PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

CENTRAL CHINA MISSION

NINGPO STATION REPORT

Year Ending June 30th, 1926
THE CENTRAL CHINA MISSION

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U.S.A.

1926

NINGPO STATION REPORT

SHANGHAI
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1926
Station Farewell to Miss Rolleston. Ningpo, June 1926.
PERSONNEL OF STATION

MRS. HARRISON WRIGHT. (1891) Evangelistic work.


MRS. SHOEMAKER. Work among women at Yuyao; Oversight of Bible-women.

MISS MARGARET B. DUNCAN. (1903) Principal, Girls' Boarding School.

MISS E. C. DICKIE. (1906) Evangelistic work.

MISS ESTHER M. GAUSS. (1911) Vice-principal; Riverside Girls' Academy (Union).

REV. E. M. SMITH. (1916) Evangelistic work in city; Station Treasurer.

MRS. SMITH. Kindergarten playground work; work among women in Ningpo.

REV. F. R. MILLCAN. (1907) Vice Principal, Ningpo Middle School (Union).

MRS. MILLCAN. Teacher, Boy's Boarding School; Station Secretary.

MISS ROSABEL STEWART. (1920) Work for Women at Yuyao.
NINGPO STATION REPORT
May 1925—May 1926

PERSONNEL

The Station's force of workers has been somewhat below par this year: Miss Gauss being at home on regular furlough, and Miss Stewart having to take an emergency furlough for health reasons. We look forward to welcoming them both back to the work within the next few months.

We are very grateful for the good health that has prevailed among the other members of our staff.

The Station's only child having to go away to school has left a wide vacancy which is not by any means confined to the Millican home. Fortunately Edith is near enough to get home for vacations and cheer us all with her youth and enthusiasm.

It is with a sense of deep personal sorrow that the Station faces the serious loss that is to befall it within the next few months through the permanent retirement of one of its senior members. For almost thirty-two years Miss Rollestone has been a part of our Station's life; and it will not be easy to give up the fellowship which has drawn us together in close friendship all these years. But though she cannot be here in person, the faithful service which she has rendered to the Master's cause by means of Country Itinerations, training of Bible-women, the Women's Class, the Women's Center, Help in the Yuyao Hospital; and the inspiring example of devotion, fellowship and sympathy which she has lived among us, are built into the foundations of the Church's life and will abide for all time. Though she is unable longer to carry the burden of active service, we fully expect that she will still continue to be a very effective member of our force; contributing to the success of every department of the work through her ceaseless intercessions on our behalf; and we shall ask that she be given many years of such service.
It seems impossible to pass this part of the report without mentioning the fact that others of our number are rapidly nearing the service limit; and the feeling among our Chinese fellow workers in this field that the church itself should take up the task which each retiring missionary has to lay down impresses upon us more deeply than ever the need of making each year count for its utmost worth in preparing the church membership for the responsibilities which will so soon develop upon their shoulders.

**The Appointed Work of Station Members.**

**Mrs. Wright:**
House to house visiting, Ningpo and Yuyao.
Women’s Class, Yuyao.

**Miss Rolleston:**
Women’s Evangelistic Center, Yuyao.
(Yuyao)

**Mr. Shoemaker:**
Evangelistic work (under Presbytery Comm.)
Itinerations Yuyao and Zong-Yu fields.
(Yuyao)

**Mrs. Shoemaker:**
Oversight of Bible-women, Girls’ Short Term School, Assisting in Women’s Center, City and country evangelism.
(Yuyao)

**Miss Duncan:**
Principal of Dzong-Teh girls’ school, ½ yr., Teacher in Riverside Academy, ½ yr.

**Miss Gauss:**
Furlough. (Work next year, vice-Principal Riverside Academy).

**Miss Dickie:**
Women’s school, Ningpo, oversight of Bible women, city evangelism.

**Mr. Millican:**
Principal of Union Boys’ Middle School (S.- Ming), lecturer at Riverside Academy.

**Mrs. Millican:**
Teacher in Dzong-Sing and S-Ming Schools, work among women, Station Secretary.

**Mr. Smith:**
Men’s Evangelistic Center, Ningpo, city and country evangelism. Station Treasurer.

**Mrs. Smith:**
Kindergarten, oversight of Bible-women, Teaching in Djong-Teh school, ½ yr., Teacher in Riverside Academy, ½ yr.

**Miss Stewart:**
On furlough, (next year, Women’s Center, city evangelism).
(Yuyao)

**Chinese Workers.**

The staff of Chinese colleagues who can be reckoned as part of the fixed quota of workers is as follows: Nine men in the active ministry, one licentiate, four bible-school
graduate evangelists, and six untrained workers make a total of twenty men on church-work staff. Through illness and retirements the force of Bible-women has been reduced to three in the active service in the Yuyao field and three in Ningpo. In addition to these there are five young women who have graduated from the Women’s Bible Training School in Nanking, who are rendering splendid service as Bible teachers in schools, or doing city evangelistic work.

The Hospital staff consists of two doctors, two men nurses and one woman nurse, with two student assistants.

The force of school workers includes: 21 primary teachers, (14 men and 7 women), 16 teachers in Higher primary schools, (11 men and 5 women) and 10 Middle school teachers, (6 men and 4 women); making a total of 31 in evangelistic work, 7 in medical work and 47 in school work; 83 all told, (55 men and 28 women).

**Church Work.**

While there is always room for improvement in human effort of any kind, still there is much to encourage in the work which the Chinese church in this field is accomplishing. The growing sense of responsibility for the work on the part of the Christian leaders is something for which we may be devoutly thankful; and the increasing manifestation of capacity for spiritual enabling, without the intervention or help of anyone from foreign lands, gives us assurance that there are those who are being fitted to carry on the Lord's work under His direct guidance.

It is a striking feature of the work at present that the two outstations in our field that are showing the most life and progress are in the newest parts of the field, and the ones in which there has been comparatively little work done by the foreign missionary. It is not without significance, also, that the instruments most used in the present progress of these congregations is not the trained worker, but humble men of faith who take God at His word and count on Him to do just what He has promised to do. What is most essential at this time is a thorough grounding in the Word
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of God which will protect the young Christians against false teachings and extravagances which the adversary of truth always seeks to introduce among bodies of immature believers. They need to be taught how to use “the Sword of the Spirit.”

It is this need of Bible teaching that gives great importance to the work which is being done in the training classes carried on by members of the Station. The men’s class is held in Yuyao during the first month of the Chinese New Year. Recently an elders’ and deacons’ training department has been added. Though the attendance this year was smaller than usual, much good work was accomplished. Immediately after the close of the men’s class, a class for women (Christians or inquirers) is conducted in the same building. This year the enrollment was twenty-two, the youngest being twenty-one and the oldest seventy-one. Though only a few could continue through the eight weeks’ term, nearly all who could not already read mastered “the romanized” before they left; and the daily instruction in the truths of God’s Word which they received will greatly strengthen their faith and fit them for service in helping to lead others to Christ. A similar class in Ningpo was conducted for three months, with an attendance of nineteen women and girls; ranging from 8 to 56 years of age. One joined the church while in school and two others have gone to take further preparation to fit them for Bible-women.

In the men’s Evangelistic Center in Ningpo and the Women’s center in Yuyao special effort is made to stress Bible study and develop personal religious experience by means of prayer bands, personal workers groups, etc. In the case of the latter, a benevolent purpose has been introduced into the “work hour” by making things to give to the orphanages in Ningpo. Both of these Centers are planning new developments for the coming year. An eight weeks’ term for country girls was conducted during the autumn, in the Yuyao class building. There was an attendance of twenty-eight, ranging from nine to twenty-one years of age. All but one, who was hindered by sickness, learned to read “the romanized”; and many made considerable progress in the study of the Chinese character as
well. The usefulness of this sort of work is abundantly shown by the increasing number of women members in the country churches who are able to read their Bibles and take an intelligent part in the services on the Sabbath; and who are able to assist in the work of evangelism both in the home and among unbelieving neighbors. A half-day school for street children was carried in connection with this school this year along the lines of the Daily Vacation Bible Schools. For the cultivation of the religious life of its membership the Church makes use of the usual means. The morning service is a preaching service. The afternoon is generally given up to the Bible school and the Christian Endeavor meetings. Each congregation as a rule has a sabbath school, more or less organized. Often it is the entire congregation in one class, taught by the pastor or evangelist in charge.

In larger centers, where there are more people available to help, several schools are carried on. Ningpo has six Sabbath schools for street children and five for children in the Mission schools and the people of the church. Two Bible classes are conducted on North Bank; one for young men and one for young women. The boxes of gifts sent by the "Light Bearers," "Juniors" and other children's Missionary Societies in America have provided beautiful Christmas presents for these sabbath schools which are greatly appreciated. The students from the Union Middle schools have done excellent work in helping to carry on the schools for street children.

In Yuyao there are five Sabbath schools for children, besides the church school. These are held in different parts of the city, and all but one are conducted without any help from the missionary at present. A new feature in Yuyao is a sermon for the children from the day schools, held before the morning service. This allows the smaller children to have a message more suited to their needs and then go home without sitting through the long service for adults.

A children's church service in Dzong-Teh is held each sabbath morning. A "School Church" has been organized in the Boys' Middle School in Ningpo. Of the 204 students enrolled in the school, 39 are church members; 14 of the number
being members of the senior class. A church has been organized with student officers and is under the direction of the religious work director of the school. Regular preaching service is conducted in the chapel each Sabbath morning, and Sabbath school in the afternoon. Also a midweek prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings. A decided improvement in the student body towards religion during the present year is reported.

Another very useful means of development among the church members is the weekly Christian Endeavor meeting. The whole congregation participates. The life of the C. E. meeting and the active zeal of the congregation seem always to correspond very closely. Whether the C. E. is the cause of the zeal or merely an indication of its presence may be an open question, but there can be no question that great help has come to the church through the ability for leadership which is being developed among the people who take an active part in these meetings. Each congregation has one or more societies among its members. In a number of the churches the services of the Sabbath begin with a meeting for prayer; the men and women meeting in separate rooms. This is proving a splendid means of grace to the congregations that make faithful use of the plan. It is interesting to note that when a new church is planned for a little group of Christian in a far off country point; the two rooms for prayer are an important item. These must be provided with a board floor even though the main audience room may have only an earth floor for the first few years.

Among special forms of work may be mentioned a Dorcas Society among church women, and a Benefit Society for non-Christian women, in Ningpo.

Also a home for ladies which has been a great blessing to those who were included in its family is carried on in Ningpo by special funds.

**School Work.**

The two Union Middle schools in Ningpo opened with diminished numbers as the result of anti-Christian agitation,
A Church Social in Yuyao.
Yuyao Short Term School and Daily Vacation Bible School.
Closing-day Exercises.
and the opening of rival schools, last fall. This led to the consolidation of the Junior High schools of the Presbyterian and Baptist missions as part of the Union Middle School for girls. And in the case of the boys' school it was deemed wise to take advantage of this opportunity to carry out a growing desire to combine the two schools in one place. Consequently the United school was opened in the plant of the North Gate Baptist school, and one of the residences of the Church Missionary Society was rented for the Commercial Department and additional dormitory space. This left the Presbyterian Academy plant available for the use of the primary school which was previously housed in rented quarters. A lower primary department has now been added with a total enrollment of 84 in the two departments.

The constitutions of both Union Schools have been revised to allow additional members on the Board of directors from the Presbyterian and Baptist churches. The representation is now; four Missionary and four Chinese Church appointees on each board, with power to co-opt one or two additional Chinese representatives as desired.

Both schools report very satisfactory work during the year, in spite of the adverse circumstances which seemed to threaten at the opening of the term.

Three Higher Primary schools with Boarding departments are now carried on. One for Boys in Yuyao which has five teachers and 110 pupils: This school has no help from mission sources other than a grant of $200 from the Presbyterial committee, and the use of the day school building for class-room purposes.

Dzong-Sing School, in the Academy buildings, Ningpo, is flourishing under capable Chinese leadership with assistance in teaching English, by one of the missionaries. The Presbytery has a very paternal feeling toward this school and is ready to take it over as soon as the way is clear for the mission to grant them the use of the buildings.

Dzong-Teh reports a very successful year. Twelve girls have united with the church. Unfortunately there was serious sickness in the school again this year due to bad water ap-
parently. During dry seasons the water supply of the school becomes exhausted and canal water has to be used.

In spite of the best efforts of the missionary in charge, the girls sometimes use unboiled water, and dire consequences have followed in a number of instances. There have been several deaths from typhoid fever during the last few years which can be traced to this source. This shows the urgency of the need for an additional cistern to provide a more adequate supply of pure water for the use of the school.

The very capable way in which the Chinese young women working in the school have responded to the increased responsibility which was put upon them when the missionary who had been in the school went to fill a vacancy in the Union Middle School has proven to the Station that the time has come for the school to be put into the hands of the Chinese workers, and at the last station meeting it was voted to ask the Presbytery to appoint a committee to take the oversight of the school.

The twenty primary schools in this field were not affected by the unsettled political conditions and anti-foreign agitation that swept over the country last year. These schools have problems of their own however. The one that is most difficult of solution just at present is how to adjust a fixed and strictly limited budget so as to provide schools for all the congregations that simply will not be denied, and still be able to offer a rate of salary which will attract properly qualified teachers.

About half of the cost of running the schools is met by the tuition fees, which are being gradually raised as the people learn to appreciate the value of our schools. The new plan of having a local board of directors for each school, made up of the worker in charge of the field and representatives chosen from the congregation, is working satisfactorily. It is hoped in this way to foster a community life which will plant the church and the Christian school side by side wherever the gospel penetrates.

Kindergarten.

The kindergarten on the North Bank, Ningpo, reports an unusually good year. There is an attendance of 36. This
work is entirely financed from Chinese contributions. The District Engineer of the railroad takes a deep interest in the work and undertakes full responsibility for raising all needed funds. The Kindergarten gives at least two public programs each year, and the graduating exercise is as well attended and as much appreciated as if B. A. diplomas were being conferred.

**Daily Vacation Bible Schools.**

A number of these schools were conducted in different parts of the field during the summer. Also schools for illiterate adults have been carried on in Ningpo and Yuyao. These schools furnish useful vacation employment for students from our higher schools and give them a chance to develop a spirit of unselfish service.

**Medical Work.**

The work of the Men's and Women's Hospitals in Yuyao maintains a steady and substantial growth under the safe and sane leadership of Dr. Lu and his associates. The year ending April 30th showed as the year's record; 11,649 outpatients, 448 in-patients, 246 out-calls, and 1,601 vaccinations; making a total of 14,054 treatments. The income is not yet sufficient to do without the mission subsidy, as we keep the rates low in order to testify to the benevolent purpose of the institution.

It is hoped that in due time all running expenses can be taken care of from the earnings of the hospital, and eventually the whole work can be turned over as a trust to the Church of China to carry on for the glory of God and the good of humanity.

There was no one available to do the work of Community Nurse in Yuyao this year. One of the Bible-woman in Ningpo did work along that line; the funds being provided by the Women's "Benefit Society."

**New Property.**

After long years of well nigh hopeless waiting, the remodelling of the 75 year old "Fu-zin church" in Ningpo city
has been accomplished. The interior has been entirely reconstructed and several rooms for institutional features have been added, so that the church can now claim a place among the up-to-date church buildings. The auditorium will seat 850; and place for another 150 can be made by removing partitions from the wings that adjoin the main room. This being the only building in Ningpo that can accommodate large union gathering, it is in a sense a community house, and for this reason some of the other churches made contributions toward the building fund. The total cost was over $8,000, of which the Chinese contributed between two and three thousand. The new church is proving very satisfactory, and many new forms of work are now being planned which were impossible before. Both this building and the Yuyao church are provided with electric lights, thus greatly simplifying the problem of evening meetings.

The program which has been in the minds of some of us, to help get all of the congregation suitably housed, as one step towards their being ready to take over the work, is gradually working out. Only one group is now worshipping in a “hired house”; and it has land bought for the new church which it hopes to erect before long. The Presbytery has succeeded in purchasing the Song-ō buildings which it held on a ten-year lease hitherto. This plant is not well suited for church purposes, and the land is not sufficient for a proper building, but the property is very salable; and by owning it, there will be little difficulty in converting it into cash as soon as a suitable location can be secured and building funds provided.

The latest advance in country chapel extension is the proposed preaching place in the rapidly developing region near the seacoast north of Yuyao. It is seven miles from the Ken-teng church, to which congregation the members belong. A church member who lives near by has given a piece of land, and the supporter of the Ken-teng evangelist has made a gift toward the building. They hope to have the house ready for use before long. The plan is to have volunteers from the Ken-teng congregation conduct the services until such time as a day school can be developed and a preacher-teacher helper secured. Something along this line seems the only hope for
the manning of outlying districts where there is only a small group of believers.

**Extension Work.**

The effort to reach those beyond the present limits of the church's constituency is carried on along several lines. There is the usual house to house visitation by the Bible-women; in which the missionaries assist to some extent in Ningpo and Yuyao cities. Special evangelistic campaigns are conducted in all the churches at the Chinese New Year; and several weeks of night meetings are carried on by most of the congregation during the summer. Bands of itinerators have done touring in various parts of the field that are not accessible to any church. The hill region south of Yuyao has been visited by both men and women evangelists this spring, and we hope the way may soon open for undertaking a regular preaching service in that region. An encouraging work has been begun entirely under Chinese leadership at a point near the Dzing-bu-deo church where a small chapel has been rented and regular services conducted and special work done by Bible-women and others. A special campaign of tract distribution, not only throughout our own field but extending to all parts of the province, was begun a few months ago which seeks to enlist the church members as willing distributors in their respective districts. The tracts are short messages of not over eight hundred words, selected from the Scriptures. The series is planned to cover the early part of Genesis, and then take up the life and works of Christ. The printing is done by the boys in Compassion Orphanage at Kao-Gyiao, two of whom were given a short course for this purpose by the Commercial Press in Shanghai. Already the issue of each tract has reached 35,000. Over 200,000 have been distributed to date. The effort is being financed from Stewart Funds; and no distinction of denominations is considered in making grants of tracts. This work was made possible; indeed was first thought of, because of the gift of the price of a "Ford" car, which came altogether unsolicited from friends in the Homeland. When told that a "Ford" would not be usable for lack of roads in
this part of China, but that a small printing press would be useful, they sent $360.00 (Gold). The head of the Commercial Press, good Presbyterian elder that he is, arranged it so that we could secure a press which is practically new at only a little over half price. Other unsolicited contributions followed and they now have equipment for printing in romanized character and in Chinese characters of a size suitable for tracts, reports, etc. This enables the Orphanage to become an effective ally in the work of evangelizing; and it is hoped that taking part in evangelism in their early youth may influence some of the lads to dedicate their whole lives to the Lord’s service.

The report comes back from workers everywhere that people are not only willing to hear the gospel, but often times eagerly ask for more. Two volunteer gospel portion salesmen are putting out scripture portions by the thousand. One young lad from the orphanage has been selling out his stock so rapidly that we have difficulty in keeping him supplied.

It would seem to be imperative that we missionaries devise some new and more effective way of getting the gospel to China’s millions while the doors remain open. If Christ needed to remind Himself and His associates that the work must be done while daylight lasts, how much more should we be mindful of the fact that opportunities must be seized while they offer; for “the night cometh, when no man can work.” One sometimes wonders what would happen if every missionary should throw aside everything else and simply go everywhere “preaching Christ” for the next five or six years. Of one thing we may be reasonably certain; it would beget among the Christians such a zeal for the evangelization of their fellow countrymen as would make the church a tremendous evangelising power in the land.

May God graciously use whatever compulsion is necessary to get us to do just the work which He considers most important, once our eyes have been opened to discover what that work is.

**Conclusion.**

As we view the year in retrospect, how little did all the seeming difficulties that loomed so large last fall amount to
after all. How easily the seemingly impossible situations were met and provided for. For all this we give hearty thanks and take new courage.

As we turn our eyes to the future, there is no lack of problems and difficulties. Everything seems to be in a state of transition and uncertainty. Old things are passing away, but what is to take their place? One might very easily become discouraged if he could not see above and beyond that which is merely earthly, temporal, human. But as soon as we lift our eyes toward Him who sits supreme in the heavens and rules over all, and recall that the things which are now happening in the world with such startling unexpectedness were foretold hundreds of years ago in God's Word, all sense of anxiety leaves at once and there comes an assurance that His Kingdom shall come and His will shall be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

On behalf of the Station,

J. E. Shoemaker.