we advance in faith southward into the heights inhabited chiefly by Tibetans. On these journeys we have met many Mongols, also; for northward from Lanchow and Sining Mongols have long exercised much control.

Correspondence addressed to the Shanghai office will be looked after by others, or else forwarded by air to Lanchow.

While the funeral service was being held in Lanchow a memorial service was being conducted, at division headquarters, and at several unions, as it was possible by the airmail to reach a number of union headquarters to notify them of the hour of the funeral service, and also to get to them a copy of the obituary and life sketch. Very impressive ceremonies were held in the memory of our beloved brother.

AN APPRECIATION OF THE LIFE AND LABORS OF PASTOR C. C. CRISLER

O. B. KUHN

ELDER C. C. CRISLER had an understanding of the basic principles of the advent message, movement, and work possessed by but few men living. His deep Christian experience, intelligent faith, breadth of vision, determined purpose, untiring labor, persevering efforts, and extensive journeys; his wide and intimate knowledge of the country, understanding of the people, and broad sympathies marked him as one of the greatest missionaries to China.

Receiving from his Lord a large measure of wisdom, grace, and truth, Brother Crisler was a true friend and counselor to all, regardless of their position, nationality, or color. He was so constantly surrounded with spiritual influences that a visit to his office, even on the most professional and technical business connected with our mission work, was a heavenly sitting and a spiritual benediction.

Learning from his Master the necessity and urgency of sacrificial ministry, Brother Crisler literally gave his life for the people of China. His service, like that of his Lord, was at all times and in all places rendered cheerfully, spontaneously, and freely. In no small degree he reflected the image of his Saviour, and he is enshrined in the hearts of hundreds of believers throughout the length and breadth of his land.

Elder Crisler was a great Christian and a great leader. The magnitude of his influence will be increasingly realized as the work to which he gave his all shall develop to its culmination. The seal of God's approval is impressed upon his labors, and he shall hear from the lips of the Master, whom he so fervently loved and so steadfastly served, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Shanghai, China.



Pastor Crisler and Governor of Chinghai Province at Sining

REMARKS BY LIU MENG RU, REPRESENTING THE CHINESE CHURCH

AS WE have heard of Brother Crisler's death our hearts have been made very sad, for we have learned to love and respect him—not because of his ability, but because of his excellent character and noble conduct. He was always very humble and bowed to everybody, even saying "thank you" to the ricksha man. He loved everybody, especially the Chinese. He called every man and woman brother and sister. He did not spend his money for his own comfort, but gave liberally to help the poor. Owing to his sacrifice, many prominent Chinese workers to-day have finished their study in school. He toiled day and night, many times falling asleep at his desk during the night. He did not go to a vacation resort in summer, nor did he shrink from the cold in winter.

In his death we have lost a kind and merciful shepherd. We deeply mourn our loss and shall ever remember this consistent, Christ-like Christian, Pastor Crisler. Let us follow his good example, imitate his good spirit, and do our best to complete the task he has laid down.

MESSAGES OF HEARTFELT SYMPATHY

IN response to the messages conveying the sad news of the sudden and unexpected death of our beloved Pastor Crisler, many replies have been received expressing the great sorrow and deep sympathy that pervades our entire church.

The China Division spreads upon its records an expression of the deep feeling of every heart in the great loss sustained by this entire Division. They record their appreciation of Pastor Crisler's faithful and untiring service in the important office he held for so many years. In behalf of the entire Division is extended to Sister Crisler and Miss Beatrice Crisler the deepest heartfelt sympathy.

The Far Eastern Division workers all join in deepest sympathy, realizing that a good man has passed, and that we all have been made better by his life and work among us.

The China Division institutions, the various union missions, and individual workers have sent expressions of sincere and deepest sympathy from sorrowing hearts, because of the loss of a true Christian brother and beloved fellow-laborer. They send messages of condolence and assurance of the speedy triumphs of this blessed truth and the reunion of loved ones and fellow-laborers when the life-giver appears again.

The earnest prayers of all are for the coming of the Comforter which has been promised to us in such times of need.

Mrs. Crisler and Beatrice wish to express their thanks for the sympathy and the many kindnesses of their friends during this time of bereavement.