

The Eastern Tidings

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The Eastern Tidings

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RE-BAPTISM, IS IT NECESSARY?

RECENTLY, while organizing a church, the subject of re-baptism was discussed at length. Some who were about to be taken into the church reasoned that it was not necessary for them to be re-baptized, since their former baptism had been by immersion, and they were satisfied with it. Now while we did not urge the point, we advised a second baptism in harmony with the instruction given by Mrs. E. G. White in "Sketches from the Life of Paul," pages 132, 133. Please read Acts 19:1-7.

"There is still another lesson for us in the experience of these Jewish converts. When they received baptism at the hand of John, they were holding serious errors. But with clearer light they gladly accepted Christ as their Redeemer; and with this advance step came a change in their obligations. As they received a purer faith, there was a corresponding change in their life and character. In token of this change, and as an acknowledgment of their faith in Christ, they were re-baptized in the name of Jesus.

"Many a sincere follower of Christ has had a similar experience. A clearer understanding of God's will places man in a new relation to him. New duties are revealed. Much which before appeared innocent, or even praiseworthy, is now seen to be sinful. The apostle Paul says

that though he had, as he supposed, rendered obedience to the law of God, yet when the commandment was urged upon his conscience by the Holy Spirit, 'sin revived and I died.' He saw himself a sinner, and conscience concurred with the sentence of the law.

"There are many at the present day who have unwittingly violated one of the precepts of God's law. When the understanding is enlightened, and the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the conscience, they see themselves sinners in the sight of God. 'Sin is the transgression of the law,' and 'he that shall offend in one point is guilty of all.'

"The honest seeker after truth will not plead ignorance of the laws as an excuse for transgression. Light was within his reach. God's Word is plain, and Christ has bidden him search the Scriptures. He reveres God's law as holy, just, and good, and he repents of his transgression. By faith he pleads the atoning blood of Christ, and grasps the promise of pardon. His former baptism does not satisfy him now. He has seen himself a sinner, condemned by the law of God. He has experienced anew a death to sin, and he desires again to be buried with Christ by baptism, that he may rise to walk in newness of life. Such a course is in harmony with the example of Paul in baptizing the Jewish converts. That incident was recorded by the Holy Spirit as an instructive lesson for the church."

It is plain to be seen from these statements by the Spirit of Prophecy that, when those who have been holding to false doctrines and violating the fourth commandment accept the true light, they should be buried again with Christ by baptism.

W. W. MILLER.

Field Reports

A VISIT TO OUR TAMIL MISSION

IN company with Elder Little, I recently visited our mission among the Tamil people. On our way from Madras we were met by Elder James and Brother Lowry, and we enjoyed their company the rest of the way. From Tinnevely Bridge we rode in a bullock cart to the mission bungalow, a distance of twenty-three miles. This trip was made during the night.

We were glad to find the workers all of good courage. Shortly after our arrival, we were informed that the villagers would soon be over to give us a welcome. They came with a band, flowers, plantains, lemons, and sugar. The band played and the natives sang several songs, after which an address of welcome was read by one of their number. Elder Little and I responded with a few remarks. The people then shook hands with us. Each had a lemon in his hand, and we got the lemon. This is one way they show their friendship.

In the evening about two hundred men, women, and children assembled on the veranda of the bungalow. We had the privilege of questioning them regarding some points of truth, and were glad to find that they were quite well posted. Elder James conducts a Bible study each evening for the benefit of all who wish to hear, and some fruit has already been seen.

We visited the school for the children, which is conducted by three native women, who are quite capable teachers, having been very thoroughly trained in the C. M. S. Mission. The school began with an attendance of forty-seven, but this has increased and now numbers eighty-four. About half of these are girls. They are

making good headway in their studies. Elder Lowry makes out the course of Bible readings to be taught in the school, and has them translated into Tamil. In this way we are getting the truth before the children in the village.

We next visited the dispensary, where Miss Shryock was in charge. We found her doing a splendid work with the assistance of three native helpers whom she was training. They treat an average of two thousand patients each month, and with good results. The medical work which was started by Brother and Sister James has done much to open up our work in that district.

Some men came from a village eight miles away, begging us to send workers to their village. They said they were idol worshipers, but wanted to worship the true God. They offered us two acres of land on which to erect a school building, and promised one hundred and fifty children as soon as a school could be started. We had to answer, "We have no one to send."

A man and his son came from another village requesting that we send them help. They told us there were fifty Sabbath-keepers in their village. They had learned the truth through reading matter.

Brethren James and Lowry are going in for the language with a determination to get it, in order that they may be a greater help in the work. The people seem to be ready for the truth, and we hope in the near future to see the work go forward with a loud cry.

W. W. MILLER.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN EAST BENGAL

Our annual conference for the Bengal division of the Indian field was held in Barisal, East Bengal, February 2-6, 1910.

This is the first general gathering of our workers among the Bengali people that we have held. Last year we held a conference at Gopalgunje, but all our Bengali stations were not represented. This year the work at Karmatar, which we omitted in the representation last year, was represented, and thus our field with the three stations among the Bengali people was fully represented.

In some respects this meeting seemed more like an old-time camp-meeting than any other we have attended, as we had a large tent in which to hold our meetings instead of the usual hall. Through the kindness of a friend here in Barisal, we were able to get the use of a tent from the the police authorities without charge for the time of our Bengali conference. This we greatly appreciated.

Two meetings were held in the day for the special benefit of our own people, and one at night which was advertised for the public of Barisal. The attendance of our own people, mostly Bengali, was about forty. The outside attendance was a surprise to us, as we did not expect such large numbers to the meetings. Between two hundred fifty and three hundred people were out to our evening services and listened to the message of Christ's Soon Coming, The Signs of Our Times, and the Prophetic History of the World as outlined in the second and seventh chapters of Daniel. One very noticeable feature of the evening meetings was the close attention of the people and the excellent order preserved during the services. Politically, the people of Barisal have a reputation for creating disturbances, but we have never attended more orderly meetings than our recent services in Barisal.

The instruction given to our own people was mostly along practical lines, and we believe they were greatly benefited spiritually. As we presented to them the high

order of service the Lord expects of us, the purer and holier lives we ought to lead, the more truthful and more upright people we ought to be than the Christians who know not the third angel's message, a willing spirit seemed to come in and the brethren bore testimony to renewed desires to do better work for the Lord.

On Friday morning, February 4, we had a baptismal service in which twenty souls went forward to be buried with their Lord in baptism as a sign of the newer, better life they have experienced through this truth. It was a solemn occasion to us as these people, some of whom have in their past lives left the worship of idols to serve the living God, took this further step that identifies them with those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

The same day of the baptism a church of twenty-six members was organized of the various workers and Sabbath-keepers of East Bengal. Brother Watson was elected elder; the writer, deacon; Sister Watson, deaconess; and Sister May Brunson, treasurer. The day following the organization, we celebrated the ordinances of humility and of the Lord's house. The ordinance of humility made a deep impression on the minds of all the native brethren present, and some were heard to remark that they had never before realized that our European brethren had love for them to that extent that they would wash the feet of a native brother. The service was a blessed occasion, and caused us to realize the special blessings this truth brings to those who accept it.

The interest in Barisal is such that, had we a hall, we could undoubtedly draw a good attendance each night. It was necessary for us to return the tent the day after our meeting closed, as it was required by the owners. As yet there seems to be no place available for meetings, but possibly later we may find a hall. Enquiries are coming to us every day from people who are interested in the truth, and though in many respects this is a difficult field, yet we trust that even from here the Lord will gather out a people for his name. Let all our people remember the work in East Bengal at the throne of grace.

J. C. LITTLE.

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Printed by W. E. Perrin, at the Watchman Press, 19 Banks Road, Lucknow.

—DR. MENKEL reports treatments given during January as follows: Tinnevely, 1,253; Karmatar, 1 348; Jeolikote, 17.

—MISS KURTZ is encouraged to know that after labouring alone for some time she is to have an associate. Miss Shryock, who is now spending a short time in Lucknow, will join her soon.

—ELDER MILLER and Brother Burgess made a trip recently to Najibabad to investigate the question of Sisters Kurtz and Shryock's locating there, and found conditions quite favourable.

—ELDER AND MRS. LITTLE are rejoicing over the arrival of a seven pound girl at their home the 11th instant. All will be glad to know Mrs. Little is doing nicely and the baby seems strong and well.

—It is expected that Annfield House will open April 1st. All who are planning on spending a part of the hot season there should notify Elder Miller, also state if possible when they expect to go and how long they will stay.

—FEELING that she should not continue longer in office work, against which she was advised by medical authority before leaving home, Miss Brunson asked release from her work in connection with *Herald of Health*, and is now located at Barisal, East Bengal.

—RECENT word from Brother Weaks is to the effect that he and Brother Poley will reach India March 11. All will be glad to welcome these brethren to this field, and will hope that they may be able to do a good work in getting the printed page before the people of India.

—WE do not remember of having mentioned the fact that all of the Karmatar boys who came to Lucknow when the Watchman Press was removed hither left in the course of two or three months. However, soon after leaving three of them regretted their choice and asked for their old places. Just recently arrangements were made for Ramshuran to return, and he is now here and glad to be at work with us again.

—EASTERN TIDINGS is late again, but for a reason which will interest our readers. The Methodist Publishing House of this city installed an up-to-date American type casting machine last summer, and we are having our type re-cast, which accounts for the delay. We had a good amount of type, but most all was old and some otherwise not the best for our present use; so we are having it all re-cast into two sizes, with Roman Urdu characters included, thus obtaining a new face for our English work and a large supply for Roman Urdu work at a very small outlay. With the addition of a few special characters, we shall also be able to do Roman Santali printing, which will doubtless be interesting to Brother Barlow and his associate workers.

—ELDER MILLER reports having travelled more than twelve thousand miles by train and boats since last November, and with good health until just before returning home, he feels that he has been very abundantly blessed while thus forced to eat from a lunch basket so much and otherwise live not strictly according to the best rules for health.

—AFTER some years of proof taking on a paper cutter, which is anything but the right thing to do, the Watchman Press expects soon to have a press for regular proof work. The large Washington hand press is supposed to have arrived at Calcutta the 16th, and should reach Lucknow in a short time.

—It has seemed best for Miss Smith, who for some time has been in poor health, to return home, and so arrangements have been made for her to sail from Bombay Sabbath, February 26. All will wish for her a pleasant voyage.

“YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

THERE are many whose sphere of influence seems narrow, their abilities are limited, their opportunities are few, their knowledge is small; yet if they will let the peace of God rule in their hearts, they may do more than those who have naturally greater capabilities, but who trust to their own efficiency. It is “not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.” The strength and talents belong to God; and who can estimate the great work that may be done in the sowing of the gospel seed? It will be as the morsel of leaven hidden in the meal.—Mrs. E. G. White.