

The China Division Reporter

VOL. 9

SHANGHAI, CHINA, DECEMBER 1, 1939

No. 17

AN APPEAL

AS representatives of this second advent movement assembled in Autumn Council, we express our profound conviction that we have now reached a most critical period in human history. The closing scenes of the last days so clearly portrayed in the prophetic word are now being enacted before our eyes:

"Never since the creation of the world were such important interests at stake as now depend upon the action of men who believe and are giving the last message of warning to the world."—*Life Sketches*, p. 246.

"To sleep now is a fearful crime. The Lord is coming. We are appointed to prepare the way for His coming by acting our part to prepare a people to stand in that great day. Is there one Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before us? We hear the footsteps of an approaching God to punish the world for their iniquity."—*Special Testimonies for Ministerial Workers*, No. 11, p. 29.

For years the merciful hand of our Heavenly Father has held in check the winds of strife. Thus has been accorded us a time of comparative peace in which to preach the everlasting gospel message. Have these precious moments, however, been employed in kindling our tapers from the divine altar? Are our lamps filled with the golden oil, and are they sending forth strong, pure, clear rays of heavenly light upon the pathway of sinners?

Believing with all our hearts that "the great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly," and that today we stand on the verge

of eternity and that as watchmen upon the walls of Zion it is our solemn duty to be always ready, with our lamps trimmed and burning, we earnestly dedicate ourselves body, soul, and spirit to the high and holy work of making ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Inasmuch as it is God's desire "to perfect His household through the perfection of His ministers" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 151),

WE CALL UPON OUR BRETHREN IN THE MINISTRY to join in whole-hearted consecration to God, pledging themselves anew to a closer fellowship with the Lord.

WE CALL UPON OUR BELIEVERS everywhere to unite with our ministry in this holy covenant; to shun all worldliness, even the very appearance of evil, and to yield themselves wholly and unreservedly to God.

WE APPEAL TO THE PARENTS in our churches to give prayerful thought and earnest effort to the spiritual interests of their children. When in that great day the question is put to parents, "Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" what will be the response? Let all redouble their efforts in their behalf, resting neither day nor night, wrestling with God in prayer, ever remembering the precious promise of the Lord. "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." Isa. 49:25.

WE APPEAL TO OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH to give anew their hearts and to dedicate all their powers to Jesus their Saviour.

We entreat them to think soberly and seriously of the truth in the following inspired statement:

"The perils of the last days are upon us, and a trial is before the young which they have not anticipated. They are to be brought into most distressing perplexity. The genuineness of their faith will be proved."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 269.

We know that the time has come for a mighty revelation of God's power through His commandment-keeping people.

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children."—*Great Controversy*, p. 464.

"Christ has made provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the light of heaven, possessing the glory of Immanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 19.

Finally, in this last hour, before the Judge of all the earth shall arise and pronounce the sentence that will seal the eternal destiny of every soul, we appeal to all our fellow workers, to our believers, also to our children and youth, to unite in crowning Jesus Lord of all; thus shall we all be ready to welcome our Lord and Master at His glorious appearing.

GEN. CONF. COMMITTEE
IN AUTUMN COUNCIL.

REASON FOR LIFE

EDGAR A. GUEST

I don't know how to say it but somehow it seems to me
That maybe we are stationed where God wanted us to be;
That the little place I'm filling is the reason for my birth
And just to do the work I do He sent me down to earth.

If God had wanted otherwise, I reckon He'd have made
Me just a little different, of a worse or better grade.
And since God knows and understands all things of land and sea,
I fancy that He placed me here just where He wanted me.

Sometimes I get to thinking, as my labors I review,
That I should like a higher place with greater tasks to do;
But I come to the conclusion, when the envying is stilled,
That the post to which God sent me is the post He wanted filled.

So I plod along and struggle in the hope when day is through
That I'm really necessary to the things God wants to do.
And there isn't any service I can give which I should scorn,
For it may be just the reason God allowed me to be born.

Slowly he shook his head. "They say there is no hope," he muttered pathetically.

"But God can do wonderful things, Sawbwaggi. Would you like me to—pray?" she suggested hesitatingly.

"To pray?"—his eyes brightened. "Yes, oh yes—pray," he pleaded.

And Sister Tarleton prayed as only Christian workers can pray. What a change it wrought in that chief—what peace, what calm it brought! He had her pray again and again. He brightened; hope came into his heart. He rallied. He commenced a brave fight for life, and a daily Bible study became part of the program.

"Then I won't drink or smoke any more," he said one day as Sister Tarleton spoke to him about the temple of the Holy Ghost; and thank God, he not only kept his word, but in response to the work of the Spirit of God and of the members of the nursing home, he also accepted Christ as his Saviour.

How we all hoped that his life would be spared! but it pleased God after he had come to the light, to let him pass on to his rest. Little by little his strength gave out, and at last the doctors said, "He can't last another day." The ministers of state were called to his death-bed, and as they stood silently by, dressed in all the colorful costumes of their office, he tried to speak once more: "My time—has—come," he faintly said, "but I'm not afraid to go." He then confessed himself a Christian before his officers, expressed the hope of having a part with us in God's kingdom, and beckoned for Sister Tarleton to pray again. What a wonderful sight! Officers of state on their knees, while a humble Christian nurse prays that angels will write the name of Sawbwaggi in the Lamb's Book of Life. Thus triumphantly passed away this great Shan chief.

Yes, we have young men who speak the Shan language, too, among the graduates in the training school. We have six young women who went all the way to Shanghai for their training course, and they are splendid nurses. We have enough indigenous workers to man a hospital for Shan land, if only we had a hospital and if only we had a doctor.

The Sawbwaggi was born into the kingdom just in time. Again and again he had pleaded for us to open work quickly among his people; but his people, "poor ignorant Shans" as he called them, still wait.

WAITING TRIBES IN BURMA*

(Condensed from an article by J. O. Wilson,
Superintendent of the Burma Union Mission)

For many years we have been confining our efforts in Burma to three or four principal tribes only, with at least a dozen more waiting for us in the mountains and valleys of the north. We feel that the time has come for us to arise and press northward in a great forward movement to carry the light to these border tribes.

Our brethren in China are pressing southward and westward into Yunnan, which is right on our border; and we in Burma must push on northward and eastward until we can clasp their hands in happy triumph; for the work of God cannot be finished until the gospel has been preached to all the world.

Border Tribes Responsive

Far to the North, away beyond the ancient capital of Mandalay, are the Animist Kachins. Buddhism has not made strong inroads among these people. Like the Karens, they are spirit worshipers, and like them also they seem to respond much more readily to the gospel than do the pure Buddhists.

In God's own strange way, He has led some of this tribe to our training school, and among our splendid graduates we have some who speak this language, and who

could be village school teachers and nurses and assistant evangelists, if only we had a foreign family to take the lead.

Beautiful Shan Land Beckons

To the northeast, extending right to the China border, are the beautiful extensive states of Shan Land. Ten years ago during the Harvest Ingathering campaign, one of the principal Shan chiefs told me he would be glad to have our mission open work in his state. To prove his words were not idle, he gave me a roll of bills totaling 1,000 rupees, which is equal to about \$350 gold, as a gift to our work in lower Burma. Year after year as he helped us with donations, he urged us to start work among his people; but he died without seeing anything done.

Then, strange indeed, a few months ago his son who followed him as successor to the throne, was brought to our nursing home in May in a hopeless condition. This young chief had been educated in England and while there had been considerably influenced by Christianity; and as he saw our very efficient matron, Sister Tarleton, doing all she could for him, he recognized the beautiful spirit of Christ, and his heart was touched.

"Is there anything else I can do for you, Sawbwaggi (Great Chief)?" she asked kindly.

*Missions Reading

THE BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL

IN 1934, after some years of observation and study, the branch Sabbath school plan was launched by the General Conference Sabbath School Department. It was the outgrowth of a constantly increasing experience and a desire in various parts of the field to use the Sabbath school plan as a means of reaching friends and neighbors with the message. Here and there throughout the world, earnest men and women of vision had organized little branch Sabbath schools or Sunday schools in which they used our regular Sabbath school supplies and lesson sheets to instruct others concerning the truths we hold dear. It provided a way for any one capable of following the lessons to do active missionary work and soul winning.

The branch Sabbath school differs from the home Sabbath school or the family Sabbath school in that it consists largely of those not of our faith. It should be closely allied with the parent school and its officers. Its leaders should be members of the parent school, and as such their membership in the branch school should be *ex officio* rather than actual. In counting the membership of the whole Sabbath school, which includes the branch, these names should be counted only once. Otherwise there would be duplication of records. Their attendance, however, should be included in the reports of both schools.

Organization

Like that of the family or home school, the organization of the branch Sabbath school should be simple, developing as the school grows in size and influence. Full officering and organization will come in time as souls make decisions.

Eventually the objective should be the complete development of an organized Sabbath school and church directly reporting to the local mission office, and affiliated with the sisterhood of Sabbath schools and churches in the mission.

Preparation for Efficient Work

The methods to be followed in starting branch Sabbath schools are varied. Some Sabbath schools are opened up in homes, some in school-houses; some begin in the homes of isolated members, others in entirely new communities. In "Testimonies on Sabbath School Work," page 29, we are instructed that the

Sabbath school work should enlarge and improve the church, that young men and women are to go out into the field with Bible readings, rightly dividing the word of truth. We are also told, "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. What more suitable, simple way of carrying out this instruction than in the establishment of Sabbath schools and Sunday schools in which children, youth, and adults have the privilege of personally studying God's word.

Openings may be found by house-to-house literature distribution, and appointments made with interested ones for beginning a branch Sabbath school in the neighborhood. In neighborhoods where there is an Adventist family, it would be possible and fitting to organize an afternoon Sabbath school in the home, inviting the neighbor children and adults, with special attention to those who have appeared interested in the literature distributed. There may be but a small group in the beginning, but if careful attention is given to making the school of real interest, the numbers will grow. Do not be discouraged with apparent indifference; keep up your work. One soul is worth a year's effort loyally continued with prayer and faith. That one soul when won may be your most faithful and efficient assistant for the succeeding years.

If your Sabbath school is in a small town, there are near-by villages or country districts where successful work can be done. Search for a location—a home to which one or two family groups may be invited for a nucleus of the school. Or perhaps a school house might be opened to you for either a Sabbath school or a Sunday school.

Whatever available meeting place you may find, or however small the company, results will not, in the ordinary course of events, come without definite effort on the part of the one seeking to establish such a work. In every instance definite effort must be put forth, and there must be continuity of purpose. The results will justify the faith and persistent endeavor of those who start the work.

It would be well for the leader-

ship of every Sabbath school, city, town, or country, to get together and canvass the possibilities. To be considered are such problems as these:

a. Has your school the opportunity within reasonable distance to promote such plans? In nearly every instance, an affirmative answer could be given.

b. Have you those of your number who could immediately undertake this work? If not, how can you make preparation for it?

c. What method shall you pursue to obtain definite openings? Search for Bible readers, literature circulation, direct inquiry and investigation, or home Sabbath schools, with members of your school opening their homes and inviting their friends in. Perhaps all these methods might be employed by various of your members. Some of them most certainly could be. The important thing is to make a start, and then keep going, not allowing one's zeal to lag.

Program and Supplies

For the beginning of the branch Sabbath school, especially the small home school, the following program will answer the purpose:

Song	} 12 minutes
Prayer	
Secretary's Report	
Song	
Mission Study	6 minutes
Review	3 minutes
Records and Offerings	3 minutes
Lesson Study	25-30 minutes
Closing Song	} 5 minutes
Closing Prayer	

But these exercises, arranged much as they are in the regular Sabbath school program, should not be made tedious, and should not run beyond a reasonable limit. We have suggested an arrangement that makes an hour's program. As the school grows in interest and those in attendance become accustomed to our methods and deeply interested in their Bible study, the time can be lengthened to the regular Sabbath school time, an hour and fifteen minutes, and the program timing recommended in "The Successful Sabbath School" and "The Soul-Winning Sabbath School" used for the growing branch school.

(Continued on page 8)

NOTES ON EVANGELISM

W. J. Harris Conducts Large Evangelistic Effort in Peking

On November third, Pastor W. J. Harris, superintendent of the North China Union, wrote that he had just completed the fifth week of his public evangelistic effort in the city of Peking. He reports that the attendance has been ranging from 200 to 300 each evening and that special daily services have been conducted for the children since it would have been impossible to accommodate the two groups together. Many of those who are in regular attendance are manifesting a real interest in the message, and it is expected that a number will definitely take their stand for Christ before the meetings close.

Brother Harris' example is worthy of emulation. He is an exceedingly busy man and yet he has found time to conduct this large public effort, and at the same time has given splendid leadership to the Harvest Ingathering campaign and carried on his regular work as union superintendent.

We believe that the secret of success in building up a large church membership in China lies in public evangelism. We trust that during the present winter many public efforts, large and small, will be undertaken throughout the Division and that these may result in a splendid ingathering of souls.

W. H. BRANSON.

Fruitage of Evangelism in South Chekiang

Two mission workers held a public effort last June at Sungyang, a hsien city, and fifteen persons pledged to keep the Sabbath. By the end of October there was an addition of twenty to the Sabbath school membership, with prospects of a baptism in the spring.

An effort at Wenchow is now entering its third week. There is an attendance of about one hundred every evening when the weather permits. Pastor P'an is leading out in these meetings with an assistant and a translator. It has always been difficult to bring such efforts in Wenchow to a successful conclusion; but we pray that in this case the Lord will grant us a reward.

The increasing costs of rents is bringing many perplexing problems which can be solved only by the erection of our own church buildings. The Ungkota church members last year raised over \$600 among themselves, to which the mission added \$40, for a church building. The old church building is now the church school, as shown in the picture. At Changshie also a church building is just completed. Here the mission supplemented the old rent deposit, and to this the members added sufficient to finish the building and to erect a three-roomed evangelist's dwelling.

Chungking Medical Center

By W. H. BRANSON

WE were very happy to be able to visit the Chungking Medical Center recently and to find its entire staff of workers happy and courageous. This institution has been in operation now for about 8 months and during that time has built up a fine reputation in the city. It is running full all the time and the number of patients received is limited only by the available space. We found rooms and wards well filled, and a number of "extras" were tucked into the bath room and attic.

Doctors Liu and Phang, with their associate workers, are maintaining a high standard in the institution and the Christian influence exerted by the staff is recognized by all who come in contact with this work. Altogether several hundred patients have received relief, many of whom were wounded in air raids.

It was stated by some of the leading men of the city that our doctors with their hospital ambulance were usually the first ones on the scene after the air raids and that their rescue work was greatly appreciated.

Our people will be interested to know that the funds for the establishment of this field hospital and for carrying on its work have come entirely from the citizens of the city of Chungking and a few other friends and it has been no expense whatsoever to our mission. At the present time its work is entirely self-sustaining.

Surely this humanitarian work is in harmony with the example set for us by our Master, and we trust that it may prove an effective entering wedge for the giving of the gospel to hundreds who otherwise might never hear.

Other church buildings are in view, and we hope that during the current year, or next year, six other companies will have their own houses of worship.

A. E. FOSSEY.



Ungkota church local church school in background



Church at Changshie

The spirit of the true shepherd is one of self-forgetfulness. He loses sight of self in order that he may work the works of God. By the preaching of the word and by personal ministry in the homes of the people, he learns their needs, their sorrows, their trials; and cooperating with the great Burden-bearer, he shares their afflictions, comforts their distresses, relieves their soul-hunger, and wins their hearts to God.—"Gospel Workers," p. 174.

一九三九年各聯會善運比箭圖

“你們磨快了箭頭，抓住盾牌。” 耶利米 51:11.

ARROWS OF THE 1939 HARVEST INGATHERING CAMPAIGN

“Make bright the arrows, Gather the Shields.” Jer. 51:11

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



Date Ending Nov. 27, 1939. 九月九日至十一月廿七之統計.

GRADUATION EXERCISES, SHANGHAI SANITARIUM

By ETHEL R. PORTER

THE graduation exercises of the class of 1939, the eleventh class to be graduated from the Shanghai Sanitarium and Clinic, were held in the Chinese Y.M.C.A. auditorium on Sunday evening, October 29. Ten nurses received their diplomas, making a total of 199 nurses to have graduated from this institution.

The speakers took their places on the rostrum as the march was played. As the student nurses marched in from the side aisles to meet at the center aisle and thence to take their respective places at the front of the auditorium, the incoming seniors paused in the center aisle to wait for the graduates, who when the lights were lowered, each carrying a Nightingale lamp, marched down the side aisles, met at the center aisle at the rear and passing through the aisle formed, gave their lamps to their successors. Then they ascended the steps to the rostrum to take their places, five on each side, the speakers and faculty in the center.

A replica of the school pin, the school emblem, hung at the rear of the rostrum. Pink and green paper ribbons fell, badge-like, from behind. A gorgeous basket of pink dahlias beneath with many floral

tributes received from friends and relatives made a simple but beautiful setting.

Mr. Ling Tz-kuan played a violin cello solo.

Dr. A. W. Truman delivered the commencement address, Mr. Joseph May translating. "To love without distinction," the class motto, and to have compassion on the sick,—these truly are Christlike characteristics when seen in the life.

The Branch Sabbath School

(Continued from page 8)

can be introduced in a most natural manner—"The Sabbath School," pp. 164-167 (adapted)

Note—This material from the new Sabbath school manual appears in Chinese in *The Sabbath School Helper* for the fourth quarter of 1939, and may also be secured in leaflet form from the Sabbath School Department. It is presented here in English that our foreign workers may become familiar with the plan and organization of the branch Sabbath school, and may more intelligently cooperate in promoting this very effective evangelizing agency.—*Bessie Mount.*

From Dr. L. J. Lilly, Nanning Kwangsi

Dr. L. J. Lilly, substituting at the Nanning Hospital, Kwangsi, while Dr. D. D. Coffin is on furlough, writes of first experiences in China and of medical interests in Nanning. He says:

"Mrs. Lilly and I and our two daughters reached Hongkong on June 22. We spent a very pleasant week with Elder A. L. Ham and others of the union staff while outfitting for Nanning and otherwise accustoming ourselves to things Oriental. On June 30 we sailed for Haiphong, arriving there two days later. The trip was a pleasant one, though somewhat warm. In Haiphong we spent two days getting our medicines and personal stores through customs. The city was extremely congested with freight and passenger traffic, and we had considerable trouble getting hotel accommodations.

"From Haiphong we set out for Nanning on July 4 in the hospital car, which had been driven down for our transportation. We enjoyed this part of the trip, getting our first views of the landscape and the villages and their inhabitants, and arrived in Nanning the next day. After looking over the compound, the mission homes and the hospital, we were more than pleased



Graduating class of 1939, Shanghai Sanitarium

with the situation. The mission homes are surrounded by good lawns and there are numerous palms and shrubbery and potted plants. We feel very grateful for Mrs. Coffin's very evident care in making the place as cheerful and homey as possible.

"At the time of our arrival the work of the hospital was being carried by a German refugee doctor, Dr. Zukor, a well-trained man who was doing a very successful work.

"Dr. Coffin must be the personification of the true medical evangelist, judging from the reputation he has made among the workers in the hospital and the citizens of Nanning. Surely it cannot be wrong to covet such a reputation and to seek to emulate a work so faithfully and efficiently rendered through many years of service.

"I am happy to say that the work is growing each day. We have more out-patients and more in the hospital than we have ever had. Our highest record since my arrival for one day was 75; and there is hardly a day, except Sabbath, when there are fewer than 40. I learned the other day from *The Shepherd's Call* that our capacity for in-patients is 35. Well, for the past six weeks we have never had less than 50 and tonight there are 60 in the hospital. With the necessity upon us of seeing these in-patients twice each day and with the care of the out-patients, there is no time for loneliness.

"Dr. Woo is of great assistance as an interpreter. Our patients have opportunity to learn something of the message; for as they wait their turn for medical attention, they listen to one of our Bible workers who talks to or with them. The other morning Brother Chih, the local missionary field secretary, sold \$25 worth of literature among our in-patients. The hospital enjoys the patronage of all the provincial postal employees and many of the higher civic officers here in the city.

"I regret having to be separated from my family. They are in Hong-kong. We were having so many alarms and bombings that it became too nerve-wracking for them to stay. We still are having air raids, and hardly know what to expect next. However, in all that may come, it is our privilege to say with the apostle Paul, 'The things which have happened unto me have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel.'"

FROM THE SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT MAIL BAG

FROM Hankow comes cheering word which indicates that the Sabbath school work in that area is resuming something of its old-time vigor. Two growing Sabbath schools are being conducted in the city of Hankow,—with prospects for another soon, in the home of an inquirer,—while others are in operation in Wuchang and at East Lake. Sabbath school rallies have been held recently, and teachers' training classes are being organized, all with the aim of making the work of these schools more effective in soul winning. Concerning the new Training Course Pastor Effenberg writes, "This course offers wonderful material and will be of great help and blessing to all who study it through."

Pastor K. H. Wood, writing from Manchuria says, "The branch Sabbath school idea which has been promoted is beginning to bear fruit in regular Sabbath schools organized, and we shall be able to report some additional regular schools before the end of the year as a result of this endeavor."

In every union many fully organized Sabbath schools might be developed and many more members prepared for full church fellowship in a few short years if our entire Sabbath school membership were alive to the opportunities and possibilities in the branch Sabbath school plan, and were ready to put forth the earnest personal efforts needed for its success.

A letter from Pastor B. L. Anderson tells of recent visits to a number of Sabbath schools in the South Fukien Mission, where he was much encouraged by the good attendance and interest. At a place called Tokang, meaning "return of the tide," the tide has truly turned in favor of the advent message. Concerning the work at this place Pastor Anderson writes:

"At the oldest out-station in South Fukien, and probably the oldest in all South China, the interest was good. More than 60 men, women and children attend the Sabbath services every Sabbath. This church met with very severe persecution about twelve years ago. The evangelist, elder, deacon and some members had to

flee for their lives. Since then some of those who persecuted the church have become members, and others have taken a friendly attitude. From this church have come one evangelist, one teacher at Bee Hwa Middle School, one dentist, and one young man who will begin his premedical course next year."

The sale of empty gasoline tins, by-product of Pastor Longway's recent journey to Chungking, swelled East Szechwan's Investment Fund by \$192, and proves the loyalty of our good home missionary and publishing department secretary to the Sabbath school. Two busy union Sabbath school secretaries find time now and then to render a real service to a fellow-worker or acquaintance by tuning his piano or organ,—and the Investment Fund is the richer. What is *your* Investment plan?

BESSIE MOUNT.

Special Sabbath School Lessons No. 2

The second quarter's lessons in the series for use in new Sabbath schools and branch schools are now ready and may be ordered in the usual way by the above title.

These lessons are meeting a real need and a hearty reception in many parts of our field. One experienced Bible worker writes:

"I like the special Sabbath school lessons very much. We have three classes of women in our Sabbath school; one class studies the senior lessons, another the simplified lessons, and the visitors who have never heard the gospel before, use the special Sabbath school lessons. These lessons supply a very definite need in our Sabbath schools."

Thus these special lessons are filling a need not only in new schools and branch schools, but in our older Sabbath schools as well, among those who have not studied the gospel before. When they are used in this way, it would be well to conduct a separate review for the members studying these special lessons, inasmuch as the review of the regular lessons would be unintelligible to them.

BESSIE MOUNT.

China Division Reporter

Published monthly by the China Division of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, at No. 526 Ningkuo Road, Shanghai, China, Subscription, 75 cts. [gold] a year. Edited by Mrs. C. C. Crisler.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER

THE time for another annual Week of Prayer is approaching. The date set for this special convocation is December 9 to 16. With the entire world in turmoil and distress, we are sure the people of God will gladly welcome the return of this blessed occasion.

The events that we see taking place all about us are surely harbingers of the rapid approach of the day of God. It is near at hand, yes, even at the door, and the world that has forgotten its God is about to be overtaken with an overwhelming surprise. Even now the perils of the last days are coming upon the world and the next great event will surely be the glorious appearing of our coming Lord.

With these solemn considerations before us, surely it is high time that the people, who for so long have been looking for His coming, make sure that their hearts and lives are fully prepared to meet Him. The hours of human probation are rapidly closing and our time for making final preparation for this most solemn event is exceedingly limited.

We trust that all our churches will plan to hold daily meetings during the entire Week of Prayer season. Special readings have been prepared and sent out, both in Chinese and English, and we trust that these will be followed as fully as possible. There should be many earnest prayer seasons, and frequent opportunities should be given for testimony and praise. Encourage as many as possible to take part in the services.

Provision should be made for special meetings for the children. Lessons have been prepared and sent out for them. These, too, should be followed whenever possible.

On the last Sabbath of the Week of Prayer the "Annual Offering" for

missions should be taken up in all our churches. Mention should be made of this on Sabbath, December 9 so that all can prepare to bring a liberal offering on the 16th. Our opportunities thus to make special gifts to send the gospel to the lost will soon pass, and surely our offering this year should be a liberal one.

May the Lord richly bless His people as they meet together to seek His face, and may His every promise be fulfilled to them. This we know will surely be, if we seek Him with all the heart.

W. H. BRANSON.

The Branch Sabbath School

(Continued from page 3)

Supplies for the branch school should be furnished for a time by the parent school. Sabbath school lessons especially adapted for use in branch Sabbath schools and new Sabbath schools are now available, and may be ordered from your Book and Bible House. They are known as "Special Sabbath School Lessons," and when complete will consist of eight quarterlies giving a foundation in the knowledge of the Bible and God's great plan of salvation for the human race. These should be followed by our regular current Sabbath school lessons, using the Senior, Simplified, and Primary quarterlies for the respective groups. Memory verse cards should also be provided for the children, and Key Thought Posters for any illiterate members. Where possible, a picture roll will add interest in teaching the children. One roll may serve the parent school in the forenoon and the branch school in the afternoon, and if there are several branches it may be used in turn at the different places. Record cards, offering envelopes, and the Missions Quarterly will be needed.

Missions Promotion

Though circumstances will differ, it is usually not wise to call for mission offerings at the very inception of the branch school, but rather to wait until the members learn something of our work and the divine plan for supporting it. As our methods of organization and labor are explained and as stories are told of the blessings attending the work in various places, the need for means can be made clear and the taking of regular offerings

(Continued on page 6)

NEWS NOTES

A. N. Nelson and H. A. Oberg of the Japan Union Mission, and R. S. Watts and H. E. R. Schell of the Chosen Mission were in Shanghai November 16 and 17 while en route to the officers' winter council of the Far Eastern Division, which is being held at Singapore.

G. J. Appel and J. H. Effenberg arrived in Shanghai November 5, and were able to leave by train on November 8 en route to Yencheng, Honan. They traveled by way of Nanking, Hsuechow, and Shangkiu. After crossing the Yellow River some distance beyond Shangkiu they hoped to be met by representatives of the Honan Mission and to travel by the mission automobile to Yencheng. Word comes that they have made the journey successfully. We trust that their visitation to that field will bring hope and courage and blessing to our people in that mission.

Through Brother D. E. Rebok, who has been making an itinerary in the Northwest China Union Mission, we learn that there has been an epidemic of scarlet fever among our missionary group in that field, both parents and children in some families having suffered this disease, and the children having had severe attacks. At the time of writing, most of those afflicted were making good recovery or were having only light attacks. Let our prayers ascend in behalf of these families that they may be restored to their usual health.

Elder W. H. Branson arrived back from West China by way of Hongkong on the s. s. "Tjitjalenka" of the J. C. J. L. line November 13. He reports good courage on the part of the workers and believers in those places he visited.

S. L. FROST.

Pamphlet on Sabbath Observance

This pamphlet, containing 52 readings on Sabbath Observance to be read to the churches during 1940, is now ready for mailing. Supplies will be sent to each mission organization in accordance with orders received when it was planned to print the tract for use during 1939. The price of the pamphlet will be .08 cents per copy, less a 10% discount to Book and Periodical Houses,