



Advances in the Far Eastern Division

V. T. ARMSTRONG

President, Far Eastern Division

The *Marine Falcon* arrived in Seattle, October 28, from Japan with the following missionaries on the passenger list: Pastor and Mrs. George Dietrich and their three daughters, Inga, Erma, and Erica; W. J. Pudewell; Mrs. Drinhaus and her daughter, Waltraud; Mrs. Zimmermann; Mrs. Dittmar and her son, Heizon; Mrs. Krautschick and her daughter, Sigrid.

Brother Dietrich and his family have been missionaries in Japan for over twenty years. Brother Pudewell began his mission service in Korea in 1923. He returned to Japan from furlough shortly before the outbreak of the war in the Pacific. His family remained in Germany and are still there. Of all our workers who suffered in the Orient during the war, Brethren Dietrich and Pudewell endured the severest punishment and will carry the scars the remainder of their lives. It is only due to the help of the Lord that they survived these experiences.

The others of the group came to join their husbands who recently arrived from the internment camp in India, where they spent six years and three months behind the barbed wire. They were formerly missionaries in the Netherlands East Indies. We extend to all these workers a cordial welcome to the United States and trust that soon Mrs. Horn, Mrs. Kolling and her daughter, Elfriede, and Mrs. Faass and Mrs. Erlecke may secure transportation and join their husbands. These four sisters are still in Java.

Recently a letter from Charley Lonard, a native of the Palau Islands, has been received. Seven years ago Brother Lonard went to Japan, where he enrolled in the Japan Junior College. He attended the school for some years and then found employment in Yokohama. As early as possible after the close of the war he returned to his native home. He sends this report: "The long war is now over, and I am here at home. I was surprised to see everything in complete destruction here at home. Now William Gibbon is dead, and we have no teacher as yet. Please send us a teacher, either from the United States or from the Philippines. There are about thirty church members, and they have Sabbath services, but we need a teacher."

We are glad to know that God has been with this

group of believers during the war. A worker will be sent as early as possible. The Palau group of islands is not far from Guam, where a new company of believers are rejoicing in the message and calling for a worker.

The *College Voice*, the Philippine Union College paper, reports that in this Ingathering campaign, the first since 1941, the college group took as their goal 4,000 pesos. By the end of the first week of the campaign they had passed the 6,000-peso mark and by October 23 they had over 8,000 pesos. Congratulations to the faculty and students of the Philippine Union College!

The reports of the baptisms for the first nine months of 1946 in the Far Eastern Division are not in as yet, but from the Philippine Union comes a report of 2,554 baptisms for the first three quarters of the year. The highest number of baptisms for any previous year was 2,064 in 1941. The Philippine Union anticipates that they will pass the 3,000 mark by the end of the present year. Surely God has wonderfully blessed the workers and laity in soul winning. We know of baptisms in the other unions this year, but do not have the full reports as yet.

G. A. Campbell, acting superintendent of the Philippine Union Mission, reports that the union hopes to make their double goal of 80,000 pesos in this first Ingathering campaign since the war. Under present conditions and with a limited staff of workers, this is really a remarkable achievement. Surely God has wonderfully blessed in the campaign.

H. R. Emmerson and his crew of workmen, after making repairs on the college buildings, have started the erection of the Philippine Union Publishing House and three dwelling houses for the staff. Building materials are hard to obtain, and many difficulties have been encountered. Nevertheless the work is progressing, and we hope the building will be finished early in 1947.

R. O. Walean, K. T. Kong, and V. Pleng, delegates to the General Conference, sailed from San Francisco, September 30, on the S.S. *Tosari*, of the Java Pacific Lines. Since General Conference, and while awaiting

transportation, they have visited a number of churches and camp meetings in the North Pacific and Pacific unions. Their messages and reports were greatly appreciated by all. Pastor P. R. Diaz returned to the Philippines on an earlier boat. He also had opportunity before leaving America to visit several churches and institutions.

We have received a sad message through the Red Cross, telling of the death of Magda Niemann, August, 1946, in Java. Some months ago we learned by letter that Sister Niemann was very seriously ill and could not live unless healed by divine power. The division family extends to Elder Niemann and his son our deep sorrow and Christian sympathy in their bereavement. The son is with Mrs. Faass in Java.

After an absence of more than four and one-half years from the division headquarters, the first members of the division family, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Williams, again took up residence and opened an office at 800 Thomson Road, Singapore. The post office address is Box 226, and the cable address is "Fareast" as formerly. Brother Williams reports that two of the houses have already been repaired, and the one house that was destroyed is being rebuilt. The office building is now undergoing repairs. While considerable damage and loss have been felt, we are glad that the buildings are, with the exception of one house, still standing.

Brother Williams writes that he secured passage by plane to Java and visited the union headquarters at Bandoeng and our church in Batavia. He reports good meetings with the brethren in both these cities. He was glad to greet Brother and Sister H. E. R. Schell. They are planning to start their furlough as soon as they can be relieved and can find transportation. Elder Tilstra has already returned to Java from the General Conference session and has again entered upon his duties in the union.

A letter from Elder Paul Eldridge, who is our only missionary at the present time in Japan, reports that he is very busy conducting meetings and giving Bible studies. He is also endeavoring to look after the other interests of the work in that field. Reinforcements will be leaving shortly for Japan and Korea, and we believe that the prospects in both these unions are bright with promise for soul winning in the near future.

In a letter from E. L. Becker, dated October 24, we read the following: "As to the transportation situation, here is what we have up to the present:

S.S. *General Meigs*, sailing five days after the strike is settled, will carry Wayne Martin and family, J. W. Rowland and wife, and Misses Barnett and Irvine for the Manila Sanitarium and Miss Irene Wakeham for the college. The S.S. *Marine Lynx*, supposed to sail by November 10, will carry the following: R. L. Cone, H. L. Dyer, C. T. Jones, A. N. Nelson, Nellie Ferree (all for the college), J. A. Leland for the Philippine Publishing House, and E. H. Wallace for French Indo-China (via Manila). We have also asked for space on the *Lynx* for the Hilgerts, Niemanns, and Blackers. No word as yet as to whether any of them are getting on. The S.S. *Marine Falcon* will take the Armstrongs, the Beckers, and Miss Signe Nelson. That is the picture up to now. Any of these reservations are subject to change, correction, delay, or cancellation at any moment. The *Falcon* is scheduled for November 2 or five days after the strike is over."

Just Acting

These past ten months have been exciting ones indeed, and filled with unusual events and perplexing problems in the Philippine Union Mission. One would naturally expect that during these ten months some very definite conclusions would have been reached in respect to the work of God in these interesting Islands. Surely, and here are some observations:

First, it is self-evident that the work is of God and is not dependent upon men. We may spend sleepless nights on what may appear to be a major problem; yet somehow the difficulties vanish when God is given a chance. How often we have observed this when confronted with some perplexities which caused us no little concern.

The aftermath of war, with its attending crime waves, brought us some sleepless nights, to be sure. At times it appeared that we would be engulfed and our lives endangered. We have passed that experience, not untouched, however, as far as some material losses are concerned. But we are not now awakened from sound sleep during the wee hours of the night with shooting near our windows. Perhaps we had gotten a bit "battle hardened," for threats of kidnapping for ransom, and stray bullets gave us no fear. Slowly these abnormal conditions are adjusting themselves, for we seldom hear any more shootings or warnings. It could have been much worse. So we are thankful to the Lord that our lives were spared, and He has protected us.

With only a skeleton force of American missionaries to carry on the administration of the union, we wondered how the work would progress. "We will just have to slide along or merely 'mark time' until we have more reinforcements," was suggested. How shortsighted! There is no "marking time" in the work of God. This we have learned. Reports show very definite progress in every phase of work.

This year we will undoubtedly baptize three thousand souls. The largest year was in 1941, when 2,064 were baptized. The first nine months of 1946 there were 2,554 baptisms reported.

When the Ingathering campaign was being organized, it was with some misgivings that we would ever reach our 40,000-peso goal. In the past our American missionaries carried a greater part of this responsibility, and some even thought, since we were so short-handed, that perhaps we had better call the campaign off. But, of course, we did not acquiesce to that suggestion. Our Filipino leadership got under the responsibility, and they injected real enthusiasm into the campaign. At this writing the funds actually gathered in amount to 65,081.70 pesos. There are still some reports not yet in, and we hope to be able to report 70,000 pesos for the year. This is nearly double the best record of former years. This is gratifying, indeed, and it was a joy to see how our national leadership got under the burden of this campaign and carried on.

It was felt by some that because of the shortage of college teachers, the college should not open. However, upon prayerful consideration, with the hope of teachers arriving soon, it was decided to start. This placed an unusually heavy responsibility upon Professor A. M. Ragsdale, who is the acting president of the school. Little did we realize that our hopes for the soon coming of teachers would not materialize,

and that many months would pass, for at this writing, November 21, they have not yet arrived, and we are not sure when they will be coming. The second semester had to begin without those sorely needed reinforcements. But the school is going forward with the largest enrollment in its history. From many quarters come urgent requests for new academies and church school teachers. It seems that the work is going faster than we can keep up with it.

We thought nothing could be done for our publishing work until our publishing house could be rebuilt, but with some literature that our American publishing houses could furnish us, we have started in a small way to sell literature. We are localizing in the Central Luzon Mission, and for the months of August, September, and October, they report the largest sales for those respective months in the history of this mission.

The work is the Lord's, and it is going forward in spite of the skeleton crew and the few acting officials. The message is advancing here in the islands, and surely God must love the Filipino people, for so many are accepting the third angel's message. The courage of all is good. We are wistfully looking to the Pacific for the arrival of the long-awaited foreign missionaries who, we hope, someday soon will land on these shores.

GEORGE A. CAMPBELL,

Acting Superintendent, Philippine Union Mission.

A Report From the Malayan Union Mission

On my arrival in Singapore, September 28, after leaving bomb-blasted Manila, it seemed that Singapore sustained but little loss by war. All but one of our denominational buildings are still standing. The city bears but few scars. Even the old tramcars are running as before. As the days have passed, the facts behind the scenes have come to light, revealing the true cost of war to our own mission work.

Let us step over to the Malayan Seminary. The buildings are all standing—appearing from the outside to be but five years older. We are informed that the chapel was used as a pigsty. The weaving and steel-working equipment is gone; school desks and tables, so necessary in operating a school, have been taken away. Our principal explains his burden in these words: "Many letters are coming from our people, urging us to open our dormitories in January. Their children have not been in school for five years. But we haven't a bed or chair for the rooms, nor do we have a plate on which to feed the students."

Now for a look at our publishing house, which was not scratched although shells fell near by. The one small damaged press seems to be the only printing instrument remaining to bear its silent testimony to the looting which has paralyzed this effective force for giving the truth. Our colporteurs are awaiting the opportunity for service again. Chinese *Sabbath School Lesson Quarterlies* are costing us fifty cents each in United States money. We do need this plant in operation again soon.

A trip to Penang gives an assurance of God's protecting care. We visit the Mission Clinic. Here thirteen bombs fell before and behind. Large buildings no more than thirty feet away were destroyed on three sides. As one views the rubble surrounding, he feels that God in a special way has seen fit to spare our

clinic. But here, too, there is a pressing need to replace looted equipment and medical stocks.

Our needs are tremendous, but the outlook is bright, and God's blessings are abundant. A report today states that Dr. Waddell and his staff in Bangkok treated 3,733 patients in October.

Urgent appeals are coming continuously in the mails from Borneo, Indo-China, and Siam to press into the whitened harvest fields. Workers who have been weakened by food shortages can see but one thing of prime importance, and that is the soul-harvest work. It is a privilege to be near such loyal men.

It would be a mistake to let you feel that we are discouraged. There is so much for which to be thankful and hopeful. Our churches are filled with fine young people who have remained true, and great possibilities are ours in this field of 45,000,000 souls.

So we join the voices of others from every part of this war-stricken earth in appealing for men and means to rebuild and finish the task. You can have a part December 28 in the first Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow Offering to come this way in almost seven years. Do you think you'll do your best?

J. M. NERNES,

Superintendent, Malayan Union.

Items of Interest

Letters have been sent to our mission headquarters in Japan and Korea, but as yet no word has come to our Singapore office from either of these fields.

Miss Elizabeth Rogers and the nurses at the Penang Sanitarium are busy and anxiously awaiting the arrival of Dr. and Mrs. Earl Gardner to join their forces.

An interesting report just in from Dr. Waddell indicates that thus far this year 16,257 outpatients have been treated and more than 8,000 inpatients with an income of 1,228,124 tekuls. There is a satisfaction in knowing that this work, which was launched by faith, is filling such a great need at this time. The Penang Sanitarium and clinic are in operation under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Rogers and her staff. These folks and many in need of medical attention are looking for the return of Dr. Gardner.

Our hearts have been greatly cheered by word received from W. E. Nelson and W. H. Williams, of the General Conference, telling of increased appropriations for the year 1947. We realize that this has been made possible by the systematic and sacrificial offerings of our faithful believers in the homelands. Our prayer now is that the Lord will send forth more laborers into the fields, for they are white and ready to harvest.

The Malayan Union family is grieving over the sudden death of Sister Yeo Peng Yee at Penang, October 24. We have also been grieved to learn of the death of Brother Maurice Fox, who died in Singapore, October 31.

Plans are being laid for the opening of medical work in Singapore by Dr. G. Innocent in the spring of 1947.

P. L. WILLIAMS

J. M. NERNES.



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Editorial

There were in attendance at the recent Autumn Council, held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the following from the Far Eastern Division: V. T. Armstrong, F. A. Pratt, F. R. Millard, Eric Ristau, Stanley Dombrosky, V. E. Adams, C. P. Sorensen, and L. F. Bohner.

At the Autumn Council, M. E. Loewen, president of the West Pennsylvania Conference, was invited to become superintendent of the Philippine Union Mission. He accepted and left several weeks ago for the West, where he is awaiting transportation along with his wife and daughter.

Almost a year ago L. F. Bohner went over to Singapore as secretary-treasurer of the Malayan Union Mission, which position he held before the war. Brother Bohner returned to the States in time to attend the Autumn Council. We are sorry that it was necessary for Brother Bohner to return to the homeland, but his services through the years in Malaya have been greatly appreciated, and especially since the war. Elder Nerness arrived back in the field just as Brother Bohner left.

Since the articles and news notes of this issue were written, the S.S. *General Meigs* sailed from San Francisco on December 2, with the following for the Far East; Misses Ruby Alice Barnett and Eloise Irvine for Manila Sanitarium, Wayne A. Martin and his family,

J. W. Rowland and his wife, and Miss Mabel Irene Wakeham for the Philippine Union College. Scheduled to sail on the S.S. *Marine Lynx* are J. W. Blacker, R. L. Cone, H. L. Dyer, Earle Hilgert, C. T. Jones, J. A. Leland, A. N. Nelson, and Miss Nellie Ferree. This entire group, with wives and families, are for the Philippines—college and publishing house. Due to sail on the S.S. *Marine Falcon*, December 21, are Elder and Mrs. Armstrong, E. L. Becker and his family, Miss Signe Nelson, and Elder and Mrs. I. C. Schmidt. Elder and Mrs. F. A. Pratt are also scheduled for this boat if they can make it. The group will sail directly for Singapore.

In a letter from F. R. Millard dated December 10, he writes as follows: "About two weeks ago I learned that a freighter was leaving for the Orient with a scheduled stop at Yokohama. This was my chance to send my freight and I immediately got busy to complete purchases of things I wanted to send over. After that began the long grind of getting everything packed, through customs and finally on board the ship. My things should leave tomorrow. My own transportation will have to come later for this ship took no passengers and I was not ready to leave anyway. As it now stands, I will probably leave on a refrigerator ship about the end of the month. These sail directly to Yokohama and take a limited number of passengers."

We were interested to note in a letter received from P. L. Williams, written December 8, that the mail service to Singapore is improving. The last letters he had received from Manila had taken only two weeks to get to Singapore. Two weeks previous to that he had received two letters from Manila that had been on the way since last July and August. Brother Williams expresses the sentiment of all Far Eastern Division workers when he writes: "It will be nice when all of our Division men get on the grounds and things get to running smoothly again—reports coming in on time and the information we all desire being received regularly from the Union Missions each month and quarter."

This is the last issue of the OUTLOOK to be published in the States. We trust that we can resume publication at an early date in Singapore.

As We See It From Over Here

Repairs on the division property are progressing nicely. Two bungalows are ready for use now. The other three bungalows and the office building should be completed and ready to move into by the end of December.

R. O. Walean, Pleng Vitiamyalaksana, and K. T. Kong, delegates returning from the General Conference, arrived in Singapore early in November. It was a pleasure to welcome these workers back to the Far East. R. O. Walean continued his journey by the same vessel to Soerabaija, and Brother Pleng transshipped here to his home in Bangkok.

Reports from Siam are very cheering. All lines of mission endeavor are taking on new life. The medical work is prospering. The school in Ubol is being repaired, and Brother and Sister Smith are kept busy with their church and school activities. The school in Bangkok, which was completely destroyed, will soon be rebuilt and ready for use. Plans have been laid for a strong evangelistic program.

Brother and Sister R. M. Milne are our latest recruits. We are glad to welcome back these faithful workers who have endeared themselves to us during long years of service in this division.

K. Tilstra and H. E. R. Schell report a very successful union committee meeting in Batavia. The brethren from Ambon and Menado told of the hardships they had endured. Many of their number had died from starvation, but those remaining are of good courage and long for the time to come when Jesus will return to take home His faithful children. The Spirit of the Lord was present as they laid plans for a strong forward movement throughout the Netherlands East Indies.

We have recently received a letter with reports for tithe and offerings included from our youngest church in the division—that on the island of Guam. These new believers, having accepted the truth as taught to them by our faithful servicemen, are now rejoicing in the blessed hope of a soon-coming Saviour and are calling for a worker to be sent to them.