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"THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Missionary Leaflet.

Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada.

VOL. VI.

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No. 9.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

SEPTEMBER.

For God's special blessing to rest upon the annual meetings of our Auxiliaries and Bands in September, and of the annual meetings of the Branches, and of the Board of Managers in October. That great grace and wisdom may be given in the election of officers and delegates, selection of agents, appropriation of funds, and for the general plans of work, etc.

JAPAN WORK.

From Miss Hargrave.

JO GAKKO SHIDZUOKA, 17th May, 1890.

I have just been out here four months. I must say I enjoy my home and my work very much. It is quieter than life in Tokyo in many ways; still it is very pleasant. Having plenty of work and study to attend to, one does not often find one's self longing for outside things. The work has been encouraging and pleasant for the most part. True, all has not been smooth sailing. We have had our share of clouds, especially in connection with the school work. Just now, though, our prospects are very bright. We have a new matron; she is not a Christian, but she is already very much interested. She is a pleasant, agreeable woman, and, I think, will prove very good. As you know, I have charge of the outside evangelistic work; in this letter I shall only have time to tell you what I am doing in this line.

First, my work at Hirone Mura. I have charge of the Sunday-school work there, and also of the women's meeting on Tuesdays. You will remember from Miss Morgan's report,

Dr. Tanahe very kindly opened his house for all religious meetings some time ago, he still continues that favor. He has an organ, which is a great comfort and help in the singing. Just now this Sunday-school is my most interesting charge. We have eleven names on the roll, and they are very regular in their attendance. Besides these, we always have what I call an outside attendance of over thirty. These boys and girls are the ones I feel so interested in. Their parents, being very poor, are always busy, seemingly too much so to attend either the Sunday or the Tuesday meeting. So far, they allow the children to come, and my hope and prayer is that God may richly bless our efforts here, and may the children carry the glad news home. Their parents are all either farmers or fishermen. Their homes are dark, dirty hovels, built in such a way that the sunshine never enters them. These children run up and down the village like little deer. The older ones invariably had a younger brother or sister tied to his or her back, in the most uncomfortable position. They hear the music, and venture inside the garden in front of the house. We always remove the "shoji" (sliding doors), so that two sides of the room are open. In this way it is an easy matter for all to hear. They are usually quiet and listen very attentively, but if you speak to them they will run away at once. We give out tracts and papers every day. It is really comical to see them take the paper and then disappear as soon as possible lest you speak to them. Lately this shyness has worn off somewhat. Last day a few of them took hymn-books and followed the words while we sang. We hope soon to have many—or all—of them come in and join us. It is wonderful the change in their faces after they have been in the Sunday-school a few weeks. In March we had some fine weather, much warmer than we are having now. I prepared a little picnic for the Sunday-school children. Our provisions cost fifty-two sen. You may think that very little to provide for so many, but all were well served. We met at Dr. Tanahe's; taking our Bibles, hymn-books, lunch and some rugs, we went to the sea-shore—only a short walk. We sat down in the shelter of a large fishing boat. Mr. Cassidy's teacher had joined us just as we were leaving the house. First we sang, had prayer, read and had a short lesson, Dr. Tanahe interpreting. Then Mr. C.'s teacher spoke for a few minutes, and closed with prayer. We had our lunch next; there was a paper bag full for each of the Sunday school scholars, and a cake each for about thirty children who had followed us.

We had games for half an hour or more; then returned, all highly delighted with the few hours' outing.

As yet there have been very few attending the Tuesday meeting. Our average has not been more than five. Last day we had two new faces, which was encouraging, indeed. We have an hour for the Bible lesson, and an hour for fancy work. During this hour I take fifteen or twenty minutes to give Mrs. Tanahe a lesson on the organ. Every other Friday I go to Fujieda, an hour's ride on the train, and have a woman's meeting. The average attendance has been ten. There are some very nice Christian women there. I always enjoy the meeting. They hold a meeting each alternate Tuesday when I am not there. Every third Saturday I go to Mitsuke and Fukuroi. Leave here at 6.30 a.m.; reach Mitsuke about ten; have a meeting at eleven; then go by rickisha to Fukuroi, and have another meeting at half-past one; have then just time to get to the station in time for the last train. Saturday before last I had a large attendance at both places. The people seemed exceedingly delighted to have a foreigner come and talk to them. I had heard Miss Lund speak of the singing in the country, but had no idea what it was like before. Now I have had a little experience, and realize I would be better had I a stronger voice.

A few Sundays ago we had our quarterly service at Shidzuoka. There were eleven baptized the same Sunday; six were women. One dear old lady, eighty-seven years of age, had only heard about the Bible last March. Mrs. Ushioka (our Bible-woman here), went to look after a boy of about seventeen, who used to come to church. This old lady was his great-grandmother. The grandmother lived there also. The boy's mother and father were both dead. They were very poor, and made a living by making the poorest kind of rain umbrellas. The two women spent a good deal of their time in gambling. Mrs. Ushioka talked to them for some time, got them interested in the Bible, so that they asked her to come again. Next time she went she took them a Bible and asked them to learn the Lord's Prayer. The third time she visited them the old lady said she had thought a great deal about this God she had told her about, and she wanted to be a Christian; said also that she had said good-bye to all her former gods. One thing troubled her a great deal. "Now I am an old woman, and must soon die, and if, when I meet this new God, He should say to me, Where did you come from? I do not know you, what shall I say? Then I cannot go back to the gods I have served

faithfully from my youth." Mrs. Ushioka explained more of the Bible to her, and she gave her name for baptism. Soon as Mrs. U. left she prepared some peculiar kind of pink rice, and made a last offering to her former gods, saying:—"Here I bring you this last offering; this is good-bye; I have found a new and better God; you have been good to me in the past, but for the future I don't want to have anything more to tell you." Since she was baptized I went to visit her, and had a long talk with her. She was very happy; said she has no troublesome thoughts now since she had been baptized. The grandmother said there was indeed a great change in her mother's life, and in her own also, although as yet she had not given her name for baptism, but she must do so. I see them at church every Sunday. They said they hated the cards they used to love to play so much. Before we left we sang and had prayer; the old lady closed by leading in the Lord's Prayer. She was just able to lisp out the words. When we got to the door, she told me how she used to pray to the sun, saying over and over many thousand times a day a few words, not knowing what they meant. But now there was such a great difference, she understood what her prayers meant when she prayed to the God of the Bible. They seemed to think we had honored them by our visit. We felt we had a blessing ourselves in trying to do what we could to encourage the them.

One of our young evangelists was married in the church last week. We had an invitation, so all went. You know how anxious they are to have foreign ideas; so we told them all to stand as the bride and groom entered the church, etc. Mr. Cassidy played a wedding march, "Home, Sweet Home." This was only the third marriage they have had in the church.

There is great distress just now among the poorer class, owing to the rise in the price of rice, and also the lack of work. Many are even starving to death, and some have been known to sell their last garment in order to buy food. We do not see so much of it out here. The worst cases are in Tokyo and Yokohama.

It is almost a year since I arrived in Japan. It seems so short. It has brought me many new experiences. They have taken me to heights and depths I had never reached before, yet I feel I have only had a taste of the pleasures and joys in store for those who live near to God. I understand now "we must work if we would grow."

When you say "Our Father," especially remember my work, and the Sunday-school at Hirona Mura.

INDIAN WORK.

From Mrs. Walker (Miss Knight).

S.S. "B. Boscowitz," July 16th, 1890.

The time for my last quarterly letter has passed, but I thought it better to wait till my work was done at the Home, and report it as I left it. The building is, of course, a little more dilapidated than when last I wrote, the floors and stairs more shaky, and the roof a little more leaky, the furniture a little more worn and shabby-looking; but they all bear these things cheerfully and uncomplainingly, as their hopes are brighter and stronger of having a new Home and nice, strong, good furniture before long. The children were all well, with the exception of a little cold in the case of one or two. Our new child is a little girl, not quite six. Her father died last winter, leaving a large family, and the mother was desirous of putting little Hannah (or Nannie, as we call her) with us, in accordance with the father's dying wish. She is a bright, nice child, and makes a nice playmate for our other two wee ones, Johnnie and Dollie, and the three mites make the house lively very often with their play and laughter. Their work is usually to play and *be good*, though all three go to school at least once a day. Nannie is only in for five years, too short a period by half. I do not approve of taking very young ones for such a short time. In five years the hardest part of training the child will be done, and yet she will not be old enough to have fixed principles, nor fitted for anything useful in future. Ellen Wesley left us (I think I wrote you before about it). Since then, her mother wished to send her back to the Home, but as they have constantly troubled us about the girl, we thought it better not. Sarah Williams is with me on board the steamer. I am taking her south to live with Mrs. Green, as she was very desirous of going, and we felt it would be better to place her out to service than force her to remain in the Home, now that she has really learned all she could learn there. Annie Thorne, whom we sent to Mrs. Tate eighteen months ago, has been very well and happy, and is now married to a farmer in comfortable circumstances, living either at Chilliwhack or in Washington Territory. Of all the girls who have left us since I took charge of the Home, I feel most satisfied about Annie. It was hard to part with my baby Dollie, although she has known for a long time that "mamma" was going away, and

as she said, almost daily, "Miss Hart be my mamma now." This summer at Port Simpson has been wet and backward, so we have not had much outing; then Miss Hart being away for five weeks, made it harder to get out. There are no wild berries, rather to the disappointment of the children. I never knew them so scarce before, but it is probably owing to the long, severe winter we had. The children, however, have a wonderful faculty for finding something to eat every time they go out; sometimes it is mussels off the rocks, sometimes roots or young shoots, or various plants which they tell me "the people eat," so they know they are safe, and, like most little people, nothing seems to hurt them. Lately, that is, within the past six or nine months, the girls have made great progress in their reading and writing. I was often quite surprised to find how quickly some of them were advancing, for I often felt before that in reading they seemed to make little or no advance. Olive, who has not been with us very long, is a good reader, and all the little ones have done well too. They are fond of school, and do not like staying at home unless for a picnic, and what child would prefer school to that? I left them well and happy, but for the little cloud cast by my saying good-bye. However, they will soon get attached to the new worker, and Miss Hart (or Auntie Hart), they already know and love. That our Father may bless and save them is my earnest prayer.

McDougall Orphanage and Training Institution.

MILLWARD P.O., Alberta, July 17, 1890.

How shall I begin to tell you all that has happened? We feel very much discouraged. La grippe has laid a heavy hand on us. Our Home was for a time like a hospital. No one escaped the sickness, but by care and some simple remedies nearly all soon recovered; but some could not rally, and such a time we have had with the weak, coughing ones. We got emulsion, cough mixture, quinine, tincture of iron, and physic, tried to coax their waning appetites with toast and other dainties. They seemed to gain by degrees. But their camp friends grew impatient and took them out, hoping that tent-life and fresh air would restore their health. But irregular habits, feasting, fasting, and filth, with their careless indifference as to suitability of clothing to the weather, often sitting in a strong draught of cold air, and not using medicine in proper quantities or at regular intervals,

etc., counteracts the effects of the fresh air, and they almost invariably grow worse and die under their treatment.

To be more specific—first: Little Rebecca Soldier died here of hemorrhage of the lungs, in the middle of February. Then William Jacob, after several months' illness, died of consumption April 24. John Meyers assisted me in making the coffin, and remarked to me on our return from the burial, "Well, there are no sick ones in the Orphanage now." I replied, "We cannot tell who may go next; it may be I, or it may be you. Let us be ready when we are called to leave this life, so we may enter a better one with our Lord, Jesus Christ." Well, next day, near evening, John ate a wild carrot (we think), and died Monday morning, after a day's illness.

Of those who were taken out, Sadie Ear grew worse and died, May 16. Agnes Soldier, the third day in camp, started bleeding at the nose and bled for seven days, then lingered on for four weeks longer and died. Jonas Jonas had nearly recovered from la grippe, but was weak and had very little appetite, when his father took him away, and finally succumbed a few days ago. Mary Kechiese, too, recovered so slowly that her mother, thinking an outing would benefit her, took her out. I saw her to-day, a skeleton of her former self. I fear she will not recover. Sarah Wesley has had to have her middle toe amputated, but her foot is now healing nicely. The others are well, and we hope we have got to the end of this sick term. We are encouraged with the present health.

The weather has been very favorable this summer, frequent rains and no frost, and our oats, grass, and garden are doing nicely. Our cattle, too, are thriving. We have now ten cows giving milk, but as they are young we are not making very much butter. We are raising eight calves, which in three years will be a source of revenue as butter-makers and for beef. There is a ready market here for both.

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TORONTO, ONT.

PRAYER CARD LEAFLET

SUBJECT FOR PRAYER.

OCTOBER.

Great Empire of China, and the Chinese people scattered
over the world; for the thousands of these foreigners in British
India, that abundant success may attend all missionary efforts to
civilize them; for Miss Leake, and the inmates of the
Asylum for Chinese Girls, that their way may be opened up for service in
the distant East among their own people, and that many more may be
induced to enter the Refuge.

Had it not been so near the close of the nineteenth century of the
Christian era, there are immense tracts of our globe, either wholly destitute
of, or most inadequately provided with the means of grace, and the
knowledge of salvation. Never before in the history of the Church, has
the command of the risen Lord been so frequently urged as now, "Go ye
into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Until re-
cently, comparatively little was known of the vast millions in the Empire
of China, who are in beatific darkness. The population of China is
estimated at four hundred millions, of which, perhaps twenty-five thousand
are communicants in Protestant churches. Four hundred and thirty
missionaries of the Conference which was held at Shanghai, in July, of
this year, constrained by the love of Christ and sympathy for the multi-
tudes, "Scattered as sheep without a shepherd," sent out an earnest and
unanimous appeal to the home churches for one thousand missionaries
for China. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few,
pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labour-
ers into His harvest." The best methods of reaching the women and
training of native female evangelists, was discussed by the lady mission-
aries present. Ministers declared that the women of China can only be
reached by women, and that the permanent Christianization of China de-
pends on the women, that their work is root work, and can only be done
by their going through the country reading and teaching. Mr. Taylor,
related an instance in which a lady succeeded in getting a house, when a
male missionary had been unable to get inside the city walls, and said
that when she went home a married missionary was enabled by her in-
fluences to carry forward the work. The value of the work done by lady
physicians, and the demand for nurses of them, was also prominently
brought out at this Conference. The condition of women in China is truly
pitiable, no missionary fully acquainted with it, would dare tell the story
to a mixed audience. In the respectable class polygamy prevails,
and female infanticide is said to be common, and daughter frequent. The cruel
custom of bandaging the feet is still continued, without regard to the
untold anguish of the innocent victim. The love which the Lord declared,
would cause a man to forsake father and mother and cleave only to his
wife, is God's gift to all alike. The mother love, the affection for parent,
brother, sister and home, a common inheritance; but, with no one to regard,
or enforce these God-given affections, they are broken and trampled upon.
Consider the enforced idleness and confinement which is the portion of
the women, "without God and without hope in the world," and no know-
ledge of "The man that shall be as a hiding-place from the wind, and a
covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow
of a great rock in a weary land." Will not you, dear reader, ask yourself,
is there anything I can do to change this dark picture? Yes, you can pray
that they may be speedily delivered from this bondage and occupy the
position you do, in the home and social circle, through the power of the
gospel. You can help to support a medical lady or teacher, if you cannot
do yourself. "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death,
and those that are ready to be slain, thou sayest, behold we knew it
not; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it? and He that keepeth
the soul, doth not He know it? and shall not He render to every man
according to His works."