

The China Division Reporter

Vol. 9

SHANGHAI, CHINA, FEBRUARY, 1939

No. 2

GOD LEADS

BY W. H. BRANSON

As in some sections of the field doors of opportunity that once were wide open are temporarily closed and prosecution of the work of God made exceedingly difficult, the tendency is for the workers to feel a sense of discouragement. Satan, of course, rejoices to have it so. If only he could forge a chain of adverse circumstances that would throw the servants of God into a general retreat, he would be exultant.

Recently a missionary wrote to us of the great difficulties facing our workers in a certain country, where the state laws made the propagation of the gospel illegal; and his message closed with the suggestion that the work in that country was finished. Actually it had only started. A small beginning only had been made, but the enemy was determined to hedge up the way of further progress.

The encountering of difficulties and obstacles is no indication that our task is finished and that we should surrender the field. Actually, our greatest achievements in winning souls under the preaching of the great advent message are just ahead. Under the latter rain the message is to swell to a loud cry, and thousands are to be converted in a day.

God has not promised always to smooth the way for His servants, but rather has warned them that "through much tribulation" their work is to be accomplished. Often they are to be as sheep among wolves and are to be made partakers of their Lord's sufferings.

Long ago the warning came to us that "the work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under the most discouraging, forbidding circumstances."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. 5, p. 463. But under no circumstances will the messengers of God be forsaken by Him. He has promised to be with them "always, even unto the end of the world."

Though the church may be forced into temporary retreat here and there, and though doors once opened may be closed for a time, yet no one should conclude that the work of God is therefore finished in such places. "We must have a true, abiding faith," says the servant of God, "that this message will go forth with increasing importance till the close of time."—Vol. 9, p. 154. We also have the assurance that "the Lord will give us favor before the world until our work is done."—Vol. 6, p. 21.

Notwithstanding the obstacles that may be placed in the way, nothing on earth is so sure of success and ultimate victory as the church of Christ. Workers for Christ are admonished that they "are never to think, much less

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God Leads

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to speak, of failure in their work. The Lord Jesus is our efficiency in all things. . . . We may draw upon His fulness, and receive of that grace which has no limit."—*"Gospel Workers,"* p. 19.

Again the Lord's messenger speaks of His workers saying, "Courage, energy, and perseverance they must possess. Though apparent impossibilities obstruct their way, by His grace they are called upon to surmount them. They are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything."—*"Gospel Workers,"* p. 39.

Thus in the midst of the most discouraging circumstances we have ground for hope. The way may not become easier, but God will teach us how successfully to carry on His work, regardless of the hardness of the way. Perhaps the sun that is obscured today may shine again tomorrow; but if not, then we must learn to work in the shadows. So long as one can have the assurance that God is leading, outward circumstances should make little or no difference.

"Man can shape circumstances, but circumstances should not be allowed to shape the man. We should seize upon circumstances as instruments with which to work. We are to master them, but should not permit them to master us."—*"Gospel Workers,"* p. 292.

Surely it is good to know in these days of peril and perplexity that God is at the helm guiding the affairs of His church, and that He has promised not to "fail nor be discouraged until He have set judgment in the earth." We should face our task with absolute assurance in our hearts that success will surely crown our efforts. The God of Israel is still abundantly able to open the waters of the Red Sea or the Jordan; and He would send legions of angels from heaven rather than permit the weakest servant of His to fail, if only His trust is in Him.

Appeal of the Budget Committee

WE are in the midst of the biennial session of the Autumn Council. This is the Autumn Council held midway between the sessions of the General Conference. To these meetings come our representatives from mission fields to report on the progress of our world-wide work, to tell us of the wonderful providences of God in the spread of the advent message, of the many open doors of opportunity beckoning them to enter, of their great desire for help in the way of missionaries and missionary money to supply these needs. They come to us with their hearts greatly burdened. They see yearly thousands going down into their graves without a knowledge of Christ, and the great burden of their hearts and of the hearts of their associates is to rescue these men and women from the pit of sin and destruction.

The Budget Committee has been appointed by the Autumn Council to listen to the appeals of these mission field representatives. The committee is made up of 55 leading and representative men, including the home officers of the General Conference, union and local presidents from the North American field and representatives of institutions. None of the mission field representatives are on this committee. As far as possible, the committee is impartially constituted in order that it may weigh equitably and without bias the various calls that are presented before them.

We wish you could listen to these appeals from these mission lands. We are sure it would deeply stir your hearts and lead you, as never before, to realize the great and important work that God is doing among the nations of men.

The needs presented to the Budget Committee are many and varied. These missionaries plead earnestly for evangelists to be sent to their fields. They want strong, devoted young men and women who can go to the various countries of the world, learn a new language and devote their manhood and womanhood, their strength and energy, to the giving of the gospel to those who

know it not. There are many open doors anxiously waiting for their coming.

The appeal is for medical missionaries, for godly physicians and nurses, who can show the people better ways of living, who, in their ministry to the physical needs of those in darkness, can lead them to Christ the Lord.

The calls are for teachers, for those who can instruct the youth and the children and turn their young hearts to the Lord, and through them reach their parents who are in heathen darkness.

The appeal is for money to erect school buildings, small hospitals and clinics, where the sick can be treated, church buildings, houses of worship which will give stability to the work.

There also come appeals from such lands as China and Spain, where some of our workers have sacrificed their lives in behalf of this message, where some of our buildings have been destroyed. In these war-stricken countries there must be carried on a work of rehabilitation. Tens of thousands of dollars will be required to restore that which has been destroyed.

These appeals bring sore perplexity to the Budget Committee. The mission funds are limited. There is scarcely enough to sustain the work that is now going forward, practically nothing to answer the calls for new work. Shall we send these missionaries back to their fields disappointed and disheartened? Shall we say to them, We cannot aid you in this hour of great need? We cannot feel that this is the message God would have us return to our brethren and sisters out on the firing lines. They are our representatives. We have sent them out in our stead to carry the gospel message to those who know it not. We have lowered them into the pit of heathen darkness and superstition, and we must stand by and hold the ropes. We must furnish the sinews of war that the work may go on and not languish. We can answer these calls and render this help only as you who

"Heaven forming each on other to depend,
A master or a servant or a friend,
Bids each on other for assistance call,
Till one man's weakn'ess grows the
strength of all."

read this message sustain us in our efforts.

In some of our mission fields, our workers are living on a reduced wage. Our mission funds have not permitted us to restore the cut in salary given them several years ago in the depression period. This inequality must be remedied and relief furnished.

In this hour of need in our missionary operations, the Budget Committee appeals to the rank and file of our people. Will you not come to the aid of our missions in this great hour of opportunity, in this crisis hour in our work? You have faithfully done this many times in the past. You have loyally stood by and have sacrificed and toiled that this message may be carried to the world, but there can be no cessation in our warfare. It must go on unceasingly until the final victory.

We must give and give again to the support of this work. We must give until it hurts. We must sacrifice, even of our penury, in order that those who have nothing may receive the gospel of salvation. We must bind about our supposed wants, economize in every possible way that this message may be carried to the world. We know that we can depend on you. We know that you will not disappoint us in supplying the calls which our missionaries are now making.

We appeal especially to the men and women among us of wealth, who possess a competence. Can you not turn some of your possessions into money in such an hour as this? Christ exhorted the disciples. "Sell that ye have and give alms." In this time of great world crisis, when we know not what a day may bring forth, has not this message, "Sell that ye have," an application to some who read this appeal? We believe it has. Will you not earnestly pray that God will reveal to you what you should do.

The Budget Committee, with greatly burdened hearts, send out this earnest appeal to our brethren and sisters. The Mission Board in this hour needs your aid. Our missions need your support. Our missionaries need the encouragement which you can give by your prayers and by your gifts. May God lead you to do the best you can to enable the advent message to enter the open doors now awaiting it.

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE
W. E. NELSON, Secretary

"The Wealth of the Gentiles"

By E. L. LONGWAY

IN mid-October Pastor Tu, director of the Hunan Mission, and I called on the governor of Hunan to solicit his donation to our annual Harvest Ingathering campaign. The appointment was for an hour on Friday afternoon that bordered on the Sabbath. Soon that appointment was changed to one for the same hour on the following day, the Sabbath; but as we were preparing to go to the governor's house that Sabbath evening, word came that the appointment had been postponed until a late hour that night. This change in the time of our appointment, I am sure, was in response to Pastor Tu's prayers, who was anxious that we need not approach the governor for his gift on the Sabbath day.

The governor listened to our appeal with interest, and then wrote down his contribution of \$1000. He told us that for some months past a graduate of the Shanghai Sanitarium had been his personal nurse. This young man's conduct and service had made such an impression on the governor that he had determined to send the young man to a medical school, paying all bills until this young brother should have completed the medical course. He made urgent request that Dr. Miller send him another nurse, at the same time promising that should this second nurse prove as faithful and efficient as the first, he, too should have a chance for a medical education.

In the city of Kweiyang another experience showed the willingness of people not of our faith to assist this cause. Pastor Djang Djen-chiang and I called on the representative of a certain tobacco company, and met the manager. This gentleman had visitors in another part of his office at the time, and we were not sure that he would give us an opportunity to explain our mission. After listening to our appeal and looking through the Ingathering magazine, he asked to be excused, taking our subscription book into the adjoining room where his friends were gathered. In a few minutes he returned with \$50. One of these friends had given \$20, another \$10, and he himself had given \$20. He then thanked us for coming to call on him and for the opportunity to help on the work we were doing.

In the same city we called on the officer in charge of the opium suppression bureau, who made a personal contribution of \$30 and then introduced us to a wealthy merchant who gave us \$100 more. This merchant, in turn, introduced us to four of his commercial associates, and these men jointly made up another \$100.

Brother Djang Djen-kwo, field secretary of the East Szechwan Mission, made an Ingathering itinerary to the cities east of Chungking, along the Yangtze River. He wrote of a most interesting experience in the city of Foochow. Here he called on a gentleman who after making a personal contribution, insisted that Brother Djang rest in his home, while he took the subscription book and some Ingathering papers and went out to solicit among his friends.

In Kwenming Pastor C. B. Miller and I chanced to pass the open door of a large residential compound. On inquiry we learned it to be the home of a certain General Chin. We entered the compound and asked to see the general. A student standing in the courtyard said, "The general is away at the front inspecting troops, but (pointing) that is Mrs Chin over there on the lawn." Mrs. Chin, hearing her name spoken, looked up and smiled, and signaled us to enter the guest room. After looking over the Ingathering paper, she asked us to give her a subscription book and to call a few days later. Some days after Pastor Miller called at her home and received some \$60. Part of this amount was Mrs. Chin's own contribution and the rest she had solicited from friends.

Many such encouraging experiences came to us during the Ingathering campaign in West China last year. People of all ranks and in all walks of life gave to the support of God's cause. It may be that some of these people, because of the interest aroused in their hearts through this contact with our message, will one day find themselves members of this church. In the meantime we who already enjoy this precious privilege should "arise and shine," that "the wealth of the Gentiles" may continue to flow into the Lord's treasury.

Harvest Ingathering Experiences in West China

BY D. E. REBOK

MEDICAL work for refugees on either side of the line is greatly needed and much appreciated. As missionaries, it is our business to meet physical as well as spiritual needs of the people; and since there are tens of thousands of refugees crowding into the Szechwan area, we felt it our duty to use Doctors Herbert Liu and Samuel Phang, who with some eight or ten nurses had gone from the Wuhan Sanitarium to Szechwan in order to establish a branch hospital there to help care for these needy people.

A staff was there, and the willingness to serve was there; but no suitable building could be had in all that city. It seemed that we should be compelled to buy or lease a piece of land and erect temporary buildings for our refugee hospital.

The original plan had called for \$2,000 to be put into a very temporary building; but since those plans were laid, the price of building materials had so increased that we could not now build for that sum. So it was then proposed that we raise \$12,000—\$6,000 for the land and building and \$6,000 to cover operating expenses for one year. It was our hope that we might raise \$6,000 of that amount among our friends in the city, and that the second \$6,000 might be secured from friends in the Philippines.

The need was so great, and the response to our appeal to the public so magnanimous, that we decided to ask the people of that area to finance the whole project, and use the donations from abroad for other kinds of relief work.

And so we started to work. A letter from Dr. Miller introduced us to General ———, who each year at Harvest Ingathering time has given us \$300, a gift which he duplicated again this year with even greater eagerness to help our uplift work.

I was much interested during this campaign in the West in the study of the Morning Watch, and in applying each day's experiences to the promises of the Word. The next morning we read the verses for the day: "As the rain cometh down from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and

bread to the eater; so shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth; it shall not return unto Me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

That day we were to call upon a prominent man. This gentleman is a man of few words, but with a big heart. He, too, knows our work well and has supported it for many years. When he heard of the experiences that had come to the workers at the Wuhan Sanitarium, of our doctors and nurses in the city of Chungking ready, but with no place in which to work, he said, "You need a building." He took the subscription book from us, left the room, and returned in a few minutes with his signature and a cheque for \$1,000. He had nothing more to say, and the interview ended. But the promise of the Morning Watch verse had been fulfilled. God had prospered the thing to which He had set His hand.

As I worked with Brother Longway, I was often impressed with the simplicity of his methods and the frankness of his appeal, as well as with the ready response with which he meets. On one occasion he was speaking with a manager of a bank. "We are beggars," he said; "we need help, and we have come to you for money." The man, surprised, asked why help was needed. Then Brother Longway told his story.

"You are not beggars," said the manager. "You are doing a splendid work for China, and we are glad you are here. I have a little money for that kind of work, and gladly give you \$200."

At another place the gentleman was very busy; in fact, he was hurrying away as we met him.

"What do you want?" he asked.

"We want five minutes of your time and \$50 of your money," was the reply.

"You may have five minutes of my time," he said; "but I am not so sure about the money. What is it for?" And when Brother Longway told him, he nodded, "Yes, I'll give you the \$50, and I wish I could give more."

Last year during the trouble around Shanghai, Brother Longway drove the Sanitarium truck back and forth between Shanghai and

Nanking many times, carrying Red Cross medicines and other supplies, and doing some favors for the American ambassador. The last time he made this trip, the bombs fell close by several times, and Brother Longway and his companions had again and again to run into the paddy fields for safety. When he arrived in Nanking, Brother Longway was covered with mud from head to foot; but being anxious to get back soon, he went immediately to the ambassador's to deliver a bag of mail. The ambassador greeted him cordially: "Come in; there are people here I want you to meet."

"I can hardly go in looking like this," Brother Longway replied. But the Ambassador insisted. "I want these people to meet you as you are, so that they can better appreciate the service you are rendering." So he took our brother in and introduced him to the admirals and commanders of some of the battleships then in the Yangtze saying as he did so that he hoped some day to repay Mr. Longway for his services in a really substantial way.

When Brother Longway was on this Harvest Ingathering campaign he thought that then was his time and opportunity to collect on that promise—not for himself personally, but for the interests of the cause of medical work for needy refugee people. He called on the ambassador, and told him of our project.

"You will need equipment," said the ambassador; and thereupon promised to see what could be done. Soon a message was on its way to Shanghai asking for \$3,000 gold to be forwarded to the Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Hongkong for the purchase of an X-Ray and medical equipment for that hospital. A little later this money was in the hands of our division treasurer; and when a group of workers who were at that time waiting in Hongkong for opportunity to go on left, they carried with them this valuable gift.

One morning we went to solicit a donation from Dr. ———, an outstanding jurist of the world, who has been the chief justice of the International Court at the Hague for a number of years, and is one of the best known Chinese officials in foreign countries. A charming man, it is not difficult to see how he could hold the position of supreme judge of a world court. Dr. ——— spoke of his appreciation

of the work that foreigners and foreign missions were doing in China, and assured us of his cordial help. He handed us an envelope containing \$1,000, and as we rose to go said, "If you meet with any difficulty, come back and give us the privilege of helping."

At another place we met an old friend, who leafed through the subscription book, then said: "Continue your work until you consider you have finished; then come back, and whatever you need I will make up." The Morning Watch for that day was: "As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried; He is a buckler to all that put their trust in Him."

As we started out on Monday morning, we read once more the verse for that day: "Now ye have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit of God; that ye may know the things that are freely given to you of God." We kept that verse in mind as we worked. We went to an old friend, to whom we had sold furniture made at the Chiaotoutseng Institute. When he learned of the complete destruction of Chiaotoutseng, he said, "Such an institution as that cannot die. China needs it, as well as the church."

So it went on from day to day until we had completed the round of our intended calls, and it was time to return to the men who had promised make up what we lacked on the project. In Dr. —'s office we placed the plan before him. Prices had increased. We must now pay \$1,000 for the preparation of the land and expend another \$1,500 for a charity ward. Our total need was \$14,500. When he learned how much we still needed, he said, "I will send a check for \$3,725." That with the other donation of \$3,000 and a number of smaller amounts gave us more than our goal, but not more than the needs demand.

The memory verse for that day was "Howbeit when He, the spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak and He will show you things to come." Surely, the Lord had fulfilled His promise to us that day. He had taught us how to present the matter to our friends; He had showed us things to come; He had bountifully rewarded that day's efforts to relieve the sufferings of a needy people.

North China

BY W. H. BRANSON

MY son and I accompanied Elder W. J. Harris, superintendent of the North China Union, from Mukden to the union headquarters in the old city of Peking, where we had the privilege of spending Sabbath and Christmas with the union workers and their families. We greatly enjoyed visiting the Peking church and meeting the large number of believers in that important center.

On Sunday morning Brother C. B. Green, the union educational department leader, took us on a flying trip to the North China Training Institute at Fengtai, where we found Brother and Sister Ismond and their native staff enjoying their work and the school in an apparently prosperous condition. We were happy to note that in the school the emphasis seemed to be placed upon the spiritual needs of the students and that strong efforts are being put forth to prepare a corps of young workers for this large and important field. The weaving industry operated by the school has been having a good patronage, and this has enabled a large group of youth to earn much of their school expenses this year.

By the time we returned to the union compound, Elder and Mrs. Otto Christensen, of the Mongolian Mission, had arrived, and the entire group sat down to a splendid Christmas dinner prepared by the headquarters' sisters and served in the home of Brother and Sister Leighton Holley. There were present Elder and Mrs. W. J. Harris and Junior, Elder and Mrs. Otto Christensen, Elder and Mrs. C. B. Green, Brother and Sister L. Holley, Brother and Sister W. Ismond and their families, Miss Josephine Holmes, Dr. Geneva Beatty, my son Jack, and the writer. It was a pleasant and profitable occasion, and the only thing that prevented it from being perfect was the tinge of sadness one felt as he thought of absent loved ones, some of whom are scattered to the very ends of the earth, and of some of our believers who are isolated and thus unable to enjoy the privilege of social intercourse with relatives or others of like precious faith.

No doubt many other groups of our workers met together in a similar manner during the recent holiday season; and all who enjoyed such privileges will realize what a great

blessing such social intercourse is to our work and workers. We could not help thinking of the words of the psalmist: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Ps. 133:1. The closer we can press together and the greater confidence we can manifest in one another, the less opportunity the enemy has to drive in his wedge of distrust and estrangement.

Our time spent in the North China Union was much too short to enable us to get into close touch with the work of the union; but we were happy to find the union workers courageous, although in some sections of the field the greatest difficulties are being faced in trying to carry on the work.

Refugee Work

BY MARY OGLE

OUR workers in many parts of China find themselves in unusual circumstances, faced by unusual problems; but these new circumstances may offer new opportunities for giving the gospel. This fact was illustrated in the report of the work of the Wuhan Sanitarium as given at the time of the officers' council in Shanghai, from which report we glean the following.

The grounds of the Wuhan Sanitarium have become the site of a small city, with twenty thousand refugees encamped in little mat sheds all over the premises. A city of twenty thousand people crowded on to a small space! Think of the new problems this brings to our sanitarium workers! Think of the work to be done! A clinic has been established where every day hundreds of persons are given physical examinations and treatments. The more serious sick are placed in the sanitarium for regular hospital care.

But the care of the sick is not the only work that needs to be done. In a city of this size there needs must be law and order, and it falls to the lot of our sanitarium workers to establish and maintain government. This very act of government presents an unusual opportunity for impressing upon the minds of these people the sacredness of the Sabbath day. Think what it means to people who have been accustomed to going about their regular work seven days a week, to have the gates shut on Sabbath and to be told that none are allowed to go out or come in.

We are reminded of the "wilderness" days by the way in which a double portion of rice is meted out on Friday and none is served on Sabbath. All during the week people ask, "Is tomorrow the rest day?" They have come to look forward to the rest day and to prepare for it. While most of them do not understand its true significance, and frequently the "officers" have to remind some one that he is not to work on the Sabbath, yet many are eager to know why these restrictions are laid down for the seventh day of the week. They get the answer to this question, and to many others that trouble their minds as to the meaning of the things that are taking place, in the public preaching services which are held every day. In these public meetings and in personal interviews the story of the gospel is told in the beauty of its simplicity. And these people whose hearts were first touched by ministry to their physical needs, are now coming to accept the gospel as a balm to their weary souls. A large number have already joined a baptismal class.

To have such a crowd of people around with nothing to do would create a very difficult situation to handle. So one job for our sanitarium workers is to see that as many as possible are kept employed with some sort of work. This has resulted in material good to the sanitarium. Young girls have been taken into the sanitarium and given instruction in helping to care for the sick; and they prove remarkably adept at bandaging, bathing, etc. after a little instruction. Others are put to work in the kitchen. Still others are given work on the grounds; and perhaps the largest group have been enlisted to work in building the road to the sanitarium which has been severely damaged. Every morning a large group of men line up with their implements, and a selection is made of the workers for that day, according to the physical fitness of the man, the tool he has to work with, and the job to be done. It is not unusual to see scholars lining up with coolies, carrying tools that are unfamiliar to them.

Communications are disrupted, transportation is restricted, itinerating is difficult; but perhaps there is a work to do right at hand wherever we are. Perhaps God sends the people to us when we cannot go to them.

Report of the South Chekiang Mission

By A. FOSSEY

THE report this year from the Chekiang Mission may seem to place the reverses and the adverse conditions to the fore; but here and there encouragements are listed.

In the city of Chuchow, a large part of which was burned, the Sabbath school attendance, which ordinarily stands at over thirty, dropped for a while to three members, and even yet has not quite picked up. In Hwang-yen our chapel was partially destroyed, and here also the Sabbath school membership dropped. On the other hand, the church in Kee-meng, a small fishing town on the coast, this summer presented forty persons for baptism. One member from this group reported that on one Sabbath while he was attending church his village was destroyed, his own home being among the ruins. He said, "Thank the Lord that I was faithful on this Sabbath. If I had stayed at home on that day, I and my family might have lost our lives."

The temporary-depression caused by the disturbed conditions of the country has led to the postponement of a much-needed evangelists' convention and a summer school. No general meeting has been held in the South Chekiang Mission since February, 1934, five years ago. Our members are in need of revival; our evangelists need instruction and encouragement. We urgently hope that arrangements for such a meeting may be made and carried out this year.

Uncertainty and irregularity in the mails have done much to discourage our colporteurs. At the close of last year two of our colporteurs were temporarily imprisoned. Finally the field man himself asked permission to leave the colporteur work and take a station as an evangelist. This was granted, and in August Brother Chiang Djung-kuang took charge of the field work. The literature work is now beginning to revive; the new year brings us over 200 new subscriptions to the *Signs*.

Month by month there come appeals from various stations for evangelistic help. Back in the hills west of Wenchow is the Chi-sa church, where we have

fourteen members and a Sabbath school of twenty-two. These members are doing their best to conduct their Sabbath services and to uphold the light of truth in their community; but they need help. At another station, Djou-nyue-djia, there is danger of losing some of the members because there is no evangelist to look after the members and to pray with them and visit them when they are sick.

At Pah-djie-kao, near the headwaters of the Juian River, where we have a church of seventeen members, there is no evangelist. The local elder, a blacksmith, sends in the Sabbath school offerings in postage stamps, or asks us to deduct the amount from the chapel rent. There are, perhaps, half-a-dozen other churches carrying on thus without an evangelist.

Many of our young men have been taken by conscription. This is a more serious loss than that of dollars and cents.

There are a few encouraging reports. At Liae Yue, a hsien city where we had only one member, six were baptised this fall. We can report 108 baptisms for the year in the South Chekiang Mission.

The Ung-kao-ta members have erected a new church building with the help of only \$30 from the mission, and the old church building has been turned into a church school. At Bing-yie a new church property was secured, mainly from the sale of old property in the city. At Chang-shie, a walled city, a new church building has been erected.

Evangelistic efforts held at seven different places during the year were a source of encouragement to some of our churches. Tithes and offerings are in excess of those of last year, and show an increase over the budget set for us by the union committee. Big Week campaign in the spring lacked only \$17 of reaching last year's amount. Funds from the Harvest Ingathering almost doubled those of last year.

Our greatest need is a spiritual revival. We greatly desire that something be done during 1939 to provide us with a general meeting, and that other plans may be laid to encourage our evangelists and to revive the church.

The 1939 Ministerial Reading Course

BY W. E. STRICKLAND

It is time for us to check up again on our Reading Course work and also to order new books. This year's Ministerial Reading Course should prove exceptionally helpful to the missionary, as it is comprised of books that he needs in his work. They are:

- "The Preacher and His Preaching," by I. H. Evans.
- "Organization," by C. C. Crisler.
- "Christianity and Politics," by Dr. Albert Hyma.
- "Counsels on Diet and Foods," by Mrs. E. G. White.

Reviews of all of these books will be found in the October, 1938, issue of the *Ministry*, which will give the reader an excellent idea of the material each contains. Elder J. L. McElhany in the closing paragraph of his review of Elder Crisler's book on "Organization" says: "This volume is indeed timely, as it sets forth the historical facts of our organization in an interesting style, and clearly shows the guiding hand of the Lord in the development of our world movement." And we might add that what is said of the book "Organization" may in the general sense be said of the others; for they are all timely. Elder McElhany also says, in a letter to fellow workers, "The Ministerial Reading Course helps to exalt the preacher's work in his own estimation. It helps to create a 'divine discontent' with one's own attainment in a high and holy calling. It stimulates clearer thinking, and aids in the development of better methods. It provides a wealth of material in varying fields of thought for illustration, elucidation, and corroboration of inspired truths, and contributes much toward making a preacher 'mighty in the Scriptures.'" We hope, therefore, that all our English speaking workers in the China Division will enroll and finish this excellent course for 1939.

So far the reports of completions for the 1938 course by unions and institutions give a very poor showing, and we wonder if it may not be that a number have finished but have failed to report. Let us be finishers, friends. Your secretary has a supply of 1938 Credit Cards ready to send out to those who report the finishing of the course. And while you are doing this, send in your enrollment for the 1939 course.

A Pioneer at Rest

We record with sadness the death of another pioneer missionary to the China field, Miss Ida E. Thompson, who passed to her rest at Burbank, California, on January 20, 1939. The word will be received with regret by her former associates in labor in this country and also by her students of those early days, to whom Miss Thompson endeared herself throughout her years of missionary service, and many of whom are now serving in the cause in China.



Ida Thompson came to China in response to a call for workers made at the time of the General Conference of 1902. Quoting from the Bulletin of that Conference: "The afternoon of the last day presented a sight long to be remembered. The center of the Tabernacle was reserved for those who were expecting to go abroad to distant fields of labor. As their calm faces were upturned to the speaker in the stand, a heavenly light shone from many faces as they listened to the voice of God's servant in holy exhortation regarding their privileges in His work." Among that group was Miss Thompson, who sailed some time later for her chosen field, reaching Hongkong in February, 1903. From that time until compelled by failing health to return home in 1931, her record was one of diligent, generous, warm-hearted service.

The years were spent largely in educational work in various mission training schools. Earliest efforts were given to the establishment of our first mission school in the city of Hongkong. Later the Bethel School for girls was opened at Can-

ton, where Miss Thompson served as preceptress for many years, and was rewarded by seeing the institution grow from a small beginning to large usefulness. Still later, at our training schools at Shanghai and Chiaotoutseng she gave generously of time and strength for the material betterment as well as the spiritual uplift of the youth in training. At the time of her final home-going in 1931 she was holding the post of preceptress at the Shanghai Sanitarium. Through her last long illness her thoughts were often of China and its happy associations.

The workers in the China Division share with the relatives who mourn their sorrow—and their hope. Together we may look forward to that glad morning when death shall have been swallowed up in victory and everlasting joy shall crown the labors of the saints who now sleep in Jesus.

Work for the Min Chia

BY FENG DEH SENG

At Talifu, situated in the western part of the province of Yunnan, the inhabitants are largely of the Min Chia tribe, as high as ninety per cent of the populace, it is said, being of this tribe. The people are deeply steeped in superstition, and most of them are Buddhists. Here, where mission work was begun about seven years ago, we can now report a membership of 77 believers. Last year a young Min Chia worker joined us, whose labors have been much appreciated. The majority of those baptized are of the student class.

Thus far not a great deal of direct work has been done for the farmers and country people, owing to language difficulties. We hope soon to train some of the Min Chia for this, teaching them to do itinerant evangelism among the villages, of which there are 360 in the *hsien* where Talifu is located.

How much we need more help for these border folk—help in workers and in means! And we need the prayers of God's people everywhere in their behalf. For not only must there be won from among these millions those who will respond to the light of the gospel, but many must be taught to carry this light to their own people. Our hope is in the raising up of native workers who will bear the responsibility of preaching the truth in this area.

The China Division Reporter

Published monthly by the China Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 526 Ningkuo Road, Shanghai, China. Subscription, seventy-five cents gold a year. Edited by the Division Secretary.

Annual Meeting of the Constituency of the Signs of the Times Publishing House

THE annual meeting of the constituency of the Signs of the Times Publishing House is hereby called to meet at Shanghai, April 27, 1939. The first meeting of said constituency will convene at 10:30 a. m. The usual reports will be rendered and necessary business transacted.

W. H. Branson, *Chairman*
John Oss, *Secretary*

Annual Constituency and Board Meeting of the Wuhan Sanitarium and Clinic

NOTICE is hereby given of the annual constituency and board meeting of the Wuhan Sanitarium and Clinic, to be held at Shanghai, April 27, 1939. The first meeting is called for 10:00 a. m. At this time the annual reports will be rendered and the usual business transacted.

W. H. Branson, *Chairman*
Mrs. Hazel B. Sevens, *Secretary*

Annual Constituency and Board Meeting of the Shanghai Sanitarium Hospital and Clinic

NOTICE is hereby given of the annual constituency and board meeting of the Shanghai Sanitarium and Clinic, to be held at Shanghai, at 9:00 a. m., April 7, 1939. At this time the annual reports will be rendered and the usual business transacted.

W. H. Branson, *Chairman*
J. C. Shull, *Secretary*

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Far Eastern Academy

THE annual meeting of the board of directors and constituency of the Far Eastern Academy is hereby called to meet in Shanghai, April 27, 1939. The first meeting of the constituency will be held at 11:30 a. m. At this time the regular business of electing a board of managers, and any other business which should come before said constituency will be transacted.

W. H. Branson, *Chairman*
W. E. Anderson, *Secretary*

Annual Meeting of the Constituency and Board of Directors of the China Training Institute

THE annual meeting of the constituency and board of directors for the China Training Institute is called to meet at Shanghai, at 11:00 a. m. April 27, 1939. At this time the regular business of electing a board of managers, receiving reports, etc., will be transacted.

W. H. Branson, *Chairman*
P. E. Quimby, *Acting Secretary*

Union Sessions and Institutes

UNION sessions and institutes for the year 1939 are scheduled as follows:

- North China Union—
Session, February 7-14
Workers' Institute, Feb. 7-27.
- Manchurian Union—
Institute, Feb. 24 to March 5.
Union Committee, March 3-8.
- South China Union—
Union Committee, Feb. 10-16.
- Division Quadrennial Session
and Division Institution Board
meetings—April 27 to May 15.
- East China Union—
Session, May 16-18.
- Central China Union—
Session, May 27 to June 17, or
October 14 to November 4.
- West China Union—
Session, August 4 to 26.
- North China Mission—
Session to be arranged at a
later date.

North Fukien Mission

PASTOR C. H. DAVIS writes from his station in Foochow, North Fukien: "The Lord has added His blessing to our efforts during the year just closed. Eighty-six persons were baptized in the mission. We were also blessed financially by reaching our Harvest Ingathering, Sabbath School, Big Week, and other offering goals. Our Sabbath school membership has grown also, and is well over the goal for membership as set by the Division Sabbath School Department.

"Funds have been raised and construction work begun on our new chapel at Yenping. We shall soon have a nice chapel there that will accommodate about 150 worshippers. Also money has been raised for a new church building at Goling, one of our country churches. These and other activities during the year have been a blessing to the churches, helping them spiritually as well as in other ways.

"Opportunities for work are better than they were. We surely hope that this war will soon end, so that the Lord's work may go forward without hindrance in all parts of China."

Notes

PASTORS B. L. Wilkinson and C. B. Miller are holding series of meetings with the churches in the Yunnan Mission.

MISS ABBIE DUNN reached Shanghai from furlough in the States on January 26, and will proceed up river to Hankow for Bible work in the Central China Union.

DR. STANTON MAY, of Kalgan, Chahar, has been transferred to Hankow, to take the superintendency of the Wuhan Sanitarium.

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of Elder F. A. Detamore on December 13, 1938. Elder Detamore served for years as Home Missionary Secretary in the Far Eastern Division, and was known to a large circle of the present corps of workers there as well as to many to-day in the China Division. He was holding the post of Home Missionary Secretary in the Oregon Conference at the time of his passing.