

"In the unclaimed district to the South-West, of us, there are two million people without one single witness for Christ," writes our missionary, Mr. Slimmon, from Honan. "And remember, we are responsible for that district, for, years ago, we got another Society, when it was choosing a district, to take up another field and leave this for us to work. That is eight or ten years ago, and yet the district remains empty to this day. Will it be possible to send us out at least one other missionary this year? It is ten years since God has laid this region on my heart, and he has kept it steadily before me all these years. I feel that the time is come at last. I am working here and waiting for Him to open the door. Can you join me in prayer that 1899 may see another to take my place here, and see me fully set at liberty for that work?"

PREACHING IN THE HONAN CITIES.

In a letter just received by Rev. R. P. Mackay, written from Sin Hsien, Mr. Goforth writes:

This morning while I walked around this city on the wall and thought of the multitudes within the walls and in the villages, over the plain, dead in trespasses and sins, an overpowering feeling of helplessness came over me. How can these dead be made to live? Then came the assurance from on high: "Go prophesy unto the multitudes in this valley and the Spirit of God shall make them live".

This city of Sin Hsien is 30 miles from our station of Chang Te, in a beautiful valley, mountains surrounding it on every side. We have been here ten days. Preaching has been kept up ten to twelve hours a day. Our listeners have varied from one in the morning to one hundred in the afternoon.

I feel the lack of efficient helpers. I had to leave Mr. Wang at the central station, and Mr. Ho is the only good speaker with me. I speak myself from four to six times a day, besides keeping control. We never had any enquirers in this city before, but during these days more than ten men, besides several women, seem to have become hopefully interested.

I am now going to all the cities and larger towns, proposing to give about ten days to each. Before I came here Mr. Griffith and I were ten days at Lin Chang Hsien. Preaching was kept up there on an average about twelve hours a day—audiences numbering from one to fifty men. During these days a good many seemed much interested.

Whilst witnessing for Christ there, we realized much of the Holy Spirit's power. One of our well-to-do converts accompanied us at his own expense.

In a few days I go to Wu An Hsien for ten days, where two converts are going to accompany me at their own expense. They say the Lord has done so much for them that they are constrained to do something for others. This is a hopeful feature of this Chang Te field. These two men have of their own accord volunteered to help. In a few years the Holy Spirit will fit men to help build up His Church. Pray for us and get others to join you.

NARROW ESCAPE OF MR. GOFORTH.

Mrs. Goforth writes "Last week Mr. Goforth returned from a two week's tour in the West and was home for just a few days. On Saturday afternoon he was sitting in his study with several Chinamen, some from the official residence, when he was called out by a man hammering the back gate with stones. Without waiting to think of danger he opened the gate, when the man outside jumped upon him. Mr. Goforth managed to parry the blows aimed at him and got hold of the fellow and with the help of those inside he was over-powered.

Fortunately the Yamen men who were in the study were witnesses of the whole affair, and they took the man, a nice looking, finely built young fellow—to the official.

The next day his brother came and pleaded for him, and was told that the foreigners would let the whole thing pass if he would promise good behaviour in the future.

When the brother returned to him, he met the maniac again, who caught up a knife and said he was going to the foreigners and this time would kill Mr. Goforth. The brother tried to stop him, when with one sweep of the knife, he cut off the brother's head, and then started down the street with the head in one hand and the knife in the other, making for our compound.

Who knows what might have happened—for none dared go near him—had he not stopped by a well to wash the blood off his hands, and whilst doing so dropped the knife—when others who watched, seized and over-powered him and brought him to the Yamen, where the poor wretch is to pay the penalty of his crime with his life. Though he is a raging maniac Chinese law makes no difference. Chinese Christians look upon it as a merciful deliverance, and rightly too."

"The present condition of the Chinese is truly pitiable and will I am sure call forth your deepest sympathy. Drought, floods, rebellions, cholera, and now the proclamations doing away with everything tending towards the opening up of the country that the Emperor had done. The anti-foreign feeling is very marked owing to these changes."