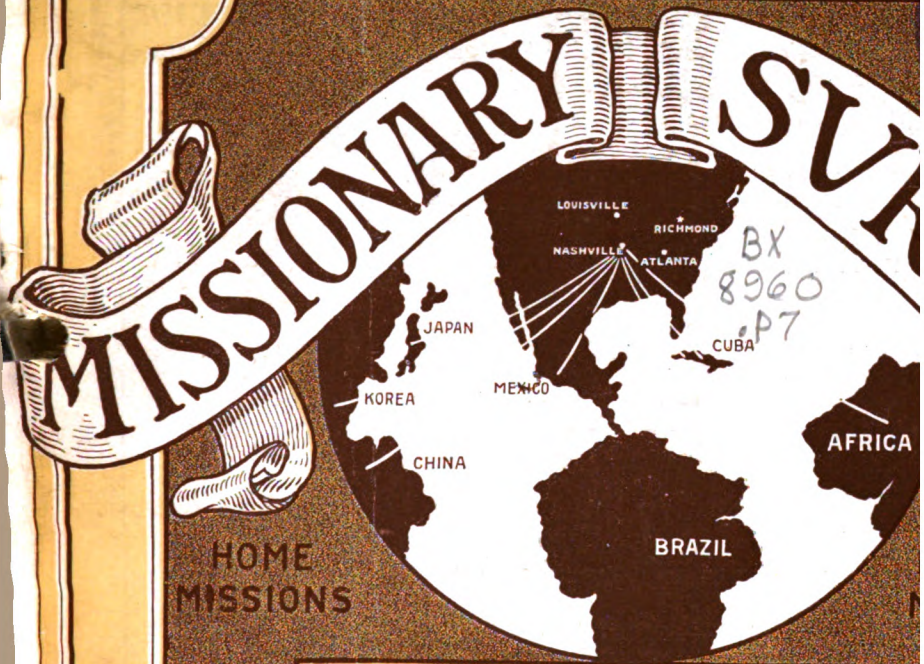


Presbyterian Survey

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HOME
MISSIONS

MAY, 1922

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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
AT HOME AND ABROAD



PUBLISHED BY
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THE SCHOOL AND THE CHURCH

REV. L. T. NEWLAND.

IN almost every article now written on the economic condition of the United States there is a more or less lengthy reference to our woeful state of illiteracy and the means that must be taken to remedy this condition. For surely Russia is a living warning of the dangers of an ignorant people whose undeveloped minds are stimulated and made drunk with every wild vagary of the irresponsible demagogue. But if education is essential to national security it is no less essential to the strength and permanency of the Christian church. For there are spiritual Lenines and Trotskeys as well as political who fatten on the ignorance of the Christians.

In every mission field that holds within its reach a large number of uneducated people, the greatest obstacle to the establishment of a strong church is the mental weakness of the converts, whose zeal is great, whose love is true but who lack the trained minds that are essential to leadership or even to intelligent acceptance of the tenets of Christianity. The Presbyterian Church has always been aware of the fact that education is essential to the permanent and symmetrical faith, so as a church she has always stressed schools, making the Church and the Christian schools the Jachin and Boaz upon which she built her religious activities.

From the first the missionary work of Korea has been mostly among the great middle class, the farmers and artisans. These are the strength of the land and the magnificent success of our work here has been due to the fact that under the guidance of the Spirit we have reached the most important class of people in the whole country. But unfortunately education is largely confined to the leisure class and while the middle strata of society has the brain power and the desire it has lacked opportunity to acquire even the rudiments of education.

Great movements surge through nations as great moods take hold of persons and just at present the great movement that is agitating the Land of Morning Calm is an unquenchable thirst for learning. The school systems of both our church and the Government have broken completely down, not being able to handle more than a small percent of the number that are clamoring for a chance to enter, while as yet only a part of the population has been touched by this urge, so every day increasing numbers of parents and children are responding to the call which only complicates our problems as our school facilities are largely stationary. The Government schools turn away pupils by the thousands even tho the buildings are so congested that frequently one teacher has over 100 pupils to teach and the schools are run in morning and afternoon relays. Our Academies turn away boys and girls by the hundreds, even tho every available building has been given up and the teachers have even requisitioned some of the rooms intended to be used by the foreigners, and besides this many pupils have been put out to board with private families.

What a marvelous opportunity! Eager, alert, plastic Korea comes to us and begs us to put the stamp of a Christian education on their minds. They ask not only for the truth but the truth as it is found in Christ Jesus.

Not only are the central station schools crowded but out in the country churches they are asking for a chance too. So with true Presbyterian zeal for learning we are starting schools in most of our country groups. These are small and most inadequate but numerically they are an overflowing success. Boys and girls in increasing numbers are attending them and in most instances there are also night schools for men and women who tho

ignorant are ashamed to attend day sessions with the children.

Here lies our greatest problem for we cannot begin to finance these schools properly and so too often have to use immature or poor teachers. I have in mind a school of 70 pupils that I help to the rate of \$5.00 per month and the churches raise about \$15. But \$20 is not enough for a school of 70 boys in any civilized country. Yet the cry comes up for more and still more of these country schools, but the only way I can begin any more than I have is to thin out still thinner the mission money I have and lower instead of raise the standard.

It will be well to mention here a significant fact. The strenuous effort the Government is making to increase the public schools in no wise answers our problem, for the people, even the heathen, show a decided preference for the church schools and leave the large Government institutions with all their privileges to become students in our little poverty stricken Government blacklisted mission school. I have in mind a little new church that I have just begun. It is right at the foot of a large new Government high school. Yet without my knowledge or consent they have gotten a Christian teacher and are running a flourishing school in the church building.

It is not my purpose in this article to reemphasize the great revival that is now on in this land, all have heard of it. But if the revival is to be carried to a successful close or the effects conserved there must be workmen and leaders raised up from among the people and these will only come from our schools. Our present revival is pre-eminently a young people's movement and so the leaders are the young men and women. They see that the hope of the church lies in the Christian education, they have embued the church with this idea, so we can expect the demand for more and better schools to increase rather than decrease. Heretofore, only

the boys were educated, now the church demands that her girls and women be educated too, hence the vogue for night schools for girls.

I have just hastily sketched the situation. It is tremendous in its possibilities, rich in its promises and pathetic in our inadequacy to meet it. A people that are passionately athirst for learning are going to get it and to us has been given the privilege of determining the tomorrow of Korea by stamping Christ on the mind of today. We must not, we dare not let this opportunity slip; God pity us if young Korea comes to us asking for bread and we give them a stone.

Two great problems must be met and solved before this school question can be rightly answered. In the first place Korea as a whole is desperately poor, and despite Government reports to the contrary, is getting poorer. The land is slipping away from them and no manufactories are opening up. It is an absolute financial impossibility for the average Korean father to educate his children. I have seen well-to-do, in a Korean sense, parents going in rags that their boy may be kept in school. But each year the price of board and the school fees advance so the struggle becomes more hopeless. The state schools meet this need by not only making schooling free but in many instances giving all the books as well. And remember all patrons of our schools must pay the school taxes just the same whether they patronize them or not. Therefore to meet this competition and to meet a real and dire need we must provide some way to cheapen our educational advantages so as to bring them to the financial level of the patrons and yet we must not destroy the self respect of those who attend. Do not think the people are not doing their part. They are gladly impoverishing themselves that their children may enter the choice ranks of the educated.

As I see it the one and only answer to this problem is industrial depart-

ments in all our station schools where the boys and girls can earn their way. We are doing something along this line in a small way but so far we are only playing at it. We must have industrial men and industrial plants training hands as well as heads. It will take money and time but as I see it here is the key to the whole school situation of present day Korea. I have not time in this article to enlarge on this point, but just remember it is the self-help department that makes Lees McRae, Nacoochee and other like schools possible in rich America and in a greater sense are they needed in backward Korea.

The other question is the matter of country schools. Our country churches by giving from \$3 to \$5 to every one that we give prove their willingness to do their part. But we should have a school, a good school in every church that will give at least the fundamentals to every boy or girl that can be reached but who are too poor to come in to the central academies. Not only must we have trained leaders but we must have an educated constituency as well. We should be putting at least twice as

much money into the country schools as we now have to put into them. Be it known that if the Government can ever coax away from the army and navy enough money to establish sufficient schools in the country districts then our church schools will suffer a sudden demise. *Now* is the time we should be pushing schools instead of turning down application after application. Give me enough really Christian schools and I can overcome our disastrous lack of workers. Neglect Christian education and it will take double the amount of foreign missionaries and quadruple the amount of money to win Korea for Christ.

God has given us light on the needs of this land. Now are we going to follow His lead and build up these centers of Christian education until they are of sufficient number and strength to control every phase of the national life of this land, or are we going to commit the determining of the mental activities of the church of tomorrow, to heathen, worldly, materialistic Japan. We are your agents, we obey your orders.

Kwang-ju Korea

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGO MISSION ON THE DEATH OF BISHOP W. R. LAMBUTH

Whereas God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to call from this life to a life more abundant Rev. Walter R. Lambuth, D. D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the American Presbyterian Congo Mission in annual session at Luebo, December 1921, hereby passes the following resolutions:

Resolved first, that in his death our Mission has sustained the loss of a true friend and Christian brother, who had manifested in many ways his sympathetic and abiding interest in the evangelization of the Congo natives.

Resolved second, That we feel that the Christian Church has lost one of its greatest leaders, a missionary states-

man of world-wide renown, a wise counsellor, a man of strong faith, and of high achievements.

Resolved third, That we extend our condolence to his bereaved family, to the members of his Church, and to the members of the Methodist Episcopal Congo Mission.

Resolved fourth, That a copy of these resolutions be recorded in our minutes, and that copies be sent to the family of the deceased, to the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions, to the Members of the Methodist Congo Mission, and to The Missionary Survey.

Signed:

Motte Martin, Chairman.
Robt. D. Bedinger.

The price of gasoline in Korea has fallen to 83½ cents per gallon.