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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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 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

"It is a hard word you have said, but though they may disown me, I am ready to be a follower of the Spirit you call Jesus, if I can be sure that He is the Son of God."

This man, in the presence of others took this woman to be his lawful and wedded wife, and with a loving look into the eyes of Eunie and a heart of thankfulness to the God who answers prayer, the missionary saw them leave for the city of Na Ju, twenty miles distant.

The missionary heard only occasionally from Eunie, until three years after—this last spring,—when she was

surprised and delighted to see her sitting among the women of the village of Na Ju, as a delegate to the Bible School in Kwangju. She had been baptized by Mr. Newland, was an eager Bible student, and a recognized leader in the church. Ah yes, and upon inquiry, the missionary learned that her husband had become a Christian, and at Eunie's side, sat her mother-in-law,—a woman of the upper class, who too, had come to the Bible class to learn more of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"Before ye call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking I will hear."



Mrs. Swineheart and a group of interesting Korean women. Standing next to Mrs. Swineheart is the former dancing girl; next, the mother-in-law; then the mother; and the last old lady is an aunt of the mother-in-law.

The Year's Work in Kwangju

L. T. NEWLAND

THIS past church year has been swarming time for me. In June I gave Mr. Paisley ten churches in Yeung Kwang county which included my prize church—Yeung Kwang city. Then in August I turned over to Dr. Bell four large and two small churches. That still left me with twenty-three churches and groups to which I have since added three more. Then this spring I set off two small groups to the Mokpo territory and received four from them in exchange. This leaves me twenty-eight churches, some of them almost twenty years old, some of them not six months. In some of these old groups the dry rot has been a work so long that they are little more than shells, in others a financial crash has driven a great many of the Christians to the city in search of work; others have been so busy with their quarrels that they have had little time for the Lord's work, while others, and by far the greater number, have been faithful to their Master and have experienced a real spiritual advancement.

My time has been so taken with other phases of the work that I have not had time to do all the country visiting I would like to have done but I have been around to each church at least twice and I have been insistent

that the helpers be more faithful in their ministrations for I have found that practically all church troubles are directly attributable to lack of oversight.

This spring I received the consent of four Korean pastors to hold revival services in my field and found these services not only peculiarly helpful to the churches in spiritual uplift and better understanding of their duties as church members, but the pastors themselves were helped in getting a better idea of the problems of the country work and are now I am sure more sympathetic with the ideas of these country brethren.

Apart from these larger revival services every small church was visited by two or more helpers in the fall for a few days of special services and several villages as yet untouched by the church were made the objects of special effort.

Last year the field increased its baptized membership by one-third, this year it will fall just a little under one-fourth. But this is partly accounted for by the fact that I was compelled to begin my spring examinations over two months early and many were held over for lack of preparation.

There are four new churches in my field now over



Korea has some pretty scenes, as this picture shows.

what there were last year and two new ones just beginning. In two of these houses of worship have been built by the new Christians, in two others they meet in rented rooms and in the other two in private homes. In four of these there are a large number of chatechumens admitted this year and in one I baptized sixteen this spring.

The last mentioned began a little over eighteen months ago in a large village and from the first the people showed a great hunger for the Gospel, the women especially attending in large numbers even when the meetings were held in the men's quarters. I put a worker in this village last fall and since then the growth has been constant. About Christmas they began their new church building on land donated by a heathen. In March I was there and baptized the first Christians in that village and combined this sacrament with the dedication of the new house of worship. It was a blessed privilege to reap so soon the fruitage of the seed sown in the village of Wulbi.

There are ten church schools left to me after the division. These are carried on more or less successfully but the work is getting harder all the time; for the Government schools are springing up everywhere and partly to get fees and partly to make a big show, severe

pressure is brought to bear to compel Christian parents to take their children out of the church schools and send them to the Government institutions. These activities have cut down the number of students somewhat and financial inability has kept many more away. Yet as a whole the schools have done well and I have made certain of a daily teaching of the Bible by preparing the course myself. All the schools have been used in Sunday School work and while there were many applications from the students for church membership I have learned from experience that it is a doubtful plan to baptize immature boys from heathen homes, so I went very slowly in granting permission.

These church schools are the vital supply bases of our work. The enemy is trying to destroy them, for with them away we will look in vain for our church leaders in the future. It is, I believe, a mistake to require too much in the way of self-support from these schools but I am sure that this branch of the work should be vigorously pushed at the cost of some other lines in order that we may train up worthy leaders for our churches of tomorrow. It is not only a dream but contrary to fact to expect Christian leaders of any kind to come out of the present Government schools or children from Christian homes to retain their Christianity under such surroundings.

WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS

"Into All the World."—Twelve men on a mountain in Galilee.

One century later—Jerusalem to Spain.

Five centuries later—Conquered Europe.

Fourteen centuries later—Crossed Atlantic.

Eighteen centuries later—Belted globe.

Nineteen centuries later—Occupied all lands.

Twenty centuries later—Christianizing all nations.

—*Missionary Review of the World.*