

# Asiatic Division Mission News

VOL. 6

SHANGHAI, CHINA, APRIL 1, 1917

No. 7

## Heaven

"What is heaven?" I asked a little child,  
"All joy," and in her innocence she smiled.  
I asked the aged, with her care oppressed,  
All suffering o'er, "O, heaven at last is rest,"  
I asked the artist who adored his art,—  
"Heaven is all beauty," spoke his raptured heart.  
I asked the poet with his soul of fire,  
"Tis glory," and he struck his lyre.  
I asked the Christian, waiting his release;  
A halo round him; low he answered, "Peace."  
So all may look with hopeful eyes above.  
'Tis beauty, glory, rest, peace, and love.  
—Selected.

## The General Meeting in India

THIS meeting was held in Calcutta. The writer, in company with Mrs. Porter, Pastors W. T. and Sister Knox, C. F. and Sister Griggs, and N. Z. Town, visited south, west, central, and north India prior to this meeting. This view of the field, although it was necessarily too hurried, was, however, of great value to the General Conference brethren and myself in preparation for the council during the meeting.

This meeting was in many respects an unusually profitable occasion. We may never again be favored with so many experienced counselors from the General Conference in attendance at our Asiatic Division meetings. All of the workers seemed to appreciate this, and earnestly sought God for divine guidance, that the meeting might result in the greatest good to the cause in India.

The following statement, taken from the *India Union Tidings*, is a brief but comprehensive review of the spirit and general tenor of the meeting:—

"Again we record the passing of another biennial conference session. Over one hundred fifty delegates and laborers have gathered, counseled, prayed, sung, and wept together, and once more separated to their homes, stronger in body, heart, and soul for two years more of toil. 'The best meeting I ever attended,' say the laborers who have been here the longest, and no one disputed it. The Spirit of the Lord was pres-

ent, not so much in outward expression as in inner movings. Many were the heart-searchings, and brother to brother wrongs and misunderstandings confessed and settled forever. The love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit set their seal on the resolutions passed, and if we may judge by appearances and sentiments expressed, the outlook was never brighter for unity and a great advance in every branch of labor.

"The large General Conference delegation, a well-ordered program, clean and commodious rooms, excellent food, and a pleasant meeting hall, all combined to make the ten days meeting a very enjoyable occasion. No grumblers were present. The devotional meetings, Bible studies, and sermons gave a firm spiritual tone to the whole. All who went to the meeting to obtain a blessing did not go away empty-handed. . . . How fitting it will be, if those who attended allow the Holy Spirit to write in their hearts and lives those principles of love and fellowship expressed, that to every company and church they may be living epistles, known and read by all their fellowmen.

"With hearts and hands united, again we face the spiritual darkness and problems of India. May that spirit of unity and love to God and to our brethren never leave us, but keep us hopeful, zealous, and patient to the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Pastor W. W. Fletcher was unanimously elected president, Dr. H. C. Menkel, vice-president, R. D. Brisbane, secretary, and A. H. Williams, treasurer and auditor. The local division superintendents remain unchanged, except that Brother M. M. Mattison was chosen to take the directorship of north and northwest India. Plans were laid looking to the more general development of vernacular literature and canvassing books, and a more general study of the vernacular by all local workers. These important moves will greatly facilitate the development of the work among the many millions of the native peoples of India.

We very much enjoyed our visit throughout India and Burma, and we especially appreciated the spirit of unity and harmony which prevailed in all our councils. We shall long remember our very pleasant

association with this loyal band of workers, and as the result of the plans that have been laid we shall expect a large increase of souls as the fruit of their future labors.

R. C. PORTER.

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### General Meetings

AFTER an absence from home of two months I reached Shanghai March 15. During this time it was my privilege to attend general meetings in Tokyo, Seoul, Mukden, Yencheng, and Hankow. At all these meetings our church membership was well represented, so I have enjoyed a real treat in being able to meet personally so many of our dear people in the northern and eastern parts of the Asiatic Division.

When I learned that the meeting in Korea was to be held in a tent, I had some misgivings as to how zero weather and a tent would harmonize, but four stoves served to keep the place very comfortable indeed, and we had a good meeting with between two and three hundred of our Korean believers. Many of them came long distances in order to meet with us. One old sister walked seven days to get to the meeting.

While our work in Manchuria is still in its infancy, between thirty and forty believers attended the meeting in Mukden. Thus far the work in the far northern part of our field is largely in the pioneer stage. The colporteurs have gone away north from Harbin, half way to the Siberian border. They have reached to the east from Harbin almost to Vladivostock, and have skirted the Yalu River, the great waterway that separates this field from Korea. About 3,000 copies of the Chinese *Signs of the Times* are going to regular subscribers throughout Manchuria. This large amount of seed sown regularly will doubtless bear fruit. Soon we must expect to receive calls from interested people in these distant villages where the colporteur has gone.

Previous to the meetings in Yencheng and Hankow, short institutes were held for our colporteurs in Honan and Hupeh. More than twenty are working with our literature in these two fields. I was glad to learn that it was through the efforts of one of our Honan colporteurs that the truth entered Gospel Village, Shensi Province. Four of the young men who accepted the truth in Shensi are attending our Yencheng school. These young men attended the institute, and they plan on going into the field during vacation to sell the literature that brought them the message in their distant province.

I have greatly enjoyed the privilege of being with Elder Daniells on this trip. His help and counsel have been a great strength to the fields visited.

C. E. WEAKS.

### En Route from Calcutta to Burma

(Concluded.)

FROM the Mandalay station we returned to Rangoon, and again we tried to get booking for Singapore. When all else failed the Lord opened a way where there seemed no way, and sent along a steamer, not a regular scheduled one, but one that had been chartered for the one trip. It was not a passenger vessel but a cargo vessel carrying twenty thousand bags of rice. Hearing that the Bandman Opera Company had applied for passage on this boat in order to meet their appointment at Singapore, we also made application that we might meet our appointment at Singapore, and to our delight there was just room enough for us and no more. We then went on and visited our third and last station in Burma, returning one day before the boat sailed, this day being spent in committee work after touring the field. Had we not been able to get this boat we could not have left Rangoon until about the middle of February. We are more and more thankful for a God that hears prayer and changes things in a night.

The Kamamaung Station is in charge of Brother and Sister Hamilton, Brother and Sister Hare, and Sister Mary Gibbs. They are out and away from all other stations, right in the midst of raw heathen, and while surrounded by wild animals of various kinds, their location on the Salween River is most beautiful. The mission house extends almost to the waters' edge, the front veranda overlooking the river, and for a background a lovely range of mountains. Brethren Hamilton and Hare met us with the mission motor launch on our arrival at Shwegon, but it was late in the day, and only a part of the party could be accommodated on the little launch. Pastor and Mrs. Knox, Professor and Mrs. Griggs, and Brother Lowry volunteered to remain until the launch could come for them the next morning. When a few miles of the eighteen to the mission site had been passed darkness set in, and it was so dark that our guide could not keep clear of the many sandbars, and consequently we were stranded too often to make headway in safety, so at eleven o'clock we anchored for the night. The quietness of the place induced sleep without the comfort of a bed. Early the next morning we started on our way, and long before noon we reached the mission, and Brother Hamilton returned for the remainder of the party, bringing them on at three in the afternoon. It being Friday, the time intervening before the Sabbath was spent in visiting the dispensary, Brother and Sister Hare's little leaf-covered dwelling, and learning about the needs of the mission. Sabbath evening Pastor Town spoke to us and a few Karens who came in, and on Sabbath morning Professor Griggs spoke, both these talks being translated into Karen by Sister Gibbs. Sister Gibbs

has the language so as to use it correctly and fluently, and by it she has won her way to the hearts of the Karen people. The last night of our stay there a large and beautiful tiger was killed just across the river, and the skin was brought early the next morning and presented to Sister Gibbs, in token of their love for her and what she has done for them.

Brother and Sister Hare are making a business of getting the language, and they are succeeding unusually well. Brother Hare passed his first year with a grade of 98% and Sister Hare of 92%. Inside of one year after landing in Burma Brother Hare preached his first sermon in the Karen language. Brother Hamilton has been burdened too heavily with the buildings, getting the launch made, and other matters pertaining to the starting of a new mission to get much time for language study, but he hopes to start in soon in real earnest, and with what he has already acquired, he will make rapid progress.

So closed our trip of forty-eight days in Burma and India. It was a strenuous trip because of the shortness of time we were obliged to give each station, but we were glad to see and learn as much as we did regarding the progress of our work in the India Union. Under the efficient superintendence of Pastor W. W. Fletcher, there is every evidence that greater results will be seen this coming year than have been since the death of their dear and lamented Pastor Salisbury.

R. C. AND MRS. PORTER.

### Honan Schools

THE first term of our school work ended a week ago last Friday, and we have been taking a few days vacation, the students especially enjoying the change from regular routine work. We feel grateful to the Lord that thus far the school year has passed with no unpleasant experiences to mar the work. A dozen of the students returned to their homes for a week, and those who remained have been enjoying themselves with games and entertainments. The girls and boys have taken alternate evenings for plays, and by day various sports have been the order.

New Year's Day was ideal, and we spread the school tables out of doors in the girl's compound, and all took dinner together. While there was nothing of an elaborate nature on the bill-of-fare, yet the dinner was a change which I am sure all enjoyed. I counted ninety-two at the tables. We have been short of funds here for so long that it is impossible to plan on anything extra ahead of time, or we might have had a larger variety.

In our school here at Loho we are doing seven years' work, although we advertise to carry but six. We are forced to take a number of advanced students here, who came from other missions, for at least one year, that we may become acquainted with them before we feel warranted in passing them on to the Shanghai school. We have enrolled for this term fifty-two boys and thirty-five girls. We have turned away a number who were very desirous of coming, else we would have

had a dozen more. It has also been necessary to send a few of the smallest boys home for various reasons, so that the attendance has held close to eighty-five for the term. The attendance at outstation schools is sixty-five.

O. J. GIBSON.

### Notes from West Java Mission

WE have just finished our ingathering work, and, with the blessing of God, collected \$560, gold, using five hundred papers. To God we give all the praise.

The papers reached us October 1, the time appointed when the work should be started, but since we were busy erecting a mission house and short on laborers, we did not begin our labors until about six weeks after this date. Generally speaking, the people have been glad to give us quite liberal donations. One of the large banks of Batavia has promised to give twenty-five guilders (ten dollars, gold.) every year.

While we have been greatly helped financially by means of the ingathering work, we also believe that this work has brought rich blessings to the homes of many people, the final, eternal result which we expect to see in the kingdom of God.

At this writing, February 8, we are about to move into the new mission house. The erection of this building has brought numerous and sometimes very trying experiences to us, nevertheless the God of Israel has always been with us, for which we greatly praise Him.

A few weeks ago we started our second house, which is to be ready by the first of April. This will take us out of rented quarters, which will not only be appreciated financially, but will bring great blessings on us healthwise. Furthermore I might say that we have had much work with the erection of these houses, because we buy our own material, and contract for the work only. We find that we can save considerable money by doing this.

While the duties are numerous and often perplexing, yet the Lord is with us, verifying His promises to us in giving us strength and wisdom sufficient for each day's duties.

I. C. SCHMIDT.

### Workers in China, Notice!

OWING to the change in the subscription price of the *Shi Giao Yueh Bao* a large number of subscription blanks have become out of date. To avoid the illegitimate use of any of these blanks we would request that any that still have them on hand destroy them. We do not desire to repeat our former experiences with bogus subscription takers.

H. M. BLUNDEN.

### NOTES

SISTER L. V. FINSTER is suffering from a sprained ankle.

BROTHER FREDERICK LEE is a student at the Washington Missionary College.

A LITTLE daughter took up her residence with W. P. and Mrs. Barto, of Medan, Sumatra, the middle of February.

# ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY  
THE ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION  
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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SISTER C. N. WOODWARD reports a stirring Sabbath-school convention at the new church recently dedicated at Pablo, P. I.

As we go to press the East China general meeting is in session at Nanking. A number from Shanghai are in attendance.

On November 8, 1916, a little blue-eyed girl, Evelyn Willa, arrived at the home of Brother and Sister Robert E. Stewart, of Cubu, P. I.

THE April 15 issue of the NEWS will be omitted on account of the general meeting. The issue bearing the date of May 1 will contain a report of the meetings.

THE first delegates to arrive for the general meeting were Brother P. V. and Sister Thomas, of South China; the second couple were Brother J. G. and Sister Gjording, of Mukden, Manchuria. The Australian delegation arrived the twenty-second.

WORD from Sister Ginther, our able assistant Sabbath-school secretary, reports Sister Plummer as so nearly recovered from her illness as to be able to spend a part of each day in her office. Sister Plummer has been confined to her bed for over two months.

WORD from Dr. C. C. Landis reports their sailing on the steamship "China" from San Francisco, March 6, for Shanghai. Both Doctor and Sister Landis have been taking post graduate work in New York City for two months prior to sailing. They will arrive here in time for the general meeting, April 5-26.

BROTHER ROY E. HAY, of Vigan, Philippine Islands, suffered a severe accident with his motor-cycle which may result in the loss of his foot. A wire stated that an operation might save it partly. Our readers will extend sincere sympathy to Brother Hay, and trust it may not be so bad as at first thought.

DR. W. C. DUNSCOMBE, M. D., has been called from South Africa to act as medical superintendent of the Wabash Valley Sanitarium. Dr. A. G. Larsen will assist Dr. Dunscombe in his work in this institution. It will be remembered that both of these physicians have been connected with our work here. Doctor Dunscombe in Japan, and Doctor Larsen as treasurer of the Hupeh Province, Central China.

H. B. AND MRS. PARKER, of Wuchow, are entertaining a little daughter at their home since the first of February. While they were in Hongkong for this occasion their house was broken into by thieves and about five hundred dollars' worth of household effects were taken. To date none of the property has been recovered. We extend sympathy, but it will require more than sympathy to reimburse their loss.

A LETTER from Pastor B. L. Anderson says: "Pastor N. Z. Town, who went to Wuchow with Doctor

Law Keem, fell among pirates on the way, who robbed the ship and all the passengers, excepting Brother Town and Doctor Law Keem. The captain was shot. It is expected he will recover, though he may lose one eye entirely." Pastor Town is getting a little taste of the experiences of our missionaries in South China.

SISTER PETRA TUNHEIM, traveling with our party from Batavia to the Java general meeting, about eighteen hours by train, sold books, tracts, and papers, and took subscriptions for their Malay paper on the train, amounting in all to \$16.78, gold. The return journey was equally as remunerative. Sister Tunheim never starts on a journey but that she carries with her a well-filled satchel of our truth-filled literature, for which she finds a ready sale. Would that others might do the same.

PASTOR R. C. AND MRS. PORTER arrived in Shanghai Feb. 13, after four and one-half months' tour of the Philippines, India, Burma, and Malaysia. They were slightly reduced in flesh by the strenuous trip, but otherwise in their usual health. The other members of the party, Pastor W. T. and Sister Knox, Prof. F. and Sister Griggs, and Pastor N. Z. Town, will tour South China in company with Pastor B. L. Anderson, superintendent of the South China field.

ONE million, seventy-seven thousand, four hundred seventy Harvest Ingathering *Signs* represents the orders for 1916. The Malaysian field, with a membership of three hundred fourteen, used 1,950 papers, and received over two thousand dollars, gold, or an average of over one dollar, gold, for each paper. If the entire Asiatic Division had done as well comparatively how much more extensively the light of truth might have gone, and how much more money might have been gathered in for the finishing of our work! Shall we not begin now for such a campaign next year?

SISTER B. MILLER, writing under date of February 12, says: "It is three months since I left China. It seems much longer to me. The first month I spent at Mountain View, and this month at the Pacific Union College. The twenty-first of this month I start for home. We shall stop ten days in Washington. I hope and pray that conditions between Germany and the United States may soon be settled so that it may be safe for a few more missionaries to get into the heathen fields before the work shall close. I cannot tell you the feeling that went through me when first I heard that possibly there might be war, and I separated from the field where my heart continually goes out, and no way of getting back. However, I have faith that I shall be permitted to be there when the Master shall come, and hope to have a few more precious souls who shall be ready to exclaim, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.' I know you would like to read some of the letters the Chinese write me. One said, 'Come back quickly to our country and help us. Our people don't know of Jesus' coming quickly.' Four times the words, 'Come back' were repeated. How much I want to be with them. I am getting stronger all the time. . . . Please don't stop my paper, as I just devour everything in it. May God bless and direct in every plan laid to advance His work in the coming general meeting. I remember the first general meeting held there. We thought the attendance wonderful, and there were between thirty and forty present."