



Blessings and Providences in Wartime

By GIL DE GUZMAN, *Director, West Visayan Mission*

The three and a half years under review have been a period of world turmoil and bloodshed. Communication was extremely difficult, if not altogether impossible, and members and workers were forced to evacuate to places far and near which were considered safe. For us in the West Visayan Mission the period has been a series of continuous hardships, beginning from the Japanese landing on April 16, 1942, to the American landing last March, 1945. The guerrillas and the Japanese burned the cities, the towns, and even the barrios of Panay and Negros. One can travel from Estancia, the northernmost town of Iloilo and go south or north far up to Pandan, the last town of Antique, and from there travel through the province of Capiz, and he will see ruin after ruin. Somehow, this condition fulfills the prophecy of Jeremiah 4:20.

Means of travel in our mission since the beginning of the emergency has returned to the primitive. Only those who lived within the Japanese-occupied areas, such as Bacolod, Silay, Talisay, Jaro, and Iloilo, enjoyed the blessings of riding in busses, *calesas*, and bullock carts. Outside of these areas one had to walk in order to go places.

It has been my happy pleasure to hike a total of about 3,000 kilometers during the war, through mud as deep as the knee at times, fording rivers against swift-flowing currents, and following mountain trails in lieu of provincial roads, in order to avoid the patrols which were bent on killing or injuring anyone whom they met outside of the occupied zone. As I look back during those troubled days, when traveling was beset with dangers of being suspected either by the Japanese or by our own soldiers, my heart goes out in songs of eternal praise for our great God, who has been with us and has guided us in our travels for the purpose of visiting our churches, baptizing the candidates, and holding quarterly services.

Our fatigue was all forgotten when we saw our brethren and sisters enjoying healthy Christian experiences, doing everything they could to advance the cause of God, and being more faithful and liberal in their tithes and offerings. It is said that war is a curse, but it has also its blessings, as evidenced by the upward trend in the spirituality of our brethren and sisters in the churches.

A young people's leader in one of our churches had

been a blackslidden member for more than seven years while he was in his home town. Before the war he had practically given up everything, but now, because of this emergency, he has come back and fully decided to start over again and live a clean, steadfast, Christian life. He pays a faithful tithe, keeps the Sabbath, gives liberal offerings, and hopes to lead his young wife to Christ. A former elder of one of our churches in Negros came to me recently at the close of our Sabbath service, with tears streaming from his eyes. He told me that he had been unfaithful in Sabbathkeeping and in tithing, and had abandoned family worship; but now he felt the irresistible working of the Holy Spirit in his heart. He could not do otherwise than come back and give anew his heart to God. Space will not permit me to mention scores upon scores of individual cases that have come to my attention in the course of my visit in Negros, Iloilo, Capiz, and Antique. Surely adversity is a means by which God awakens His sleeping people out of their spiritual slumber and lethargy.

That now is the opportune time to push forward the gospel work, when the hearts of men are susceptible to the message, is clearly indicated by the work of our two consecrated Bible instructors who have been laboring up in the mountains of Ibajay, Capiz, Pandan, and Antique. Three new chapels were already built at the time of the baptism there. Ninety-six precious souls followed their Lord in the watery grave, and word has just reached me that about forty more are waiting for my return. Over in the mountains of San Carlos, in the barrio of Prosperidad, some thirty-eight converts were recently baptized by Pastor D. Sabrine, and many more are being prepared for the second baptism. Also in the barrio of Lopez Jaena and in Calatrava some fifty believers are awaiting the arrival of an ordained minister to baptize them. The Lord is opening up the way and leading His laborers in the speedy finishing of soulsaving. During the entire period from April, 1942, to June 30, 1945, 866 believers were baptized and added to the church, excluding those that have been baptized by Pastor E. Tantia in Romblon, of whom I have not as yet received any word. Praise the Lord for these souls who have joined the swelling throng who are anxiously waiting for the soon appearing of the Saviour in glory.

Indonesia During the War

By H. E. R. SCHELL, *Treasurer, Netherlands East Indies Union*

Having been interned by the Japanese for almost three years, we are free again; but not in fact, for the Indonesians are now against us, and they urge us to stay at home. It was a terrible time, but the Lord was with us, and His kindness and mercies never left us.

When the invasion reached us in February, 1942, there remained in this field the following workers on Java: Elder and Mrs. K. Tilstra, Elder and Mrs. L. M. D. Wortman, Elder and Mrs. H. E. R. Schell; on Sumatra: Elder and Mrs. H. Twijnstra and G. A. Wood. All these were interned very soon after the Japanese came. Men and women with their little children were separated. There was no connection between the different camps and no one knew anything about his family, except that at the last we were allowed to write postcards with sentences which the Japanese had dictated.

Brother Wood died in May, 1944, from famine edema as Sister Twijnstra wrote several days ago. She informed us also of the death of her husband, who was in a camp located in a malaria region, and there died from malaria on August 25, 1945. Sister Twijnstra and her two daughters are still in a camp and well. As soon as possible they want to return to Pematang Siantar.

Sister Tilstra, who was in three different camps, together with my wife, and in the last camp with Sister Wortman, died on June 1, 1945, from dysentery and famine edema. Brother Wortman was with me in a camp near Tjimahi, where he also died from dysentery and famine edema on June 6, 1945. Of the other workers interned, we lost also Brother van Emmerick, our second school man in Gadobangkong. He died on Flores Island, where he had been transferred. He was entirely exhausted and died from the terrible treatment received one year ago.

Several days ago we received our first letter from Brother Tilstra, stating that he is in a camp near Pakan Baroe and is quite well. Pakan Baroe is the airport near Padang on Sumatra, and the prisoners were at work there with the construction of a railroad. He has had a hard time. His older boy was together with me in a camp; later the second boy came also. The youngest boy is with Sister Wortman, who is still in a camp near Batavia. She also suffers from edema.

I am now with my wife in Tjimindi, where we have a room to live. Both of us also left the camp with edema but now are improving. I had a heavy attack of this sickness and could hardly walk at all. My feet are still filled with water, and I have to be very careful.

All the workers lost almost all their belongings. The Japanese had arranged the internment in such a way that nothing could be saved. Elders Tilstra and Wortman lost almost everything. We saved some clothing. Sister Twijnstra lost most of her belongings. Brother L. Hogendorp and Brother Vysma were not interned. Brother van Waardenburg, in East Java, was taken in 1943 but is free now and can serve the churches at Soerabaja and Malang. Sister Faass and the other German sisters were transferred to Serangan, one of the most beautiful vacation places in East Java, near Madioen, about 4,500 feet high, where they were supported by the Japanese. Sister Horn remained at Batavia and served with Sister

Kalangi in our Polyclinic there, where the work continued through the entire period.

Our school in Gadobangkong had to be closed when the Japanese came. At first they used the school as a camp for Ambonese and Menadonese women. Later it became a storehouse of munitions and food, and is at this time still occupied. We do not know when they will free it. The buildings are in very bad shape and almost ruined, the equipment and furnishings are lost. The Tjimindi buildings are still in good condition, because they were not taken, and we had them all the time for our own use. All other buildings and properties on Java have had no damage from war action.

In 1943 the Japanese sealed our office at Bandoeng for four months, taking many papers and records, which are lost. Elders K. Mandias and M. Kauntul were interned these four months. From the other parts of our field we have no information concerning our buildings and properties.

The work on Java has been carried on continuously, and the churches have stood faithful to the truth. Soon after the invasion certain persons made trouble in Batavia as well as in Bandoeng. They went to the Japanese, telling them that the foreigners were still in charge of the work and that we were closely connected with America. In order not to bring our work into difficulty, Brother Wortman and I resigned as leaders and left the work in the hands of our Indonesian brethren, with Brother Mandias as their leader. During the whole time we have had connection with our churches on Java, but not with the churches on the other islands.

When Brother Gillis left Java, we had quite a bit of money in the bank; and when I came to Bandoeng in the latter part of February, 1942, I tried to draw some out, but the invasion had already started, and it was impossible. The banks are not operating yet and will not be open until the new money is installed. All public offices are in the hands of the Indonesians, and nothing can be done. If this lasts long, we shall have a hard time. But we trust in the Lord our God, for His love and care have never ceased for His children.

Tjimindi, Java, October 24, 1945.

Seoul Sanitarium and Hospital

By DR. CHUNG, *Acting Medical Superintendent*

We appreciate very much the privilege of reporting the medical work in Korea for the past five years. The Seoul Sanitarium and Hospital, which is the center of Seventh-day Adventist missionary work in Korea, was established in 1931, with the funds donated locally as well as by a special appropriation from the General Conference.

The institution is located outside the eastern suburbs of Seoul city, about four kilometers away from East Gate. The buildings stand on a green hill surrounded by pine trees. The sanitarium has about thirty beds, and here a great number of patients have been healed in the past from both their physical troubles and spiritual maladies.

In the spring of 1941, upon the departure of Dr. George H. Rue, the superintendent of the sanitarium, to the United States, it was agreed that the work of

the institution should be continued under its present direction.

The hospital work was carried on smoothly for a while, but later on the appropriation was stopped. After a while the bus which was running between the streetcar line and the hospital was discontinued, which caused the number of patients to decrease. Thus we had great difficulty in operating the hospital.

Finally, the movement of Satan became apparent, and five of our dear brethren were thrown into prison. By this time the hospital work had become weaker and weaker, but we trusted in the promise given us by Sister White, that the medical work shall remain until the last while other lines of work are closed, and did our best for the continuance of the work. Satan continued his efforts and on the twenty-eighth of December, 1943, the whole denomination was dispersed by government order. Of course, the hospital was also closed and offered for sale. Bids were received, and the highest bid of 800,000 yen was offered by Dr. Chung, who was trying to keep alive the medical work, but the institution was sold to the government general for 400,000 yen while Dr. Chung and his relatives were thrown into jail through the action of false informers.

This institution was then used as a tuberculosis sanatorium for government officers. Dr. Chung remained in the sanatorium with five nurses and five others. As time went on, our ever-clean hospital became stained, furniture was scattered, and the Adventists' peculiar facilities for treatment were out of service so that it was impossible to help the patients who occasionally came to receive our peculiar treatments.

About a year ago (October, 1944) the government pre-empted twenty-five acres of land around the sanitarium and planned the construction of new buildings to accommodate one hundred fifty tuberculosis patients. In reality, three buildings to house forty-six patients and five buildings for the residences of workers were started and are still in process of construction. Now this institution has been returned to our hands, along with other properties, by the grace of God and through the endeavors of the reconstruction committee of the mission, which organized and acted as soon as the Japanese surrendered.

The half-finished buildings have been exposed to rain and sunshine for several months, and they require considerable labor and building supplies for immediate completion. Drugs and medical supplies are very low and also require replenishment to respond to the needs of patients knocking at our doors. On account of the long warfare, resulting in insufficient nourishment, many people have skin diseases, parasites, and contagious diseases. It is sad for us to witness such circumstances and not be able to help.

Korea earnestly requests that a hand of mercy be stretched out to help her in this time of her great distress!

The night of trial is nearly spent. Satan is bringing in his masterly power because he knoweth that his time is short. The chastisement of God is upon the world to call all who know the truth to hide in the cleft of the Rock, and view the glory of God. The truth must not be muffled now—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 231.

Letter From the Milnes

P.O. Box 15

POONA, INDIA

DEAR OUTLOOK FAMILY:

We suppose everybody is beginning to lay plans for an early return to the Far East now that the war is really over. Our hearts rejoice with you at this turn of events, at the lives thus spared, the sorrow and suffering thus avoided, the loss and damage to property it has saved. What a pity it could not have come months ago!

We had a very pleasant trip out—calm seas all the way; and save for a week on the Red Sea, we have had no hot weather at all this summer. We were on a Portuguese steamer from Philadelphia to Lisbon twelve days; then we had a five-week wait in Lisbon, expecting to get a boat by way of Lourenço Marques and Durban, and take our chances on getting something to Bombay. However, as the time for sailing drew nearer, it began to look as if we would not get passage on that Portuguese boat, and about a week before it sailed, we learned that there was a British boat leaving Gibraltar that we might catch. Cook's made arrangements to take our party of twenty-one Americans who were booked for India, overland by train and bus to the Portuguese border, then by way of old Seville down to the port opposite Gibraltar. There we found that our ship was a Dutch troop transport. Several of the officers were from Java, and many had relatives there. We were so glad we had been able to get accommodations on it, for we were thus saved all that long voyage around South Africa, a journey we had been dreading.

The usual restrictions on a transport obtained on this one. Water was very scarce, except in the sea, which seemed to have no dearth; food was sufficient, but deadly monotonous, and we were happy to skip a good many meals as we neared the end of our journey. We had no black-out, however, and were very glad of that. Nor did we travel in convoy, though we had expected to from Aden on. On board were a good many troops who were going out to relieve men in the field. Presumably some of them will never get to that destination now, though some will certainly go in as occupation troops. We called at several ports but were not allowed off the ship until we got to Bombay. We were interested to see a good many sunken ships here and there along the way, reminding us of our last long sea journey.

Brother L. S. Shepard left almost immediately after we arrived. The press staff here have been very busy and often work overtime. There are about forty workers in the factory. Ingathering is on now, and we have been out getting acquainted with the Chinese who are in town, and doing our bit for the "Uplift," as they call it here.

We are not settled completely, as the painting and redecorating on the house is not all done, and our freight has not come; so we have as yet no stove and kitchen utensils, icebox, etc.

We hope you will continue to send us the *OUTLOOK*, for we are still tremendously interested in the Far Eastern Division and Malaya in particular. Our greetings to all the family. We would be glad to hear from any of you.



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W. P. Bradley - - - - - Editor

News Notes

Elder and Mrs. V. T. Armstrong, Elder and Mrs. P. L. Williams, and L. F. Bohner sailed from Los Angeles for Manila aboard the *Marine Jumper* on December 8. Their arrival in the Philippines will be a welcome event to the workers who have been looking forward to the coming of help for several months.

A communication from the United States Department of State to the General Conference office indicates that passports will be issued to American missionaries traveling to Siam for work there.

The Autumn Council at Grand Rapids, Michigan, took several actions of vital interest to workers of the Far Eastern Division. A memorial had been received from the Australasian Union, proposing that a new division organization, including the present Australasian territories but somewhat enlarged, be organized in the South Pacific. It was voted by the council to recommend the proposal for favorable action at the time of the next General Conference session.

Inasmuch as any additional territory to be included in the new division must naturally come from the Far Eastern Division, it was recognized that the present location of the division headquarters in Singapore would doubtless be on the extreme southern edge of the territory, not actually transferred to the new division. It was therefore voted that the Far Eastern Division be counseled to locate its headquarters on the island of Hong Kong. The exact boundaries of the divisions involved will be decided at the time of the General Conference session.

Former workers who had seen service in Asia gathered for a social dinner at Grand Rapids under the auspices of the Oriental Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventist Missionaries. The sum of the years spent in the mission field by those present came to over nine hundred; special distinction for the longest record of those present went to S. L. Frost. Dr. Herbert Liu gave eloquent expression to the great needs of Asia as a fitting climax to the occasion.

Elder and Mrs. J. A. Leland, Miss Bessie Irvine, and Miss Edna Stoneburner are in this country, having arrived in Seattle, Washington, from the Philippines on October 28. We welcome these workers to a well-merited furlough and look forward to the coming of the three families still in Manila.

A number of American servicemen located in the Far East have been especially helpful in the areas where they have gone, in contacting the members, assisting in the church services, and forwarding information to the General Conference office. Private First Class Jaek Sager is superintendent of the Sabbath school in Tokyo, which has a growing attendance of Japanese and Americans each Sabbath. Captain E. J. Kraft, Colonel Delos Comstock, and Corporal Ted Flaiz have all rendered valuable assistance in promoting the interests of the work in Japan.

In Korea, Stanley L. Dombrosky and Allan Hillier have done much to bring encouragement and help to the workers, and have been able to forward details concerning the people and institutions around Seoul. Sergeant Dombrosky, who is a high-point man, has left for home, and his presence in Korea will be greatly missed.

Friends of Elder and Mrs. John Oss will be pleased to learn that they are now in California, where Brother Oss is being treated in a Marine hospital for anemia. The Osses were of excellent courage and write enthusiastically of the plans for the future development of the work in China. Providentially Shanghai and other cities of East China were spared the disaster of being made a battlefield a second time. The sanitarium, clinic, publishing house and division office

buildings are still standing but extensive repairs will be necessary before they will be ready for use.

First Tidings From British North Borneo

(A letter to V. T. Armstrong)

We trust that you will be interested to hear something about our work here in North Borneo, our hardships as well as our longings.

We are glad to inform you that though the other Christian churches were closed during the four years that North Borneo was in the hand of the Japanese, our work went on just as before they came. Our schools which were in Tamparuli and Menggatal were closed one year after the entrance of the Japanese into North Borneo, but the services in our churches and our public efforts were not interfered with as were those of the other churches. Some more members were added to our church after Pastor Youngberg had been transported from Jesselton to Kuching. We are very thankful to the Lord for His guidance during those past dark years.

Our money, more than a thousand dollars, was frozen in the state bank. Consequently, not long after Pastor Youngberg's departure, we were all forced to spend much of our time in strenuous manual labor to support ourselves and our families. We all concur in saying that we had never met with such hardships as we suffered during the rule of the Japanese military government. Foodstuffs were not allowed to be bought or sold between the subjects. All had to be sold to them. You can understand how hard it was with us during those years. Now, especially, we are all suffering very much with trying to support these fragile bodies of ours and our families. How we wish to get some help, either direct from the General Conference or from the Government.

We are hoping that our work here in the East may be very soon reorganized and so prosper and be speedily closed. May this work be carried on in such a way that at the close, at the coming of Jesus our Saviour and Master, we all shall hear the Lord's "Well done."

Yours in His service,

D. P. SIAGIAN,

M. T. SIBADOGIL,

M. J. HUTABARAH.

Jesselton, October 25, 1945.