

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

June 27, 1914

A YEAR'S ADVANCE IN JAPAN



JAPANESE CHILDREN WAITING TO BE TAUGHT
THE RIGHT WAY

This leaflet should be divided into five-minute exercises
and read in every Sabbath-school.



THE OFFICIAL NOTICE

April 15, 1914.

MRS. L. FLORA PLUMMER,
Secretary Sabbath School Department.

Dear Sister:—

Again the General Conference Committee has taken action, making request of the Sabbath-schools. It was voted by the Committee in council as follows:—

Voted, That we request the Sabbath-schools to devote the offering for the thirteenth Sabbath, June 27, 1914, to the work of the Japan Mission, aiming at the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, which is required to provide the appropriations for that great field for an entire year.

Only a few years ago it seems—though possibly it may be fifteen or sixteen years—the Sabbath-schools raised ten thousand dollars as a fund for the real opening of our work in India. When the schools did this for missions within one year we hailed the achievement with joy. Now think of it! The Committee has asked the schools to raise fifteen thousand dollars in one day's offering, to support the growing work in Japan for one entire year. Surely the Lord is enlarging the capacity of the Sabbath-school organization to keep pace with the ever enlarging demands in the closing work.

Truly your brother,

W. A. SPICER, *Secretary.*

JAPAN'S THANKS IN ADVANCE

[Word from Elder DeVinney, Superintendent of the Japan Mission.]

We are delighted and encouraged by the news that Japan is to be given the Thirteenth-Sabbath Offering of the Second Quarter of 1914. All the believers of this field have been joining in the offering for the other fields which have already benefited by it, and now to have it given to Japan, adds another band to those which bind us to the brethren and sisters, and to the great world-wide work we all love. It is certainly an encouragement to know that the eyes, mind, and prayers of all our brethren and sisters of the world will be turned toward us on the next Thirteenth Sabbath, and that you will minister to our necessities.

Let me tell you of some of the perplexities that come to our children here. By Japanese law, all children below a certain grade must attend public school which is held upon the Sabbath. By special arrangement with the heads of the different schools, all of our children have escaped being compelled to attend upon that day; but it is becoming each year more and more difficult to get them excused. This, and the increasing numbers of the children, makes it imperative that we provide for them a school which will meet the demands of the law. For the sake of the children this matter cannot be delayed as the following incident will show.

A few months ago one of our bright boys returned from school where he is compelled to perform certain acts of veneration to the picture of

the Emperor, and engaged in conversation with his father thus: "Papa, the teacher said to-day that the first emperor of Japan came down from Heaven and created this government, and that it could never be overcome by any other nation, and would last forever, and papa, at Sabbath-school the teacher says that 'Jesus is soon coming to be the King of the world, and that all the nations will be destroyed.' Does she mean that this Japanese nation will be burnt up too?" "Yes, my son." "Well, papa, which is right, what I learn at school or what my Sabbath-school teacher says?" "What the Bible says that your Sabbath-school teacher read to you, my son." "Well then, papa, I do not want to go to school where they teach me what is not true."

The law here demands a certain amount of land for every school which is regulated by the number of students in the school. To comply with this we must remove from the city and find less expensive land. We are now negotiating for a site about forty minutes from the center of the city of Tokyo, on both steam and electric lines, where we can establish our permanent headquarters, school for the children, training school for workers, printing plant, etc. We must build houses for the superintendent of the school and bookman, as well as for all the Japanese employees in connection with our printing and other work at headquarters. All the buildings will be good and substantial, but plain and as inexpensive as possible. For the buildings we have Japan's share of the \$300,000 Fund which the Mission Board has been holding until we could make ar-

rangements with the authorities for satisfactorily holding property here. With our long-hoped-for Mission headquarters our work will go with greater strength, and now the Sabbath-schools are to help us.

We thank God, and you who give, before the gifts are made, and covenant with you again to increased devotion, sacrifice and service for the Master.

F. H. DEVINNEY.

Tokyo.

A LONG LEASE

FOR a number of years our Japan Mission has attempted to secure from the government such recognition as would entitle us to hold property under the laws of Japan. Thus far, however, it has been impossible to obtain this recognition, principally on account of the difficulties arising from the Sabbath observance of the native believers, this tending to bring them into conflict with the Japanese authorities when the young men are connected with the army. On account of our inability to secure from the government the right to hold real estate, the funds apportioned to Japan from the \$300,000 Fund have not been used up to the present time.

Recently, however, arrangements have been entered into by our brethren in Japan to lease a very desirable property, nicely situated, and near a depot. This property is leased for a period of nine hundred and ninety-nine years. While this does not give us actual possession of

the property, yet to all intents and purposes it is the same thing, and the brethren in charge of the work in Japan, as well as the members of the General Conference Committee at Washington, feel warranted in securing the property under lease, and erecting the necessary buildings to furnish the offices for the headquarters, school, and printing facilities. Already funds have been forwarded to secure the lease and begin building operations.

W. T. KNOX.

THE BIBLE FISHED OUT OF THE SEA

HAVE you heard how the Bible fished out of the sea let some of the first rays of light into Japan? Before ever Commodore Perry's squadron knocked at Japan's closed portals, the Dutch traders from Holland had been allowed to maintain a trading house on the artificial islet that had been made in the harbor of Nagasaki. But so fearful were the authorities that the foreigners would come on to the mainland with their dread doctrine that a harbor patrol was maintained day and night. The chief of this harbor patrol was Count Wakasa. One night a book was observed floating in the harbor. It was drawn into the patrol boat and was handled with curious interest by Wakasa. At last some one told him that it was a Dutch Bible, the sacred book of the Europeans, and he learned that a Chinese translation of it had been made. He sent to China and secured a copy of the Chinese Scriptures. And eleven years later,

when Verbeck, one of the pioneer missionaries to Japan, began to gather a little class around him, among the first to come to study and to obey was a young brother of Count Wakasa. Wakasa himself later became a Christian. Wakasa died in 1874. Now we learn from our brethren in Japan that a daughter of the old count, an elderly woman, has recently accepted the Sabbath and rejoices in the blessed hope.

Surely God works in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. Here is an incident of Japanese history showing how a Japanese maiden did the right thing at the right instant. A burglar broke into a Christian school in Japan. One of the girls who found him robbing her room kept her presence of mind and begged him to take her New Testament also with him. The man was caught and sent to prison, but was permitted to keep the girl's gift, and by his study of the little book his heart was turned to God and he became a Christian.

ONE STEP IN THE OPENING OF JAPAN

JAPAN, you know, has been the leader in the Orient in the adoption of Western ways and modern facilities. Its steamships sail all the seas, and the "Empire of the Rising Sun" is one of the great powers of the world.

But only a generation ago Japan was determined to shut out not only missionaries but all foreign influences. Even when some merchants and missionaries on the China coast sent home

some ship-wrecked Japanese fishermen, hoping to make this a way of gaining a missionary foothold on Japanese shores, the boat was fired upon and driven back. According to law no foreigner could go into Japan, and no Japanese who had been abroad could return. But with the coming of our own generation we know the time came when all the countries of the world were to be opened up to hear the gospel message.

One July morning in 1853, an American squadron, commanded by Commodore Perry, cast anchor in the Gulf of Yedo, knocking for admittance by treaty negotiation. On the first Sunday in Japanese waters, we are told, Commodore Perry, who was a devout man, laid special plans for divine services. While the band played the familiar tune, all the men of the squadron united in singing the hymn based on the One Hundredth Psalm:—

“ Before Jehovah’s awful throne,
Ye nations bow with sacred joy;
Know that the Lord is God alone;
He can create, he can destroy.”

At last Japan opened its doors, and the Christian missionaries pressed in with the saving gospel. Even up to the year 1870 notice boards were still posted in all the highways, however, warning people of the penalty of death for accepting the Christian religion.

Nothing can stay God’s hand, and he opened the way so that now the message of salvation may be proclaimed freely in Japan.

MANY TIRED OF BUDDHISM

ONE of the Japanese evangelists gives this experience:—

"I baptized three young men recently after thoroughly instructing them. One had been a Christian for eleven years but had not heard of the second coming of Christ. Of course he knew nothing of the judgment. When we began studying the Bible, his family opposed him and attempted to stop him from attending the meetings. Among his family are several sects, and they joined together to discourage him through his wife.

"The morning of his baptism he told his mother about it and said, 'Mother, I am going to be baptized by the Seventh-day Adventist pastor to-day. If you think I am going to destruction, why don't you say a word to prove that I am wrong. Do you think that I shall go to Satan's church?'

"'No, no,' she replied, 'I do not think so. Your teacher is right. I will hear more about the Bible from your pastor.'

"Lately an old sister of Admiral Togo began to keep the Sabbath. She heard of the Christian religion when her brother returned from England many years ago, but then she heard only about one great God who created the worlds. Now, she is glad to hear more.

"Hundreds, yes thousands, are tired of Buddhism and are searching for a new religion. Now is the time to let our light shine."✕

WHERE IS THE GRATITUDE-TREE?

Do you ask, "Where is the Gratitude Tree?"

If you've not found it before,
Just look; if you live in the Fields of Grace,
It is planted beside your door.

And if it is stunted and almost dead,
A miracle you may see;
Begin to number the blessings you have,
And watch the growth of your tree.

Each blessing an added branch will be,
And then the fruit will grow;
And the fruit—why that's thank-offerings!
So it must be, you know.

O, what a harvest if every one
Would gather and give to-day!
O, what a song of joy would rise
In Japan so far away!

CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

ONE evening as we were holding meetings in a Japanese house which we had fitted up as a meeting place, and I was speaking upon the worship of false gods, a middle-aged woman, accompanied by one younger, came in and sat down. She at first looked around for something to worship, as was her custom when going to the temples; but seeing no idols, she gave attention to the sermon. She continued to come each evening, and soon began to keep the Sabbath and gave up the use of tobacco. During the week of prayer at one of the meetings she gave this testimony:—

“When I came to the meeting the first night, I had never heard a Christian sermon, and as I came in the house with my daughter and sat down, there seemed to be a strange light around you while you were speaking. I asked my daughter if she could see it, but she said that she could see nothing strange. I continued to see it as long as you were speaking from the Bible, and since I have learned more of the Bible, I have come to believe that it was an angel of the Lord to lead me to the true religion, and I thank and praise him for showing the light to me, a poor heathen.”

H. KUNIYA.



The "Fukuinsha" or printing place of the *Owari No Fukuin*, the Japanese paper. This is rented. A new printing office will be built on the 999-year leased property.

HOW MUCH DO WE WANT TO HELP?

SELF-INDULGENCE is cruelty to others, for it always means the robbing of another. The simple truth, even though it startles, is that "my luxury spells another man's need unsupplied." Every cent that you have ever spent upon yourself that did not need to be thus spent could have gone to relieve the sore want of someone else. And every cent unnecessarily and luxuriously spent in the life of any average individual counts up into a pretty substantial sum. Yet we complain of not having as much to give away as we would like to; and we love to think and talk about how much we should do for others if only we had the means. Greater means are at hand, for most of us, than we have ever used. Not lack of means, but lack of sacrificial love for others is the barrier to our more lavish helping of those in need. We shall give others what they need when we stop giving ourselves more than we need.—*S. S. Times.*

JAPAN

THERE is a land from us so far,
That when we see the evening star
They look to see the morning sun
With daily toil and care begun.

It is an island kingdom where
The skies are bland and fields are fair,
And millions come and millions go,
The land is very old, we know.

And there are temples built of stone,
With ivy and with moss o'ergrown;
Blind worship there the people pay
To gods that cannot hear them pray.

But Christ has sought that land afar
And they have seen his rising star;
The islands come to join the van
Of Christian lands; All hail, Japan!

(May be recited by one or four small children)

A SILVER DOLLAR MISSIONARY SERMON

UNCLE SAM never dreamed that the designs he ordered to be placed on every silver dollar would be useful to teach the people of the United States something about their duty to the unevangelized.

1. The coin can only fulfil its intended mission by being kept in *circulation*. The same thing is true of the Gospel.

2. The very date is significant. Nearly 2,000 years have passed since he gave the command, "Go ye into all the world," and the world is not yet conquered for Christ.

3. On the face of the coin are thirteen stars. They remind us that we must take our reckonings from above, and correct our earthly instruments and opinions by looking heavenward. Read Dan. 12:3.

4. Over the woman's head on the face of the Dollar is the word "*Liberty*." Like Christ himself, we are sent to "proclaim liberty" to those who are yet in the bondage of sin.

5. A laurel wreath also rests upon the head of the goddess of Liberty as a mark of victory. The church militant must "fight the good fight of faith." We have promise of victory — "a crown that fadeth not away."

6. Another inscription proclaims the fact that "In God we trust." All things are possible to him. Money is needed for the work, but without God we can accomplish nothing.



A FEW OF OUR JAPANESE CHILDREN

7. On the obverse side of the coin is an eagle, the "King of Birds." Christ is the King of Men. The time is coming when it shall be true that "The kingdoms of this world are [to] become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever."

8. In the eagle's beak is a streamer with the inscription, "*E pluribus unum.*" The dissemination of the Gospel makes the whole world kin.

The Gospel makes all nations "one in Christ."

9. In one foot the eagle clasps a bunch of arrows of speed and directness. A dollar given to missions now may be worth a hundred dollars ten years hence. Souls are perishing. Let us make haste.

10. In the other foot the eagle holds an *olive* branch, a symbol of peace. Sin brings strife; the Gospel proclaims that Christ brings "peace on earth and good will to men." Peace is the great need of the Christless world.

In conclusion—if it be true that "money talks," then as some one has suggested, "a dime whispers, a half dollar talks, a dollar shouts." — *Condensed from "The Missionary Review of the World."*

On Sabbath, June 27, shall the answer to the appeal for help in Japan from your school be a "whisper," a "talk," or a good strong chorus of "shouts?"

FROM many lands is sounding the cry, "Come over and help us." Our church members should feel a deep interest in home and foreign missions. Great blessings will come to them as they make self-sacrificing efforts to plant the standard of truth in new territory. The money invested in this work will bring rich returns. New converts, rejoicing in the light received from the Word, will in their turn give of their means to carry the light of truth to others.—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. 9, page 49.*

BROTHER BENSON'S PARTING WORD

PROFESSOR H. F. BENSON, who has been doing post-graduate work in the States since General Conference, and who will have charge of the training school in Japan, just before leaving for that field leaves this message:—

“Japan needs your prayers as she has never needed them before. To the unconverted heathen, Christianity is the embodiment of all that is opposed to his lifelong training. The native convert meets with opposition that can but dimly be appreciated by those reared under more favorable circumstances. The influence of the Spirit of God, alone, can work the necessary changes in these lives. Your prayers will aid greatly in this work.

“Our work needs financial aid, but we are not asking our brethren in America to do all the lifting. Our brethren in Japan are doing their utmost to help. A small company just north of Tokyo have recently dedicated a church free from debt, and this was done without any aid from the mission. The Japanese brethren are operating a strong medical work almost wholly independent of financial aid from the treasury. Their tithes and offerings do not look large in dollars and cents, but they show up large in self-sacrifice.

“Our work in this needy field is going to triumph gloriously and all may have a part in its finishing. Before the offering is taken can we have a season of prayer in behalf of waiting Japan? Then let God impress upon your heart what you ought to do toward aid in a financial way.”

LETTER FROM A NEW RECRUIT

BROTHER P. A. WEBBER, who with his wife has but recently reached Japan, in a personal letter dated March 31, sends back this good word:—

“As you say, we are putting ourselves to the stretch in the language study, but the Lord is giving us strength and grace to keep at it. I believe it the most interesting thing that I have ever tackled. Mrs. Webber has taken her place right by my side and has enjoyed the study immensely. I believe the Lord will give her strength to get a working knowledge of the language so that she will be of aid in the work for the sisters.

“We are much encouraged in our study when we see how well Brother Hoffman has done. All are sorry to see him leave Tokyo, but we are glad to know that he can go to one of the outposts and take up permanent work in that section of the field. I am looking forward to the time when we may do the same.

“This summer we will be with a tent effort that is to be conducted at Kagoshima the scene of the recent disaster. I believe that at this time the gospel of the kingdom can be given there to ready hearts.

“Just at this writing our Japanese workers are returning to their fields of labor after the three months institute. When they speak, it is with courage in their hearts and we are all looking forward to good results this summer. I believe that the prospects are bright for the work in Japan. Send us more who will take up the daily

cross that this work may close up quickly. Pray for us in Japan.

"It would have done you good to see what interest the Japanese brethren and sisters take in the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Old and young were prepared last Sabbath with more than usual. After a song by the children, to the tune of "Hear the Pennies Dropping," the collection was taken by one of the older boys. A bag was hung on a short bamboo stick and we were very pleased to see the stick bend with the weight of the money, as the little bag was nearly full. This shows us that their hearts are in the work and we pray that the Lord will keep them true to him."



The above map shows us the places in Japan where we have Sabbath-schools. Japan is thickly populated. Note the much white territory on the map where as yet the truth has not entered.

ISSUED BY THE
SABBATH-SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
 TAKOMA PARK STATION - - WASHINGTON, D. C.