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THE HAMHEUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE INSTITUTE

By Miss E. McLellan

January fifth was the day appointed for the opening of the Women's Bible Institute. All day long the day before the women kept arriving some by train, some on foot, having walked several hundred li from the far away mountain districts. Some carried a bag of rice on their heads, in lieu of a month's board. Some carried babies on their back, although babies are tabooed at the Institute, but exceptions are made for special cases. Some were past the fifty-year old mark, but the majority were young girls to whom the Institute seems as a substitute for the school which they have not been privileged to attend, as well as a chance for Bible study.

Every year, as the time for the Institute drew near, there has been endless worry and anxiety as to where to house the out-of-town students and what to use for classrooms, but not so this year. We are rejoicing in the new, up-to-date, neatly built brick dormitory with accommodation for forty or fifty women, and from under the old Sinchangli church there have emerged four well-lighted, airy, warm and spacious classrooms.

At nine o'clock every morning (and nine o'clock is pretty early these cold winter mornings) the assembly room is well filled with the seventy women who have registered in the five classes. For the first half-hour the programme is singing, where wicard attempts are made at doh-me-sol, and some new hymns are learned. Then all separate in the different class rooms. Three hours of the day are given to Bible study and two to secular, including Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and Hygiene.

Only five days of the month have passed, but already a routine has been established, new friendships have been formed, new ambitions have been awakened, and with it all we hope a new vision of what Christ and Christianity mean in the working out of the daily life of these women.

THE NEW BIBLE INSTITUTE BUILDINGS

By Rev. Chester Sutherland

During New Years Day united services in one of the Hamheung churches, one of the blessings for which the pastor offered thanks was the new Bible Institute Building: for the Hamheung Institute with splendid class rooms, dormitory and equipment is indeed a reality, and is even now being used to advantage by the seventy or more women this week enrolled; and what satisfaction we all feel that they are no longer to be numbered among those who suffer from the cold of mid winter.

For many years these classes were held in the large auditorium of Sin Chang Li Church on the outskirts of our compound. And not only the cold, but more especially endeavouring to carry on several classes at one time in a single room, however large, made the work most trying for both pupils and teachers; and deep has been the longing for suitable class rooms and also for a suitable house where those in from far country places might put up during the months while the institutes are conducted.

In 1928 the Mission decided to buy Sin Chang Li Church. At that time the congregation was desirous of rebuilding in a more central location, while the Station was in need of some such plant for its yearly special teaching programme. Thus this beautiful old Korean building passed into the hands of the mission, and at once plans began to be made for the reshaping of it to meet the needs of the Bible Institute work. Then appeared a new problem.

The several congregations of the city which sprang from this one original church would have no meeting place large enough to contain them for their not infrequent united gatherings, once the commodious auditorium on Sin Chang Li became divided up into class rooms. Only after months of real hard

thinking and much discussion has the problem been solved to the satisfaction of all. The position of the building made it possible to excavate area ample for four large class rooms which are as well lighted as if they were on the second floor, and very much more easily heated. Also folding doors have been so made use of between two pair of rooms as to provide suitable meeting places for lectures to united classes, or other groups not large enough to warrant the heating of the up stairs meeting place. Thus Sin Chang Li Church building promises to continue to be one of the most used buildings of the mission for many a day. Here there are now being held, not only the Bible Institutes, but revival meetings, Sunday School Institute, school concerts and public health work, all under one roof; and on the adjoining lot stands the dormitory, newly built of red brick, Korean style with heated floors, accomodating forty or more with ease.

So now after those months of thought and labour by which the material side of our task has been so enhanced we turn our attention once more to the teaching programs, and are cherishing bright hopes for the future usefulness of the institution in providing study courses for the leaders of the church. Hamheung, with its mission staff, Korean pastors, teachers in the schools, and its doctors and nurses, is abundantly able to provide the full rounded, wholesome courses our leaders require. So we all give thanks, and dedicate ourselves anew to the task.

THE TENDER MERCIES OF THE UNGODLY

By Florence J. Murray, M.D., C.M.

Loud cries and a general commotion at the foot of the hill below the missionary residence causes the missionary's wife to look out upon the scene of confusion. In the yard of old Lydia, whose daughter had been bedridden for over three years in a losing fight with the dread tubercle bacillus, and just in front of the sick woman's open door, a struggle was going on, and judging by the noise, one of unusual severity.

"O! That poor woman and her sick daughter!" cried the missionary lady to her husband. "Do run down the hill and try to stop them!" And the missionary was off in an instant.

There lay the helpless invalid, trembling, as she watched a sturdy woman kick and tear at the figure of her poor old mother lying on the ground where she had been knocked down by the intruder. Blood flowed from the old woman's mouth and her clothes were nearly torn off her body, while she, near choked to death as she was, tried feebly to struggle with her assailant.

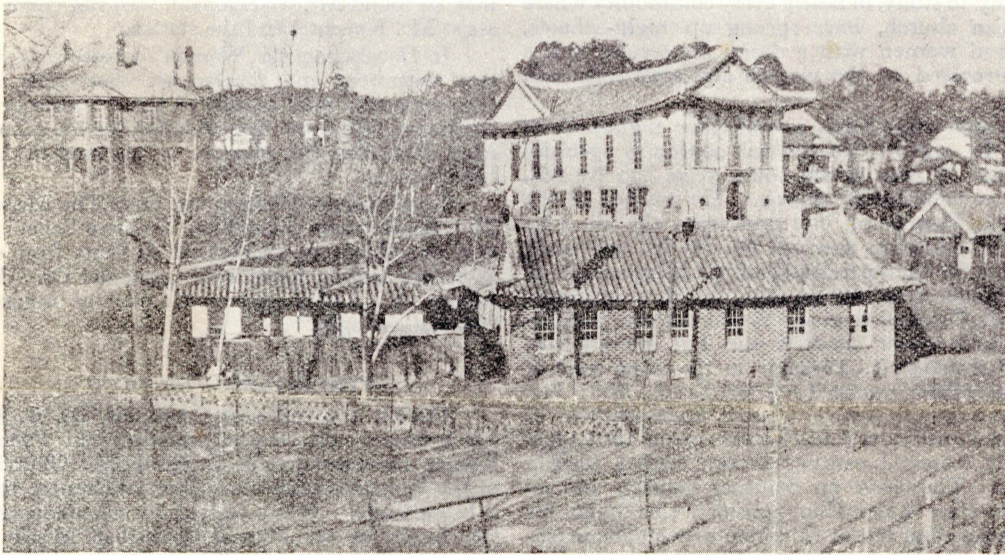
The arrival of the new-comer stopped the conflict for the young women apparently did not appreciate having spectators of her conduct and slunk away rather shamefacedly, muttering, however, that she would come again.

She was the fifth concubine of the husband of the woman whom she had just used so hardly, and had come to the home of the rightful wife to

demand some dishes. Neither she nor the husband, although they had means, had for years given the least assistance to the wife and daughter struggling with sickness and poverty. Now when she was refused her demand she took the gentle measures described above to get what she wanted.

Truly those who profess to think that the religions of the east are sufficient for the peoples of these lands can have very little idea of the circumstances of life here.

One may smile at the story of the old couple who had three sons and nine daughters-in-law, but when one realizes something of the jealousies, bickerings, and heartaches that go with such a state of affairs, one is forced to the realization of the futility of the faiths and superstitions of the country and the need for the principles and love of Jesus to change the hearts and customs of the people. Is it not significant that there is in the Korean language no word for "home"? Where Jesus is not known, people may live in houses, but they are not homes.



THE HAMHEUNG BIBLE INSTITUTE AS SEEN FROM THE HOSPITAL.

On the lower level just below is the new dormitory. On the hill to the left is the W.M.S. house, and in the back-ground are the "Scott" and "McRae" houses, while peeping from the right side of the Institute building may be seen the Y.M.C.A. house, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bunce.

HAMHEUNG HOSPITAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORK MOTHERS' CLASSES

By Florence J. Murray, M.D., C.M.

More than seventy women registered for the classes held once a week in a vacant missionary residence throughout the autumn and early winter. Devotional exercises at the beginning of each study hour were conducted by the hospital Biblewoman, and the teaching was done by the public health nurse, whose understanding of the circumstances, customs, and resources of her people makes her better fitted to talk to the mothers than a foreigner could be. After an hour of study those among the women who needed medical examination or care were accompanied to the hospital where the necessary attention was given.

During the three months session, visits were paid to the homes of the women by the Biblewoman and nurse, thus enabling the latter to make many practical suggestions as to conditions in the home. It also gave an opportunity for more direct personal evangelism than was possible with the larger number gathered in the meetings. Many who studied were already Christians but there were not a few who were not, and it is our hope to be able to keep in touch with these and win them for Christ and the church.

On the last day of the course at the closing exercises more than fifty certificates were presented to those who had attended the classes and passed the examination given. Very proud were the women who had received this proof of their diligence and many were the thanks that were expressed; not only verbally, but also by gifts to those who had made it possible for them to have the benefit of the instruction given.

Miss Chu, our public health nurse, is now in the country with one of the evangelists holding institutes of a weeks duration in the various villages where the hospital evangelists have worked. There are ten places already on the list and others are eagerly asking that they too may have the privilege of a weeks' instruction in things both physical and spiritual.

There is a very great need for such instruction and we are happy at last to be able to do more in this systematic way than we have been able to accomplish in the past.

HAMHEUNG CENTRAL CHURCH NIGHT-SCHOOL

By Mrs. R. M. McMullin

There are night-schools here in Korea as well as in Canada, some are for the teaching of English to aspiring youths; some to give higher education to those who had no earlier opportunity; but in Korea when we speak of night schools we usually think of those instituted for women and girls who otherwise would not be able to read or write their own simple script or do the easy sums necessary for the ordinary marketing. As you all know its only of late years that the fathers and mothers of Korea have considered at all educating their girls, and even yet there are quite a number say, "What's the use of educating a girl?" So for these neglected women and girls who have been given no opportunity to study, in nearly every community where there is a Christian church, have sprung up night-schools, fostered by men and women with a desire for service in His name and well patronized by the women and girls eager and anxious to learn.

In Hamheung each church has one of these night-schools but I think that the one in the Central church is specially worthy of mention. It was begun some years ago by Mr. Mung Hak Choi, an elder in that church. He was one of the earliest Christians in Hamheung city and from the time he began to believe the Christian message he and his wife have been zealous workers for the furtherance of the Kingdom in all its branches. Although they have no sons, which is a greater disappointment to an Oriental than any Westerner can possibly understand, they have never adopted one, but instead have adopted and educated two girls. Probably in the same spirit of helping the down-trodden womanhood of Korea, Mr. Choi twelve years ago founded the Central Church night-school. It has grown and grown until now it has become one of the largest night-schools in all Korea, I venture to say, with a nightly attendance of a 150. They have no Summer holidays and no Winter vacation, so since Elder Choi considers this school his special charge, it means that hot or cold, rain or wind, he makes a nightly trip to Central church. This is literally true, for on the other nights there is church and prayer-meeting and Mr. Choi is a regular attendant at both.

The pupils range in age from little girls of primary school age to mothers of 40 and over, who sometimes come with their babies on their backs, surely studying under difficulties, but all are diligent in attendance and earnest in their studies. The teachers are for the most part voluntary, one or two receiving \$2.50 or \$4.00 a month for their services, to insure his being there every night. When one fails to come Mr. Choi, beside his own teaching of an hour or two each night, does his best to substitute.

There are no class rooms, the classes being separated by cotton curtains. The pupils sit on the floor and are supplied crude desks. A small teacher's desk and a blackboard complete the simple equipment. The room is large, bare and cheerless heated by a few small stoves. At first the classes were only conducted up to 4th grade, but that was when it was easier to take the last two grades in the day school. Now since that has become more difficult there are six grades in this very efficient night-school.

In spite of such uncongenial conditions this school continues to grow and advance; and because of the unstinted efforts of one man is one of the most praise-worthy pieces of Christian enterprise in the city.

HAMHEUNG BREVITIES

The annual meeting of the Joint Board, consisting of ten missionaries and an equal number of Korean members of Presbytery, upon which rests the responsibility of administering F.M.B. funds for evangelistic and educational purposes, met at Hamheung Dec. 15 and 16th. This was followed by the midwinter meeting of the Mission Executive.

Christmas for Hamheung Station was filled with many happy events, with the splendid Christmas programs put on by the Christian institutions of the city, and the Christmas joy was greatly enhanced by the arrival from Canada of Dr. McRae and Rev. and Mrs. Roland Bacon. Mr. Bacon is a graduate in Arts of Mt. Allison and in Theology of Hine Hill, Class 31; while Mrs. Bacon has the distinction of being the first of our Canadian missionaries' children to return for work as a member of the mission. The whole Mission unites in hearty welcome to the Bacons, whose coming seems like a Christmas gift from the Home church to Korea.

The whole Mission rejoices with Hamheung Station to welcome Rev. Dr. McRae back after his six months absence on sick leave and extends hearty wishes that his health may continue to improve.

Arnold and Lorne Scott, whose company the whole station greatly enjoyed during the Christmas vacation, have returned to their studies at the Canadian Academy in Kobe accompanied by their younger brother, Keith, who has been home since his illness last Easter. We also had the pleasure, during Christmas week, of a short visit from Ross and Bruce McDonald of Wonsan.

We are glad to have Miss Jennie Robb spend the first month of the New Year at her old home here while she assists in the work of the Womans' Bible Institute.

Mr. Scott is gradually recovering from his painful accident on the 13th. of last November, when he fell from a considerable height while overseeing the work of renovation of Sin Chang Li Church, sustaining a compound fracture of the heel bone of his right foot.

Mr. Bunce is spending a month in Seoul and Pyengyang districts teaching in agricultural classes.

Rev. and Mrs. Roland Bacon are now in Seoul attending the winter term of Language School, which began on Monday the eleventh of January.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

A visitor to our Stations at the present time would find Month's Bible Institutes for men or women the order of the day. The two northern stations are holding a combined Institute for men as usual at Lungchingtsun, with Mr. Ross and Mr. Fraser combining forces.

At Hoiryong a Women's Bible Institute is in progress, with Miss Thomas of Sungjin assisting Miss Rose.

Sungjin in turn is busy with a Men's Institute, and here may be found Mr. MacDonald, who has come from Wonsan to assist Mr. Knechtel and the station.

In Hamheung the Women's Institute is rejoicing in their new dormitory and comfortable classrooms, and Miss Robb, who for many years conducted the Institute under most trying conditions, has come from Sungjin for the month to share with Miss McLellan the pleasure of teaching in the present happy environment.

Looking in at Wonsan one finds The Misses McCully and Mrs. Barker busy in the Bible Training School; and going over to Pyeng Yang the theological students from our territory and all Korea may be found studying under Dr. A.F. Robb and his colleagues. And so goes on the work of training those who will "spread the light."

THE KOREAN CHURCH IN JAPAN

During the midwinter vacation Dr. C. A. Clark of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pyeng Yang and a Korean representative of the Methodist Church visited several of the Korean churches in Japan, and report that fine progress is being made. Many years ago work among Koreans in Japan was begun by the Federal Council of Missions in Korea, and later transferred to the Korean National Council, which has been supporting three pastors to work among their fellow-countrymen in Japan. For the past few years Rev. L. L. Young under the Canadian Presbyterian Church has been working in cooperation. He is now assisted by four Canadian W.M.S. missionaries, and there are eight Korean pastors, with a ninth soon to be ordained.

The time for further organization seems to have arrived, and Dr. Clark and his companion, who went over to aid in this, report that a satisfactory Constitution has been prepared for this new United Church, with a creed combining those of the Korean Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, and the Apostles' Creed in addition.

This Korean Church in Japan has now forty-two churches or groups, about one third of which are in Osaka. The total number of Christians is about 4000, and the number of Koreans in Japan is estimated at about 400,000. For the most part they are very poor. The men usually wear western style of clothing, and are not easily distinguishable from Japanese, but the women wear Korean dress.

The members of our Mission, and readers of Korean Echoes, will rejoice in the success attending the labors of our friend Mr. Young and his co-workers in shepherding the Koreans in Japan.