

better than the common knocking of the head against the floor. Our hearts are cheered every day with the interest shown by the women. Mrs. Chang is the first woman to come out boldly for the truth. She is certainly not "hiding her light under a bushel," as many who come tell me they have heard about this gospel from her. She and her husband have put away all the household gods and are suffering a good deal of persecution in consequence, the most vile stories being told of her because she comes to learn from me, but she is most brave. A near neighbour of theirs has also come out for the "true way," and two days ago he summoned up courage to burn the household "gods." As soon as some of his neighbours heard it they went in and beat him. His own wife too was against him. She attempted to commit suicide by jumping down a well when she heard that he wanted to destroy the false gods.

Just one more of this week's work. This morning a large party of women about thirty in number on their way home from worshipping the great goddess in Hsun Hsien, about thirty-six miles from here, came in just after breakfast. I talked with them until word came that the men of the party were out at the gate waiting for them. At this they all rose to leave. One very old woman, eighty-two years of age, moved me so to pity that I made a special effort to reach her. Just as she was going out she turned and came back. I pled with all my soul, knowing it was perhaps her only chance. The poor old woman was moved. She took my hand, saying, "Oh if I only lived nearer so that I could hear more of this." I gave her two tracts which would perhaps help her, as her son could read it to her, she said. Several times she was told the others were all waiting for her, but she seemed as if she could not bear to leave. My heart rose in prayer to God that she might be saved. And I seemed to feel an assurance that my prayer was answered. Oh pray for us. Pray that very speedily God may send us help. Home duties are increasing so fast, I must leave much undone for the women unless I get help.*

The first station class for women in Chang-te-fu is to begin next week. It is to be composed of four enquirers from Ts'ai Yuan, fifteen miles from here, and four from Wang lia tu'n, twelve miles; two or three will attend from here. I have had more to do than almost I had strength or time for, and never thought of having a station class; but when these women sent asking to be taught, I could not refuse, relying on God's blessed promise that they who wait upon the Lord shall *renew their strength*.

* The arrangement between Mrs. Gloforth and Miss Mackenzie not having proved to be mutually satisfactory, Miss Mackenzie has returned Canada.