

To us, as a mission, it has brought great changes. The sky has been very dark with clouds of sorrow and deepest grief, but the darkness seemed only to make more visible the illuminating, comforting and sustaining presence of Him who never leaves nor forsakes.

The bond of love and sympathy that unites us has been strengthened by the sorrow which we have in common shared. To those of us who were in Nikko last year, there is constantly present with us thoughts of those who were with us then, and now are not. But it seems as if the Heavenly Father knew just how much His children could bear, and I am sure this rest and peace, this ability to enjoy the beauties of nature so lavishly bestowed upon us here, and the society of our friends, comes from His hand.

To me the past year has been a happy one. Outward circumstances have not altogether made it so, for in Kofu, since Mr. Elliott and his family left us, we have had no foreign society outside of ourselves, and therefore lack many of the opportunities, social, intellectual and spiritual, that we have at home. But the hours and the days have each their duty, and it seems as if when the Father gives us work to do, He gives us a reward in the very interest which it creates in us and the love which we have for it and for those among whom we labor.

Then, there has been to me a constant pleasure in the opportunities for study of Japanese customs and life. At the same time, while I find pleasure in the increase of knowledge, it makes me realize more vividly the difficulties and responsibilities of the work and the necessity for carefulness in every word and action. We can but turn to God for guidance and with Him leave all results.

Being surrounded as we are by people of another tongue, we are under constant discipline. No matter how full our hearts may be, nor how we may long to talk to the women or to the girls of the school, we have nearly always with us the feeling of being tongue-tied, and of not being able to say what we wish. Again, when we are able to express ourselves but partially, there is danger of being misunderstood.

What we need for Yamanashi are good Bible women, and that is just what we find very great difficulty in securing. The women are so ignorant that so far we have not been able to find a suitable one who could do Bible work without a great deal of training. We are going to make an effort to train our own workers, and have already made a beginning. We have one young girl, Naito San, employed, and she will next year enter the Kofu school. We have our eyes on another