

[March 1924 title page]

WOMAN'S WORK

A Foreign Missions Magazine

Published Monthly by

The Woman's Board of Foreign Missions

of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

156 Fifth Avenue, New York

Vol. XXXIX, March, 1924, No. 3

[p. 58]

On the Eve of a Revival

Francis E. Davidson

WHEN WE THINK of 200,000 souls in Japan thrust suddenly into eternity by the terrible earthquake, we wonder how many had ever even heard the Gospel message ; and our hearts burn with the desire to carry the "Good News" quickly to the millions who remain. Sometimes here in the "Northern Star" school we are tempted to be a bit impatient. But we are encouraged by the example of our Lord Himself, who spent much of those three precious years in teaching and training the few who should carry on His work. We teach girls from twelve to eighteen years of age, many of whom have never heard of the true God. Nearly every girl who continues through the five year course becomes a Christian, as do very many of the others, even in the first year. These girls often go home to villages where there is not another Christian—can you really imagine such a community—and they are lights in those dark places, preparing the way for the missionary and the Japanese evangelist.

We long to have a Bible training course, in which some of our graduates may have two or three years of special preparation for a life work of Bible teaching. But many parents who cannot send

young daughters of eighteen to a metropolis for Bible training, would be willing to have the daughter remain in the school which has given her preparatory training.

“Northern Star” opened on the Wednesday following the earthquake and the remainder of that week was spent in collecting and preparing garments for those who had lost everything in Tokyo. An advertisement was put into the newspapers, asking that donations be brought to the school. Old garments were washed and re-made. Gifts of money amounted to \$50 and these were used for new materials and other necessary articles. Fifty-four Japanese mattress covers, four mattresses already made, and great bundles of Japanese shoes and stockings, aprons, undergarments, bags, school books, pencils, cakes, kitchen utensils, and other things were given. Since then, much more has been done outside of school hours. The girls gave nearly \$20 from their own meagre spending money. In each class room the pennies were given unostentatiously each week. The girls made Christmas gifts for the Sunday School children, Christmas cards and booklets. The source of such supplies was destroyed, and it seems especially hard to be deprived of Bibles, tracts, and religious literature when hearts are hungering for help.

The disaster has had a steady effect upon those far removed from it. A deeper spirit of earnestness is evident in the school Bible classes, and workers everywhere are reporting more apparent interest in spiritual things. Our pastor, just back from synod and other meetings in the south, feels sure that we are on the eve of a revival such as Japan has never known.

Since we cannot take our seventy-five dormitory girls the long distance to church in the evening, we have a Christian Endeavor meeting in two sections here. There is a Junior Society for first, second and third year girls, and a Senior Society for fourth and fifth year students. The girls lead their own meetings. A monthly union meeting was made a Thanksgiving service. The leader had asked the girls to be ready to name things for which they were thankful. Answers were written on the blackboard as they were given and included parents, health, their school, Christian teaching, the Cross. Most of the gratitude this year was naturally for their own or their friends' escape from the Tokyo disaster. One was thankful for the long list of blessings enumerated during the meeting in November.

[p. 64]

Our Missionaries in Japan

Miss Miss Alice M. Monk,	Sapporo-Hokkaido
Miss Elizabeth M. Evans,	“
Miss Frances E. Davidson,	“
Mrs. Leo C. Lake,	“
Miss Grace P. Curtis	“

In this country : . . . Miss Grace P. Curtis, 541 Lexington Ave.,
New York City . . .