GREEK

EVANGELICAL

UNION.

FOR 1902

Bristol:
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1903.

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TWENTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Greek Evangelical Union,
Founded in Smyrna in 1883
(For the Year 1902).

BEGINNING in a very humble way, this little organiza-
tion with three Church members in Smyrna and
thirteen in the neighbouring town of Magnesia, has
been owned of God and blessed during its life of
twenty years with a yearly addition of members at both these
Churches, and with the opening of other three stations, one
in the interior, and two away by the Black Sea coast, in the
ancient Province of Pontus. The aggregate number of those
who joined the Church at these different places up to the
present, by profession, is 480, and two by letter. Several of
these have slept in the Lord before now, while there have
been some who have been put under discipline or cut off
from the communion of the Church. Still it is a matter of
praise to the Lord that He has been pleased to raise and
bless this little body of believers to testify among the Greeks
in Asia Minor and the neighbouring islands to the absolute
authority of Scripture in all matters of faith and practice, and to the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ as a Saviour, "able to save to the uttermost," "the chiefest among ten thousand, and the altogether lovely."

There are several special difficulties under which this work is done. (1) The religious apathy of the people, who, having had the privilege of receiving the Gospel from the hands of the Apostles, cannot realize that they are to day entirely destitute of apostolic faith and practice. (2) The power exercised by the priest over common people, which proves effectual when it is brought to bear against the entrance of the Gospel, though it is not strong enough to enslave them to itself in the same way as in Roman Catholicism. (3) The want of liberty to preach or teach where there are no declared adherents. (4) Human wisdom, which always looks upon the Gospel as foolishness. (5) The infidelity and materialism of the age, spreading among the middle and upper classes to an alarming extent. (6) Above all there is the perverse idea, commonly prevalent, that religion must serve as a national bond of union, and that any separation from the traditional faith and practice received from their fathers is to be considered as treason to the country and to all national interests.

In the midst of such difficulties it was only God's own power that could open up a way, and start and maintain this work. And, besides the apparent progress, which may seem little to those unacquainted with the difficulties referred to, there is a latent progress in the spread of the glad tidings of a free and full salvation far and wide through those who heard it for themselves, and through any printed matter that we have been enabled to put forth.

Apart from the direct results which we have been privileged to see by so many persons during these years coming forward to profess the truth in the midst of opprobrium and slander and active persecution, some of them literally leaving their "all" to follow Jesus, we have been also made glad by seeing some indirect results in the way people seem to be informed now about our faith, as they begin to realize that
our real effort is not to uphold another human system of doctrines against the one that is accepted by all, but to uphold the truth of God against the additions and traditions and transmutations of men. As this information becomes more and more general, it will certainly help the work in the farther future.

Also we have seen the Greek Church itself becoming more and more awakened to the conviction that preaching must be introduced in the Churches. It is true that, when they do preach, they preach morality and sacraments; but still, people begin to reflect on what they hear, and, if once dissatisfied, they are more open to hear the truth. In Smyrna this has taken place very notably by employing several preachers with a view to counteract the work that is being done by the Union; and even tracts have been lately published and distributed, with good moral teaching, as might be expected, but with sad absence of Christ as the way of Salvation. And close to the place where our own Mission School stands in a very poor district, a school and church have been built by them, the fruit of emulation thus excited.

But we feel how little is all this in the midst of a population of above one million and a half of Greeks in Asia Minor; and both as to maintenance of the work and as to its extension, we look to the Lord for blessing and support.

The work carried on in the five Stations referred to cannot be maintained solely by the resources of the members of the Union. Although they exert themselves to their utmost ability, yet being but few in number and poor in circumstances, they cannot possibly do all that is needed. During the last year they have contributed on the whole £313, while the yearly income of each family in all Stations seldom rises above £50, but usually tends in some Stations towards £5, a sum extremely small to live in any place and under any circumstances. But the yearly expenditure in the five Stations, including pastors' salaries, teachers' salaries, taxation of buildings, or rent where there are no buildings of our own, and incidentals, amounted last year to £682:14:0. The American Board helped us by £212:16:0, and the
Bible Lands Missions’ Aid Society by £35. The rest has been received as donations from various friends who have personally interested themselves in the work, leaving, thank God, only a nominal deficit of about £1.

But we cannot expect these friends to live for ever, or to exert themselves continually in the same degree. Besides, the real question with us is not simply to make the two ends meet, but to carry the work forward.

1. There are places where we could open new work with a degree of freedom we cannot always expect to find; and yet where are the means to do so at once?

2. Places must be visited for disseminating the truth, whether by meetings wherever this is practical, or by talks in houses and in shops, but our Treasury for Evangelistic Tours has remained altogether empty for a whole year.

3. Some course of training is needed to prepare such young men as may be called of God to give themselves to the work of the ministry; and, as generally such persons are poor, help must be provided for them. We are thankful to the Lord that one such young man is ready to go to the Seminary at Marsovan next fall, and that something has been contributed towards his first year’s clothing, books and extras.

4. We need very much to push on the work by the publication of Christian Literature. It is the most important agency to stem the tide of materialism and infidelities on the one hand, and to counteract the withering influences of impure translations on the other. But such a task demands considerable outlay, and where is it to come from?

We firmly believe that the Lord will provide for His own work, and that He will incline many hearts to give a helping hand.

What we mostly need is a number of friends who will consider it a privilege to help regularly as the Lord may enable them to do so for a few years.
Our fervent wish is to give to the Greeks of this generation a fair chance to receive adequate information about the Truth as it is in Jesus; praying all the time that the Lord may bless this effort, and make it effectual in many hearts by the mighty Power of the Holy Ghost, poured out richly through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we give shortly the account of the work at the different Stations for the year.

_Smyrna._—Minister: Xenophon P. Moschou, Ph. D.—This Station, although the central one of the Union, is poorer than all others as to outward accommodation. It possesses no church building of its own, and no minister's house, and it cannot well afford to carry on separate schools for the children of the congregation. The Lord, however, has provided all along the use of the American Chapel for Services, and the American Schools for the children. The acquiring of a house has been for long the object of earnest aspiration, but could not be realized as yet.

The shifting character of the congregation has made the work in this Station especially hard. Employment is generally scarce, and becomes more difficult when anyone cutting loose from superstition and traditions of men, embraces the simple truths of the Gospel. Many Church members and adherents are leaving the place year by year, so that less than one half of Church members are resident in Smyrna, the rest being dispersed in various parts of the world far and near. This dispersion weakens considerably the work in this Station, and makes it to be always in the beginning, as it were. And it becomes especially trying when whole families and some of the older members leave, who by their experience and past struggles could prove especially helpful to younger converts.

This past year has been signalized by several conversions among the children of Christian families and some outsiders. News of the revival in the Churches of Cilicia reached us in the beginning of the year, and we humbled ourselves before the Lord, asking for a similar blessing, and He graciously heard our cry. Now we are earnestly praying for the Holy
Spirit to work in the midst of the Greek community at large. Their suspicion towards and hatred of foreign ideas keeps them at a distance from us, and makes them shut their ears to what we say; but the Lord can work in their midst by the use of His own Word, as read in the original, and by visiting them with a sense of sin, and of the need of a present, living Saviour.

The usual meetings have all been regularly maintained, viz., two Sunday services in the American Chapel, a prayer meeting on Tuesday evening, an Evangelistic meeting at the Rest on Wednesday evening, and a social gathering at the minister's dwelling on Monday evening. Attendance has been very encouraging, notwithstanding the continual dispersion of the members of the congregation. The meetings at the Rest have been especially well attended, and, as is often the case, by such persons as would never decide to appear in the Evangelical Church. Also the Week of Prayer has been better attended than any previous year, and characterised by a fervent spirit in exhortation and prayer.

The weekly prayer meeting for women is still held from house to house, and there is evident progress made both as to numbers, and as to the establishing of those present in the truth. Neighbours sometimes attend this meeting, and they generally leave with good impressions.

Two Bible Classes are also held on Sunday before morning service, one in Turkish, the other in Greek, led by experienced brethren, and they always prove helpful to those who attend, especially to young believers.

The young men keep up their own weekly prayer meeting, and they succeed from time to time in drawing some one else to it. They persist with their faith based on the promise that in due season they will reap if they faint not.

Six baptisms took place during the year, and five new members were added to the Church by profession, the youngest of whom was 15. and the oldest 65. Others have asked for admission, but it was thought best both for themselves and for the Church to wait for stronger evidences of a real work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.
We had the rare pleasure this year of having among us for a few days the Rev. H. B. Macartney, formerly of Australia. He held several helpful meetings in English, and preached once to the Greek congregation, interpreted by the minister. Later the Rev. David Baron, followed by Mr. Levertoff, visited Smyrna in prosecuting his work and testimony to Israel, and he preached to us twice, once in the Rest, when Mr. Levertoff also gave a few words, and once in the Church. There was a special sweetness in the fact that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was so faithfully and earnestly proclaimed by Hebrew lips. Also the American Missionary, Mr. McNaughton, preached twice by interpretation in the absence of the minister who had gone to Constantinople to assist in the ordination of Mr. Stavros Demetracopoulos, a member of the Smyrna Church for years. We feel there is always a great blessing in new voices being heard from time to time.

For the poor 611 piastres were collected this year, and 622 piast. spent; but 243.50 have been returned by some of those previously helped, so that there is a balance of 232.50. Besides, 162 piast. were collected and sent to help towards the erection of school and chapel in Iskili.

The brethren contributed this year according to their power, yea, and beyond their power; and God will surely supply all their needs, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Sixteen large Scripture Rolls for the work in Sunday Schools, and several hundreds of picture cards, along with some larger pictures, have been received from the Rev. Gabriel Kampouropolus, of America, through the Congregational Publishing Society of Boston. We record here our thanks. The Rolls have been divided between the Stations of Smyrna, Magnesia, Ak-Hissar (Thyatira) and Ordoo. The larger pictures were distributed among those who labour in the schools, while there has been a great help received by distributing the picture cards to the children. Also Mrs. Grimké, of London, sent us 1,000 of her Text Cards, which are very useful.
Our scattered brethren have always a tender place in our hearts. Prayer is regularly ascending for them, and, as much as possible, correspondence is kept up, which becomes the more difficult the greater their number becomes year by year. More than 90 letters have been written, and several tracts, booklets and newspapers, have been sent to them.

Greek Union Mission School, Smyrna.—In this school the sowing is done usually "in tears." The boys and girls who attend belong to the very lowest families in that and the neighbouring quarters, and their rude and rough manners are at times very trying to those who have been for years at work in the school. Storming of the building is also a very usual occurrence, the police themselves being unable to cope with their unruly and tumultuous behaviour. Fear of foreigners made the kindly aid given through the presence of some of the American Mission a comparative success as far as quietness during the lesson time is concerned, and our hope is that God will make them forget their bad manners some day.

Still it is marvellous that so many of them persist in coming; and, if nothing else at present, at least they acquire some knowledge of the cardinal truths of Christianity, while our prayers are that the Holy Spirit of God may work effectively in their hearts that the Word may take root and bring forth fruit to God's glory. Average attendance, 50. One girl that professed conversion seems to stand fast, notwithstanding the sneers and bad names from the others.

The other Sunday School which meets in the premises of the International College (American Mission) provides a good and regular instruction for the children of the congregation and several others who come from the neighbourhood. The work here is very hopeful, and is done in all quietness and order. Average attendance, 55.

Magnesia (about 45 miles by rail N.E. of Smyrna).—Minister, G. B. Kampouropoulos.—During these later years very few outsiders come to the meetings. Religious interest in the Greek community is at a very low ebb; therefore the
attention of the members of the Church is drawn more and more to a life of exemplary piety, which may tell upon the outside apathy, and each is exhorted to exercise his gifts to the edification of the Church and to the awakening of those outside.

The audience in this town is of a permanent character. The members of the congregation are almost exclusively natives of the place, and being mostly owners of or labourers in vineyards are, so to speak, attached to the soil of the place. Thus a strong body is forming which will in time exercise a great influence on the remaining Greek community. Average attendance in Sunday morning services, 120-125 in winter, and 80-90 in summer.

The Day Schools are provided with two masters and a female teacher, but this is insufficient to carry on as thorough a work as one would desire. Want of means, however, oblige the brethren to be satisfied for the present, hoping for better things in the future.

The Sunday School is growing in numbers and in order. Children attend from 80-110.

There have been seven baptisms, one marriage, three deaths, and two new members were added to the Church by profession.

During the week after Easter Dr. Moschou, the minister of the Smyrna congregation, visited the Church, and gave seven of Rev. F. B. Meyer's addresses. to which he had listened in the Brumana Conference the previous summer, on the Privileges and Possibilities of a Life in Christ. It is to be hoped that these addresses will help many of the Christians here to get a deeper view of the Christian life.

In addition to the regular contribution made for the carrying on of the Lord’s work, the Church spent 420 piast. on other local needs. A Society was also formed under the name of “The Perithalpsis,” to provide the poor with a physician, help, medicine, etc.

Ak-Hissar (“Thyatira,” about 35 miles by rail from
Magnesia.)—Evangelist: Evangelos D. Panousses.—Encouraging is the report from this Station. The Lord is working here both inside the little Church and outside. The brethren have been very regular in their attendance. The Word leaves an impression on them, and although they are not so advanced spiritually as they might be, still they are better than formerly. As this Station had been neglected for some time previously, now a great deal of labour is necessarily spent to bring the congregation round to a better state. There is a spirit of love and concord growing among them. There has been no serious disagreement among them this year, and they are thankful when the Word of God lays bare their faults and shortcomings.

Ignorance still is noticeable in reference to many more delicate questions, and as to the way of regulating their relations with each other and with the world around. Some have yet to learn “not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers,” and “not to halt between two opinions.”

Their contributions have been very encouraging, as they gave with very few exceptions as much as they could at present.

Dr. Moschou paid a visit to this Station in March, and preached one evening, when in addition to the brethren, some outsiders came, both Greeks and Jews. Also towards the end of May Rev. David Baron, accompanied by Mr. Levertoff. Their stay was very short but very helpful. Mr. Baron’s sermon on Hos. iii. 4, 5, and his joyous confession of Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of the world, left a very good impression, as there were seven or eight Jews present.

One of the brethren slept in the Lord, and at the funeral service many were present and heard the Word of God.

The state of those outside is very distressing. They are “more lovers of pleasure than lovers of God.” There is only one church for them, where there has been no preaching at all, and which is always empty. People seem to be friendly to the Evangelicals; but as soon as one of them-
selves comes to hear the Word of God, all wake up and use all possible means to make him desist.

Ordoo (on the Black Sea coast).—Minister: Panteles Philadelpheus.—We give here the outline of his report:—

Here, as everywhere, the Lord's work presents several aspects which must be carefully noticed before one forms a clear idea about it. In the first place there are those who, for the time of their discipleship and for the degree of their progress in the conception of the Christian life, ought to be teachers of others; yet one notices with sorrow that they are still occupied with the rudiments of Christianity. Secondly, there are others who have indeed grown to higher things and show signs of real progress; and one is led, like the Lord, to thank the Father Who hid these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes. Lastly, there are those to whom the measure of their fidelity becomes the measure of the gift of God, and they are a living illustration of the rule that "unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not, even that which he hath shall be taken away."

Our opponents here exercise watchful vigilance against us; yet some non-evangelicals are coming to our meetings who show interest for some time and then disappear, not without some spiritual profit, we trust; but some few keep on coming, not taking into consideration the remarks and contemptuous words addressed to them. May there be in them not only a change of religious ideas but also of their hearts.

All our meetings are increasing in numbers. The preaching of the Word is listened to with more attention. The Sunday School, divided into twenty-two classes, is working more regularly. Nine of these classes are held for men, eight for women, and five for children. The subject for the prayer meeting is always fixed beforehand and announced from the pulpit on Sunday, that all may have time to meditate upon it.

Financially the brethren have suffered greatly from the failing of the crops owing to unfavourable weather, but their
contributions have been more generous and regular than ever. They have contributed this year on the whole for the treasury of the Union, and for extra needs of the work both local and in other places and neighbouring Churches, piast. 17,946, or about £151.

The work in the Ordoe field found a great helper and sympathizer from the beginning in the person of Dr. Parmelee, the American Missionary at Trebizond. In difficult days in the past he never spared either labour or sacrifice to help us in our cause. Lately he fell ill, and was transferred to Beirut, Syria, where, after a serious operation, slept in the Lord. We record our sorrow for this loss and our sympathy for the bereaved.

Sixteen children were baptized during the year, six marriages were celebrated, eight deaths took place, and five new members were added to the Church by profession.

The Day Schools are vigorously doing their work, so far as it can be done with the scanty means there are at our disposal. The children of the Evangelicals cannot go to the schools of the orthodox community unless they conform to their religion, which both for the children and for their parents is inadmissible. It follows that they have to confine themselves to such an elementary education as the Evangelical schools can give them. Orthodox parents have preferred to send their children for elementary education to the Evangelical school, not failing to notice its order and the supervision exercised over the pupils' behaviour. Soon, however, the chief men in the community succeeded in intimidating some of them by threats of violence and of excommunication, who thus withdrew their children; still, however, there are about 30 outside children whose parents did not pay attention to those threats.

There are in these schools 95 boys, 58 girls, and 24 in the kindergarten, which last was started and maintained by help given through the late Dr. Parmelee.

The Text Cards sent by Mrs. Grimké, of London, prove very useful.
Semen (on the mountains of Ordoo).—Evangelist: N. Manousharianes.—The emigration from this barren and poverty-stricken village continues. Several families, including some of the Evangelicals, have left for Russia. According to the report of the worker in this Station, people through their poverty and want have become very irritable, and in the spring, when the time for the election of their local mayor arrived, all the village was stirred up, and the Evangelicals did not keep as cool as they ought. This, however, soon passed away like a sudden tempest, and the former calm was restored.

This Station was in great need of a Bible-woman, and the need was successfully supplied in the person of Mrs. Parthena I. Delyannidou, who reads the Bible regularly with 40 women, the most of them belonging to the Greek Church, who, however, are constant in their attendance at the prayer-meetings, and at special meetings for women.

Itinerating Work.—There has been absolutely nothing in the treasury in connection with our fund for Evangelistic Tours this year. Still the Lord presented an opening for Mr. Panousses to go to Balikesser, a large inland town about 14 or 15 hours ride from the last railway station of Soma, to the north of Ak-Hissar. Here there are about 20 brethren, mostly Armenians, and three or four Greeks, all this the fruit of the earnest labours of a simple Greek Christian, John Iatriides by name, who has joined the Smyrna Church. These brethren are described as newly taught yet comparatively much grown in spiritual things. They are fervent in spirit, and never cease confessing their Saviour and working for souls. Mr. Parnousses stayed there ten days and preached five times. On Sunday there were about 60 present. And all expenses of this visit were defrayed by the brethren at Balikesser.
Any information respecting Evangelistic work among the Greeks in Asia Minor will be given or forwarded by—

**THE GREEK EVANGELICAL UNION,**

**SMYRNA REST,**

**SMYRNA,**

**ASIA MINOR.**

British friends please to note that the *Bible Lands Missions' Aid Society* is kindly acting as our Treasurer in Great Britain, and Contributions marked for the Greek Evangelical Union may be sent to the Rev. W. A. Essery, Hon. Sec., Alliance House, 7, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.
Donations and Contributions.

Balance in the Treasury of the Union .. .. 1291.37½
Contributed by the Stations of the Union during
the year .. .. .. .. .. 37170.25
A. B. C. F. M. for Smyrna Field .. .. 15008.75
,, ,, Ordoo .. .. .. 8640.—
,, ,, Semen .. .. .. 1620.—
The Bible Lands Missions’ Aid Society .. 4166.—
From Mrs. Constantine .. .. .. .. 7289.—
,, J. W. Gordon-Oswald, Esq. .. .. 1185.75
,, G. F. M. and A. G. E. G. .. .. 237.50
,, Miss Wishart .. .. .. .. 119—
,, Miss Harriet Constantine .. .. .. 120.—
,, Miss Cairns .. .. .. .. .. 216.—
,, Mrs. E. S. .. .. .. .. .. 95.—
,, Mr. Caldwell .. .. .. .. .. 25.—
,, Sale of Old Stamps .. .. .. .. 35.—
,, Christian Endeavour Society, Martintown,
    Canada .. .. .. .. .. 118.75
,, Brethren at Kyrenia, Cyprus .. .. 59.—
,, ,, Candia, Crete .. .. .. 558.—
Thankoffering of Mr. Aristotle Hadji Antoniou 945.—
Rent of Building at Baïndir .. .. .. .. 2052.—

Total Pi. 80951.37½
## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1902

### RECEIPTS

| Item                             | Pi. 80951.37  
|----------------------------------|--------------
| Deficit                          | 140.62  
|                                  | 81092.  

### EXPENSES

| Item                             | Pi. 14256.  
|----------------------------------|--------------
| Smyrna—Preacher and his Rent     | 10368.  
| Teachers (part of their Salaries) | 7168.  
| Taxes, Printing Reports, etc.    | 236.  
| Light, Heating, etc.             | 193.  
|                                  | 19058.  
| Magnesia—Preacher                | 10368.  
| Teachers                         | 7168.  
| Taxes, etc.                      | 1033.  
| Heating of School, etc.          | 60.  
|                                  | 19794.25  
| Ak-Hissar—Preacher               | 7776.  
| Taxes and Travelling Expenses    | 189.50  
|                                  | 7965.50  
| Ordoo—Preacher                   | 9072.  
| Teachers                         | 11584.  
| Bible-Woman                      | 2160.  
| Guard                            | 234.50  
| Rent                             | 1080.  
| Travelling and Incidentals       | 1395.25  
|                                  | 25525.75  
| Armen—Preacher                   | 4320.  
| Bible-Woman                      | 1080.  
| Church Repairs                   | 108.  
| Incidentals                      | 80.  
|                                  | 5588.  

Spent for Taxes, Security and Power of Attorney of Bañindir Property: 635.50
Paid back to A. B. C. F. M. has overdrawn: 2465.

Total: 81092.

Lira at Piastres 108, & St. Piast. 118

THEODORE SOTIRIADDES, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct, ARISTOTLE HADJI ANTONIOU.