

which is held on the first and third Thursday of each month. We reach Shimada at eleven in the morning, just one hour by train from home. A short walk from the station brings us to the preaching place. This preaching place is the home of the evangelist. He converts it into one room by removing the shoji.

We do not always hold our woman's meeting here, as there are women who would attend a meeting at the house of a friend who would not enter a preaching place. We suit ourselves to the women, and go to the home where we can gather the largest number, which never exceeds five. These have been hand-picked, and we are very proud of them. The work is slow. *It is only here a little and there a little.* We are trying to interest the women in a regular study of God's Word, believing the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit.

After our meeting we return to the preaching place, where we find ninety-five or one hundred children waiting for us. These children's meetings are always a sign of hope; for were the people of the town opposed to us, the public school teachers would not allow the children to listen to us. For instance, at Fujieda we cannot entice one child to enter the church. The little ones listen very attentively to Noguchi-san as she tells them a gospel story, but the moving crowd of men and women in the background is very distracting. It is a risk to close the doors, for numbers crowd forward to receive papers when the children receive theirs; so we take the opportunity of seed sowing, and scatter tracts.

After this meeting we have between twenty and thirty big boys, who come to hear the foreigners speak English. Their desire for English is much greater than their interest in the Bible; but in order to hear the foreigners they must listen to a short Bible lesson, and thus we sow, it seems broadcast. But, as one of the missionaries in India says, "We sow, and in our ignorance expect the seed to be choked by thorns; but God sees that it bears fruit, in spite of its thorny surroundings."

The three meetings over, we go to the house of a doctor, who has asked us to teach his wife Christianity. I cannot