

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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The Meeting In Burma

The annual meeting of the Burma mission was held at Rangoon from the twenty-eighth of August to the first of September. Most of the meetings were held at the home of Pastor C. F. Lowry at Kemmendine, but both the Burmese and English evening services were held in the city meeting hall.

The evening services were well attended by the outside public. The congregations at the regular Sunday night meetings have grown encouragingly during the past year,

missionary work was dwelt upon. In the Sabbath school Sister Blue, the union mission secretary for that department, gave an interesting and helpful talk on various phases of its work.

It was encouraging to see a number of new faces among the Burmese brethren at the meetings at Kemmendine. These services took on a more distinctively Burmese character this year. Formerly most of the instruction was given in English, as there were generally few present

The Essential Qualification

“Of all the deeper and essential qualifications of the young missionary, I can say no more here than that what he is will always be more effective than what he knows; and that in what he knows the knowledge of the Bible is more important than all the rest together.”—*The Right Rev. R. S. Copleston, for twenty-six years Bishop of Colombo and for eleven years Metropolitan of India.*

Brother and Sister Hamilton having taken up the city work anew with good results. Some decisions have already been made, and the interest manifested in the presentation of the vital truths of the message seems to promise well for the future growth of the church.

At the revival service on the Sabbath morning a number of seekers came forward, and decisions were made which we trust will be faithfully maintained until the end. In the afternoon a symposium was held in which the importance of the church

who had not a fair acquaintance with that tongue. But this year it was found necessary to translate into Burmese in almost all the studies. The superintendent of the mission announced plans for the 1919 meeting, when it is hoped that by special effort a much larger gathering of the Burmese believers will be secured, and when it is hoped to conduct the work more fully in the vernacular.

A promising feature of the cause in Burma is that one can see an increasing number of the sons of the country taking

their places in the organized work. A Karen brother of some experience was appointed to assist Brother E. B. Hare in the evangelistic work of the Kamamaung mission. This brother accepted the truth last year in the delta country, where Brethren R. A. Beckner and Chit Hla are labouring. Another Karen brother who received his training at our Meiktila Industrial school is engaged in school work at the Kamamaung mission.

Brother Carrott, who is temporarily in charge of the literature work while Brother Skinner is engaged in language study, held a number of meetings for the colporteurs, and is putting forth earnest efforts to extend the circulation of our publications. A number of our Burmese and Indian brethren are turning their attention to this line of effort. The brethren are ambitious to

reach a self-supporting basis of operation in the sale of the printed page, and in this are assisted by the favourable financial conditions prevailing in Burma.

With the exception of Dr. Tornblad, who was unable to attend, all the foreign workers of the Burma mission were present at this meeting. Brother and Sister Blue and Brother Williams and the writer were also in attendance from the union mission. Brother Blue will spend some days with Brother Ladington and his associates in the school work at Meiktila before returning to Lucknow.

We trust that the Lord will send increasing blessing and prosperity to all our dear fellow-workers in the land of the pagoda, so that more and more the cross of Christ may be uplifted there.

W. W. FLETCHER.

American Missionaries Going on Furlough

The following official communication has been issued by the British Embassy in Washington, and is dated March 10, 1918, and has been communicated to Mission Boards by the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the American and Canadian Missionary Societies:—

"I am desired by His Majesty's Ambassador to request you to be good enough to bring to the notice of the various Mission boards connected with the Committee on Reference and Counsel, that, with a view to eliminating the delay which has hitherto taken place in obtaining leave for missionaries who have already worked in India to return there after furlough, it is notified by the Indian Government that such missionaries on securing their passports to leave India may apply to the Government of the Province for their endorsement with permission to return, valid for such number of months as may be required. If such endorsement be granted, no formalities will be necessary in this country prior to return;

missionaries will simply present their passports (backed by evidence of identity) to the British Consular authority at the port of departure with a request for *visa*. Mission Boards will no doubt make arrangements that their workers in India should take early advantage of this concession.

"It should be noted, however, (1) that the new procedure applies at present only to United States citizens; (2) that it applies to India only, and not to other parts of the British Empire; (3) that the permission to return will probably apply only to the missionary's present station or province, and will not bind the Government of India to allow him, for instance, to open a new station in Assam instead of returning to the Bombay Presidency. In case of any such important change of arrangements while a Missionary is on furlough, the mission Board would do well to obtain the concurrence of the Indian Government through their representatives in India."

Missionaries should make application

both to the district officer where he resides and to the nearest American consul, sending to the latter his departmental passport, on which will be endorsed the permission to return. American citizens are urged not to take out emergency passports, which

permit of one journey only to a designated country for a definite purpose and extend only to six months, but to obtain Department of State passports from Washington. The American consuls will be able to give all needful information.

South India Training School Notes

A literary and debating society is helping to improve our gift of speech.

Last month a bad minton club was opened that an opportunity might be given for more physical exercise and recreation.

For the first time, the sixth form students have been organized into a graduating class under the direction of our new principal, E. M. Meleen.

A short time ago the students who are supported by the Mission were asked to provide their own clothing and stationery. They are not at all discouraged but glad to do various kinds of work. Nearly all of them are labouring in one way or another and look forward to the time when they can get sufficient to do for meeting all school expenses.

H. A. SAM.

Literary and Debating Society

We have recently organized a Literary and Debating Society for the improvement of our English and for training ourselves in public speaking. Mr. H. A. Sam was chosen as chairman and P. Simon as secretary.

The meetings are held on every Sunday and we have already had two, in one of which the chairman gave an interesting opening address, and in the other a debate took place, the subject being, "Resolved, that education is preferable to wealth." The debate was very lively and interesting. The judge decided that the affirmative gave the best arguments.

All the members are active in taking some part in the meetings and we ask the TIDINGS family to remember our society

that we may conduct it to God's glory and honour.

P. SIMON, SECTY.

Bangalore Sabbath School

We are very glad to say that our Sabbath school is progressing day by day by the grace of Jesus Christ. Almost all of our members are either students or Mission employees and our membership is forty-two. Altogether there are five classes. Brother Aaron who recently came from Lucknow was appointed as the superintendent for this quarter.

We had a thermometer with which to record our progress in raising Rs. 30—our goal for the first quarter. We exceeded this amount by Rs. 19-5-9. During the last quarter the boys gave a portion of rice from their daily allowance. At the end of the quarter they had saved Rs. 6 in this manner.

The girls are trying their best to also make good offerings. During the last quarter they raised Rs. 10 by canvassing, which they gladly gave on the Thirteenth Sabbath.

We request that all readers remember this Sabbath school in their prayers.

M. SWAMINATHAN, SECTY.

Y. P. M. V. Society

You will undoubtedly be glad to know of our Y. P. M. V. Society in Bangalore. We are very active and interested in carrying out the third angel's message. Our members are selling many papers and books containing the King's message.

Some of our members used to go every Sunday at about four o'clock to preach the

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Gospel and to distribute books, tracts and papers. About seven members of our society made a determination to read the Bible through this year and up to the present they have been fulfilling their promise. I believe they will succeed.

We are also practising speaking in public. For this practise we select a subject from the Bible and each one hopes to become a soul winner.

K. S. SWAMIADIAN, SECTY.

A Message from Afar

During his recent visit to America, while Pastor Watson was speaking at San Francisco in the Laguna Street church on the subject of missions, a brother in the congregation, Dr. Lamb, asked Pastor Watson if he knew Dora Creek, and related the following incident:

Some years ago an American sailing ship put into Newcastle, Australia, and on the following Sunday a number of the crew visited Dora Creek. While there one of these men was given a tract by a student of the Australasian Missionary College. This sailor was then living a wicked and careless life, but he accepted the tract and carried it with him through his voyages.

Not long ago, while the congregation in the Laguna Street church was engaged in worship one Sabbath, this man stepped into the church and related his experience. That tract changed his life. This was the first time in twenty-five years that he had

been inside a church, but since reading the tract he had tried to follow his Lord. At this service he gave all the money he had (fifty dollars) to missions. He is now a faithful Sabbath-keeper. Pastor Watson was asked to take this word back to Australia.

We may not always have the opportunity of witnessing the results of such faithful sowing of the Word, but we are encouraged by this experience to continue casting our "bread upon the waters," in the confident hope of finding it again in redeemed souls "at the end of days."

Here and There

Born to Pastor and Mrs. A. H. Williams, a boy, August 29th.

Born to H. A. and Mrs. Skinner, a girl, September 6th.

Visit From Pastor E. E. Andross

Word has been received from America that the General Conference Committee has requested Pastor E. E. Andross, vice-president of the G. C., to visit India and Burma during the approaching cool season. Brother Andross was planning to be in Japan in time to attend a meeting that was to be held in that field, beginning with the 27th of September, and to make short visits to some of our missions in Eastern Asia, reserving most of the time at his disposal for his visit to the India Union. We shall look forward with pleasure to Pastor Andross' stay among us. We are glad that he is expecting to remain with us long enough to become acquainted with our work in all parts of the field.

Pastor W. A. Spicer, secretary of the G. C., is visiting Australasia in connection with the quadrennial session of that union conference, which is to be held early in October. Brother Spicer will visit China also before returning to America.

The projected visit of Professors J. L. Shaw and M. E. Kern to the India Union has been cancelled as these brethren are unable to leave America just now.

Word has also been received of the appointment of four additional missionary families for our field. We trust that these workers will be successful in obtaining permission to leave America and to enter this country where their labours are so greatly needed.

W. W. Fletcher.