

Asiatic Division Mission News



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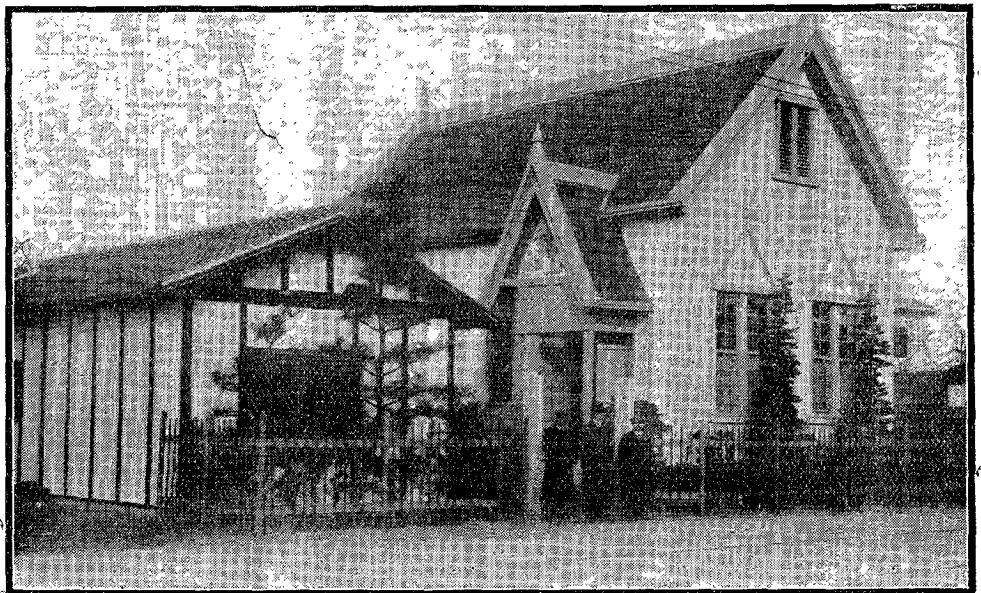
A New Church at Hiroshima, Japan

WE are glad to report the dedication of another church in Japan to the true God. The service was held on Monday, February 5. It was indeed a pleasure to have Pastor and Mrs. Daniells with us, and to listen to his instructive address, in which he made it clear that our chapel will be a house of God to the extent that each member of the company that assembles there consecrates himself to the Lord, and worships Him in spirit and in truth. Pastor Okohira, pioneer evangelist and editor of *Owari no Fukuin* (gospel of the last days), offered the dedicatory prayer, and Pastor DeVinney, superintendent of the Japan Mission, made congratulatory remarks on behalf of the mission. We had expected the Asiatic Division to be represented by Pastor Fulton, but he was detained at Tokyo by illness, much to our regret.

The little church was crowded to its full seating capacity. Among the audience were quite a number of Christians, including several foreign missionaries and teachers of other denominations.

The building of this handsome little edifice is due to one of the members, Dr. S. E. Tatsuguchi, who advanced practically all the funds. One peculiarity of the church is that its floor is varnished, so that in accordance with Japanese custom it is necessary to remove one's shoes, or wear a cloth cover upon entering. Few churches have such a neat floor.

Like Israel when the temple was rebuilt, though somewhat in miniature compared with that great event, we "kept the dedication of this house of God with joy." Ezra 6:16. This pleasant, comfortable meeting house furnishes a striking contrast to the dark, stifling noisy chapel we formerly rented. The new parsonage next door furnishes a neat little home for our Japanese worker, Brother Kato and his wife. But there is cause for even greater rejoicing in the fact that the work in Hiroshima, the natural center of this district, is now represented by a permanent meeting house, another monument to the steady



NEW CHURCH AT HIROSHIMA

advancement of the message into all the world. We had not looked for this new meeting house so soon, but God exceeded our expectations. Truly, in the words of Cary, we ought to "expect great things of God; attempt great things for God." In the evening the church was filled again by an

attentive audience, who listened to an address by Pastor Daniells on "The World War." We consider it a great privilege to have such efficient help in our work in this dark land, where a strong straight testimony is needed to meet the gross error and superstitions of the people.

A. N. ANDERSON.

Anhwei Provincial Mission Notes

THE slight but very general earthquake which occurred on the second day of the new year, moon calendar, has stirred our people throughout the length and breadth of Anhwei Mission. From practically every station we have received letters concerning it, saying that the evangelists are preaching it as a sign of the times, especially sent to wake the Chinese people. It has special force as an omen to the Chinese, coming as it did, in the heart of their new year. We, together with Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Roberts, who were visiting from Shanghai, were having worship when it occurred. It reminded us of Apostolic days, when the disciples prayed, and the "Spirit shook the house."

Not long ago one of the large dailies here in Nanking had a prominent article on the front page by some famous Japanese in Japan regarding his interpretation of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and the second coming of Christ. It seems to have attracted a good deal of attention among the Chinese. Only the next day the China Press, of Shanghai, ran an article on much the same subject on its front page. I believe great opportunities are held out to us here in China of spreading our message through the secular, vernacular papers, and that we ought to take advantage of this opportunity in an organized way, such as other missions are doing and our own church is doing in the homeland.

Two examples of the zeal of our native brethren have caused our own hearts to take courage recently. The Wuhu brethren and believers met together in their chapel on New Year's eve, and spent the entire night in prayer and Bible study—a strange contrast to the frenzied festivities of the thousands outside the chapel that night. The brother who writes concerning it says that, not wishing to be forced to see the burning of incense and other heathen rites in their own homes by the heathen members of their families on that night, the brethren decided they could pass the time in no better way than to hold an all night's meeting at the chapel.

The second instance is that of our native brethren in Nanking, and comes in the line of giving. Last quarter's Sabbath-school goal was set at seventy-five dollars, which, on the thirteenth Sabbath, was over-shot eight dollars or more. This quarter the for-

eigners were for the most part favorable to making the goal seventy-eight dollars, but were outvoted by the Chinese brethren, who had faith enough to set it at one hundred dollars. Of course they will need a good deal of encouragement to reach such a high goal, but some of them are giving a very large percentage of their income.

The Anhwei Mission tithing cans have just been completed and sent out to the various stations. They consist of carnation milk cans provided with covers containing slits big enough to take a dollar piece. They are wrapped with labels containing Bible verses regarding tithing. They are sealed shut with a small label to be opened and replaced only by the local church treasurer when the cans are brought in at the end of each month. Our people seem to take very well to this simple plan of helping them pay a faithful tithe, and we hope and pray that it may be successful. If it is, it will be a start toward solving the most important problem of self-support in these fields.

Our mission stations throughout Anhwei province have been holding special short series of meetings for the heathen. Good reports of their success are beginning to come in. We are in the midst of a two weeks effort here in Nanking, and although a slight snow-storm spoiled our meeting the first day, we are now having upwards of thirty in attendance each night. We ask the prayers of the News readers, that we may be able to get a hold of some good solid timber in this large and difficult city.

J. W. HALL

Harvest Ingathering in Malaysia

At a meeting of the Malaysian Committee last April consideration was given to the matter of the Harvest Ingathering Campaign for 1916, and the various fields composing the Malaysian Mission decided to take papers as follows: Singapore, 500; Federated Malay States, 500; West Java, 500; East Java, 350; Sumatra, 100; making 1,950 papers for the whole field. After the papers came five were sent from Singapore to British North Borneo. We set our aim for the whole field at \$1,200, gold, and this seemed like a high aim to us all.

During the entire year much effort has been put forth in British territory to raise all the money possible for the various war funds, but about the time our Ingathering papers came a special canvass was made in behalf of the "Our Day" fund, and thousands of dollars came as a result of the effort. All this made it seem very unfavorable for our campaign in the English speaking part of the territory, and the fact that but little English is used in other portions seemed a bit against a hope of doing large things.

But our workers decided not to be defeated by small things, at least until they had made every effort.

to succeed, so they went into the battle with united zeal, and each man seemed to try to do just a little more than any other one, and each mission seemed to be working for first place in the amount of money gathered. As a rule we gave a paper only to those who made a donation to the work, and we tried to get a Straits dollar or more for each paper. God has signally blessed, and we are now glad to say that the results have gone beyond our highest hopes. We have been treated with kindness by almost everybody, and but few, comparatively speaking, have refused to give, even though they had given so much to other enterprises. Many Chinese who could not speak a word of English have written their names in Chinese characters and given five dollars each. The results at the close of the year stand about as follows:

Singapore	\$600 gold
West Java	525
Federated Malay States.	453
East Java	360
Sumatra	70
B. N. Borneo	28
Total	\$2,036 gold

This makes an average of over \$1, gold, for each paper, and is more than one fiftieth of the aim for the whole denomination. We are glad indeed for this opportunity to work for the Master, and believe that there will be results in the donors reading the good papers they have received. Would it not be well for us to try to make a special effort in this good work throughout the Asiatic Division this year?

F. A. DETAMORE.

General Meeting in Japan

At Tokyo, Japan, a general meeting was held January 25 to February 3, 1917. About one hundred Sabbath-keepers were present, most of whom were Japanese. All the foreign laborers and their wives were present, with the exception of Sister Hoffman, who was not well enough to be present.

The work in Japan has been divided into districts, each of which is in charge of a foreign laborer. Brother P. A. Webber was the first to report and represented the Island of Kyushu, the most western part of Japan. There are fifty-three believers in this district, amid a population of 8,000,000 people. It was in this island where the first Protestant missions were started in 1855. Among the first converts was an official in high rank named Wasaka, who learned of Christianity in a strange way. He had been sent with a force of men to patrol the Nagasaki harbor after Perry's visit. One day he noticed a book floating on the water, and sent one of his men to get it. After much inquiry he learned that it was a Dutch Bible, and that a Chinese version was published in

Shanghai. Secretly he secured a copy, and after four years was one of the first four converts baptised. In 1911 Elder Kuniya reported a member from this same district as probably the oldest Christian in Japan, the daughter of the Count Wasaka who found the Bible floating in Nagasaki Harbor before the entrance of missionaries. This sister was in attendance at our general meeting.

Brother A. N. Anderson reported for another large district on the main island, called Hondo, also including the large island of Shikoku. Altogether there are about 8,000,000 inhabitants in this district also. Some believers have been won, others were interested, and the outlook was hopeful. A neat church building had been erected at Hiroshima, the headquarters of the missions. Notice of the dedication of this neat memorial has been given by Brother Anderson in his report.

Brother Hoffman gave an interesting report for his district, of which Kobe is the center and headquarters. This district takes in the great heart of Japan, and here is a population of 16,000,000. Progress had been made at several points.

Brother H. F. Benson spoke for the district of which Tokyo is the great center. Here also there had been advanced steps taken. In this part of the field the headquarters for all Japan have been established. Here our training school and publishing house are located.

Many are the calls for laborers in this great Island Empire. We trust that the young men and women in training under Brother Benson and his associate teachers may develop into strong laborers who will quickly bring the Message before the unwarned millions of this country.

J. E. FULTON.

Honan Sabbath-schools

DONATIONS for the last year more than doubled the amount of the preceeding year, so we are again able to report progress, although we did come short of our goal, or perhaps I had better say my goal. I had wanted \$500 for the year, but only \$440.23 was realized. Some are getting the spirit of devotion, and are giving of their best to the Master. And it is true that some still complain of the continuous calls for donations. It is this way in all lands, but we well know that such have not as yet grasped the full meaning of giving this gospel to the world in this generation; nor do they appreciate the blessings which are continually theirs as a result of having heard the gospel.

I wish I could report a similar advance in the tithes of the province, but it stands practically where it did a year ago—in the neighborhood of forty cents per member. I feel that we must make a special effort to give our people a proper understanding of the tithing system which the Lord Himself inaugurated for the

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benefit of His people through all the ages, and which when conformed to will be a means of life and blessing to His church.

For 1915 the donations were \$213.22; for 1916, \$140.23. I feel sure we would have reached the \$500 mark if other special donations had not been taken at the general meeting, which seemed to drain the pockets of our people. At the 1915 general meeting we received about fifty dollars the two Sabbaths. This time, instead of getting a hundred, we realized something less than twenty-five dollars. But our loss is another's gain. May the Lord continue to bless this important branch of His work is my prayer. O. J. GIBSON.

NOTES

BROTHER J. W. HALL is spending a few days in Shanghai, assisting Brother Wood in auditing the An-wei mission books.

WORD has been received of a good meeting held at Seoul, Korea. A Korean conference was organized, Pastor C. L. Butterfield, president.

A CABLE announces that Miss Bessie Dowell, of the Australasian Union Conference, joins the delegates who are coming from that field, to take up duties as a stenographer and typist in connection with the division office.

WE are pleased to have Brother Fulton with us for a short time. He returned February 17 from attending the general meeting in Japan, and will leave soon for Hankow to meet with the brethren in their meeting in that place.

WE expect to be favored with the presence at the conference of Brother and Sister R. H. Leach and Brother and Sister W. R. Nelson, all missionaries from India. Both these families are taking furlough and attending the conference en route.

A LETTER from Sister Porter, mailed February 5 at Singapore, says Brother Porter is doing heavy work every day, and standing the strain very well. They intend to be present at the Java meeting, and then come on direct to Shanghai, hoping to arrive about the middle of March.

WORK on the new dormitories of the training school is progressing nicely. It seems providential that the weather has not interfered with the work. It is being rushed so these buildings can be used to accommodate the delegates of the general meeting.

PASTOR S. A. WELLMAN, editor of the *Signs of the Times*, India, and also superintendent of the North Indian Mission, with his family are leaving India in March to take their furlough in the United States. Brother and Sister Wellman will arrive in Shanghai about the time of the conference and will remain for the meeting.

A LETTER has been received saying that the Australian delegates were to leave Sydney for Shanghai February 19. Australasia is sending three delegates, Pastor C. H. Watson, the president, Pastor J. M. Johanson, manager of the Australasian Missionary College, and Brother G. S. Fisher, manager of the Sydney Sanitarium and the Australasian health food work.

Translation of Postcard Addressed to Pastors A. G. Daniells and J. E. Fulton, Tokyo, Japan, by Nenokichi Inamura

A member living at Wakamatsu, in Northern Japan

Translation: January, 1917.

I am very sorry that I cannot attend the general meeting this time; but I am studying the Bible myself, and am trying to receive as much blessing as possible; and I am praying that you may have good meetings. I am sending Brother Mitake one yen to represent me at the meeting, and to pay some of the expense. [This money was earned by making straw ropes, and straw sacks to put rice in.]

I have determined to do the following things: I am going to study the Morning Watch every day; I am determined to study the Bible as much as possible when I find any little time.

I have been scorned by the people in my village, but I am determined to keep the Sabbath and God's holy law.

(Signed)

Nenokichi Inamura.

Important!

It will be necessary for all delegates and visitors attending the Asiatic Division Conference to be held at Shanghai April 5-26, 1917, to bring a good supply of bedding, including a cotton mattress, and bed linen, with them. It may be cold, and with so many people coming it will be impossible for the brethren who live here to supply these to the delegates. Should any neglect to follow these directions, both they and the committee on entertainment will be placed at great inconvenience. We would also request all who attend the meeting to bring knives, forks, spoons, serviettes, and towels, which should be well made in order that they may not be lost.

J. E. FULTON.