

ANNUAL LETTER

Limchow Fu / Pakhoi District Nov 13th 1926

Few general impressions by me just back to the front

Educational

CMS Schools have decidedly lost prestige, although the small “primary schools” still hold sway but molested by “Students” of the Government Schools.

Basics methods have been used to cause them to close down, threats, intimidation, insulting remarks, & endeavors to force the Teachers to sign “papers” – refusing to teach Christianity, all of which have proved fruitless, for which we praise God, for in this way He has allowed His son to be tested, & and they have not failed Him.

A few weeks ago quite a number of “Students” of both “sex” – came to our compound to interview us – the girls greatly excited, wearing the western skirts, and hair cropped outwardly adopting things “western”, yet inwardly revolting of things “western”.

Questions were hurled at us, revealing their disturbed minds. “Before we feared you now we do not”, Who is God?, Have you seen him? “You come with our churches & win our confidence, then try to subjugate us”. “You would not allow us freedom to walk the streets”, now we can, we have liberty”. “We are going to show our power” etc etc.

After they had quietened down, we pointed out the dangers of liberty, when abused as they were doing, “girls freely associating with men etc – so absolutely opposite to their customs”.

As far as we know the “girl students” are the worst, as far as “Pakhoi” is concerned, but here it is the “boy students”.

At the same time, much as we lament the attitude they are taking we sympathise with them & there is the better & brighter-sides.

When at one of our “Outstations” recently, at the close of a meeting, a party of “Students” requested the use of the “Gospel Hall” for the purpose of holding a “night-school” to teach ignorant & poor boys to read & write. At the “opening” of same a “speech” worthy of note was given by a young Teacher, revealing the trend of their minds.

Other countries are prosperous, & have proven to protect their own – but “our-country” where does it stand? It was the first civilized Country, and now “it is down to hell”, Why? Because of our ignorance, in other countries 99% of the people are educated and of our 99% are uneducated. This is the cause !! Then followed an earnest appeal for membership.

We were truly thankful that the “Gospel Hall” was the appointed place for such a gathering, for it gave opportunity of pointing out the fact that “Education” was not the most important,

but rather the worship of the One True God, which must always come first for the building up of a nation.

British Subjects

Also have lost prestige to a great extent, one was amazed at the changed attitude towards us, on my return. Not only “Students”, but “Officers” & “Soldiers” they at will take possession of the Compound grounds! Enter freely our rooms! watch us at meals! all of which is absolutely unchineselike, & strikes one as being done in a spirit of “bravado”, which we meet with a spirit of patience, & invite them into the “Guest-Hall”, where usually they will listen quietly to the “Gospel”.

They are anxious to know if the “British Gov.” support us? Are all English people X’tians? Why fight them? Why do we take their land?

Persecution

Teachers, workers and & Church members, including ourselves, all meet with the favourite cry “Ta To Kei Tuk Kau” i.e. “beat to the finish the Christian doctrine”, “running dogs of the foreigners”, and “beat them to death”. Quite recently one of the B&FBS (note: British & Foreign Bible Society) Colporteurs sold a number of Gospels to Soldiers and others, & afterwards was invited to go to see them burnt; he took the opportunity of witnessing for Him whom he represented.

One of the “Catechists” last week was preaching in the “Gospel-Hall” when a soldier approached him, asking him to deny Christ, he refused, the soldiers hit him in the face, causing blood to flow, by the time the Pastor came, the man had fled. A young Christian girl teaching in the Government School here in “Limchow Fu” & receiving a very good salary, rather than deny Jesus, gave up her position. At one of the Outstations, Shek-Hong, one of our “Teachers” left our School. The “Students” there having intimidated her. One felt sorry because she was a faithful Teacher but a very timid nature. Another Teacher eagerly went to fill her place.

A few weeks ago “Sports” were held here in “Limchow Fu” in Commemoration of the “Republic of China”, & although the “civil magistrate” invited all schools to take part, the “Students” refused to allow “Christians” or any attached to “Christian-Schools” to do so, it was a bitter disappointment to many, as preparations had already been made - new clothes purchased! – & many having come from long distances!

Communism

One is gravely aware that all this is the outcome of the “Teachings” of “Communism” which have been widely disseminated throughout Colleges & schools urging abolition of not only “Christianity”, but also “Buddhism” & “Confucianism” thus removing all restraint from man advocating free love & liberty, both “sex” meeting or lines & equality – as they freely talk about it here “p’eng-Tan’g” “Tsy-yau” i.e. “equality” & “freedom”.

Idols

“Idols” and Temple bells & Temples are being destroyed - many of the people are afraid to enter shops to buy “incense” “candles” etc. When talking to the people about this destruction of their “gods” they tell us their hearts are “sad & empty”!!

Military

Soldiers & officers are better cleaned & better trained than in 1925, also greatly increased in numbers – regular Schools held where they are taught & examined in “military – warfare”, one realizes in a few short years “China’s Army” under “Russian tuition” will be an “Army” to be reckoned with.

Itineration

During the last month we had an opportunity to visit the more distant out-stations, a distance of over 80 miles from here, in the early part of the year. “Robbers” were bad & the poor people suffered terribly at their hands. The Catechist at “Ling-Shaan” told us that, the robbers called his “Father” to come out, he refused & they set fire to the house & when he ran out killed him, others had either their homes burnt or everything stolen, seven Christian homes suffered in this way.

Crowds attended the meetings at all the Stations – a splendid sale of “Gospel-posters”. The found peoples asking for “baptism” but no one to teach them, next year we hope to send a Bible-woman.

When the officials heard of the meetings they sent “Soldiers” to paste notices upon the “Gospel-Hall” – “Beat to the finish the Christian doctrine”, but these “threats” made no difference to the attendance – a greater number than before flocked to see & hear.

Wherever we went, a warm welcome awaited us, which makes us realize, this spirit of opposition is really a “party-feeling”, and not an expression of the attitude of the people towards Christianity.

We are confident that God in His wonderful way is using these “Posters” for the exclusion of His Kingdom, for they are causing a great sprit of inquiry in the minds of the people, se we take courage & go forward in the work, with the assurance that He is working with us.

Progress

The new “Gospel-Hall” was opened on Xmas-day of last year 1925, evening “Gospel-meeting” are held there.

“Dispensary work” is carried on in the Gospel-Hall for men only, twice a week by Miss Bakewell.

A “Kindergarten-School” opened in the “Gospel-Hall”.

A Chinese “medical worker” finished his training last year & is doing a very valuable & faithful work this year in Limchow-Fu.

We are hoping D.V. to send a Bible-woman to “Ling-Shaan” at the beginning of year.

We hope D.V. to open a "Girls' School" in Ling Shaan in the new term.

A Summer-School was held in Limchow-Fu for the first time – the "Chinese-Pastor" & "Chinese-Helpers" undertook the entire management, without any "foreign" supervision. It was a perfect success, & a means of help to a great many.

During our past itineration to "Ng-Lu", 60 odd miles from "Limchow-Fu" we came across a very earnest "youth" who helped us considerably by preaching in turn to the constant flow of people who flocked to listen. He told us that had it not been for the "Summer-School" mentioned above, he would not have known how to speak to the people.

A part of the "Summer-School" "programme" were "sermonaries" given by young members & afterwards criticised by the "Chinese-Pastor": the way to stand!, to look!, move their hands! & speak etc.

In closing one thanks & praises God for His Faithfulness in giving "wisdom" when faced "problems", for guiding our "thoughts" when suddenly beset with indignant questions from "Students", "Officers" & "Soldiers" as I have recorded, & which needed "the wise answer which turned away wrath & patience in dealing with them & loving sympathy, as we realize that, they are taught & led to believe that the "British-Imperialism" stands for "greed for Territory" & all that unjust & its aim being to subjugate their country.

China's need is for, the "official fervent prayers that availeth much", nothing less than this can supply her present need.

Yours sincerely

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