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Ten Thousand Foreign Students in United States

Many Return to Native Lands With Less Religion Than When They Came; How Best to Meet the Problem

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Executive Secretary, Committee on Friendly Relations Among Foreign Students.

 HERE are at the present time more than ten thousand students from foreign countries resident in the colleges of the United States who will in a few years return to the countries from which they have come each one of them carrying an im-

pression of the social, religious and economic life of this country and expressing this impression to their fellow countrymen upon their return. A census made for the school year 1923-24 shows that seven thousand, five hundred students were enrolled from one hundred and five different countries. In addition to this number secretaries of the Friendly Relations Committee Among Foreign Students estimate that there are more than three thousand students who are studying in trade schools or taking courses in schools which were not touched by the census.

Of the seven and a half thousand students reported in the census twelve hundred are graduate students. The largest national group are the Chinese who total about fifteen hundred and the next largest number are the eight hundred Canadians. Japanese and Filipinos each number about six hundred and fifty. All of the Latin American Republics and most of the countries of Europe and the Near East are represented. Many of the Chinese students come to study at government expense as do some of the Filipinos and South Americans but a large percentage of the foreign student group come at the expense of parents or

friends or are self-supporting students. Probably this self-supporting group is the largest among the Filipinos where according to a survey this year eighty-seven per cent were entirely self-supporting after arrival in this country.

Conversations with foreign students who have been Christians when they came to America reveal that many have less faith or have become agnostic before completing their study in our colleges. Very few of those who are non-Christians at the time of their arrival become Christians in this country.

The greatest single service for foreign students can be rendered only through friendship given them by the Christian people of America. Those who serve with the home can never know what influences they have set in motion in the lives of students who have returned to serve the church in mission lands.

While the tendency of foreign students is to gather together in the larger universities which, for the most part, are located in the metropolitan areas there are also many foreign students distributed throughout all parts of the United States. New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and Berkeley have in their schools a large percentage of the foreign students but they can be found in forty-seven states of the union and in the District of Columbia. This distribution of the students into nearly every state divides the responsibility so that the Christian Church must look upon the task of receiving these students as one not confined to any locality but as extending throughout the entire country.

The greatest single service for foreign students can be rendered only through friendship given to them by the Christian people of America. Racial prejudice, loneliness, criticism of our customs and manners, national prejudice and all of the barriers which might act to keep a foreign student from knowing the power of Christian forces in this country can be overcome if each of the students who comes from foreign countries can have at least one American who

"In the Clouds"

WILLIE BURNICE GREENE

WOULDNT it be nice if each one of you could be with us up here on the top of Chidi San. Surely there is no place where you could go that would be nicer.

This is the mountain site that the mission is in negotiation of leasing; so as to have a cool place to go to during the hot weather.

I imagine in the future we will be having our Annual Meetings up here. It is over 4,000 feet and the air is very invigorating and the scenery is most inspiring. To spend several weeks among these lofty mountains, brings one closer to God and gives a fresh supply of spiritual food to start the year's work on.

We have heard that you people back home are working to make our dream of obtaining this beautiful spot a reality and even before it comes to pass we turn grateful hearts to you, and will be so glad to entertain you in our little shacks on Chidi San when you come to see us and your Mission Work in Korea.

We are all having lots of fun picking out our house sites and making plans for our little houses to be put

up in the future. Each one, of course, thinks he has found the best site, with the very prettiest view, and the very best spring on it.

But then how could we help it for you could not find a spot here that didn't have a wonderful view.

Some places you can look out into the distance beyond and see at least eight other mountain ranges. Oh, if you could see this beautiful sight with the brilliant blue sky above, flecked with marvelously shaped white clouds.

And then too the sunsets are beyond description. We often go out on a large rock that we have named "Sun Set Rock," to have song services and watch the sun setting and the gorgeous tinting of the whole heavens.

And as we behold the grandeur of God awe comes over us and with reverent hearts we sing "Day is Dying in the West."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our lives could always show forth such "mountain top" experiences and others could look at us and know that we had been "In the Clouds."

The Burden Bearers

REV. L. T. NEWLAND

I passed a hundred people out on the road today;
Some carried heavy loads, some gaily laughed in play.
I saw the richly dressed, I saw the beggars' rags,
I saw the bloom of youth and toothless stumbling hag
The rope girt mourner passed the bridal palankeen,
For there was life and death commingled in the scene.
Yet every passerby awoke the same surprise—
A hopeless heathen soul spoke out of weary eyes.

We on the Mission Fields pass these crowds daily for it is not possible to ever get away from the curse of heathenism. No matter if there may be a crowd of happy Christians gathered for a picnic or to meet some friend, to glance up from their happy faces is but to see on the fringes the unsaved masses that look with curious and wistful glances upon the strange happiness of these their country men.

Truly all unchristian countries know too well these pitiful burden bearers who never in this world can for one second ease their souls of the crushing weight of sin. Heathen sacrifices mark the beginning and the end of life and all the weary years between are spent under the shadow of a great fear.

To pass through one of these countries and to carry away no other impression than that of a people either mildly prosperous or grossly ignorant in science so called and then to go back home and prate about how well suited Buddhism or Shintoism is to the psychology of the East or how marvelous have been the strides of Japan in progress during the last quarter century shows a lack of spiritual discernment and sympathetic

understanding of man's real needs that is pitiful and inexcusable in a rated Christian.

We are out here to lift these burdens and to awaken hope in weary eyes and we are willing to work to the limit of human strength to bring this about. But these burdens are no more ours than yours and we are no more responsible to God for the lost condition of the heathen world than any other Christian that lives in America. But we are willing to be your substitute in this work if you will only supply us with the means for carrying on the work.

Let those who feel that Christ is the world's Saviour and that He had a right to send His followers in all the world with his Gospel come out and help us or if you cannot come send some one in your place and give him the tools with which to work.

At the Great Assize the question will not be so much have you or I gone to the Mission Field, but have we gotten under the burden of the spiritually helpless heathen and made it possible for them to lay their burden at the foot of the Cross.

May you see the picture I have tried to paint at the beginning of this article and send out the men and the tools now to make it possible for the thousands that pass along the road of life today to know Christ before they sink into graves dedicated to the worship of the Devil and join that great host who in man's wisdom knew not God.

P. S. Even the Sunday School cards and charts are failing us. They are a great help in bringing in the crowds to the Sunday Schools.

Kwang-ju, Korea.