

Asiatic Division Mission News

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ORGANIZATION OF THE CENTRAL-SOUTHERN LUZON CONFERENCE

First Local Conference Organized in Asia

On the arrival in the Philippines of Pastors Daniells and Knox, president and treasurer, respectively, of the General Conference, a meeting of the Asiatic Division Committee was held at Manila, together with the above mentioned brethren, and also members of the local mission. Some consideration was given to the interesting and important work which has developed in the Philippines, especially in the Tagalog field, that is, that portion of the Island of Luzon of which Manila is the capital and center. Some study was given to the necessity for a fuller organization to meet the needs of a rapidly growing work. As the result of this study it was voted that, if after visiting the churches and making a fuller investigation it was seen to be advisable, a conference be organized in the part of the field where the greatest number of Sabbath keepers are found. Three weeks were spent in making a tour of the churches and companies in the following places: San Pablo, Santa Rosa, Cavite, Malolos, Baliwag and Calumpit, besides the several companies that make up the church in Manila. As the result of these visits the conviction was strengthened that there is a sufficient membership for a conference organization, and that the work would be benefited by such a step. The native brethren, as well as the American workers, greatly appreciated the counsel and instruction Brother Daniells gave at this time.

On Thursday, December 14, 1916, at two p.m., there assembled in the new church building at the corner of Bambang and Oroquieta Sts., Manila, a goodly number of the believers from various parts of the Philippine Islands. In response to a call from the superintendent of the Philippine Island Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, two hundred and forty-two church members, representing eleven churches with a membership of eight hundred and eighty-three, were in attendance at this general meeting.

At the appointed hour the meeting was called to order by Pastor Finster, and the subject of organization was introduced.

Pastor A. G. Daniells, President of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, outlined briefly some reasons that lead groups of believers in mission territory to organize themselves into local conferences, when conditions for such organizations are favorable. Among other conditions, he named the following as important:—

1. A sufficient membership to give strength and solidarity to an organization.
2. The accessibility of the members in a given territory, making it possible for them to carry on concerted action.
3. The development of different lines of work to a point of efficiency and strength.
4. The willingness and ability of the believers to make such an organization effective, and a real blessing to their field.
5. A readiness and an ability to aid in the financial support of a conference.

A constitution was presented, an outline of what was thought to be a good working constitution, modeled after our conference constitutions in other parts of the world. After submitting the same to the delegates for consideration it was adopted after slight alterations. The native brethren took the greatest interest in the discussion of every proposition. Nothing was allowed to pass that was not fully understood.

Pastor Finster was elected president of the conference, Pastor Bibiano Parus, vice-president, Brother J. S. Barrows, secretary and treasurer.

We believe this marks an advance step taken in the building up and binding together of God's work in the East. This is the first local conference organized

in Asia. Thus in the continent where man first lived, where the Saviour was born, lived and died, do we now find the great closing message finishing up its great work in triumph. May God bless the Central-Southern Luzon Conference.

J. E. FULTON.

Items from Minutes of General Committee Meetings

During the meetings of the Asiatic Division Committee which were recently held in Shanghai, some recommendations were passed which will be of interest to the News readers.

It was voted that in response to a letter from some of the students of the language school at Nanking, arrangement be made for the continuance of the school at Mokanshan during the summer, thus enabling the students to continue the study of the language during the hot months.

As the dormitories of the China Missions Training School are inadequate to house all the students wishing to attend, and many are turned away because of this, it was voted that a building of sixteen rooms be built for the boys, and an addition of four rooms and a dining room be made to the girls' dormitory.

Action was passed that a medical book be prepared for use in the Philippines. A committee consisting of Dr. Selmon, Brother Weaks, and Brother Crisler was appointed to take up the preparation of this book. An abridged edition of "Practical Guide" will be made, adding some chapters that would make the work of practical value for that field.

There is such an urgent call coming from the field for readers in the Chinese language, and as the readers at present available contain so much matter diametrically opposed to the fundamental truths of the message, Dr. Selmon was asked to undertake the preparation of readers for the first five years of school work, and Brother Swartout, Sister Brines, Sister Kuhn, Kung S. S., and Wu S. S. were asked to assist him in the preparation of these books.

It was voted that a publication in easy Wenli be made of Elder Daniel's new book, "The World War and Armageddon," adapted to the needs of the Chinese field; that Pastor O. A. Hall be asked to come to Shanghai, and assist Brother Shultz in the preparation of this work.

Action was taken that Sister Jessie Fulton be asked to connect with the China Missions Training School as preceptress and teacher, to live in the girls' dormitory, this to take effect as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made to supply her place as stenographer.

That Miss Osborne be invited, on her return to China, to take up editorial work in the Signs of the Times Publishing House, and to teach one class in the China Missions Training School.

That the missions be asked to take under consideration the advisability of sending as many workers to the General Meeting as their financial condition will permit.

Inasmuch as Brother Frost has decided to attend the language school at Nanking, it was voted that Mrs. Henderson be asked to be the associate editor of the Asiatic Division Mission News.

In Giangsi Province

(Concluded.)

At present we have two church organizations in Giangsi, one at the capital, Nanchang, and the other in the far south at Gandjou, while we have another strong company of believers, several of whom have been keeping the Sabbath for more than three years among the aborigines at Siu Shui. The location of these churches was determined by interests awakened by our canvassers who were the pioneers in the field. Planting the seeds of truth among the mountaineers of Siu Shui they went eastward to Nanchang, where results were seen; then following the water courses southward to their sources they finally reached the southern provincial metropolis of Gandjou, where they found a very intelligent company of Christians who were seeking for additional light. Two of the strongest evangelists of the place accepted the Sabbath truth and began teaching it. The result was that they were soon dismissed from mission employ, but not until after they had gathered out a company of eighty-five who were loyally keeping all of God's commandments. One of these evangelists had been preaching for ten years, the other six. Of the latter, his former foreign superintendent said to us, "In all my thirty years' experience Evangelist Li is the most meek, devoted, dependable man I ever met. Of him, although now leaving us, I can say as did Christ of Nathaniel of old, 'Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.'" As the result of the interest there Djo Wen Sun S. S., a former employee of the press, and who received his training in the Shanghai school, was sent to look after the work. He now has a church of more than twenty substantial members, and more than sixty are keeping the Sabbath and awaiting baptism.

This company largely consists of the merchant class who are comfortably situated and will eventually be a financial strength to our work. But this is largely true of all our believers throughout the province. It is evident that the Signs is at present reaching a class that are able to offer us financial assistance for the future, and while we recognize that all must be reached with the message, yet this moneyed class will aid us by their financial assistance to reach the masses all the more readily. In a call made by Pastor Cottrell for a special offering to assist in the educational work in

Giangsi, \$123, Mexican, was raised. I was told that the deacon and his wife of the Nanchang church, who have three stores in the city, regularly donate the pro rata amount prescribed by the Sabbath-school Department for the Thirteenth Sabbath offering.

Pastor Hwang, who has been leading out in the work in Giangsi, has been forced to leave Nanchang because the dread white plague has fastened itself upon him. Fortunately the timely return of Brother Gillis enables him to fill the place of director of this promising mission, and he has already located his family at Kukiang. Nine students, including the two converted evangelists from Gandjou, are receiving a training for future work in the school in Shanghai, while Brother Gillis has two young evangelists associated with him in labor. Provision is being made to send another strong man to fill the vacancy at Nanchang. More help must be sent him soon to care for the growing work. In the meantime he and his two assistants must care for a work in a territory having a population in excess of many of our union conferences at home.

That the workers there are alive to all opportunities presented for labor is illustrated by the following: When Djo Sien Seng entered the field last summer, he thought to improve his time while en route from the north to his station at Gandjou in the distribution of our literature. He accordingly provided himself with a large number of magazines which he sold in all the important cities through which he passed. Digressing from his direct route he visited Lunghushan, where dwells in regal state, Djang Tien Si. This heavenly teacher is said by the Chinese to be a "shen" and is far and away the greatest man in China today. Nothing daunting, Djo S. S. approached his yamen at Lunghushan, which is by interpretation the dragon and tiger mountain, doubtless according with the character of the saint much more accurately than he would be willing to admit, and asked admission. He found that the heavenly teacher had been invited to Peking, whence he had gone to advise Yuan Shi Kai on the best method of supporting his tottering imperial throne, and for which he in return received a handsome reward. His advice proved as useless as past centuries demonstrate that Taoist advice has ever been, but a real providence is seen in his absence, since it permitted our evangelist to sell twenty copies of the *Signs* within the yamen itself. Who knows what the end will be since the message of God has entered doors that have stood the assaults of centuries, and has been received by the members of the household of the high priest of one of the greatest sophistries of the East?

JAMES E. SHULTZ.

The Sabbath is the golden clasp which binds together the volume of the week.—*Longfellow.*

Anhwei Mission

On the seventeenth of October, in company with Brother Josef Hall, Evangelist Han, our lady Bible worker, and my wife, we left Nanking for our fall itinerating trip through the interior of the Anhwei province.

Our first stop was Beng Pu, on the railway, where we found the work making steady progress. At the close of a five days meeting five persons were baptised. From this place we proceeded to our second station, which was opened but last spring by a series of tent meetings. During the tent meetings a splendid interest was manifested, and a good company of believers were led to obey the truth. We found the work here in a prosperous condition, and eight were felt to be ready for baptism. They were recommended for baptism at the general meeting, which followed a little later.

At this place we rented a house boat for the remaining two weeks of our trip among the stations. The weather was bad and rainy most of the time, and with a boat which leaked from the top and from the bottom, as well as from both sides, we were kept quite busy trying to keep dry, which effort proved to be in vain. During the two weeks we visited four stations, holding a short series of meetings at each place, returning to Ying Shang Hsien in time for the opening of the general meeting November 10. Up to within two days of the opening of the meeting the heavy rain continued, and it appeared that our meeting would be broken up, as the people would not be able to come. At the Wednesday night prayer meeting our brethren all joined in seeking the Lord for favorable weather and for the success of the meeting. This prayer was answered, and at the opening of the meeting November 10 most of the brethren and sisters in that section of the province were in attendance. The attendance was better and more representative than at previous meetings, and all took a deep interest in the studies held. The tent was used for the evening services in order to accommodate the large attendance from the city.

We were glad to have Brother Lillie with us throughout the meeting. All were sorry that Pastor Fulton was prevented being present by illness.

The last Friday of the meeting thirty persons followed their Lord in baptism. At the Sabbath morning service a liberal thank offering was given in expression of the good meeting all had enjoyed.

After returning to Nanking we went immediately to the Kiangsu general meeting held at Kading. We are thankful for the evidences of the Lord's blessing upon His work.

O. A. HALL.

The world turns aside to let any man pass who knows whither he is going.—*David Starr Jordan.*

ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

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Asiatic Division Conference

The Asiatic Division Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will hold its first regular session, April 5-26, at Shanghai, China, for the election of officers, making changes in the constitution, and the transaction of other necessary business.

R. C. PORTER, *President*.

J. E. FULTON, *Secretary*.

New Fields Entered

Four new journals have recently come to my desk as additions to our magazine family in the Asiatic Division Conference. These all come from India, and represent the following great language areas with their combined population of approximately 60,000,000: Telegu, Malayalam, Marathi, and Gujerathi. With the exception of Marathi, this is the first regular effort in these languages. Institutes have recently been held in these various fields, and the brethren report that an enthusiastic company of colporteurs has gone into the field as pioneers among these unwarned millions. We watch with interest for early reports from these new workers.

Two of the above magazines bear the name *Present Truth*, and two the familiar title *Signs of the Times*. May God bless these silent messengers as they go on their important mission.

More and more as we see these new language areas being pioneered by the colporteur do we realize the truthfulness of the statement that "to a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven, and who lightens the earth with his glory." May the good work continue until "earth's remotest nation has heard Messiah's name."

C. E. WEAKS.

NOTES

Brother S. L. Frost and wife left Shanghai January 11 to attend the language school at Nanking.

Dr. Selmon and Brother O. A. Hall returned to Nanking January 6, after attending a session of the Asiatic Division Committee during the week.

A letter from Sister Petra Tunheim, from Java, says: "All is moving forward here in the work, and we have over \$400, gold, for the Harvest Ingathering. The Lord has blessed us very much in this work."

On the evening of December 30 the "Empress of Russia" brought a party from the south. Elder and

Mrs. Daniells, Elder Fulton, Brother C. E. Weeks, and Brother C. C. Crisler, coming from meetings in the Philippines, and Sister Blunden and children returning from a visit with her brother in Hongkong.

The new Miehle press, presented to the Signs of the Times Publishing House by the Pacific Press, has arrived, and Brother Henderson is very busy installing it. This is a valuable addition to the plant, and fills a long-felt need. The workers here feel very grateful for the generosity of the Pacific Press in making this gift.

December 31 our Shanghai workers and visitors gathered around a table of good things in the Press chapel prepared by the ladies. Although the cold was sharp outside, inside was warmth and good cheer. During the repast Elder Daniells told of the work that was onward in the fields from which he had just come. Dr. Selmon, Brethren Allum, and Shultz also gave a few words concerning the work in their respective departments.

On the evening of January 1, in the China Missions Training School chapel, an interesting program was given by the students of the school. The room was tastefully decorated with many pretty colored paper flowers against a background of evergreen. The program consisted of vocal and instrumental music, given by the music students, and short talks and recitations, by other members of the school. The evening was enjoyed by all.

Sabbath morning, January 6, a company of two hundred people gathered in the Training School chapel to hear Elder Daniells. The mission workers and members of the Shanghai church were present, and the chapel was filled to its utmost. Elder Daniells spoke of the conditions in the world at the present time, and of the nearness of the end, Dr. Selmon interpreting for the Chinese. All were inspired to put forth a greater effort than ever before to the finishing of the work. In the afternoon a company of thirty foreign workers gathered in the Press chapel, where Elder Daniells gave an inspiring talk on the needs of the Holy Spirit in the life of each worker.

From a recent letter from Brother Meeker we gather the following interesting items concerning the Harvest Ingathering work in Hongkong: "We have used about five hundred Harvest Ingathering *Signs* in Hongkong, and with the help of the Lord have collected upwards of \$700. All the papers are given out, but a few dollars continue to come. I have been promised a donation after the first of the year. It is indeed good to feel that two great objects have been realized; people are having an opportunity of learning about the truth, and we are receiving financial help, which is so much needed at this time. I like to leave the paper with the people as a reminder to them of the cause to which they contributed."