

# The China Division Reporter

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## THE CHURCH AT STUDY

THE Word of God is the spiritual food of the Christian. Christ spoke of Himself as the Bread of Life, and again as the Water of Life. He said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Man cannot live physically without physical food; no more can he live spiritually without spiritual food. One rule of physical life is that we shall form regular habits of eating nutritious food. Likewise must the Christian form regular habits of eating spiritual food—the Word of God. We need a balanced diet to keep in good physical health. The Bible gives to us "meat in due season" to supply every spiritual need. Not all people need the same kind of food. The Bible has food to meet the need of every individual. Well-prepared food taken from the storehouse of God's Word is received at the Sabbath school. It is so prepared that it is adapted to the needs of all, from the little child to the aged. Growing youth and hard-working men and women are nourished and strengthened for the duties of life by the spiritual food they receive in the Sabbath school. We eat physical food two or three times a day to sustain physical life. Likewise we daily have spiritual food in the daily study of the Sabbath school lesson. Thus the Sabbath school has a daily part in the life of every member. God is love, and His Son is the Prince of Peace. The great work of the Sabbath school is to bring to every member an experience of peace, happiness, and cheer. The daily study of the Sabbath school lesson directly works for a useful and contented life here and the perfect life of the hereafter. The happiness and spiritual welfare of every member of the church is to be the direct concern of every other member. This is the purpose of our church organization. We are not to live to ourselves. The apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians enjoins us to "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." We can do good to our brethren in no better way than to help them to love the study of God's Word. So shall we not, as church and as Sabbath school members, put forth every possible effort this year to secure every member of the church as a member of the Sabbath school, and then to bring every member of the Sabbath school who is old enough to understand the benefits of church membership, into the church fold? Whether we are well or ill we may all enjoy the benefits of this heavenly feast—the Sabbath school. Those who are so located that it is impossible for them to attend the regular Sabbath school, may join the home division and have their home Sabbath school. The cradle roll cares for the babies. The children are taught in the kindergarten, the primary, and junior classes. If one is sick he may have the Sabbath school feast at home; if journeying, then where he may be as the Sabbath comes to him. We cannot get away from the Sabbath school if we really want it. Let every Sabbathkeeper enter heartily into the effort of the Sabbath school department of the China Division to enroll every member of the church in the Sabbath school and to bring every member of the Sabbath school into the church. And let us accomplish this work from April 30 to October 29.

FREDERICK GRIGGS

## CHINA DIVISION SPRING COUNCIL REPORTS

### The Blessedness of Unity

THE 1938 Spring Council of the China Division convened in the Dina House, Hongkong, with a larger attendance than is usual at such meetings because of the large group of our workers temporarily located in this city. Many of these workers and believers met with the regular delegates in the devotional and business meetings. As the work of the council progressed from day to day more than one was heard to remark, "This is the best council we have ever had."

One might wonder at such a remark in view of the circumstances under which we were meeting—away from our regular headquarters, unable to provide as pleasant accommodations for our visitors and delegates as we should have liked to, and with the most perplexing problems confronting us that we had ever been called upon to solve in any council.

Yet it was a good meeting, and the thing that made it so was the unmistakable presence of the Holy Spirit. There was a spirit of brotherly love, a spirit of unity and oneness of purpose, which perhaps was most markedly felt in the morning devotional services, but which also was evident in every council chamber, until it seemed that right in our council we were seeing the outworking of the ideal which Professor W. E. Nelson of the General Conference had presented to us in one of his devotional studies during the constituency meetings preceding the council proper. We quote a few extracts from Brother Nelson's message to us:

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."—Psalms 133:1. One of the greatest sources of satisfaction and pleasure that comes to a Christian worker is the privilege of working with his fellow-laborers to the great end of carrying the gospel to all the world. The relationship between brethren in the Seventh-day Adventist church should be, and I believe is, the most blessed relationship of any group under the whole heaven. There is a mutual understanding, a oneness of purpose, a oneness of desire, that we do not find in any other organization in the world. And when we read the instruction that the Lord gave to His followers, we find that all through His instruction, His great desire was that the church be in unity.

Today the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the only united church in the world. It is one in purpose, one in faith, one in objective.

"The apostle Paul in speaking of God's laborers, says, 'For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building,' God is the Master Builder, and we are His helpers, and we are to work together with Him. This is further illustrated in 1 Corinthians 12:1-16, where the apostle points out that the church is a unit. If that is true of the church, how much more should it be true of the laborers in the church. It is impossible for the church to be at oneness in purpose unless we find the same great purpose so far as the laborers are concerned.

"This is beautifully illustrated in Isaiah 41:7, which gives us a picture of cooperation, different ones assigned different tasks, different ones doing different lines of work, but all working together. When that unity and cooperation is effected, it says it 'should not be moved.' So it is in our work. When we all work together and see eye to eye, and reach forward for the Spirit of God to lead us, there is no division. Then is fulfilled that promise in the same chapter and the tenth verse, 'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.' When we have a situation like this, no matter what the enemy may do, or who the enemy may be, we are sure of victory, because the Lord Jesus Christ has gone before us and conquered every enemy.

"You will remember that on the day of Pentecost the church was in the upper room, not many more than are here today, if any more, and they prayed unitedly. They were with one accord in one place, and as they prayed the Holy Spirit came upon them, and a mighty work was done in the early church. I believe that this advent message that we love is of great importance in the world today, more important than any national or international movement. I believe it is going to attract world attention. It will be the biggest movement in all the world, and Satan and his hosts will be united in opposing it, but I know that God will bring us off more than conquerors through His name."

Thus in the spirit of unity our workers sought wisdom from God for the solution of our many problems; the Spirit of the Lord came preciously near, and our workers returned to their fields of labor—wherever possible—with a new determination to carry on in the face of danger, if need be, and by every possible means to push forward the work of God in every part of the great field of China.

*Editor.*

### President's Address

BY FREDERICK GRIGGS

My report will be perhaps not so much a review as an expression of the hopes and wishes I have for the future. We have great reason for gratitude that we are permitted on this occasion to meet under such favorable circumstances. The trouble through which we are passing is not the trouble of persecution for our faith. We need to encourage our hearts; we need to express gratitude to God that things are as well with us as they are in China. As we look into the future we have reason for concern, but we also know that God's hand is over the work in this great land. If we earnestly seek Him, He will guide us in making plans by which His cause can make more rapid advancement than it has heretofore. We well know from prophecy that the workers in this land, as in all lands in all the earth, will come into trouble and persecution that are far beyond what we are enduring here. We need to consecrate ourselves anew for the rapid advance and the finishing of God's work in our portion of the earth—China.

I believe this council should address itself most earnestly to a new soul-winning movement, a new endeavor to get this message before every soul in China. Our young men and women should be called into very active service in spreading the message, and our older ones should also be stimulated to greater endeavor. The work of the young people looms large in this great soul-gathering movement. They must be so organized that they will be able to play an important part in a strong evangelical movement. I can see no reason why we should not harness them as an army to do this. We will also have to employ our older members in this work. We should set up a fund by which we can send out hundreds to do advance work in

the villages, cities, and countryside of China. We should put hundreds of thousands of posters on the walls of cities and villages throughout the land, telling of Jesus and His coming. When the people stop and read them, the Spirit of the Lord has a good opportunity to speak to their souls. The Division Committee some time ago prepared a little four-page leaflet giving a message of hope. One hundred thousand copies were printed and are being given away. But what is a hundred thousand in a country of nearly five hundred million people? We must somehow get something before the people that will enable the Holy Spirit to appeal to their hearts.

Why should we not begin a new evangelistic movement in China? This is a matter of first importance, and we should address ourselves to this task of quickly evangelizing this great land. Just now the people of China are in a very questioning state of mind. We have received letters which set forth their willingness to hear. We are told that in some cities where people have been indifferent they are now coming to our people to know about the truth. Some missionaries from other denominations have come to our workers to inquire about our belief in the soon coming of the Lord. We must capitalize upon this questioning state of mind and lay plans that are broad and strong, and then we must carry out these plans. Instead of having one hundred thousand leaflets printed, we should have one, two, or three million published. We should put posters on the walls of thousands of cities and villages, proclaiming the coming of Jesus and pointing out the way of salvation. We must follow up our literature campaign by holding series of meetings in many places until we raise up churches. This, to my mind, is the first and greatest thing that we are to consider here in this council. We are beset with a multitude of problems regarding every feature of our work, and they are heavy problems, but I sometimes think that these problems will solve themselves if we reach out in these evangelistic endeavors. When we sum up what the Spirit of prophecy has said, everything centers in this evangelistic movement.

I think our medical work should have an important place as a fundamental part of our movement. Instead of having one or two medical centers in a union, I think we should have dozens of

them. Our nurses should be trained so that they can go to a place and connect with a church, open up a dispensary, and make that dispensary self-supporting. We have two or three such organizations. I wish even this coming year that we could have several scores of devoted nurses who could go out and do self-supporting medical work. I am thankful for what our medical school is doing. We must shepherd and train these medical students to be real medical evangelists to be sent into the out-regions to establish little clinics and institutions. God has great things for us here in China. As we consecrate ourselves to this movement, we are going to see great things accomplished; and they are to be along this line. If we will move out by faith, God will go before us and we shall see a great harvest of souls in this field.

### Central China Union Report

BY M. C. WARREN

WE are very thankful indeed to the Lord for the blessing and care that He has had over His work in Central China during the past year. We find it very difficult to give statistics as we have records for only three fourths of the year, and even these are incomplete. But I believe when the figures are all in that there will be at least 150 baptisms for Central China. Some twenty-five efforts were conducted in Central China during the year.

Pastor E. H. James is the director of the Honan Mission. Pastors D. R. White and N. O. Dahlsten are now located in that field. We have also our sanitarium-hospital in Yencheng. In the Honan Mission we have thirty-four companies and nine organized churches, with a membership of 1,100. There are nine ordained ministers, seven of whom are Chinese, and twenty-nine evangelists. The tithe reported for the year is \$2,479; Sabbath school offerings, \$1,019. Last summer three bands of students were organized for evangelistic work in this field. This was an experiment, but we find great possibilities in it. Another experiment that created much interest and has great possibilities for good is the home nursing classes conducted by D. R. White.

I do not have statistics to present for the Yencheng Sanitarium and Hospital, but the institution is filled to overflowing.

We appreciate the work that Dr. R. J. Brines did in recent years to bring this hospital up to its present status. Dr. C. E. Randolph is at present filling in a most acceptable way the need of a medical superintendent. The hospital is making a very good financial showing, but of greater interest is the spiritual side of the work. Many of our patients receive their first contact with the truth in our sanitarium, and it is there that some of them hear for the first time the name of Christ. A number of them carry away literature with them and later become Christians.

Pastor Du Shu Ren is the director of the Human Mission. Brother and Sister J. E. Frick have been rendering valuable service in connection with the school and evangelistic work in Changsha. We have sixteen companies with 462 members, and thirty-four evangelistic workers. The tithe was \$1,432, and the Sabbath school offerings, \$600 for the three quarters. At the beginning of the year eight evangelistic efforts were planned for, and most of these have been conducted. Eight are keeping the Sabbath as a result of the effort in Changsha. A new chapel has been erected in Changteh. Pastors Liu Djen Gwang and Wang Deh Dji are now conducting a special effort there.

Pastor B. C. Clark is the director of the Hupeh Mission. We have eight companies there with 291 members and twenty evangelists. The tithe for nine months amounted to \$1,594, and the Sabbath school offerings, \$1,257.65. We are conducting an effort in our chapel in Hankow, and a very good work is being done by Miss Abbie Dunn and her native assistants in conducting Bible studies and carrying on personal evangelistic work.

In the Kiangsi Province, where Brother M. E. Loewen is director, we have a population of about 20,000,000 with a church membership of 216, or about one church member for every 100,000 people. Bus roads are now being built all through the province, and it looks as though the time were here for us to go in and possess the land. We have some great needs in Kiangsi. We would like to establish some dispensary work. We need some evangelistic laborers, and we would like to have schools opened throughout the province. We are really just starting a new work there.

We have organized in Central China a special mission for the

aborigines of west Hunan. Pastor and Mrs. D. R. White have been appointed to that section. Pastor Ho Ai Deng is laboring there now. In five *hsiens* there is a population of 600,000 Miao. The present budget for this vast population is only \$85 a month.

In Volume 8, page 41, we read, "Tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God." Let us seek out those sections where the enemy has been in control and plant the banner of the cross in those places. It may be we will find the tribes ready to connect with the commandment-keeping people of God.

### East China Union Report

BY N. F. BREWER

It is very difficult for me to give any full report of the work in the East China Union for the past year, as I did not arrive in Shanghai until early July, and since then it has been impossible to get reports from many parts of our field.

Our union has suffered a number of losses in workers during the past year, through transfer and furlough, but we are thankful for arrangements which are bringing new workers to our field. We are indeed glad to have Pastor Strickland come to us as director of the Anhwei Mission. With his years of experience in evangelistic work we feel sure that God will greatly bless the work in Anhwei. We are glad, too, that Pastor R. H. Hartwell, who was formerly connected with the Shanghai Sanitarium, has felt to respond to the call to be director of the Kiangsu Mission. We know that he will greatly strengthen the work there. Brother Ralph Dinsbier is now in language school, preparing for service in our union. So we feel that when conditions return to normal, with our fields manned with these new workers, progress will be seen in every line of endeavor.

Our losses in tithes and offerings have been great during the last half of the year, and yet we find a marked desire on the part of our believers to be faithful in the payment of tithe. This is illustrated by the experience of one brother, who during the Week of Prayer came to me and told me that he had been given \$120 in settlement, but that he had spent it all but \$12, and had not paid his tithe. He asked what he should do. I encouraged him to faithfulness in returning to God

His own. Three days later he came and paid the last money he had as his tithe. Our income has also been seriously affected by the loss of Harvest Ingathering funds, and yet I greatly admire the courage and faith of those workers in Shanghai who entered into this work and gathered in \$4,000.

Pastor R. H. Hartwell has been broadcasting the third angel's message weekly over station XMHA Shanghai. During August and September this work was interrupted, but was carried on by Pastor V. J. Maloney during the greater part of the last quarter of the year. We are now faced with the problem of providing funds for carrying on these broadcasts, which are having some influence in the city of Shanghai.

During the first eight months of this year \$13,313.66 worth of truth-filled literature was sold in this union. As soon as it is possible, we plan to enter every *hsien* and village with our literature. We are looking forward to the time in the near future when as a result of the books and papers read, calls from interested persons will be coming in from many parts of the field, asking for evangelists to teach them this truth.

It has been interesting to meet with our people in Shanghai during recent months, and to observe their spirit of devotion to the cause of God and their brotherly love one for another. It has also been an inspiration to see how wholeheartedly they have entered into welfare work for those in the refugee camps.

The membership of the East China Union at the end of the third quarter was 4,338. One hundred and forty-five baptisms have been reported to the end of September. However, it has been impossible to receive reports from some parts of the field. While we cannot get out into the field, we are planning to concentrate our efforts in Shanghai and hold two or three efforts in that great city where there are so many people located from all over China. We ask your prayers that God will bless in our efforts for the thousands of people gathered there, homeless, without God, and without hope in the world.

Our plans for the future include the strengthening of our evangelistic work by the training of new evangelists, and by the holding of many public efforts. It is the plan that the union superintendent and every mission director shall hold one or more evangelistic

efforts each year, for we realize that we must work while it is day.

We feel to thank God for the blessings of this past year and for His protecting care over His children. We need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives that our ministry may be fruitful. Our courage is good because God is our Helper. We rededicate our all to the great task of giving this last message of mercy to the needy millions of the East China Union.

### Manchurian Union Report

BY K. H. WOOD

BOTH at the opening and close of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews we are told that it was because of the faith of God's children in ancient times that we have such good reports concerning them. It is the same in our day, and whatever good there is in this report is the result of the faith and devotion of our members and fellow-workers in the Manchurian Union.

It has required much faith on the part of all to maintain the various interests of God's cause in this field, and to push the triumphs of the cross into numerous new places. God has honored the faith and answered the prayers of His people, just as of old.

We are endeavoring to build solidly on the foundations which have been laid in the past. The watchword of the workers in every department of the mission is "soul winning." Converts to the gospel have resulted from all lines of endeavor. Our goal is the heralding of the third angel's message to the remotest bounds of our territory, and the developing of a self-propagating and self-supporting church, with strong indigenous leadership. We believe that only as we develop such churches and leadership can they stand in the times just before us.

In the matter of evangelistic meetings, the past year has reached a new record, with seventy-four series being held. Thirty-eight of these were of one month or more duration, including five tent efforts. The other thirty-six series of meetings have been in progress simultaneously, with capacity audiences nearly every night. In fact, the attendance has been so large as to enlist comment, not only of individuals but also of newspapers. As the result of these meetings and other

soul-winning activities, 294 converts have been baptized during the year, which together with the seventy-three members transferred from the Jehol Mission, brings the total church membership of the union to 1,910.

Upon arriving in Manchuria, I was glad to learn that a campaign for the purchasing of suitable church sites and buildings had already been undertaken. We are convinced that this is very important to the future stability of the work, and we are striving to continue this campaign. During the past six months we have purchased very desirable buildings in excellent locations in two large cities, besides securing title to the land on which two of our other churches are built. We will also soon be able to dedicate debt-free the church that was built last year at Lingtien.

The Korean and Russian sections of this field show encouraging results, and a strong spirit of evangelism is being promoted among both members and workers. A Russian evangelist has recently begun work in Dairen, where the Russian population is increasing rapidly. It is planned also to conduct a series of Japanese evangelistic meetings in our new Dairen church during the coming summer.

The following are a few further items regarding the past year's work, which I will mention briefly:

The literature work has continued to grow in spite of numerous difficulties, and the present circulation of *The Signs of the Times* is more than 22,000, which is the largest in the record of this union. We believe, however, that even this figure can be materially increased as soon as normal transportation facilities are restored.

Our junior training institute has had a successful year, with a capacity enrollment of both boys and girls. The farm crops have also been good, and the bandage-making industry is doing nicely.

The medical work at both the Mukden Clinic and the Pei Ling Sanitarium have made marked growth. In fact, both institutions show a small gain in operation, after giving liberal charity and other discounts. I believe this is the first year the sanitarium has had such a record, and we hope it can be kept up in the future.

The workers and members in the Manchurian Union are pressing forward in faith, believing

God will add His blessing to their efforts, and will guide them in their service for Him. Christ is the "author and finisher" not only of "our faith," but of this soul-saving work as well, and we believe He will give us the promised power of the Holy Spirit to do His work.

Although we have many other needs for the work in this field, we recognize that our need of the Holy Spirit is the greatest. It is for the infilling of this Spirit that we are praying, that the coming year may witness the gathering of a large harvest of souls for Christ in the Manchurian Union.

## North China Union Report

BY W. J. HARRIS

THE period covered by this report for the North China Union Mission without doubt represents one of the most difficult years that has ever come to our work in North China. Aside from having to conduct our work with our group considerably reduced through furlough, sickness and transfer, we have also had the unpleasant experience of laying some of our valued workers in their graves, native as well as foreign. And then suddenly in mid-summer the holocaust of war came sweeping down upon us, cutting our field in two and causing our workers to evacuate their stations. Due to the severing of transportation facilities and discontinuance of postal communication, we are unable to keep in touch with all sections of our field. So it will be impossible to give a complete report of the work of this field for 1937.

One of the most interesting sections of our field is the Mongolian Mission. We recently took a trip up into Mongolia to carry food and supplies for the winter to our workers there. We were delighted to find things peaceful and quite normal there; our workers were well and busy with their work. Our work on the plains is being conducted by two Russian brethren—Brother J. Maltsev, located about 147 miles north of Kalgan, and Brother R. Rodanoff, located about 75 miles to the west and north of Brother Maltsev. These workers, laboring on alone, isolated and with very little native assistance, are examples of faithfulness and loyalty. I think we have no other such example in all the China Division where foreign families toil on year after year

with practically no contact with the outside world; with but very little assistance from the rest of the field, and with but very slight reward appearing for their labors. Last year we reported two baptisms for Mongolia. We regret to say that this year we do not have as good a report to give you.

The Russian brethren do personal visiting, conduct Bible studies as opportunity offers, and carry on some medical work, distribution of literature, and canvassing for our Mongolian subscription book, "The Way of Life." Brother Maltsev reported \$25 receipts for medical services for October, \$44 for September, \$23.50 for August, and \$60 for July. Brother Rodanoff has similar reports, though usually not quite so much as Brother Maltsev. In view of their slight medical training and their lack of proper equipment, they have done very well. We rejoice that a doctor has now come for the Mongolian field, and hope that every possible means will be found to enable him to get into his labors without further delay. Let us remember that upon our shoulders rests the responsibility of bringing this last saving message to the millions in that vast field of need. It is indeed a land of great privation; a field of extraordinary difficulty; a work fraught with tremendous problems; and unless we address ourselves to it with determination and vigor, stepping forth as God leads the way, we cannot expect the blessing of God upon us. May the Lord help us as we move forward to bring the knowledge of salvation to needy Mongolia.

Many are the problems, perplexities, and dangers that confront our work as we face a new year. We are reminded that the Spirit of prophecy has told us that the work that was not done in times of peace and prosperity would have to be done in times of great difficulty and danger. Let us seek the Lord that He will give us grace and wisdom, and that He will continue His protecting hand upon every faithful follower during these times of danger and hardship. Our workers, both native and foreign, must often work on in the face of grave dangers. Irresponsible and uncontrollable evildoers frequently step in and bring much perplexity and no little harm to both work and workers. Already these forces are at work in our territory. We need His presence as we have never needed it before, and we of North China reconsecrate our all to the great unfinished task to

which the Lord in His mercy has called us. We pray for special wisdom, patience, and great faith in God. We pray that God will grant an abundance of His Spirit to every worker and member. We pray that the work may soon be finished and His coming hastened, and that soon we all may be gathered to our eternal home above.

## Northwest China Union Report

BY G. J. APPEL

THOUGH the difficulties have been great, the Lord has been good to our workers and work in the far-flung fields of China's great Northwest. The work is going forward and souls are being won to the third angel's message. We are especially thankful that nearly all of our faithful staff of Chinese workers have been able to stay by their appointed places of labor and are facing the future with courage. One of the two Tibetan young men who were in the China Training Institute two years ago and who were baptized last summer, planned to go as a colporteur through to Lhasa last spring, but the caravan could not go because of conditions on the road. Since then the road has opened, so he plans to leave soon as the first representative of this message to carry the news of a soon-coming Saviour to that hitherto unentered land. We especially request the prayers of our people that God's protecting hand may be over our brother on his journey. He goes as a representative of the Missionary Volunteers of the China Division; and may this spirit of pioneering the work enter the hearts of all our young people, leading them to give their lives in willing service, pressing on into all the border lands of this division until the work is finished.

A few years ago one of our Chinese colporteurs in Shensi responded to the call for help in Ninghsia where he has been ever since. As a result of the seed sown, a fine young man—whose brother is a Mongolian Lama—has accepted the truth, been baptized, and is now in our junior training institute, preparing to take the message to his own people.

Another baptism has been held in Kiuchuan (Suchow), where Brother and Sister Wu have been faithfully carrying on work since it became necessary for our other workers to withdraw for a time.

An average of twenty patients a day are being treated in the dispensary. Not only are souls being won to the message through this work, but the work is self-supporting; for even though it is difficult and expensive to get medicines and supplies in there, the income has been sufficient to pay for all medicines used and the salaries of the workers. How we wish we had one hundred such self-supporting centers of light throughout the Northwest. We believe this is medical missionary work of the highest order.

It was the plan to have only one junior training institute, but because of conditions it was not possible to bring our young people into one center. Therefore, two institutes, one in Lanchow and one in Pucheng, Shensi, are being conducted. Next fall there will be forty young people in the province of Shensi ready for middle school grades—all children of our members. There are six primary schools in Shensi and two in each of the other three local missions, making a total of twelve for the union.

Up until Dr. Nethery left for the States, the hospital at Lanchow was having a good patronage. We are sorry it was necessary to close the institution, but we hope to open as soon as Dr. Vinkel returns. A dispensary was also conducted in the city of Lanchow and in Choni, Kansu, besides the one at Kiuchuan, (Suchow), near the Sinkiang border.

Pastor Wu, who has been pioneering the work out in Ninghsia, is now Bible teacher in the junior training institute at Lanchow, but still carrying the responsibilities as director of the work in the Ninghsia Province. Pastor Chiao Hsi Liang is located in the city of Ninghsia. Pastor Meng Chung Ih from Chiao-toutseng is promoting the evangelistic work in a strong way in the Province of Shensi, while Brother Ho Ping Dwan, who also comes to the Northwest from Chiao-toutseng, is acting as principal of the junior training institute located at Pucheng. We greatly appreciate the help of these tried workers at this time of special need.

It is not possible to give a report of the total number of baptisms at the present time. The number would have been nearly doubled had it been possible to reach all the stations. Among those baptized have been two Tibetans and one Mongolian.

The Lord in a special way is preparing means of communication in the Northwest by which to quickly finish the work. Automobile highways are being improved and built to all portions of that field. Soon it will be possible to reach all important centers of that vast territory by motor car. Late word is that soon it may be possible to enter Sinkiang.

The doors of all Chinghai are standing open and the call is coming as never before to send help to all that field, where there are one million Tibetans and some five hundred thousand Mongolians. There is every evidence that the Lord is going before us, giving courage as the work goes forward. We thank God for what has been accomplished through the humble efforts put forth, and renew our consecration for the finishing of His work in China's great Northwest.

## South China Union Report

BY A. L. HAM

It is indeed a privilege to have this council held within our territory, especially since this year is the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of our work in China. We are grateful to our heavenly Father for His great blessings and the many providences which have been shown to us during the last year. We render to Him a tribute of praise for His matchless mercies. We also express our appreciation to the General Conference and to the China Division for the help that has been extended to us in our various departments of work.

In South China we have endeavored to emphasize both phases of evangelism—the preaching of the gospel and the shepherding of our flock. Incomplete reports show that fifteen evangelistic efforts were held last year. In addition to these, there were a large number of revival meetings held in our churches and stations. We cannot report at the present time the full number of baptisms for the year.

With reference to the shepherding of our flock, the South China Union at the beginning of last year inaugurated a special campaign for the reclaiming of the backslidden. The purpose of this program is to increase on the part of our workers their sense of responsibility for the lost sheep, those who have accepted this message but have drifted away.

We believe that our departmental work is also a soul-winning

agency. We have the educational department, headed by Brother Lyle Wilcox as secretary. He has carried on the work of this department efficiently and well. Brother Wilcox also carries the burden of the home missionary department. We believe that one way to promote greater evangelism and greater efficiency in the shepherding of the flock is by the promotion of the interests of the home missionary department in our churches. If we wish to help the spiritual condition of our churches, one good way to do it is to get our church members to work for the salvation of others.

The medical secretary of this union is Doctor D. D. Coffin, who is very heavily burdened with the work of the Nanning Dispensary. Because of their large number of patients during the last year, Dr. Coffin has not been able to give very much time to the promotion of the medical interests throughout the union. We have four medical institutions in South China; in Canton, Nanning, Waichow, and Fatshan. These institutions have all carried on good work during the year.

The publishing work has been carried forward by Brother C. E. Wimer and his associate, Brother E. H. Ngo. Our colporteurs have been greatly hindered in their work because of troubled conditions, but by concentrating their efforts in Macao and Hongkong, they have been held together and enabled to be successful in their work. While we will not be able to show the results in figures that we have shown in previous years, I believe the Lord will prosper and bless what has been done, and that the subscriptions that have been taken will result in the salvation of many souls.

The Sabbath school work is carried by Brother P. L. Williams in addition to his other work. This department of our work, whose main object from the beginning has been the training of our people to work, to teach, to give, and to gain a knowledge of the truth, does a work that no other department can do for our own people as well as for others. We wish to foster its interests in the future more than we have in the past.

About two years ago we felt that we should inaugurate within our union a program for building churches. We must have some large churches in such places as Hongkong, Canton, Amoy, and other good-sized centers, but this building program was for the erection of small churches

throughout our missions and stations so that our people would have a church home, and we would thus be able to cut down the continual rental cost year by year. This is not to be undertaken by appropriations, but we are encouraging our people to do what they can, and we will do our best to help them, to establish church homes and make permanent their church work.

We have never undertaken anything in this union which has created more wide-spread interest than the proposal to establish a Pioneer Memorial Church in the city of Hongkong. We now have funds in hand to the amount of \$28,000, and 14,000 square feet of land in a nice location on the opposite side of Happy Valley from where Brother Abram La Rue lies resting.

The last two years we have been concentrating on one school project—the union school. We desire to move this union school to Hongkong from Canton, where it has been carried on in buildings that are in very bad condition. The government of Hongkong has been very considerate in helping us to secure a tract of land of about forty acres. The Lord worked upon the hearts of these people so that they actually sold some of their land to us for less than they paid for it themselves. The plan for the school includes buildings to take care of twelve grades. We are planning for an administration building, a dormitory for boys and one for girls, industrial units to enable us to teach some of the trades, including courses in agriculture, poultry raising, fruit growing, gardening, etc., and courses in some of the mechanics, and home economics for the girls. The estimates call for an investment of about \$160,000 national currency. This amount covers all the buildings and equipment for a school of this type, and will provide for about three hundred students.

We have been struggling to pay up on the indebtedness of the construction of the Canton Sanitarium building, and good results have come from the efforts put forth. Had it not been for the present situation, I am confident the sanitarium would not owe more than \$10,000 at the close of the year, but under the circumstances it owes \$14,500. With a return to normal conditions, we believe this institution will prosper again as it did during the first half of 1937.

We are thankful for the new workers who have come to our

union. Brother C. H. Davis and his family are doing very good work in Foochow. We are also grateful for the coming of Brother and Sister Gordon Williams and Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Wagner. The coming of these workers meets a great need in our union. Our special needs now are for a family for our union school and for another departmental secretary.

We have many problems and perplexities, especially along financial lines. However we are not discouraged by these troubles, but with your kind help, sympathy, and suggestions, we hope there will be some way to solve the problems. Our courage is good as we face the future, believing that God will direct and bless in every phase of our work.

## West China Union Report

BY G. L. WILKINSON

THE year 1937 has been a good year in soul-winning in the West China Union. For the first three quarters of the year 282 baptisms were reported, and 108 more have since been reported, and the reports are not all in yet for the entire year. When the reports are in, our membership will be about 2,500. It took eleven years to get the first one hundred, six more years to get a membership of one thousand, five more years to get a membership of two thousand five hundred.

Comparing June, 1936, with June, 1937, we made an increase in Sabbath school membership of 1,676, or an increase of four new Sabbath school members every day during the year.

Our members are enthusiastic about reading the ministerial reading course books. Eleven of our foreign workers have reported reading the course for last year, which is the largest number of our foreigners that have reported for any one year thus far. About twenty or thirty natives have read the course.

We have a report of fifteen efforts held during the year, and two missions have not yet been heard from. In all there were about twenty efforts in West China last year.

Our offerings are equal this year or surpass any year in our West China Union, except our Harvest Ingathering. Our Week of Sacrifice Offering was the best in the history of our union, \$1,100. Our Sabbath school offerings are far in excess of what we have had in previous years.

We hesitated at first to enter upon the Harvest Ingathering campaign last fall, but when Brother Buzzell and Brother Guild finally started the work, we found that results could still be accomplished in spite of troubled conditions. Never has there been a time when it seemed that the Lord has so definitely led us to find just the men who were willing to help as He did this year. So even though the difficulties were great, the Lord blessed our work, and while the receipts were not as large as in former years, the workers had some precious experiences, and there were many opportunities for sowing seeds of truth.

The West Kweichow meeting last summer was one of the largest ever held in China. The last Sabbath there were more than three hundred in attendance. Fifty-six were buried in baptism at that meeting. The total baptisms for the year in that mission is 182.

The spirit of sacrifice has been shown on the part of our workers in West China from the very first. Our colporteurs have been persecuted and even killed as they have attempted to open the work in new sections. Three of our foreign missionaries sacrificed their lives in West China—Brother Herbert Smith, Mrs. Claude Miller, and Mrs. Dallas White—but their sacrifice has not been in vain, for in Yunnan today we have 750 baptized members and great opportunities for advanced work there.

We are glad to have the privilege of working in an interesting field like West China. We have many places where whole families come into the truth. We have a representative of one such family with us today, and he will tell you the story of his conversion.

\* \* \*

Brother Li Deh Hsing told how his parents had died leaving himself, two older brothers, and a sister. His brothers lost the family fortune through gambling, and the children were scattered to various cities. The oldest brother went to Chungking, and while there was employed by Brother Warren, then superintendent of the West China Union Mission, to do some work for him. One time he heard Brother Warren preach a sermon on the second chapter of Daniel, and it greatly stirred his soul and set him to studying the truth, and led eventually to his conversion. This brother set as his goal the conversion of his brothers and sister, and he began

praying for them. Li Deh Hsing was at that time only fourteen years old, and was serving an apprenticeship in a shoe shop. His brother urged him to attend the meetings at the mission chapel, and he did, and gradually little by little he gave up his alcohol, tobacco, and pork, and began to keep the Sabbath, though it meant ridicule and persecution from his fellow workmen, especially in view of the anti-Christian movement on in west China at that time. He went to school and received training to be a worker, and entered the work as a colporteur. Today he is home missionary secretary of the West China Union. He joined his older brother in praying for his other brother and sister, and step by step they, too, were led into the truth, and all of them are now proclaiming the truth to others.

### Missionary Volunteer Department Report

BY D. E. REBOK

DUE to existing conditions in the China field, the report of the Missionary Volunteer department for 1937 did not show the progress we had all hoped and planned for. However, these conditions call us to our task in a new way, for in serious times like these our children and youth are face to face with new and tremendous issues. It is at such times as these that we look earnestly to our young people's workers to lead our youth.

We appreciate the fact that two of our active union secretaries—Brethren Carter and Esteb—have been on furlough the past year, but those who have remained have put in loyal service. However, many of these men have too many other duties assigned them. Our need today is for men in the department work who can make young people's work their major interest; men who can be free to go to the churches and companies where the young people are.

In looking over the work accomplished for 1936 we see that the China Division led the Missionary Volunteers throughout the world in several items. Seventy-five per cent of our churches have organized societies carrying on work for their young people. The progressive class work has been successfully started over here, and we trust that its growth will be steady. We are glad to see how heartily our young people have entered into

the observance of the Morning Watch, for this is a sure source of power and strength for them, and while the sales for our 1938 Morning Watch Calendar were not so large as for the last year, yet we feel that we did very well under existing conditions.

Young people grow while working, and for this reason we feel that the time has come to put forth special efforts to conduct a Youth's Evangelistic Movement for China to be sponsored by our young people. Sister White tells us, "Young men and women, God calls upon you to work, work for Him. . . . You can do a work that those who minister in word and doctrine cannot do. You can reach a class whom the minister cannot affect." A beginning was made in this work last summer at Yencheng, and we can but wish this to be extended to all parts of our division. There are three ways of carrying on this work by our young people. There are the young people who stay at home, and because of other duties are free to give only a portion of their time to active service. Then there is the work that our young people may do in connection with well-organized evangelistic efforts under the direction of successful evangelists. The third way is for young people to actively carry our message in the form of the printed page from village to village, thus covering new territory and giving the warning message for this time. Give our youth a chance, and the Lord will bless their work to the salvation of many souls.

We thank God for His help during the year 1937, and while dedicating ourselves for the finishing of the task, we most earnestly pray for divine help and for a strong group of leaders for our young people's work in China.

### Sabbath School Department Report

BY BESSIE MOUNT

If a complete report of our Sabbath school activities for the past year could be rendered, I am sure it would reveal many a brave struggle on the part of our Sabbath schools to carry on in the midst of extreme difficulties and even dangers; it would disclose the whereabouts of every scattered member, and the effort of many a loyal heart to be true to Sabbath school ideals under most adverse circumstances; and we



## China Division Sabbath School Department Comparative Report

First Three Quarters, 1936 and 1937

	Average		Average		Average		Total		Offering	Weekly	
	No. of Schools	Membership	Attendance	1937	1936	1937	1936	Offerings	Goals	1937	1936
Central China ..	95	91	3,117	3,244	2,921	3,094	\$ 3,379.49	\$ 3,367.26	\$ 3,736.76	\$.042	\$.041
East China .....	249	254	8,399	7,909	7,490	7,378	9,554.90	10,190.15	12,439.79	.058	.069
Manchuria .....	56	55	2,116	2,122	1,703	1,681	3,109.12	3,053.13	3,575.78	.055	.059
North China ....	68	67	1,693	1,888	1,552	1,839	1,613.27	2,059.99	2,717.69	.022	.032
Northwest China	40	39	863	888	957	1,112	1,302.36	1,393.10	1,440.73	.045	.054
South China ....	133	126	4,066	4,348	3,855	4,340	5,337.65	5,570.95	6,807.64	.04-	.044
West China ....	131	109	3,511	2,189	3,594	2,295	3,243.25	2,519.21	2,740.47	.044	.035
China Division .	772	741	23,765	22,588	22,072	21,739	27,540.04	28,153.79	33,458.86	.045	.049

(Financial items in Chinese national currency)

trust it would unveil more than one decision on the part of those who have grown careless and indifferent, to return to their first love for the truth of God and to the study of His Word in the Sabbath school.

The figures presented herewith show a brief summary of our Sabbath school work for the first three quarters of 1937, as compared with the record for the same period of 1936. In a few cases the figures for the third quarter have in part been estimated in the union offices, since it was impossible to receive reports from the field.

For a number of years the East China Union has led the division in membership, both in numbers and in ratio to church membership. At the end of the first quarter of last year the Sabbath school enrollment stood at 192 per cent of the church membership. During the year, the Central and West China Unions also reached the membership goal, which is 150 per cent of the current church membership.

The heavy losses in offerings in East China and in North China occurred almost entirely during the third quarter, when Sabbath schools could neither function normally nor could funds be transmitted as in normal times. For the first six months of the year our total offerings showed a slight increase over those for the corresponding period of 1936, but the losses of the third quarter more than offset this slight gain, and reduce it to a net loss of over six hundred dollars, national currency.

For a brighter picture we turn to West China. More than 1,500 Sabbath school members were added in this union during the first six months of 1937, with an increase of twenty-two Sabbath schools. The West Kweichow Mis-

sion alone has approximately fifteen hundred members in sixty-eight Sabbath schools, and the membership in Yunnan has grown to over a thousand. West China also deserves special credit for reaching its offering goal—an increase of fifteen per cent over the receipts of 1935. Their offerings for the first nine months of the year amount to \$3,243.25, which is an increase of thirty-six per cent over those for the same period of 1935, or 28.7 per cent over the receipts for the first nine months of 1936. A like gain throughout the division would have given us a total of \$36,241.11, instead of \$27,540.04, for the first three quarters of last year.

Perhaps the greatest single achievement of the year is the addition of two new tribes to our Sabbath school family in the China Division. They are the Biyoh and the Kado tribes, both divisions of the Nosu or Ichia race, in southwestern Yunnan. Within six months from the time they entered upon their labors in Mokiang and the surrounding area, Brother and Sister Milton Lee were able to report four Sabbath schools and one branch school among these two tribes, with an attendance of several hundred each Sabbath. They plan to open work soon among a third tribe, the Budu. But while we rejoice in this advance step, we cannot forget that within the bounds of the China Division are more than two hundred other tribes and tongues, many of whom would be equally responsive to the gospel, still waiting for the message of hope. These, and the waiting millions in all our fields, constitute a mighty challenge to this people.

How is the message of truth to reach the scores of unentered tribes, the hundreds of *hsiens*, the thousands of villages, and the millions of men and women who

are without the light of truth? Can we not make much greater use of the Sabbath school as an evangelizing agency, as well as using it more effectively to instruct and build up in the faith those who have already accepted the truth? The uncertainties by which we are surrounded constitute a special opportunity and a wonderful challenge for our Sabbath schools to gather in those who are hungering for the truth, and to feed them with the Bread of Life; and, through the branch Sabbath schools, to go out in loving ministry to carry the "light of life" to hundreds and thousands who "sit in darkness."

## Medical Secretary's Report

BY H. W. MILLER, M. D.

The year 1937 has, with all its vicissitudes, been a year of progress in our medical missionary program. In no previous year was more marked progress made in our twelve medical institutions in this division. The total patronage, financial receipts, and nurses' training school enrollment exceeded that of any former year for the first seven months of 1937.

The medical ministry is not only needed in all times of upheaval and unsettled conditions among humanity, but also can function when other fields of missionary work seem closed. Never in the history of the world was the ministry described in the fifty-eighth and sixty-first chapters of Isaiah more needed than now. Only the medical missionary who ministers comfort, good cheer, courage, and faith as gifts from heaven in addition to healing, can truly meet the needs of the sick and suffering souls of China today.

Where are the good Samaritans of today? Are they not to be found in the church that predicts

that troubled conditions will exist in all the earth and grow worse and worse, and who have been given as a part of our movement the gospel of health for such a purpose and time as this? Now is the day of opportunity, if ever, for our medical missionary movement to function and for us to enlist in it every possible available resource, for in what lines of service can we better approach the human heart to influence it for Christ? We are entering into the last days, the very closing scenes of earth are just before us, and no solution is found among the nations. The gospel is the only hope of mankind, and it functions most effectively through the health ministry.

Every war the past fifty years has resulted in opportunity for the advance of this message, and may we not look upon this as our day of opportunity to reap for the church? The masses of China are being pushed westwards to Szechwan, to Kansu, and to Yunnan and Kweichow, and these distant lands are now to be brought close to the outside world, and their doors thrown open to the gospel movement. We have been forming some base stations on the frontier of Central Asia, and are in a position to man them and carry on westwards. I, therefore, hope to see us push our medical missions as frontier posts, and trust that immediate steps will be taken to open our Lanchow Hospital on the new main thoroughfare to Europe. Surely we should be the first to seize the opportunity of effectively getting into Hami and Tihwa, into Mongolia and Tibet, and this present situation will give us the opportunity. With all these places entered, can we not confidently believe that the loud cry will follow and the end come quickly? I offer myself as a volunteer to push on into these fields, to extend the medical ministry in the heart of Asia. We believe that the Wuhan Sanitarium can serve as just such a base of operation for these western fields where our greatest results in soul winning may be realized.

No figures have been received from our various institutions to enable me to compile any comparative statistics. At the time of the beginning of the trouble, the Canton Sanitarium and Hospital patronage, including the tuberculosis camp, was running near the one hundred mark, the largest in the history of the institution, and had the same ratio of gain and business continued throughout the year, this institution would

have cleared off its obligation in entirety. We feel that the tuberculosis work at the camp should continue and be promoted in a strong way, as this meets the needs of a very large group of the invalid classes in China. Dr. Bates and his staff have had a very busy program. The splendid work done is most commendable, and our Canton Hospital has a very fine record.

The first seven months of the operation of the Shanghai Sanitarium and Clinic were among the best in the history of the institution, and the time will again come when these records can be duplicated. Our Yencheng institution has had the best year in the history of the work there. Our reports from Mukden have been meager, but we learn that they have had a most satisfying patronage both at the Sanitarium and Clinic. Dr. H. E. James, on the Tibetan border, has had one of the largest years in patients seen and treated. We have many small dispensaries conducted by our doctors and nurses doing a most important work. The little Suchow Dispensary started by Mrs. Shigley is proving a most successful work under a Shanghai Sanitarium graduate, Mrs. Wu.

The launching of a medical educational program through affiliation with St. John's medical school has been a forward step in our medical work in China, and now offers our youth the prospect of a medical training to prepare them for the work before us today.

We have been very glad to welcome new recruits to our medical department during 1937 as follows: Dr. C. C. Wang, now at the Wuhan Sanitarium; Dr. Stanton B. May and wife, also Dr. E. A. Wagner and wife. Dr. May has been assigned to Kalgan Hospital and Dr. Wagner to the Canton Sanitarium. We are also glad to have Dr. Viscarra Chai assigned to the Chiaotoutseng hospital. I wish to express my profound thanks to our medical workers in the China Division for their cooperation and assistance in this work.

### Home Missionary Department Problems and Plans

BY E. L. LONGWAY

The aims and objectives of the home missionary department are the same as the methods used by the Saviour to win people to Himself. And if we can only in some way help each converted sinner to understand that he also is to serve under the Great Commission, perhaps we will not need

so many salaried evangelists, departmental secretaries, and all the machinery that we now seem to find imperative. "To every man his work" is a precious phrase that gives the scope of the home missionary department activity.

From the meager reports that have sifted through from the unions to the division, we learn that during the first three quarters of 1937, 312 new members were added to the church through the efforts of the lay members. This is indeed a small report when compared to the 736 reported for the same period of 1936. But for the 312 we take courage and give thanks, remembering that the Saviour would have left His home in heaven to save even one of the earth's lost.

Our reporting membership has been cut from nearly seventy per cent to less than thirty per cent, and the items of work reported have decreased in about the same ratio. Some particular missions, where the membership is perhaps more largely illiterate than in others, have the highest percentage of reporting membership. Training and example will do much to bring up our reporting membership percentage.

For the past three years we have been promoting the giving of Bible readings by our laity. The value of this work is apparent in the greatly increased number of Bible studies reported by the church members; 182,607 is the number reported by our lay members for the first three quarters of 1937. An encouraging feature of this work is the large number of Bible readings being given by the Missionary Volunteer members; 29,995 is the number given by our young people during the first three quarters of 1937.

We are still promoting the "Win-One Movement" throughout the division. The inviting of friends and neighbors to attend Sabbath school and church services is one of the first and easiest steps in the "Win-One Movement." The 5,173 persons reporting work for the first three quarters of 1937 have taken 66,156 persons to our Sabbath school and other services. Prayer lists and private encouragement to our members to engage in this work, with each member singling out a definite person whom he purposes to win, will see this campaign bearing fruit.

For the first three quarters of 1937, 520,473 pieces of literature were distributed by the 5,173 persons reporting. This is an average of 100 tracts for each

person during that period. Now, if every one of our 17,000 members would do as well, it would give us a total of 1,700,000 or more than 2,000,000 pieces of literature in a year. We have had evidence enough of fruitage from literature thus distributed to know the value of this work.

The Big Week campaign is part of the home missionary department activity and can be made a real blessing in any field if entered into as a definite campaign for selling literature.

The Harvest Ingathering campaign could be the means of bringing a three-fold blessing to our work in this division. Every Ingathering paper distributed is a warning to the one receiving it. These papers are bound to have an impression on many hearts and gain the sympathy and support of the most influential of all classes. The Ingathering campaign can be a means of training people to solicit funds for the support of the gospel. Then, of course, there is the blessing accruing from the actual funds raised. We have around one thousand evangelistic laborers in this division, and if each one of them would spend six weeks in Ingathering work, five days a week, with an average of \$3.50 a day, it would mean \$100 for each worker, and \$100,000 for the work. Our foreign workers as well as Chinese should engage in this work.

We solicit the cooperation of every field leader and worker in encouraging the laity to take up the various lines of home missionary work, that they themselves may receive a blessing and that the work may be speedily finished.

## Publishing Department Problems and Plans

BY E. L. LONGWAY

Four hundred and fifty million people! To be met, to be warned, and to be won for God's kingdom! This is the glorious task that faces the publishing department in this division conference. The system and program of the publishing department, as outlined by the Spirit of prophecy, and as promoted through the years of the past by the brethren in responsibility, need no changes or additions, but only an intensification of effort and an enlargement of vision of all concerned. The greatest problem facing the department is the question of a consecrated and greatly increased leadership and colporteur personnel. With such a large

population to be reached, with such an array of literature as we have available, and with a constituency of 16,000 from which to draw, should we not pray for, plan for, and actually put into the field a much larger force of colporteurs and field leaders than we have ever had in the past?

This question of increasing the colporteur force is one that the department cannot possibly solve without the active cooperation of the leadership of the division, union, mission, and local church organizations. The first and most important way in which we would solicit this cooperation is in the matter of carrying out the instruction of our Saviour, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into His harvest." Besides this cooperation by all in praying for colporteurs to be added to the force, I would suggest that every mission director supply his field secretary with a list of all newly baptized believers, giving him the information that is available on the baptismal blanks. This will give the field secretary an ever growing list of prospects from which to draw recruits. Then, encourage our field secretaries to get in personal contact with these prospects and work toward interesting them in the colporteur work.

Perhaps one of the greatest causes of loss to the colporteur ranks is the discouragement that comes through the burden of debt. The question of a deposit system of a percentage of sales' profits as a safeguard against debt deserves study. A bonus of a certain percentage might be allowed to the colporteur who keeps himself free of debt. This percentage of sales' profits and cash discounts could be combined to build up a reasonable sum to the individual colporteur's credit. From experience in certain fields and in past years, I am confident that such a system will do much to avoid debt to the individual colporteur and loss to the tract society. To expect field leaders to promote the departmental interests without promoting the financial condition of each colporteur and the standing of the tract society, is expecting the impossible.

A good beginning has been made in the publication and distribution of the ten, twenty, and thirty-cent books. It appeals to me that in this phase of our literature work we have one of our greatest opportunities to bring the message to the attention of the masses.

The circulation list of the Chinese *Signs of the Times* was making steady gains during the early and mid-year months of 1937. Our long-promoted goal of 100,000 subscriptions to the *Signs* is now in sight. Two lines of work, if thoroughly promoted in each of our seven unions will surely greatly increase the circulation of the *Signs*. The village work carried on so many years in Shantung has spread to other sections of North China and Manchuria. This sort of campaign can be just as successful in other parts of our field as it is in North China and Manchuria. The second line of work to be undertaken is the promotion of an extensive, well supervised *Signs* campaign in our large cities. In such a campaign union and local field secretaries unite with a corps of picked colporteurs in a given city. The city is divided, each field leader being responsible for an area of it. The colporteurs rotate from one field leader to another. This gives the colporteurs the best help each of their field leaders can give. Evangelistic efforts can be held in connection with such a campaign. The colporteurs can advertise the meetings as they meet the public, act as ushers, and generally aid in the conduct of the effort.

The question of leadership for the department in the division, unions, and local missions is one of great importance. I would like to see each union manned with both western and Chinese field secretaries who can be left free of other duties to give their full time and effort to the promotion of the publishing department interests. Full time secretaries in each local mission, free of other departmental burdens, are imperative. These men should be among the strongest of our whole working forces, and they should be encouraged to give their lives to this line of work, not expecting to transfer to other departments, or to direct evangelistic work. A continuity of field leadership will do much to stabilize and foster the rapid development of the publishing department.

During these days of stress and change we need the prayers and support of all. Pray for the leadership, for the colporteurs, for the literature as it goes into the hands of the public. Pray for the editors, manager, and workers of the Publishing house. And each of you, during the year 1938, plan to spend at least ten days in the field with your colporteurs.

## China Division Reporter

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### Educational Department Report

BY D. E. REBOK

"THE chief function of an Adventist school is to bring to the youth a generous and liberal education in an environment that is most favorable for the development of Christian character and for the partaking of the Christ life, and to prepare young men and women for leadership of tomorrow in the advancement of the Adventist cause."

From this statement by Professor Morrison we see what an important part our schools play in providing the leadership for this movement. Another of our educators tells us, "Our training schools are the recruiting stations. From them come our workers who mold to a great extent the policies and procedure of our believers. If these workers trained in our schools are weak in any matter, invariably this weakness will be reflected in the church members. How important, then, that while in school our students be taught to be true to every principle of the message we love."

This places a heavy responsibility upon our teachers, for they are the ones who are to make true Adventist leaders out of our boys and girls as they pass through our schools. How careful we should be in choosing these teachers, and with what seriousness should they enter upon their work of training and molding these youth! In all our planning we should endeavor to meet the needs of our young people in a way not foreign to Chinese social and economic standards.

We are glad to report that for the school year 1936-37 we had 175 church schools in operation. There were eighteen intermediate schools and four training schools, or a total of 197 educational institutions operating in the China Division, which was an increase of six over 1936. Our teaching staff remained practically the same as for the previous year, but the total attendance increased by

about 750. This increase was found in the church schools, while there was a slight decrease in the attendance at our intermediate schools. We deplore the fact, though, that for the present school year the work has been seriously broken up due to existing conditions in China today. However, we are glad to report that wherever possible work is being carried on in training our youth.

To assist in our educational work, the department is endeavoring to develop and stabilize a course of study suited to our needs, to supply satisfactory textbooks, to develop teaching syllabi and lists of equipment for some of the newer courses, and to prepare and administer objective tests. A request from the field for an entrance examination to assist in properly classifying students entering our junior training institutes, is being met in the preparation of such a test. We are also gathering material for a Church School Teachers' Manual, which will answer a great need. We are particularly happy to report that good progress is being made in preparing the book "Education," by Mrs. E. G. White, for use among our teachers and students.

The following observations on our educational work, together with some of the problems, should be of interest to each one of us.

1. The need for deepening the spiritual life of the schools.

2. We should select our best workers for the Bible teachers in our institutes. They make or break the spirit of the Adventist school.

3. We must make our educational work in China more *Bibliocentric*—which means, "There is a Christian approach to every subject, and it is the duty of every Seventh-day Adventist teacher to find that approach."

4. Every Seventh-day Adventist school should use our own Bible textbooks and make them available for every student. Otherwise we defeat our own purpose.

5. We should be honest with ourselves and carry out a full Seventh-day Adventist program of education in all our schools.

6. We must avoid the tendency to commercialize our school industries.

7. We should select teachers qualified to give strong courses in manual training, industrial arts, and real vocational work.

8. Our greatest need is to strengthen and improve the church schools, for they are the foundation of our educational work in every mission.

9. There should be an annual inspection of every church school by the union and local mission educational secretaries, and the new printed Rating Booklet should be used for permanent records.

10. There is a need for a new check-up on all teacher certificates, which will make possible an accurate record of all our teachers.

11. For the success of our school and young people's work, we need to keep up to date the census of our young people in every church.

12. Our experiment has now taught us the urgent need for carrying out medical cadet corps training in all of our training institutes. This work should go forward without delay.

We thank God for His blessing in our school work and for the degree of success which has attended it. Our prayer is for greater power and heavenly wisdom to help train the future leaders of His work in China, for on them will rest the burden of finishing the work in the China Division.

### News Notes

Dr. C. E. Randolph arrived in Hongkong from Yencheng February 17, to welcome his little daughter, Beverly Ann, who was born at the Matilda Hospital February 11. Dr. and Mrs. Randolph wish to express their appreciation to our members in Hongkong for their kindnesses to Mrs. Randolph during the time while her husband was not here.

The South China Union biennial session was held from January 21 to 28 at Hongkong. Following this meeting, a ministerial institute was conducted from January 29 to February 19, with about eighty workers in attendance. An excellent spirit was present, and God's spirit was felt as day by day this large company sought Him for new power and help for more effective service.

Division representatives who attended the East China Union annual committee meeting are, Frederick Griggs, C. C. Morris, D. E. Rebok, and John Oss. Others who have recently visited Shanghai and returned to Hongkong are, O. A. Hall, H. L. Shull, W. A. Scharffenberg, and H. H. Morse.

**SABBATH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN—APRIL 30—OCTOBER 29**

**A Double Anniversary**

BY BESSIE MOUNT

THE year 1938 marks an important milestone in our Sabbath school history,—the sixtieth anniversary of the organization of the General Conference Sabbath school work. While there had been Sabbath schools in operation for some years prior to that date, it was not until March 4, 1878, that plans were laid for bringing all these schools under the supervision of one organization, which would help to unify their plans and methods of work. The first statistical Sabbath school report was compiled at the end of that year, showing a total of 124 Sabbath schools with 4,626 members.

The growth of the advent movement since that time is truly a miracle of God's power and wonder-working grace, and there is no better measuring rod for that growth than the Sabbath school work. At the end of June, 1937—the latest world report available as this is being written—there were in all the world more than 13,000 Sabbath schools with over 540,000 members. In the China Division alone, where in 1902 there was one lone Sabbath school with a membership of seven, we had last June over 24,000 members in 775 schools.

No man can measure the blessings that the Sabbath school has brought to these and other thousands who have been reached by its influence through the years. However, it is a cause for grave concern among us that not all our church members are receiving the help and blessings the Sabbath school can give. Not only is this a definite spiritual loss to all such members, but it is a loss to the Sabbath school of the help and strength they could give, and a real hindrance to our organized work. In certain sections of our own field where a careful check was made a few years ago, it was found that from seventeen to thirty-five per cent of our church members were missing from the Sabbath school.

To remedy this situation, the General Conference Sabbath School Department is calling upon our Sabbath schools throughout

the world to observe this sixtieth anniversary of the organization of our Sabbath school work by a special membership campaign, with the object of bringing every church member into the Sabbath school.

For our Sabbath schools in China this campaign also commemorates another important event, for May 3, 1938, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival in Hongkong of our pioneer worker, Ahram La Rue. Brother La Rue was our first Sabbath school member in this land, and for several years, until joined by others, he faithfully sent in his

severing effort to do this. First of all, church and Sabbath school membership lists must be carefully compared, to ascertain who are the missing members. Let no one think that if the Sabbath school membership exceeds that of the church, it is proof that there are no missing members. This is not necessarily the case, for there may be many children and learners among the membership. The only way to know for a *certainty* is to make a careful check, name by name, and account for every member. When the facts are known, the missing ones must be visited if this is possible—perhaps not once, but many times—and invited and urged to come to Sabbath school. Letters will have to be written, again and again, it may be, in an effort to locate those who have gone away. We must not give up in discouragement if the first attempts fail to secure results. Jesus would have left heaven to save one soul; of how great value must each of the missing ones be in His sight! Let us not cease searching until every one is found.

Those who are so situated that they cannot attend a regular Sabbath school should be supplied with lesson quarterlies and record cards, and should become home division members, reporting each quarter to the nearest Sabbath school or to the local mission Sabbath school department. In many cases these members can form home Sabbath schools or branch schools, and bring others into the circle of Sabbath school influence.

There is no limit to the good that can be accomplished this very year as we go forth in real earnest to bring in the missing members of our own flock. Our effort will not end here, for as we engage in this work for our own members we shall find others who can be persuaded to attend Sabbath school. Not only will our Sabbath schools be enlarged, but they will be revived and strengthened spiritually by this endeavor, and souls will be won for the kingdom as a result of this year's campaign in behalf of the "missing members."

The call is to you. What is your response?

**What** — Sabbath School Membership campaign.

**Where** — In every church and Sabbath school in the China Division.

**When** — April 30—October 29, 1938.

**Why** — To bring back our "missing members," to win new members, and to work for the unconverted in our Sabbath schools.

**By whom** — Every worker, every church officer, and every Sabbath school officer, teacher, and loyal member.

**How** — By prayer, careful planning, and thorough, systematic personal work.

Sabbath school report to the General Conference Sabbath School Department on a home division envelope each quarter. This envelope bore a perfect record for one lone member, who, though far away from others of like faith, was true to the Sabbath school. How appropriate it is that we remember him this year by diligently seeking for those who have forgotten the Sabbath school!

This is a call to every worker, to every church officer, to every Sabbath school officer, and to every loyal member to arise and join in a search that will leave no stone unturned until every scattered member of our flock is found and brought into touch with the saving, steadying, holding influence of the Sabbath school. It will require painstaking, per-

## "Make Ready A People Prepared for the Lord"

BY J. H. EFFENBERG

### An Appeal to Sabbath School Officers and Teachers

"MAKE ready a people prepared for the Lord" is our Lord's solemn command to the remnant church. It is the object of the sound of alarm coming to us from the officers of the General Conference Sabbath School Department in such appeals as, "Seek for the missing members," "Work for the unconverted in our schools." These are very significant words to all Sabbath school officers and teachers, for the Sabbath school is the training institute of the remnant church, "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:17.

Listen friends, listen to the alarm: "Missing ones! Unconverted members! Missing! Missing!" How does it sound in your ears and in your heart? Who is missing? Is it your child? your brother? your sister? your husband? your wife? your neighbour or friend?

Why are they missing? Let us classify them, and we shall find some of the reasons. First, there are the *indifferent*. This group includes a very large number of our missing members. The second group, sorry to say, is perhaps even larger than the first, and is made up of *those to whom we have been too indifferent*,—we, the officers, teachers and members of the Sabbath school. The third group is the *backsliders*,—the ripe fruit of the indifference of classes one and two.

Friends, what have you done for these loved ones, missing from those who are being trained to be ready and prepared for the Lord? What are you going to do for them in 1938? Here is a stirring message from God through his special servant: "It was not the will of God that Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness; He desired to lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there, a holy, happy people. But 'they could not enter in because of unbelief.' Because of their backsliding and apostasy, they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the promised land. *In like manner*, it was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be so long delayed, and His people should

remain so many years in this world of sin and sorrow."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 458. Backsliding and apostasy, or in other words "the missing ones," are the things that are delaying the finishing of God's work. "Seek for the missing ones! Work for the unconverted!" is a most timely message to every Sabbath school officer, teacher, and member, in order "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

#### A Comparison

The command to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" has been given in connection with a well known prophecy, which will find its complete fulfilment

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### When the Day Is Done

When the day is done and the reaping  
Has ended forevermore,  
Shall you wish you'd wrought less for  
the Master  
As you reckon your labors o'er?  
Shall you sigh for earth's pleasures  
denied you  
As you toiled for Him early and  
late,  
Or rejoice in the "well done" recorded  
And the welcome you have at the  
gate?  
When the day is done! Can you  
dream it?  
Forever our Jesus to see,—  
As one 'mong the chosen beloved  
To follow wherever He be?  
O let us at evening and morning  
Be zealous, courageous, and true,  
To work with a heart that is willing  
And anxious His bidding to do.  
—Selected.

in our day, before earth's probation shall close forever. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5. The meaning of these words is found in Luke 1:16, 17: "And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him *in the spirit and power of Elias*, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Elijah's time is compared with the last time, and the faults of Israel in those days with the faults of the remnant church. What were these faults? Many of the chosen people of God were indifferent and worldly; they had turned away from God and were not prepared to fulfil their God-given mission to shine as a light for the Gentiles. There were seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal, but even these were not prepared to testify for their Lord. One, only one, was different, and this was Elijah. He was ready, prepared, a mighty man of God. Through faith he defeated more than four hundred priests of Baal. Through his persistent prayers he repeatedly moved the arm of God, and his prayers were answered by miracles. Through his fearless ministry he was destined to check the rapid spread of backsliding and apostasy in Israel, with the final result of bringing back the missing ones to the worship of the Lord and the keeping of his commandments.

The faults of the remnant church are the same as those of Israel of old. There are many, many indifferent and backsliding missing ones, who are not ready for the Lord nor prepared for their God-given mission to shine as a light in the midnight darkness of these last days. But thanks to the Lord, "at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Rom. 11:5. Our God has promised the Spirit, and will give the power of Elijah to the remnant church to check the rapid spread of backsliding and apostasy in these days, and to bring back the "missing ones" to the worship of God and the keeping of the commandments of the Lord and the faith of Jesus,—"to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

#### A Solution

Elijah had marvelous power, and did a great work; and the Spirit of prophecy tells us that "the Sabbath school, when rightly managed, possesses marvelous power, and is adapted to doing a great work, but it is not now what it may and should be."—*"Testimonies on Sabbath School Work,"* p. 29. Therefore it is the

Search for the Missing Ones—Gather the Children

timely message of Elijah that is sounded by the officers of the General Conference Sabbath School Department: "Seek for the missing ones! Work for the unconverted in our schools!" And it is the privilege of every officer, teacher and member of the Sabbath school, to carry this message by word and deed, in the spirit and with the power of Elijah, into every church, and into every home and heart of our "missing ones."

What was the secret of Elijah's marvelous power? Why could he do such a great work for the missing ones and the unconverted, and make ready a people prepared for the Lord? There are two outstanding reasons. He was not privileged to be a graduate of high school, college, or university; but he was a man of *daily prayer and daily Bible study*. In the same way, and in the same way *only*, we shall receive the same power and shall be able to do the same work, with the same success. Therefore, dear co-workers of the Sabbath school, this year let us first of all be faithful in daily prayer and daily lesson study, setting before our Sabbath school members a worthy example, encouraging and leading them up to the same high standard. As a result we shall all be filled with the spirit and the power of Elijah, ready and prepared for the Lord.

A great number of our "missing ones" is made up of our children. When our Lord returns, one of His questions will be, "Where are the children?" Would we be able to give a clear account if the Lord should return today? Where are the children, the missing ones? Let us put forth greater efforts to bring every child of our members and learners into the Sabbath school and win him for Jesus this year. Let us make every children's meeting as interesting and attractive as possible.

And there are the illiterate. The third of our five Sabbath school goals is "Daily study of the lesson for every member." But how can we ever reach this goal if we are as indifferent to the illiterate among us as we have been in the past? There are Sabbath schools with illiterate members who have been there for years and years, and are no more able to read and study their Sabbath school lessons than they were the first time they came to the Sabbath school. Do

you not think that there is something radically wrong with such a Sabbath school? Can such a Sabbath school ever reach the five goals and become a model Sabbath school? Let us lay plans in every Sabbath school to conduct classes for the illiterate, old and young, men and women, this year. Our goal must be that every believer can read the Bible and study the lesson daily. And in the spirit and the power of Elijah this is possible.

In Hokou, a town on the lake in Hunan, our "Win-One Movement" was started about a year ago. A Sabbath school of about one hundred members was organized and an evangelist was placed there. Among the new learners was a man sixty-nine years old. He had never learned to read, but when he heard this message he was impressed to do

so, and also to memorize the wonderful truths expressed in the Sabbath school memory verses. And he succeeded. On November 27 of last year he celebrated his seventieth birthday, and on that day he was able to read, and to repeat the memory verses for three quarters. This is but one of the results of nine months' work with the illiterate of that new Sabbath school. Hats off to the officers of such a Sabbath school!

Let us promote, throughout the year, *personal work for every member and every member doing personal work*. Let us commemorate this sixtieth anniversary of the General Conference Sabbath School Department by seeking the missing ones and working for the unconverted in our schools, to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

"The Lord desires that those who are engaged in the Sabbath school work should be missionaries, able to go forth to the towns and villages that surround the church, and give the light of life to those who sit in darkness."—*Testimonies, on Sabbath School Work*, p. 74.

### Fifteen Reasons Why I Should Be A Member of the Sabbath School

1. **Because** I need a deeper and more comprehensive knowledge of the Word of God.
2. **Because** I need to feast daily on spiritual food even more than to partake of temporal food.
3. **Because** I want my example and influence to be helpful to others, both young and old.
4. **Because** I need the blessing and inspiration in Christian service that I receive in the Sabbath school service.
5. **Because** I need the strength and encouragement that come through fellowship in the class recitation.
6. **Because** I need to manifest, as well as enjoy, the spirit of social good will fostered in the Sabbath school.
7. **Because** I get an enlarged understanding of the missionary fields of the world as some part is presented with its urgent need.
8. **Because** I need to learn the lesson of sacrificial giving as it is taught in the Sabbath school.
9. **Because** I need the training the Sabbath school offers to every member of the church.
10. **Because** I need the spiritual help I get in the Sabbath school as well as the blessing of the preaching service.
11. **Because** I am sure the Sabbath school is one of God's greatest agencies to maintain my faith, and to keep me in the love of the truth.
12. **Because** I find real enjoyment in the varied program of the Sabbath school—the songs, the prayer, the missionary appeal, the review, the class study, and the freedom from formality in these exercises.
13. **Because** every member of my family can find a lesson of inspiration that molds the life in Christian principles.
14. **Because** I find in the Sabbath school opportunity for spiritual culture and missionary experience.
15. **Because** God has sent message after message approving of the Sabbath school, declaring, "The Sabbath school, if rightly conducted, is one of God's great instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth."

**"The Sabbath school, if rightly conducted, is one of God's great instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth."**

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## All the Church in the Sabbath School and All the Sabbath School in the Church

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### A Brief History of the Sabbath School Work

BY J. A. STEVENS

THE first Sabbath school of which there is any historical record was organized by German Seventh-day Baptists under the leadership of Ludwig Häcker at Ephrata, Pennsylvania, in 1739. This was forty years before Robert Raikes established the first Sunday school at Gloucester, England.

No attempt was made to organize regular study groups among the children in the early advent movement. However, in 1852 Elder James White planted the seed from which has grown the great Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath school organization. In that summer, Elder White was traveling by carriage from Rochester, New York, to Bangor, Maine, and he felt deeply impressed with the need of some regular plan of Bible lessons adapted to children and young people. After his noonday meal, and while he waited for the horses to eat and rest, he used the top of his lunch basket for a table on which to write the first Sabbath school lessons ever provided for our people. A medium for their publication was necessary, and that same year the *Youth's Instructor* was launched on its career of helpfulness for the youth of the advent movement.

Our denominational history locates the first Sabbath schools at Rochester and Bucksbridge, New York, and assigns the dates 1853 and 1854. In 1855 a Sabbath school was organized at Battle Creek, Michigan, under the leadership of M. G. Kellogg. Later Prof. G. H. Bell wrote a series of lessons, one for children and one for the youth. Thus began classification of pupils according to age; about 1870 and

later, senior, intermediate, and primary classes were arranged, and superintendents and teachers were appointed for regular terms of three months. The schools also provided a program for the Sabbath school service, and many schools appointed secretaries. As the number of schools increased, the need of closer supervision also increased, and in 1877 the first State Sabbath School Association was organized in California. Other State organizations were soon formed, and on March 4, 1878, the plans perfecting the General Conference Sabbath

with approximately 550,000 members. While offerings in the Sabbath school were first made in 1878, it was not until 1885 that the Upper Columbia Conference gave of their Sabbath school offerings to missions; California followed in this practice; and in 1887 the sum of \$10,615 was contributed by all the Sabbath schools to the work in Africa. What a mighty river of mission funds has grown from that first rivulet! The Sabbath schools throughout the world have contributed more than thirty-two million dollars to missions, and each Sabbath an average of more than thirty-three thousand dollars flows into the treasury of the

#### Day of Prayer and Fasting

SABBATH, April 30, has been appointed as a "special day of prayer and fasting in behalf of our missing members and for the conversion of souls, as well as for a deeper consecration for ourselves;" and also as a day "for all our church membership to cry unto God in behalf of the great evangelistic advance we desire to see brought about throughout our field." (See Division Council Recommendations, in January REPORTER, pp. 5 and 7.) Material for the service for that day, in Chinese, appears in the *Shepherd* for February 15. The Prayer and Service Pledge, to be presented in the Home Missionary meeting, is a fitting prelude to the service to follow, which should enlist all our members in a search for the missing, and in more aggressive personal evangelism. Let us make it a high day in every church and Sabbath school!

School Association were adopted at the General Conference session.

At the close of 1878 there were ten State Sabbath School Associations, with 124 Sabbath schools, reporting a Sabbath school membership of 4,626. What a wonderful work God has wrought in those sixty years! Today the Sabbath school is an institution of world-wide extent. It is established within the Arctic Circle, and also at the southernmost tip of South America at Punta Arenas; and from east to west one can spend every Sabbath he is on land at some Sabbath school as he travels around the world. There are now more than thirteen thousand Sabbath schools

General Conference to advance our foreign mission work in all the world. This is about five cents for every tick of the clock, day and night, seven days a week.

In every division conference throughout the world the Sabbath school is well organized. In more than six hundred languages Sabbath school lessons are studied which mold the life of the children, and build Christian character in old and young. In many lands the Sabbath school membership is greater than the church membership. In some, unfortunately, all the members of the church are not enrolled in the Sabbath school.

In celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Sabbath school, we appeal to every loyal Sabbath school member to emulate the Good Shepherd by going after the "missing" sheep and the "missing" lambs of every Seventh-day Adventist church. Lend your cooperation with your church and Sabbath school officers as they launch this membership campaign to enroll every church member and the children of Adventist homes, in some class, or in the home division of the Sabbath school.

**The Sabbath School Should Go to Those Who Cannot Come to it**