

members of it are beginning to attend the Sunday services, and they represent the higher classes. This young man has given satisfactory proof of his faith in the Lord Jesus, and it appears more and more as if he had been providentially raised up of the Lord to help in carrying on the work here.

These two candidates were baptized a couple of weeks ago, and are thus the first-fruits of our work here. And you may be sure it was with glad hearts that we held our first baptismal and sacramental service. Over forty were present, and from beginning to end there was to us the realization that the Master, ever faithful to His promise, was also in our midst. But this is not all. We have also nine more candidates for baptism, seven or eight of whom will be baptized at the end of this month. Last Sabbath afternoon we had a meeting of these candidates, in order to inquire into their religious experiences, and I must say it was one of the happiest meetings I have attended since coming to Japan. I was actually surprised to learn from their own lips how much some of them had really learned of the true nature of Christianity by actual personal experience. Oh, what a joy it is to see souls born again into the kingdom of heaven! It lifts the soul up into a higher sphere and gives us new proofs of the reality of the life of God in the human heart.

You see we have nothing wonderful to report. In fact, somehow or other the startling manifestations of the workings of the spirit of God have never attended our work. No great meetings and immense gatherings; and yet we are thankful that in this steady, quiet way we are privileged, in company with our Japanese brethren, to lay the foundations of the Church in Japan, with the firm assurance that, as other lands have been visited with great revivals, so God will visit His Church in Japan soon, and bring many thousands to a knowledge of the truth. I am just as sure of it as I am of my own life. All this political turmoil, all this striving after something better, will eventually result in turning the hearts of men to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world.

Now, as to the outlook for next year, I do not see any need of change in the methods or the men here in Kanazawa. Brother Yamanaka, who came to us from Kofu, is doing splendid work. He is full of zeal and his preaching is exceedingly attractive. Brother Nakazawa, who is now opening up for us in Fukui, although only beginning, gives promise of great usefulness. He will probably return, and it is our purpose not only to open up the work in this city more fully by finding yet another preaching place, but also to begin work in two or three of the large villages in this neighborhood, so that, although living here and helping to some extent, one man will find plenty to do outside the city.

There is one thing, however, that we require very much, namely, a church building. Six of those to be baptized live away out in the Nagamachi neighborhood and are the direct fruit of the work in our preaching place there, and there are also many more who are now attending regularly, and who give great promise for the future. There is no doubt, therefore, that a church should be built in that neighborhood, and a

permanent cause established there right in the midst of that dense population. In fact, the little preaching place in the private house has become too small. Just think of forty Sabbath-school children being crowded into a little room no larger than twelve by twelve. Then, too, we have to pay a monthly rent more than sufficient to pay the interest on money enough to build a little church, with the prospect of being turned out, bag and baggage, whenever the owner takes a notion. Already we have had a taste or two of that sort of thing, and know what it means. I may say, also, that the owner of this house is the keeper of a house of ill-fame in another part of the city, and I can assure you he does not love us, and would soon get rid of us if he could better himself. This renting of preaching places is a most difficult business. Moreover, the building of a little church would create an excitement in the community which would surely result in greatly increasing the attendance at the services and would help, under the blessing of God, in putting our work on its feet there. I have not the slightest doubt that by the end of next year we will have a flourishing little society there, if we only act wisely under the guidance of the Master. The land and a little church building would not cost a sen more than five hundred yen, which, translated into our Canadian money, means only three hundred and ninety-five dollars at the present rate of exchange.

Concerning the prospects of the work going on at the school on Hirosaka Bori, I have only to say that the property we have there will be a blessing to our Church through all time, and there is no doubt that in the near future we will have a fine church society in that grand old building. Thus, you see, by the blessing of God, we are getting our work planted; and I believe God is guiding us for His own glory and for the salvation of man.

Now, just a word about the district which is now completing the first year of its existence. At the beginning of the year the only place in which work was going on was Kanazawa, but as soon as Brother Dunlop returned from Canada he took steps to plant himself in Nagano, and, after some delay in getting a passport, he got on the ground and began to look about him. At first he found it exceedingly difficult to get a preaching place, and so, after getting settled, he began preaching in his own house. Fortunately, a judge who formerly lived in Shizuoka had moved up there, and as he and his family had been converted in Shizuoka, they formed the nucleus of a Sunday-school and a congregation. When visiting Nagano a couple of months ago, my heart was greatly warmed in preaching to that little congregation, which has now grown to about the number of twenty; but what peculiarly pleased me was to recognize in this judge one whom I had known, though not by name, when I first went to live in Kofu. I remembered when I first went there seeing a very intelligent gentleman attending the services regularly, but on account of not being able to talk in Japanese, I could not get well acquainted with him. Suddenly he disappeared and I saw him no more, and I thought that perhaps he had, like many others, become tired and had given up attending the Church. Nor did I hear any more of him until I saw him sitting in our preaching place at Nagano and