

Fiftieth Anniversary Number

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*Abram La Rue, first Seventh-day Adventist
missionary to China*

The Forerunner of a Great Movement

BY JOHN OSS

ON the third day of May fifty years ago a small sailing bark dropped anchor in the Hongkong harbor. The "Velocity," for this was the name of the small vessel, had arrived from Honolulu, having spent more than forty days en route. To most people it was just the arrival of another boat, but to Seventh-day Adventists it is another story. The frail gray-haired old man that disembarked was none other than Abram La Rue, who had arrived in the British Colony to pioneer the work of our church in the Orient.

The brief record of the departure of the vessel from Honolulu on March 21, 1888, reads: "The bark Velocity, Captain R. Martin, sailed Wednesday for Hongkong with thirty-nine Chinese passengers. Mr. A. La Rue was a cabin passenger." The unique cargo on board is listed as follows: "The shipments were: Personal effects, value \$175; 6,200 lbs. tallow, value \$300; 52 bags bones and 35 bags horns, value \$150; 14,000 empty bottles, value \$140. Total \$765."

This old gentleman who arrived on the "Velocity" had lived a most interesting and adventurous life, but now he was entering upon a new experience. His past may be briefly summed up as follows: Retiring from a long life at sea, he had settled in San Francisco, where he had carefully invested his savings of many years. By a strange stroke of fortune, however, a huge fire devastated his property, and charred ruins pointed out to Abram La Rue that he must start over again. Tired of the city, he moved into the country, where he took up a claim and hired himself out as a sheep-herder to one of his neighbors. Space forbids telling of the unique way in which he accepted the advent faith through some literature, and how as an old man he entered Healdsburg College as a student to prepare for the service of the Lord.

Abram La Rue took up the task of distributing literature, and in the year 1885 pioneered the work of the advent movement in the Hawaiian Islands. Elder S. N. Haskell, who visited Honolulu on his way to Australia in 1885, reported that thirteen had already accepted the truth for this time as the result of his labors and those of his co-worker, Brother Scott. Working in connection with Elder and Mrs. Healey, he assisted in raising up our first

church in the paradise of the Pacific.

Brother La Rue returned to California, where he remained for a time, but late in 1887 he was in the Hawaiian Islands again, where he labored till his ever-enlarging vision beckoned him to the Orient. For sometime he had urged the Mission Board to send him to China, but it was felt that because of his advanced age and failing health it would be difficult for him to acquire the language and meet the peculiar problems in a mission land, so they discouraged him in his undertaking. Frequent entreaties, however, led them to

Shortly after his arrival in Hongkong, our pioneer worker in the Orient visited points along the China coast, selling literature and doing missionary work. There are records of such visits to Canton and Shanghai. During a visit to the last-named place, he urged earnestly that workers be sent at once to this port.

A voyage to Palestine gave him an excellent opportunity to distribute literature and do missionary work. Abram La Rue was much interested in the Holy Land, and never tired of telling of his visit to that country. It was in Hongkong, however, that he did his greatest work, and his memory will ever be closely associated with



First church in Hongkong

consent to his going as a missionary, with the understanding that he would locate on "one of the islands in the Pacific." Those who knew Abram La Rue best, say that one of his favorite expressions while telling of his experiences with the Mission Board and his final location in Hongkong was, "I have just kept within the borders of my commission"; and so indeed it was, for as he worked on this island in the Pacific the hills of the mainland of the Middle Kingdom ever beckoned him as he looked across the ship-dotted bay.

The story of the life and work of Abram La Rue is a most interesting one. It is most fascinating to read the many reports and letters that he sent to the Mission Board and to his friends. They tell the story of a man with an indomitable will and a vision that ever burned brightly.

the development of the work at that place.

In a letter written when war was raging in China, he mentioned the struggle, but concluded with the statement that it should not unduly hinder his work. "The missionary war must go right along, war or no war," he said. "There is a great work to be done in Hongkong. There are about 300,000 Chinese, besides an army of soldiers and sailors. This work requires haste."

As Brother La Rue was carrying on his work and praying most earnestly for a harvest of souls, seed was being sown in another land that was to bear a harvest in Hongkong. William J. Young, a young man in England, had accepted the truth through the efforts of a colporteur, and as he went to sea with the British Navy

he labored most earnestly for his comrades on board the H. M. S. "Terrible" as they sailed toward the Orient. Writing of his experience on board this vessel, Brother Young, who is now one of our ordained ministers in England, says: "I had a Bible class in a very short time, which met regularly, and rejoiced in the glorious truth of Jesus. Our meeting place was at the electric switchboard, right over the boilers. It was very hot, yet those men stopped in this place to listen to the Bible; and from among them God has raised up some wonderful witnesses. I was able to study with them for some time nearly every night, and the Lord saved us from being molested in any way. Arriving at Hongkong, I looked up Brother La Rue, and when I found him, I turned over to him the church the Lord had used me to form on the big ship, as I was leaving for a smaller boat."

The work of this God-fearing pioneer was bearing fruit. Already the Mission Board, in response to his urgent requests, had sent our first workers to Japan. On Palau Island, in mid-Pacific, was a man who had accepted the advent faith through literature sent and missionary correspondence carried on. Brother La Rue continued, however, to urge most earnestly that some one be sent to Hongkong to carry on the work which he realized he must soon lay down on account of his age and failing health. In 1901 he wrote, "I am very sorry that I have to give up the ship work, but I am so nearly worn out that I am obliged to do it."

Following the great missionary General Conference of 1901, Elder and Mrs. J. N. Anderson and Miss Ida Thompson were placed under appointment to China. What rejoicing this good news brought to old Brother La Rue! Early in the year 1902 these missionaries set sail for China, arriving in Hongkong on February 2, 1902. This day was a high day in the experience of this old pioneer, for he had been laboring alone since 1888. He extended to the new missionaries a most hearty welcome. Elder Anderson thus expresses it, "Brother La Rue gave us a royal reception."

When Elder Anderson arrived in Hongkong he found a number awaiting baptism, the majority being sailors from the H. M. S. "Terrible." He wrote as follows regarding those with whom Brother La Rue had so earnestly studied: "For several months

they have been anxiously and patiently waiting for baptism, which was administered Sabbath, March 1 (1902). It was an ideal day, bright and warm. The place selected was a beautiful spot about two miles east of Arsenal Street, on the beach of Hongkong harbor, which is a part of the great Pacific Ocean. Here, about three o'clock in the afternoon, after a short song and prayer service, witnessed by several onlookers from the shore, the six sailor boys, and one elderly man who had lived in Hongkong for several years, were buried with their Lord in baptism. Although Europeans, they seemed to be the first fruits of the great spiritual harvest to be gathered from the great Empire of China. It was a good day for us all, one long to be remembered."

Elder Anderson's prophetic words have met fulfilment through the years, and today there are over seventeen thousand believers rejoicing in the blessed hope in China. There has indeed been a great spiritual harvest, and greater fruitage is to be garnered in as the closing message swells into the loud cry.

The life and work of Abram La Rue will ever be an inspiration and a precious legacy to all who follow him in labor. He was a living example of all that he believed and taught. Elder E. W. Farnsworth, while laboring in England, mentioned meeting a sailor who said he used to climb the stairs to Brother La Rue's lodging in Hongkong, "to see the best man on earth." Some of the old seamen in China waters still speak of the courteous old gentleman who used to visit them while in the Hongkong port, and sell and give them literature and study the word of God with them. One old captain said recently, "that old man, Abram La Rue, was the incarnation of politeness."

This pioneer of our work in China and the Orient had many qualifications that his followers could well emulate. He was a staunch Christian, a keen Bible student, a man of prayer and devotion. His regular reports and offerings and cheering letters to the General Conference Sabbath School Department were always appreciated. He was patient, sympathetic, and constant. Standing alone in a distant land, carrying on a self-supporting work for fourteen years, shows that he had the stamina that is so much needed in the time in which we are living. The motive power that urged him ever onward was his firm belief in the soon-coming of Jesus. A few days before his

death, which came on April 26, 1903, he willed the greater part of the little money that he had to the mission in China.

At the recent China Division Spring Council it was voted that we commemorate in a suitable way the arrival of Abram La Rue in Hongkong, and that encouragement be given to the South China Union and the Cantonese Mission to endeavor to lay the corner stone of the Pioneer Memorial Church on May 3, which day marks the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of our work in the Orient.

As we commemorate the memory of him who laid the foundation of our work in China, we would do more than lay the corner stone of a place of worship; we would rededicate our lives to the unfinished task. Our sincerest hope and prayer is that the spirit of God will fill our soul temples and that the Master will give us renewed power to finish the work he has given us to do.

Personal Testimony

BY A. C. TIDBURY*

ONE evening shortly after my arrival in Hongkong in 1901, a fellow-engineer asked me to go ashore with him to visit an old gentleman that he knew. I followed my friend to Arsenal Street, and had the privilege of meeting Brother La Rue, who afterward had such a great influence on my life and plans.

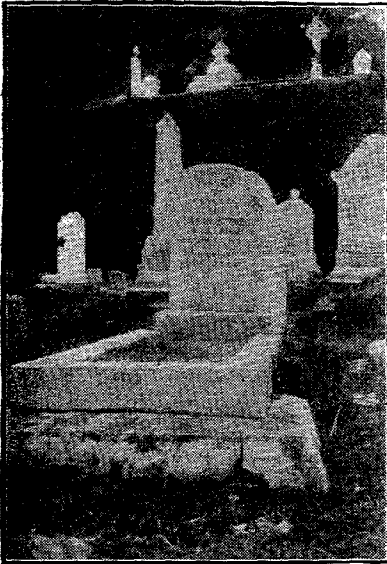
We had an interesting visit for an hour or so, and as we were preparing to leave, Brother La Rue gave me a tract entitled "Immortality of the Soul." As I first read this leaflet I thought, "This is some new-fangled American idea," but as I read it again I said to myself, "This seems to be sound and sensible."

As I studied this tract further I came to the conclusion that since the Seventh-day Adventists seemed to be right on the question of the nature of man, they were perhaps right on other points of doctrine also. However, I did not want to become an Adventist, as it would be inconvenient and would interfere with my work. But through Bible readings given me by Brother La Rue, and through reading the literature which he gave me from time to time, I was later forced to lay aside my preconceived ideas and accept the truth for this time.

* Brother Tidbury is a member of our church in Singapore, and is at present living at Sandakan, British North Borneo.

Brother La Rue was a man of short stature, white-haired, and rather frail-looking. He lived frugally, and his heart and soul were in this work. He talked to every one he met about the truth for this time. He was much concerned about my being in the navy. He would often say, "The Lord is coming very soon. Suppose He should come tonight. Are you prepared?" Brother La Rue was much burdened about my salvation. It could truly be said of him that he lived in daily anticipation of the coming of the Saviour and the establishment of the everlasting kingdom.

Some of the sailors who visited Brother La Rue's little mission were very careless, but he spoke to them about the truth and urged them to live clean moral lives, and I am sure that his words of counsel did much to help them. I remember one young man for whom Brother La Rue worked, who returned to England with the intention of going to school, planning later to enter the work.



Grave of Abram La Rue

When Elder J. N. Anderson and wife arrived at Hongkong from the States, they had a flat in a Chinese house on Wanchai Road, later moving to a house near Wood Street. Brother La Rue said to them, "Now that you are here, you must start work." Brother Anderson replied, "We do not know the language and cannot talk to the people; how can we carry on work?" I recall Brother La Rue's replying, "You must get something started at once." There was a young man who spoke Cantonese who had become interested in the truth, and so

Brother La Rue and Elder Anderson held some meetings in the evenings, and this young man translated for them. In addition to these Chinese meetings, they also had services for the American sailors who were in port.

I was baptized in Canton at the same time that Brother N. P. Keh, our pioneer worker in China, received the sacred rite. For a time I was connected with our educational work, laboring in our boys' school conducted at Canton. It is my opinion that it does not matter how small the effort is that is put forth in the name of the Lord, it is like seed that is cast into the ground and will eventually bear fruit. It may be that the man to whom you speak

will go on in his sins and himself neglect the way of salvation, but he may pass the word of truth on to some other person who will accept it and be saved. I know of such instances. It is my belief that seed that is sown in giving the gospel will eventually bear an abundant harvest.

It is a pleasure for me to report that the work done by Brother La Rue has borne fruit for the Kingdom of God both in my life and in the lives of many others. Our boat was in port in Hongkong on the night that Brother La Rue died. He passed away peacefully at a ripe old age. I am sure that all who serve the Lord faithfully will have the privilege of meeting him in the earth made new.

From a Small Beginning to a Large Work

BY O. A. HALL

THE development of our missionary work in the China Division is well illustrated by the parable of the mustard seed as given by Jesus. He said, "Wherunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth. But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches." Mark 4:30-32.

From the beginning of our work, the proclamation of the third angel's message in every land has always started small, but under God's blessing and guidance it has grown to larger and larger proportions until the truth for these last days is now being preached in 378 countries and islands, and in 649 different languages. It has truly gone to all parts of the world, and to nearly all people.

Fifty years ago a little seed of truth was planted by Brother Abram La Rue in the city of Hongkong. This was the beginning of our work in the Orient. This pioneer was not a minister, nor was he one occupying official position in our work, but he was a child of God, filled with zeal for this message and fully consecrated to God and His service. He had a burden to plant the seed of truth in a distant land, so he crossed the broad ocean and carried on a self-supporting work, providing for his physical needs through profits received from the sale of literature, fruits, and health foods. His principal methods of

seed sowing were through the distribution of literature and the giving of Bible readings.

The small seed planted so many years ago began its growth, but it could not be confined to one place, and its branches soon covered many sections of south China and began to reach out into other sections of the Middle Kingdom. Soon the General Conference began to give consideration to opportunities for preaching the gospel in different parts of China. Brother La Rue's reports sent back to the Mission Board aroused the interest of workers to come and enter these areas. It was not long until central China was entered with this message, and doctors, nurses, evangelists, and teachers came to open the various lines of work there. The province of Honan was first entered, and later workers were sent to the provinces of Hunan and Hupeh. Workers were soon stationed at the important port city of Shanghai, which was destined to become a center for our work in this land. At this place and other places in east China believers were raised up and were trained for service. New provincial missions were organized. The "branches" also grew toward the west and soon that great section was included in the vineyard of seed sowing. Other branches extended toward the north, the northeast and the northwest. From province to province the work spread, until today all except one have been entered and each has one or more organized missions, there now being a total of thirty-seven missions. These local missions are joined into seven union missions,

which together constitute the China Division.

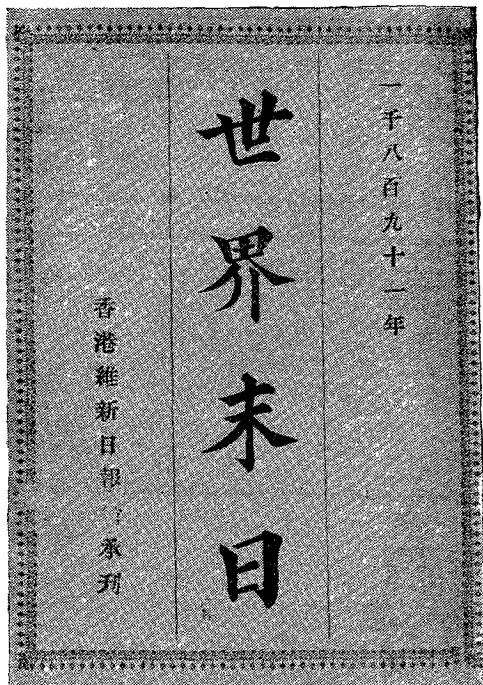
That tiny seed, sown by one lone man, brought a number into the truth, and thus the membership grew. In all parts of China fruitage from the preaching of the gospel soon began to appear. Today it has multiplied to more than 17,000 believers. Instead of one worker there are now nearly 1,000 engaged in our various

small tracts in the Chinese language, which were printed in Hongkong. Some of this literature was placed on boats and was carried to many parts of the world. The results of these endeavors will never be fully known in this life, but in the new earth there will no doubt be many found who are saved because of reading this literature. In our division the literature work has grown and branched out year by year.

During the early days of our work a little printing plant was established in Honan and a small magazine and a few tracts were published. Later this plant was moved to Shanghai, and our printing work was carried on in rented quarters until we moved to the mission-owned buildings at Ningkuo Road. Additions have been made to the printing plant from time to time, and more and better equipment has been secured, until we now have facilities to furnish the Chinese people, not only in China but in all lands, with attractive truth-filled magazines, books of various kinds, and a large number of tracts and pamphlets. Today 175 different items are listed in our catalogue of publications. Nearly two hundred colporteurs have been

going from place to place during recent years distributing this message-filled literature. These God-fearing colporteurs have as their objective to enter every village with the printed page. Through this department of our work the branches have grown until they truly cover almost every part of the land.

Perhaps Brother La Rue never thought that the sale of a few imported health foods, and the efforts put forth in visiting and praying for the sick would develop into the large medical work we have today, but God has richly blessed that small beginning made in medical missionary endeavor. There has indeed been a phenomenal growth, and today splendid medical institutions stand as witnesses in every union mission to promulgate our health principles, and to bring healing to the sick and suffering and to train young people as qualified nurses to minister to those in need. Twelve such institutions besides a number of smaller dispensaries are now operating in the various parts of this division, some on the extreme borders of our territory. These medical units occupy an important position as the right arm of the message, opening doors of opportunity for the proclamation of the saving gospel of Christ. Nearly one hundred thousand patients were treated in these institutions last year. There are twenty-one physicians, eighty-six graduate nurses, two hundred nurses in training, and more than two hundred other workers, a total of five hundred and twenty-



First tract printed in Chinese

missionary activities. Instead of the little group attending Brother La Rue's meetings held in his own living room, there are now thousands listening to the preaching of the message in the hundreds of evangelistic meetings, conducted in cities, towns, and villages in twenty-four languages and dialects. Instead of the little group gathered about his table to study the Scriptures, there are now seven hundred and seventy-five groups of believers meeting each week in the Sabbath schools to study the word of God. There are one hundred and ninety schools, where seven thousand children and youth are receiving a Christian education and preparing for the service of uplifting their fellow-men.

That little literature-ministry seed planted in those early days of our work has made a wonderful growth. Then the English publications used came from abroad, and there were only a few



First Chapel at Canton

six persons, engaged in our medical missionary work.

Truly God has wrought wonderfully in the development of His work in this great section of His vineyard. He has taken a divine interest in the millions in need of the spiritual bread of life. He has placed the seal of His approval upon the small beginning made fifty years ago, by multiplying the workers a thousand-fold and sending them forth into every part of this land to seek and save the lost. Through His continued blessing we may confidently expect that this work will go on from strength to strength and that He will "finish His work and cut it short in righteousness."

May God help us all to be as faithful, as earnest, and as consecrated in the finishing of the work as was our dear Brother La Rue in its beginning, and may we, together with him, have a part in the blessed reward in the kingdom of heaven.

The Spirit of the Pioneers

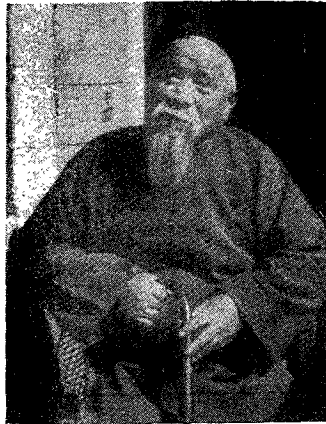
BY K. T. KHNG

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of Abram La Rue, it is well for us to mediate on the spirit and earnestness of those who pioneered our work in China. In this article I shall briefly relate something of the consecrated efforts put forth by some of those who continued the work begun in 1888 and built the foundations of the ever-growing work that we see today.

When pastor J. N. Anderson and family and Miss Ida Thompson arrived in 1902, they located at Canton to pioneer our work in China proper. Brother Anderson was a successful evangelist, and soon nine people were baptized as the first fruits of his labors. Several of these are now ministers of the gospel. Miss Ida Thompson started the Bethel Girls' School in Canton, and her labor of love was rewarded by her seeing three sisters of the Liao family converted from paganism to Christ. The mother later also accepted the truth for this time.

A man who was won to the truth by Brother and Sister E. H. Wilbur tells us that Brother and Sister Wilbur were earnest, prayerful people. They were long-suffering and patient as they carried on this work, and had a great spirit of sacrifice. They made their own purchases, took deck passage on boats, and were ever active in visiting in the homes of the people. The man mentioned

above relates how as a young man he smoked cigarettes and had little interest in religious things. Brother Wilbur, however, called on him often and prayed with him until he yielded his heart to Christ. As he found this man smoking cigarettes, Brother Wilbur would take him by the hand and lead him to a quiet place and kneel with him in prayer, praying God to forgive his sins and give him strength to overcome his evil habits. Brother and Sister Wilbur had this man's eternal welfare at heart to such an extent that it made a lasting impression on his life and has helped to hold him firm to the principles of the third angel's message. Brother Wilbur was laid to rest at Pakhoi, in Kwangtung Province, where he pioneered the work.



Last picture taken of T. K. Ang before his death

The Hakka Mission was opened in 1909 by Pastor J. P. Anderson. Several years ago I had the pleasure of visiting the place where he started our work in the city of Waichow. It was a very small one-storied Chinese house, located by the side of the river, against the city wall. The ceiling was so low that it could be reached by the outstretched arm, and its only ventilation was from the door. He was living alone in the midst of strangers, but he was not daunted by the difficulties that confronted him. It was this pioneer spirit that opened our work in the Hakka Mission.

Pastor and Mrs. B. L. Anderson are other staunch pioneers who were instrumental in opening our work in a number of places in South China. Though they have been in China more than thirty years the pioneer spirit is still burning brightly in their hearts. Last year I had the privilege of itinerating with Brother Anderson

for the first time. As we were changing from a bus to a launch at a station, I was delayed by a heavy downpour of rain. When I entered the waiting shed I could hardly believe my eyes, as I saw this old pioneer sitting on a stool before a Chinese food stall with chopsticks in one hand and a big bowl in the other. He was eating the hot sweet potato rice gruel and peanuts like a real Chinese. God has blessed His servant and kept him in health and strength. The pioneer spirit is still strong in the bosom of this tried worker.

Our Chinese brethren were also active in pioneering the work. Once as Brother N. P. Keh was going as a delegate from the South Fukien Mission to a meeting at Canton, he stopped at Swatow en route to investigate the possibilities of opening work at that place. He visited a school, and tactfully introduced himself as a Bible teacher, stating that he would teach without cost. Those in charge felt impressed with his earnestness, and made arrangements to employ him, as they needed a Bible teacher badly. He accepted the invitation, and taught the advent truths to the students, and preached as he had opportunity. Every Sunday he would visit Chaochoufu, some forty miles away by rail, and preach to a group of interested people there. As a result of these efforts, T. K. Ang and a number of others accepted the advent faith and became our first believers in what is now known as the Swatow Mission.

As soon as T. K. Ang embraced the third angel's message he became an ardent worker and a pioneer in extending the work. He and Pastor N. P. Keh later opened a station at Kityang. For several years these brethren employed workers at their own expense to preach the gospel and distribute literature.

As we recall the spirit that actuated the pioneers of our work in China, we are inspired to be more earnest and active in our service for the Master. May the spirit of the living God and the example of these loyal soldiers of the cross who have gone before, urge us on to do greater things in the closing work.

"As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings."

Hongkong Pioneer Memorial Church

BY A. L. HAM

THIS year marks a half century of adventure and advancement in our work in China. It is fitting that this fiftieth anniversary of the arrival in Hongkong of our pioneer worker, Brother Abram La Rue, should be marked by the erection of a Memorial Church building. The building site which has been secured from the Government land office, overlooks the beautiful "Happy Valley" district and beyond to the Protestant cemetery where rests our pioneer brother. It is hoped that it will be possible to lay the cornerstone this Memorial Church on May 3, the fiftieth anniversary of the date on which Brother La Rue arrived in Hongkong.

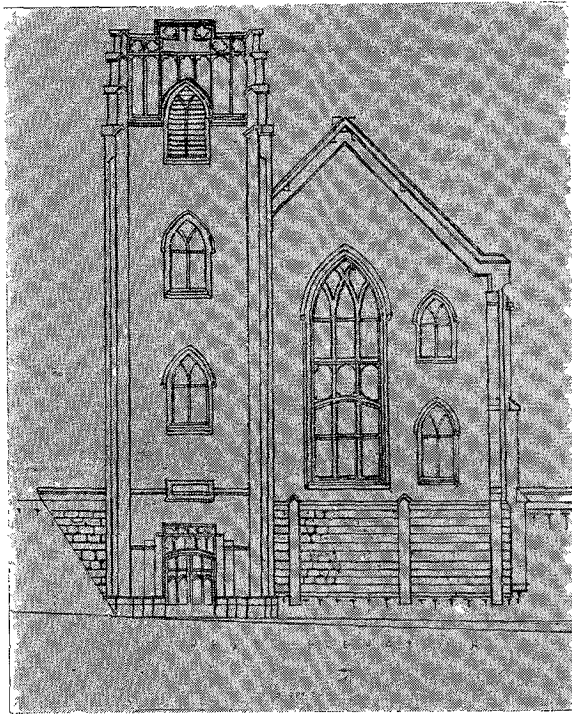
As the message has spread throughout China since those early beginnings fifty years ago, many schools, hospitals, and churches have been erected, but Hongkong has waited. There has constantly been a great need for a church here, but the difficulty in securing a suitable site and sufficient means to provide such a church building as would be necessary in a city like Hongkong has thwarted all efforts until within the past few months. When plans for such a church were revived during depression times and when budgets were depleted, the outlook was discouraging, and some felt we would not be successful. However, our South China Union Committee together with workers and believers in all the seven missions, entered heartily into the program, raising approximately \$12,000, national currency. The China Division Committee gave every encouragement, as did also the General Conference representatives who visited the field and saw the needs.

The day set for the program and offering in all other unions of the division resulted in liberal assistance which was, we believe, pleasing to God, and gratifying to those who were promoting the project. We have been told of a Tibetan brother who give liberally

to this fund. Also, how a poor tribesman on the Island of Hainan urged that he be allowed to contribute to this fund.

The General Conference Committee has responded liberally to our requests for assistance. We cannot adequately express our deep appreciation for this interest and help.

We believe we now have sufficient funds to complete the church building and are confident that others of our members will be pleased to contribute for the furnishings. God has certainly blessed and given His people liberal hearts. We join in thanking



Proposed Pioneer Memorial Church

Him for these blessings. We want to thank our brethren in America for their liberal assistance, the China Division and the brethren in the unions of China for their contributions, and our brethren of the South China Union for their loyal support of this project.

We believe this church will truly meet a great need in South China, and that it will be a fitting memorial to the lives and sacrifices of Brother La Rue and others who pioneered in establishing the interests of God's work in China; also that it may be a "lighthouse of truth" to show the way to life and service in this part of a needy world.

Our Church in Hongkong

BY C. F. LARSEN

THE members of the Hongkong church are rejoicing over the good news that our first permanent place of worship in the Colony is soon to be erected. The property secured for the new church site is situated directly opposite "Happy Valley" cemetery where our pioneer worker, Abram La Rue, awaits the call of the Life-giver. Our church building which will be located in this picturesque place in the Colony, will be visible to a large section of the city as well as being easily accessible by automobile, tramcar, and bus.

The membership of the Hongkong church is gradually increasing. Recently a large number have been added by letter due to the abnormal conditions in China which have necessitated evacuation from the war zones. We welcome these additional members. Our church services are now being conducted in three languages; namely, English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

Our church distributes regularly over two hundred copies of the English *Signs of the Times* magazine each week, and replies from these readers indicate that a goodly number appreciate this literature. Over 23,000 copies of the booklet "Tuberculosis—The Hidden Enemy" have been placed in the homes of the people.

The Missionary Volunteer Society recently distributed 30,000 Chinese tracts in the locality where the new church is to be built. Some excellent contacts were made with the people in that area through this means.

Since the outbreak of hostilities in China our church has been working in conjunction with the Chinese Women's Relief Association in the preparation of medical supplies for the unfortunate war victims. One evening each week is devoted to this work. Our assistance has been greatly appreciated by the above-mentioned association. Some work has been done in giving simple treatments to the sick. More should be done along this line, for this type of

work is verily the right arm of the message.

There is every indication that our work in Hongkong will continue to grow, and it is our hope and prayer that the Lord's richest blessing will rest upon His church at this place and throughout the whole world.

Perpetuating the Spirit of Our Pioneer Worker

BY GOH CHAO O

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of our pioneer worker in the Orient, it is well for us to recall the spirit that actuated this earnest soul-winner in all his labor.

The spirit of full consecration in the life of Abram La Rue is shown by the fact that he was willing, though advanced in years, to come alone to a foreign country to give the last-day message to those in need. On May 7, as we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival in Hongkong, we should all renew our consecration and pledge ourselves to greater earnestness in finishing the work entrusted to our charge.

We should have more of the courage of this pioneer worker brought into our work. In all of our endeavors for the Master we should ever have the courage to push the work into new fields, and to embrace every opportunity as God points the way. This spirit of consecrated courage is much needed today.

Lastly, we need the patience which Abram La Rue manifested in his work. This enduring patience is shown by the fact that he labored alone for fourteen years in a distant land, carrying on a self-supporting work. How much we need this patience as we endeavor to give this truth during these testing times!

Let us all pledge ourselves to perpetuate the spirit of our pioneer, and let us be more zealous in finishing the great work that has been committed to our care in China.

“To everyone who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measureless results.”

N. P. Keh

N. P. KEH was born at Chiu-po, Fukien Province, China, September 28, 1865; and died at Amoy, China, August 14, 1937.

In 1903 Elder R. W. Munson, in the East Indies, sent Timothy Tay to Amoy, China, to learn the Fukien language, and through him Pastor Keh embraced the message, and was baptized in Canton by Elder J. N. Anderson. He at once began the study of the Cantonese language, and soon put his newly found faith into writing in the form of tracts on the Sabbath, which have been the means of bringing many souls into the truth. Though meeting with persecution, within his own family and from without, he was steadfast, and began to preach the message at Amoy. He opened mission stations in the interior towns and villages, and later pushed on into the Swatow district, where through his preaching and by his tracts many companies began the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. He was a man of prayer. When there was no one to worship with him on the Sabbath, he went into the mountains to pray and read the word of God.



N. P. Keh

After seven years of faithful and efficient evangelistic service in southern Fukien and Kwangtung provinces, Pastor Keh was called by the brethren to move to Shanghai and connect with the Signs Publishing House as Chinese editor of the *Signs of the Times Monthly*. Here he labored faithfully in building up the publishing work, while at the same time he improved every opportunity to preach the word.

In the early part of 1912 Pastor Keh returned to Amoy to take up evangelistic work. He at once

began the study of Foochowese, and after a few months he moved to Foochow to pioneer the work in that field.

In 1920 Pastor Keh was relieved of the work in the Foochow field, and he again returned to the South Fukien Mission, where, with the exception of a brief vacation to Singapore and the East Indies, he has devoted his declining years to evangelism until failing health stopped his public ministry. But he said, “I can still pray for the work, though I cannot preach.” After an illness lasting two years, he passed to his rest in the blessed hope of having a part in the first resurrection.

Pastor Keh leaves to mourn, his wife, his oldest son, Joseph Keh, in San Francisco; two sons living in Singapore; and one daughter, wife of the secretary of the South Fukien Mission; a widowed daughter-in-law, and many grandchildren.

B. L. ANDERSON

South China Ministerial Institute

BY O. A. HALL

AFTER a very successful and profitable biennial meeting held by the South China Union Mission in Hongkong, January 21 to 28, a group of seventy evangelists and departmental workers remained for a three weeks' workers' institute. This ministerial institute was conducted on a well-rounded-out program with a view to bringing help to all present on various important lines of mission and church activities.

Devotional meetings for Bible study, prayer, and testimony were conducted each morning from 8:30 to 9:30. Professor Griggs gave some excellent studies on the love of God and the work of His Spirit. Professor D. E. Rebok presented to the workers the need of strong enduring faith in God and in His word. Pastor L. C. Wilcox gave some valuable instruction on the subject of “Obedience.” Pastor C. F. Larsen mentioned in his studies the great importance of personal devotion, and how each worker through earnest prayer and the study of the word should maintain his connection with God, the source of all power. Professor S. L. Frost studied with us on the important subject of Christian living and how each worker should by his life and teaching present Christ to others. Pastor Figuhr, from the Philippine

Island Union, who was passing through Hongkong, spoke encouraging and helpful words to our workers. Pastor John Oss led in the study of the subject of the Christian's reward, bringing to us many promises, that after having been faithful in our services, the Lord's blessing will so rest upon our efforts that we will see good results here in this life, and also receive the abundant reward in the life to come.

The evening services were also devoted to inspirational topics presented by several speakers. Pastor Strickland conducted studies showing that man's only source of life in this world or in the world to come is through Christ, the Life-giver. The mission directors present also led the workers in profitable Bible studies. The writer conducted a series of studies on the promises, the work, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, mentioning the great need of this divine agency in connection with all our work.

The forenoon meetings of the institute were led by Pastor Lindt, head of the Bible department of our training institute. He presented many helpful outlines on the importance of evangelistic efforts under varying circumstances. The great aim in all our work is to evangelize, to preach the gospel to all men, and present to them the knowledge of salvation. Our evangelists are to go everywhere preaching the word. Those engaged in giving Bible readings are to go into the homes of all who will receive them, and teach them the word of God.

The writer conducted studies daily with the workers on the importance of more thorough church organization for the purpose of strengthening our church work and membership. The importance of developing our companies which are not yet organized into churches was also emphasized. There are many companies of believers, who, if properly instructed and then properly organized into churches, would become much stronger in their Christian life and work. Our members must be trained to fill the offices of the church. There must be trained elders, deacons, treasurers, clerks, and heads for each of the departments, as the Sabbath school, home missionary and young people's societies. Classes should be organized in every church, and studies on the subject of duties and responsibilities of church officers should be conducted. In

this way our churches would be brought up to higher standards and would become stronger to do the work of the Lord in their localities.

After studying these various lines of work, our workers returned to their fields of labor with a new determination to carry out the instruction received during these meetings. We believe other workers who were not present at this meeting will join with them in pressing forward every line of mission work, and that during this year good results will be seen in evangelistic efforts and in the ministerial work among the churches. Our prayer is that their efforts may be blessed of God, and that much fruit may be seen through the efforts put forth during this new year.

Shanghai Chinese Medical Students' Activities

BY E. L. LONGWAY

WHAT to do about that regular broadcasting hour every Sunday morning from 10.00 o'clock to 11.00, over radio station XMHA? The pastor who had been in charge of this work had been evacuated to Manila; the foreign and Chinese workers were scattered to the four winds. Brother Griggs and Brother Morris took over the hour for a few weeks, sending on words of comfort and council to our workers over China. These brethren later were called to Hongkong.

Saturday night, and who can we get to take over that broadcast tomorrow morning? Perhaps Brother Longway can take the English part of the broadcast. Brother Peter Chen, one of the medical students at St. John's University, volunteered to take the Chinese hour. He had never had any such experience before. Could he do it?

Five Chinese medical students accompanied us to the studio. Sharply at ten o'clock we began our program. Paul Hwang, a student from far west China, sang an English solo. How good it was to hear this young Chinese brother raising his voice in Christian song, while outside we could plainly hear the sounds of struggle and war. The half hour of the English broadcast was soon over.

Now comes the Chinese language broadcast: "*Chin tien yu Chen Pei-teh, An Hsi Er Hwei ih hsioh hsioh sen, tui chu wei ien chiang.*" ("Today Peter Chen, an Adventist medical student, will

address you" is how that would sound in the English language.) And for twenty-five minutes this young Chinese brother earnestly spoke to his unseen audience, urging them during these days of stress to keep the issues clear, to love all men as brethren, to pray for their own native land and leaders, and also to pray for the people of Japan, and for the day to soon dawn when the Prince of peace should come again, bringing lasting peace to this world. It was an earnest Christian appeal from a troubled heart, and must have found a response in many a Christian and non-Christian home over China.

Five minutes left of our broadcasting hour! A special song is to be sung. Four of the five medical students lined up before the microphone, and soon that little room was filled with the melody of the good old song, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear." When the last strains of the song died away, the fifth member of the group stepped to the microphone and after a few words of explanation, telling who had given the program and our place and hours of worship, closed the program with an earnest prayer that God would bless and comfort all within the sound of his voice.

We left the studio and found ourselves out in the street again. The sounds of war were still audible on all sides, but in my own heart I could still hear the voice of Peter Chen witnessing for Christ, and the strains of that good old hymn! Since that day I have not ceased to thank God for the devotion and witness of those young Chinese medical students. And soon these young men will be trained and qualified to minister to the physical as well as the spiritual needs of their own people. What a strength they will be to this movement, and what a blessing to the sick and suffering of China!

Ordination Services

BY O. A. HALL

DURING recent weeks two very impressive ordination services have taken place in Hongkong. At the time of the Division Council Mr. Goh Chao O was set apart to the ministry. Mr. Goh has been a faithful worker in this cause for many years, and has engaged in various lines of our mission work. He has been connected with our educational

institutions in helping to train young people for service. For a number of years he has filled the position of associate editor on our church paper, the *Shepherd*. He has been an active officer in our local churches and has been a help and an inspiration to our members. He has lived an exemplary life, and has been devoted to the work which he has been called to do, consecrating all to the ministerial service.

This led his brethren to recommend that he be set apart to the gospel ministry. On Friday, January 21, in the Hongkong chapel, the ordination service was held. Professor Griggs in his introductory remarks spoke of the sacredness of the gospel ministry and outlined the importance and responsibility which goes with such a call. Pastor H. C. Shen, of the East China Union, offered the ordination prayer, during which, by the laying on of hands, our brother was set apart for this special work. The charge which the Lord placed upon his ministers was given by the writer. Pastor W. J. Harris, superintendent of the North China Union, where Brother Goh has spent many years in service, extended the welcome to Pastor Goh as he joins in the greater responsibility of the sacred office of the gospel ministry, for the fulfilment of the great commission as outlined by our Saviour.

Pastor Goh will continue as one of the editors of the church paper, and will endeavor through this important publication to do his part in feeding the flock of God and perfecting the remnant church for presentation to Christ upon His return.

The second ordination service took place at the close of the three weeks' ministerial institute held in Hongkong following the South China Union biennial meeting. On Sabbath afternoon, February 19, at the regular church service hour in the Hongkong chapel, workers from the South China Union and the China Division participated in this service. Professor Griggs spoke of the great commission which Christ gave to us as His disciples with the command to preach the word to all men. He emphasized the sacredness of the work and the high standards to be reached and maintained by ministers of the gospel.

Pastor S. L. Frost and Pastor S. H. Lindt offered ordination prayers, and by the laying on of hands the following-named workers were set apart to the

gospel ministry: Brother C. Y. Ling, of the North Fukien Mission, Brother G. L. Williams and Brother Woo Yung Hwa, of the South Fukien Mission. Pastor A. L. Ham, superintendent of the South China Union Mission, gave the solemn charge to these three brethren, now ordained to go forth in a new capacity as messengers for God to beseech men and women in Christ's stead to be reconciled to God. The writer, on behalf of the China Division and the South China Union Mission, extended to these brethren a welcome to the fellowship of two thousand four hundred of their associate ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, and of the one hundred and twenty fellow ministers in the China Division, wishing for them a large measure of God's blessing in their ministerial work, and assuring them of the hearty cooperation, prayers, and all possible assistance of their brethren with whom they now unite in service.

Refugee Camp Work

BY Y. H. CHU

THE refugee problem in Shanghai is tremendous. For some time there were about two hundred camps for refugees in various parts of the city under the auspices of the Society of Charitable Organizations. When our members decided to do a little work for these refugees we did not know just where to go or what to do. We thought of starting a little medical work, and visited Dr. Sze Ming Li, who is general secretary of the China Medical Association, and son of Dr. Sze, the Chinese ambassador. He introduced us to one of the doctors connected with the Shanghai Municipal Council. He suggested that we visit three refugee camps, where we started work toward the end of September and have since carried on. Our doctors have been keeping very busy in these camps. At the beginning of our work we had a very small number of people in Shanghai, and our lay members had to help the doctors in taking the records of the patients. Sometimes the doctors treated more than 150 patients a day, and those of us who were assisting in taking the records for the doctors had a hard job of it to keep up with the work. Later some of the nurses came back and this work was turned over to them. The medical work has been greatly appreciated by the refugees and also by the

Shanghai Municipal Council. They told us when we called on them about two weeks ago that they were much pleased with our medical work for the refugees.

Our people in Shanghai were the first to take up educational work in the refugee camps. We started work for the children, four hundred of them, and later conducted work for the adults. At one time they asked us to take over the entire educational work for all the refugee camps in Shanghai, but that was too much for us.

At this time people are very much interested in our message, and we have had a good opportunity to explain many of the Bible prophecies to them. There were three young men, who, while not members of our church, were helping us teach these refugees, and they are now deeply interested in the truth. They have been very faithful in attending our meetings, and were at the Week of Prayer meetings each night. I do not think that they came to us because of the little carfare we could give them, and they gave their services free. We are, however, thankful that they are showing such an interest in God's word.

We are grateful for the large donation that the Division Committee has voted to help in this work. We have a regular donation from our members in Shanghai amounting to about \$250 monthly. Some thought our tithe might be affected because of those donations, but I had a check-up with the treasurer and she told me that the tithe was not affected at all.

It is not our principle to hand out money. This has been done in only a very few cases. We buy flour and rice for our own people, and recently have been helping some of them with rents and other expenses. I think about fifty of them have received help from us. We have assisted some of them to start a little business so they could support themselves.

We need more money to carry on this work in Shanghai, and appreciate greatly the donations which have been given to us by our foreign brethren in Shanghai and some in Hongkong; our brethren from other parts of China have also sent in donations from time to time to help in this work. Our Russian church has helped greatly in housing our press workers and others in Shanghai. In fact, the members of this church have gone to a great deal of trouble to assist.

Ministerial Reading Course

BY O. A. HALL

SOMETIME ago enrollment cards for the 1938 Reading Course were sent out to all workers in the division. There has been a fairly good response to the appeal for a full enrollment, but many names have not yet been received. The books for this year promise to be among the most interesting offered for many years. The are:

"The Sanctuary Service"

"Living Evangelism,"

"China's Borderlands"

"The Sanctified Life"

and an elective volume personally chosen.

The reading of this list of books will be found not only interesting, but of real value to all workers in this field. Quite a number of the wives of workers have also enrolled again this year. Fearing that some have overlooked their enrollment, and will be unduly delayed in securing their books and completing the course, we are sending this appeal, and trust there may be an early and unanimous response.

We regret the delay in the selection of the reading course for our Chinese workers, but the Chinese Ministerial Reading Course books have now been selected, and are as follows:

"The Old Testament"

"Mount of Blessing"

"Decalogue of Health"

"Evangelistic Manual"

"Life of Spurgeon"

Please designate clearly if you wish the publishing house to order books for you. Address your enrollment card to the Ministerial Association Secretary, P.O. Box 145, Hongkong, and not to an individual name.

Bible Work in Hankow

BY MRS. B. C. CLARK

THE better class of people in Hankow are a very conservative class of people. Miss Abbie Dunn, who has charge of the Bible work there, tried at first to hold Bible classes in the homes of the people, but this was found to be impossible because the attendance was very small. So Miss Dunn determined to make it a personal evangelistic work. With this in mind, she took her helpers and went from one home to another distributing tracts. They would take one tract a week to each home, and went right

through the series, visiting the homes once a week. At first many of the people seemed afraid to open their doors and to receive the tracts; but as they became acquainted with our workers, they gradually received the tracts and read them. Now, since troublous times have come to Hankow, the minds of the people seem to be open to the truth, and they are inquiring what these things mean and what they can do to get ready for what is coming.

At present, since Miss Dunn had to return to her home, her co-workers, Mrs. Lo and Miss Wang, are finding more than they can do. They have recently taken a student, a young girl, to help in the Bible work. I should like to tell you something about this young girl. She was a student in our Wang Gia Dun school. Last fall we were very short of workers, and Miss Dunn was asked to withdraw from her city Bible work and take the oversight of the girls in the school. It was hard for her to decide to do this, but finally she decided to take this work. There were twenty-seven or twenty-eight girls under her care, and she saw in these girls possibilities for Bible workers, and she started to work with them with this end in view. This girl who is now helping in the Bible work is one of those girls who received their instruction and their inspiration for the Bible work from Miss Dunn. I think I have never seen a more earnest, consecrated girl. She is anxious to do what she can for the salvation of her sisters in China.

Miss Dunn has been very much concerned about the wives of some of our workers, who are unable to read, and she has gone to their husbands and talked to them about teaching their wives to read. These women are slowly learning to read the Scriptures. Miss Dunn and the girls divide their work up—one day they give out tracts, and one day they visit members of our churches and those they are trying to interest in the truth.

They have ten or twelve regular readers. I had the privilege of visiting one of these women in her home. Her husband is an officer in the railroad company. Since the trouble started and the refugees began coming into Hankow, she has her house full all the time, and yet she told Miss Dunn that she must find time to have that Bible study. When I went there, she had her table all cleared off in the living room, and I wondered where she was planning to serve tea, but she had no

idea of doing anything but studying the Bible, and as we sat down, the atmosphere was that of a church. She had never heard the gospel in any way except as she was getting it from the Bible studies, and I was deeply impressed by her reverent attitude.

Miss Dunn has had many interesting experiences, and she feels that the work in the women's line is opening up in a wonderful way at this time.

Home Nursing Classes in Honan

BY D. R. WHITE

DURING last year two classes in home nursing were conducted in Honan. Since we had no text in Chinese for this work, we followed the work outlined in the English text, "Health Preservation and Home Nursing," issued by the General Conference Medical Department, and material was selected from available health literature in Chinese. The gathering together and preparation for class use of such material has been no small task. We were glad for the graphs, charts, and statistics found in special numbers and health articles, coming from our doctors and nurses already in the China field, who are conversant with its conditions and needs.

Selections from "Ministry of Healing," which was translated into Chinese a few years ago, were used. Many gems from these selections were committed to memory, along with our daily Bible memory verses. We also made use of an excellent set of ten full-color charts for the teaching of our physiology and anatomy lessons.

In both of these classes good help was rendered by a nurse trained at the Yencheng Sanitarium. Thanks is also due the evangelists who helped with the teaching of the Bible and "Ministry of Healing" portions. Much prejudice was broken down. Belief in the Bible and its inspiration was encouraged, and grew with its daily study in the class. Acceptance of the Spirit of prophecy as God's instruction to us in this day seemed to come without question.

Our first class of thirty, at Kaifeng, had fifteen who took the examination. The twenty-seven members of our second class were nearly all literate and seventeen were able to finish the work outlined. Notebooks were kept and they displayed some very fine work

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and ingenuity on the part of the students. The classes were made up of fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, soldiers, officers, teachers, university professors' wives, and our own workers and students. This varied group seemed to enjoy working together in the study of health principles and the methods of treating simple ailments.

In addition to the instruction along the lines of health preservation and nursing, an attempt was made to give some instruction and demonstration in cooking and fruit preservation. A good interest was manifested in this work, and it is believed that much good can be accomplished through further instruction along this line, for certainly there is a great need for such instruction.

Our efforts with the home nursing classes have proved again that the health message is the entering wedge, and helps to break down prejudice so that people are willing to listen to the gospel. In the interior fields of China the Lord is raising up some very strong men—men who are filled with a love for souls, and who preach this message with power. These men are going to prove, in times of crises, great towers of strength to the cause of God.

News Notes

E. L. LONGWAY was in the Manchurian Union from February 11 to March 4 holding a colporteur institute and attending committee meetings. He will spend the month of March in the North China Union conducting colporteur institutes.

D. E. Rebok is spending several weeks in Manchuria and North China, attending committee meetings, and helping in the educational and Missionary Volunteer work.

Ministerial institutes are scheduled in the North China Union from March 6 to 27, and in Manchuria from April 1 to 16. Pastor S. H. Lindt will lead out in these institutes, and following these meetings will assist in a similar institute in Japan for about six weeks.

Mrs. Bothilde Miller, of the East China Union, after more than eight years of service since her last furlough, has sailed for the States for a much needed rest. She was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Willis Miller, who are returning to the States because of the impossibility of going forward with the Vetose Nutrition Laboratory work under present conditions in Shanghai.

Dr. C. E. Randolph has returned to the Yencheng Sanitarium and Hospital for a further period of service during the emergency period there.

Miss Gertrude Green left Hongkong March 11, returning to her work at the Shanghai Sanitarium.

Dr. M. H. Vinkel and family arrived in Hongkong March 2 from furlough. Dr. Vinkel left March 7 for Lanchow where he will again take up his work as superintendent of the Northwest China Hospital. His family will remain in Hongkong for a time.

We are happy to report that Miss Matilda Follett who has been seriously ill in Shanghai is recovering nicely, and it is believed now that she will again be able to take up active service in the Shanghai Sanitarium.

Miss Melda Ragsdale, after evacuating Yencheng, was transferred for this emergency period to Manchuria, where she will assist in the Shen Yang Sanitarium at Mukden.

Dr. Standon B. May and wife have gone to Peiping to continue their language study, preparatory to later taking the superintendency of the North China Sanitarium at Kalgan.

Pastor and Mrs. O. A. Hall, Brother and Sister E. C. Wood, and Brother P. V. Thomas all sailed from Hongkong on March 4 for furlough in the United States.

Dr. Herbert Liu, writing from the Yencheng Sanitarium-Hospital, says, "The hospital is filled with patients. There are about sixty in-patients and about one hundred out-patients every day. Everything in the hospital seems to be going very smoothly. Dr. Randolph, who is my classmate, has certainly done a very good job."

Dr. Liu also makes this statement about the church work at Yencheng: "Our church work here is going on very nicely. We certainly have a very nice group of workers and loyal members in Honan. At the last church service the church was packed full. It seems the people here are longing for spiritual help in these times of distress and suffering."

Pastor N. F. Brewer writes of the success attending the two evangelistic efforts being held in the city of Shanghai. There is a full attendance at both meetings every night, and the people manifest a very deep interest in the message, as is evidenced by the fact that almost no one leaves the meeting until it is ended. It is planned to start a Bible class as soon as the efforts close.

Mrs. V. J. Maloney sailed from Hongkong March 11 to join her husband in Shanghai.

Attention, Church Leaders

At the time of the Spring Council of the China Division it was agreed that all of our churches throughout our division be asked to join in commemorating the arrival of our first worker in Hongkong.

This request reads as follows: "Voted that we designate Sabbath, May 7, as a special day to commemorate the beginning of our work in China, and that a program outlining the growth and development of our work be prepared for use on that day."

It is hoped that all our church leaders will select material from the articles appearing in this special number, and present it, in addition to the program which has been prepared by the home missionary department for the May 7 first Sabbath church missionary service.

Pastor S. L. Frost left Hongkong March 13 for an itinerating trip in the Yunnan field of the West China Union.

G. J. Appel, J. H. Shultz, and N. O. Dahlsten, traveling from Hankow to Lanchow, had a safe trip by train as far as Sian, and are going on from there by truck to Lanchow. It is a hard trip, and we pray that God will grant these brethren a safe and profitable journey in their visit to the Northwest China Union Mission.