Report for 1907.

GREEK
EVANGELICAL UNION
OF SMYRNA.

Reference Council in Great Britain:—

Lord KINNAIRD.  Rev. JOHN B. PATON, D.D.
Lord GUTHRIE.    Rev. Preb. WEBB-PEPLOE, M.A.
J. R. van MILLINGEN, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

Treasurers—THE BIBLE LANDS MISSIONS’ AID SOCIETY.

BRISTOL:
ROSE AND HARRIS, PRINTERS, BROADMEAD.

1908.
Bldt
G81
V25
OUR hearts are full of gratitude to the Lord as we realize that a quarter of a century has been happily completed since the formation of this little organization, and we take for our Semi-jubilee motto the words of Samuel the seer, as he raised that stone Eben-泽er, saying: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," 1 Samuel vii. 12. As he no doubt was full of thankfulness for the near past and full of hopefulness for the near future, so are we as we contemplate the Lord's goodness to us until now. Eight persons formed the original nucleus of that Union or "Alliance," as it was called; now it numbers five congregations, with an aggregate of several hundred members. The first collection was eight Turkish dollars; last year the contributions of the five stations amounted to nearly 400 Turkish pounds.
At a special meeting in the beginning of 1908, Smyrna took the lead in the forming of a Semi-jubilee Fund, with a view, sometime in the future, to supplement the needs of the general work which cannot be otherwise met. This Fund is not in any way to interfere with the regular contributions. A girl of 11 or 12 years of age, in Crete, belonging to a comparatively poor family that had been connected with the Smyrna congregation, and was sending help to the work, had resolved that this last year she would give more than any other member of the family. She had only two months to collect, for early in March she passed away. On opening her collecting box her parents found 7 francs 20 (nearly 6 shillings). The girl’s name was Athanasia, or “Immortality,” and it was thought meet that her contribution with her significant name should be put at the head of the list. Nearly every one in the congregation followed; and it was marvellous to hear of offerings of 2 or 3 or 5 or 10 Turkish pounds—one gave 25—as if they were millionaires. One young couple were saving to buy an organ for their little home. When this sacred object came before them, the wife whispered to her husband, “Let the organ go, dear.” He got up and promised £T.10. Others, in straitened circumstances, gave less, but the Lord who knows all, is counting the offerings at a very different value. This Fund is open for donations, and we hope friends will give to it without lessening their regular contributions. Promises in Smyrna amounted to nearly £97. Magnesia followed the example of Smyrna, and so far the promises there exceeded £T.120. It is hoped that the other congregations will do something towards the fund.

The past year was one of continued favour from our Heavenly Father. The work has been carried on in its different branches; and notwithstanding persistent financial depression, the aggregate contributions have been more than those of the previous year by £16 : 14 : 8,
and above all we are thankful that 32 new members have been added to four out of the five churches of the Union.

The Ordoo congregation did all they possibly could to increase the force of their schools, and yet they are much behind the goal. Their only solution of the difficulty would be a school endowment, and £500 would be enough for this object; but where is the generous soul who will consider Ordoo as worthy of so great munificence?

The question of engaging a Bible-woman in Smyrna is reaching its crisis. The Committee has been empowered to spend £T.25 for this object, if the finances of the Union will permit it. But will they? We wait upon the Lord of the Harvest to respond.

Friends have been helping us, and the young men of Smyrna have contributed their little share to print some thousands of new tracts, the Greek Evangelical Church in Constantinople undertaking part of the expense. One or two booklets are also ready for the censor previous to publication, and we hope the Lord will provide for their printing also.

We proceed to give some items of each station:—

Smyrna.—Minister: Xen. P. Moschou, Ph. D. Twenty-five years ago there were here only three Greeks who were members of an Evangelical Church. This year the total number of living members is 115, although more than half are away in different parts of the world. The work in a large commercial city is confronted with all the difficulties of business life, of poverty when unemployed, and of all kinds of excitement and amusement. Along with these there is that strong national clinging to old forms and objects of veneration, which makes every Greek fearful to approach anything seeming to be a new or foreign faith; and he
is hated when he does so. This is the chief reason why progress has not been greater.

All meetings, specially on Sunday morning, when more than 150 are present, have been well attended throughout the year. The chief of the many blessings undoubtedly has been the conversion to God of 15 young people. For a long time their conversion had been an object of earnest intercession on the part of the Church. It was a matter of deep concern that so many children of Evangelical families were growing up still undecided as to the claims of Christ upon them. Extra meetings were held from time to time for their benefit, and frequent exhortation both public and private seemed to be fruitless. But while Dr. Moschou was on an Evangelistic Tour in Cilicia, Miss Gerber, a Swiss Missionary, passed through Smyrna, and the Holy Spirit used her words to set the spark to the prepared fire. Six of these young persons joined the Church in Smyrna, and three others in their native places.

The Week of Prayer was observed, and we had very good meetings. The sum of 13 shillings was collected at the last Greek Meeting, and sent to the Evangelical Alliance in London, as an expression of gratitude to God for this organization, which has proved so useful in uniting the different Evangelical Churches, and in upholding religious liberty everywhere.

The Watch-night Service was so largely attended that we had to gather in the Church, as the Mission Hall was not large enough. It is hoped that serious decisions were made there, to be kept by the power of the Holy Spirit who prompted them. Contributions to the Lord's work alone amounted to over £95. Apart from this, more than £20 was given to the Building Fund, and over £12 to benevolent purposes.

The work of the two Sunday Schools continues the
same. The one at Tsicoudia for ragged children was
very troublesome in the autumn, when lessons were
resumed, and it was necessary to have the police to
keep both school and teachers from being stoned.

The clinique at Tsicoudia is doing good work among
the poor of the neighbourhood, while it affords great
opportunities for spiritual talks with those who come
to consult the doctors. It is sad, however, to think
that the eagerness of people to get rid of their bodily
ailments, is in most cases without a corresponding wish
to be delivered from the more terrible spiritual disease
of sin. Our kind friends, Dr. Bolton, Dr. Mackenzie
Newton and Dr. Cavalgian have helped the cause by so
willingly attending.

Our good friend, J. W. Gordon-Oswald, Esq., has
again sent a parcel of 163 Gospels of St. John (illustrated)
which are being distributed, and we also acknowldege
a grant of books and tracts from Mr. John Chrysakes
of Athens.

Mr. McNaughton, Mr. Tracy, and Mr. Bakalopoulos
kindly helped in taking the services during the minister’s
absence.

Seven members were added to the church by profes-
sion. Six children of Christian parents were baptized,
and two marriages celebrated.

Magnesia (about 45 miles by rail N.E. of Smyrna).—
Minister: G. B. Kampouroopoulos.

Meetings here are always well attended, as all the
evangelicals are regular. In the beginning of the year
outsiders came frequently, but then the attendance
gradually fell. Members of the “Orthodox” com-
munity will not even attend preaching in connection
with their own church. Out of a population of 8,000
souls, not more than 20 or 30 appear on such occasions.
This station contributed nearly £85 to the Union. The increase is owing to a few additions to the list of members, and to some having increased their yearly subscriptions.

The young men of this congregation have earnestly exerted themselves to buy a small lot and erect a Reading Room. The object is well worthy of their exertions.

Ten new members were added to the Church by profession, two marriages were performed, four deaths occurred and eight children of Christian families were baptized.

_Thyatira_ (about thirty-five miles by rail from Magnesia). Evangelist: G. N. Proussaeus.

The little church in this place has continued its quiet work, and although no accessions are reported, yet the influence of the Truth is felt in a wider circle day by day, and the number of those who are interested has increased.

This year a small primary school has been opened, which numbers 28 or 30 children. A very small opening has thus been made, but it is a matter of consideration whether it must be kept on. About 10 children have been attending the Sunday School; those who do not belong to Evangelical families keeping more or less aloof.

Contributions amounted to less than £9. The poverty of the people is great, and several have left for other lands.


Here the Greek work is only twenty years old, but the progress has been most remarkable. This is the
largest Greek Evangelical congregation in the world; and as the town itself is small, not more than 7,000 inhabitants, only 4,000 Greeks, the existence of such a large Evangelical community, in proportion, has exerted a very strong influence on the rest of the Greeks. Sunday is kept here better than in any other place in Asia Minor, while the language of the people in general has been chastened, and blasphemies are very rare.

The pastor notes several encouraging items. First, that there has been peace in the congregation, notwithstanding the efforts of the Wicked One to cause trouble and discord.

Second, that the work was regularly carried on, and the different meetings well attended.

Third, that during the summer in Chambashi, their summer town in the heights (6,000 ft. above sea level), they enjoyed the visits and exhortations of Dr. and Mrs. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Getchell, and a Greek Student of Theology from Marsovan, formerly a monk and a prior of a monastery.

Members of this congregation are in the habit of travelling to other lands in search of work. Formerly they laboured in Bulgaria, Roumania and Southern Russia. Latterly these countries have not afforded the same opportunities, so many have turned their faces towards the United States of America; and in many cases those who go so far do so with no intention of returning. Between 25 and 30 have already gone, and the prospect on this account is somewhat unpleasant.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties and the unprecedented scarcity, the congregation has contributed this year over £133 to the Union, having spent besides about £60 for the increase of their schools and special needs. One member of the congregation, with an
income no more than 150 gave besides 15, his
tithe, 40 more, as extra help to the work. Such
generosity is certainly something for which to praise
God.

Eleven new members were added to the church by
profession, seven deaths occurred, eighteen children
of Christian parents were baptized, and two marriages
celebrated.

Semen (on the mountains of Ordoo). Evangelist:
John Anastasiades.

This mountain village, far removed from the coast,
and almost without any communication with the out-
side world for nearly eight months of the year, which
is the full extent of the winter in these heights, presents
an encouraging feature in the fact that more than one-
third of its inhabitants are Evangelical, and fresh
adherents to the simple Gospel are constantly being
added.

The Pastor writes most enthusiastically about the
recently started school for girls. Until now girls and
boys were taught together, and nothing could be done
for the girls when they grew up. Now, by the help of
Dr. Crawford, a beginning has been made, and may
there be some one specially interested in this poor
village to insure its continuance.

The pastor’s gratitude overflows when comparing
the present aspect of the work with that of several
years ago. Then there was only one person engaged
as a teacher, who also supplied the pulpit as best he
could. Now there is a preacher, a male teacher, a
female teacher, and a Bible-woman.

The people contribute in proportion most generously.
For while their means of living is so small, they have
given this last year for the work nearly 40, and for
benevolent purposes, £T.2; and as their heart was enlarged, they gave £T.1 to the American Board towards Missions in Micronesia.

The women in this congregation are much stronger in spiritual things than the men, and the reason is very simple. The men are obliged, for the greater part of the year to go about in search of work, and only three, or at the most four, months they stay at home. The time they spend away from the means of grace cripples and dwarfs their spiritual life. This explains what the pastor complains of in his report, while the women showed much zeal for God all through the year, there have been difficulties among the men. The wise exhortations of several from Chambashi, were however used of God to restore peace and tranquillity. Four new members were added to the church by profession, four baptisms took place, four marriages were celebrated and one child died. Also the remains of the oldest protestant in these parts were brought and interred at Semen in accordance with his last will.

Itinerating Work.—(1) Mr. Proussaeus visited, in company with Mr. MacNaughton, the town of Aidin, where they stayed one night, and had a meeting with the few friends there. They went on to Bourdour, where, during a stay of ten days, they held meetings in the church in the evenings, and in the daytime they visited in shops and houses also. In Sparta in Pisidia they had many opportunities of encouraging the people by personal talks, and by two meetings in the church.

Some months later Mr. Proussaeus spent nearly a week at Kirkaghatch, a town on the way to Pergamos, meeting with the friends and exhorting them daily. Hence he visited the village of Bakiri, where some were friendly and others opposed. He expresses the opinion that by repeated visits from the colporteur and itinerating workers, good ground will be prepared for sowing the Gospel seed in this neighbourhood.
(2) Mr. Hyphantides, of Bey Alan, in Pontus, made three tours—1st in May, when he had to go to the hot springs in Endress, south of Semen, where he had some opportunities of preaching the word, and distributing tracts and portions of the Scriptures. Second, in the beginning of September (O. S.), he went to Chambasi, and thence to Semen, on the occasion of the funeral of the oldest Greek protestant in these parts. Thence, together with the Bible-women in Semen he visited Sinanlee, Ahourlee, and Indalan. They were well received everywhere, and had many openings for speaking the word. Third, in the end of September (O. S.), he went to four other villages, and was well received in all but one. He testifies to the willingness of the people to listen to the Truth, except where they are influenced by the Bishop, who is extremely opposed, and who severely reproved a peasant because he received a Protestant under his roof. "It was snowing" the peasant replied, "ought I to leave him out to die?" "You ought to have left him," was his lordship's answer.

(3) Dr. Moschon visited for the second time three important towns of Cilicia, viz.: Adana, Tursus, and Mersine. He had been to these places seven years ago, and now found a considerable difference, the ground apparently being more ready for Gospel work among Greeks. He spent about six weeks in Adana, having daily talks (which were interpreted into Turkish) to the girls of the American School, 13 meetings for Greeks in the house of Mr. Chambers, the American Missionary, four meetings for Greek ladies at the Girls' school, and several other addresses. The Greek community in this place (as well as in the other cities of Cilicia), though not very large, forms the best class of the population; and the influence of the American school on the one hand, and of the philanthropic efforts of Miss H. E. Wallis on the other, helped to break down prejudice to a great extent. Some of the
best members of the community both ladies and gentlemen came to the meetings, and several showed a real desire to understand the way of salvation. Most of the girls also at the farewell meeting expressed their willingness to accept Christ, and live to His glory. May God by His Spirit make this a reality.

In Tarsus, he had seven meetings in St Paul's Institute and in the Church by interpretation, and one in Greek at the College. Dr. and Mrs Christie did all they could to help the Mission. The Church in Tarsus seems full of the joy of the Lord, and it was a great privilege to be present at the Lord's Supper when ten young men, some of them from the College, joined the Church.

In Mersine two meetings were held by interpretation, and there were a few opportunities for personal talks. Later, at Easter time, Dr Moschou, in company with a member of the Smyrna Church, went to Aidin. It was a great pleasure to see those few simple Christians in Aidin, who are the only people there honouring the Lord's day, and coming together to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Two meetings were held, and there was a special realization of God's Holy presence.

Dr Moschou also visited Salonica in the beginning of the year on the occasion of his father's death, and had several meetings.
DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributed by the Stations during the year, £360 : 16 : 8½ .. .. .. 42849.12½
From A.B.C.F.M.—
For Smyrna Field, £113 : 14 : 0½ .. 13502.—
For Ordoon Field, £52 : 14 : 11¾ .. 6264.—
For Semen Field, £9 : 1 : 10¾ .. 1080.—

From

" The Bible Lands Missions’ Aid
  Society, £20 .. .. .. 2365.50
  Mrs. Constantine, £30 .. .. 3548.—
  Mrs. Tottenham, £5 .. .. 594.—
  Alexander G. Ioannides, Esq., £5 .. 594.—
  A Friend (per M.C.), £5 .. .. 594.—
  Miss Priscilla Fry, £1 .. .. 118.75
  A Friend in Smyrna, £T1. .. .. 108.—
  H. S. Saunders, Esq., £1 .. .. 118.75
  Rev. E. and Mrs. Gordon, £2 .. .. 236.50
  Rev. Charles K. Tracy, £T.2 .. .. 216.—
  Miss H. L. Green Armytage, £0 : 10 : 0 .. 59.25
  Rev. David Baron, £2 .. .. 236.—
  Mrs. Saunders, £10 .. .. 1181.50
  Miss Grimston, £1 .. .. 118.75
  Miss Gordon, £0 : 5 : 0 .. .. 30.—
  All Nations Missionary Union, £2 : 14 : 11 .. 323.50
  Mrs. Porteous (towards printing of tracts), £2 .. .. 236.—
  J. W. Gordon-Oswald, Esq., £10 .. 1181.75
  Miss M. Wishart, £4 : 8 : 0 .. .. 521.—
  Mrs. MacLachlan, £T.1 .. .. 108.—
  G. F. Manwaring, Esq., £1 .. .. 118.75
Per J. R. van Millingen, Esq.—

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From Miss L. Atthill, £1

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Total, £694 : 16 : 10—82512.62½

N.B.—The valuation of money sent by cheque depends upon the state of exchange in the market at Smyrna.
**BALANCE SHEET**

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Lira at Pias, 108; £ St. Pias, 118.3.

THEODORE SOTERIADES, Treasurer.

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£737 19 8½
## FOR THE YEAR 1907.

### EXPENSES.

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<td>Balance in the Treasury for General Work</td>
<td>10 19 5</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1737 19 8½</td>
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Audited and found correct, A. HADJI ANTONIOU.
Any information respecting Evangelistic work among the Greeks in Asia Minor, will be given or forwarded by our Honorary Foreign Secretary—

MISS E. CAIRNS,
c/o BRITISH POST OFFICE,
SMYRNA,
ASIA MINOR,

or by the Honorary Secretary to the Reference Council in Great Britain—

J. R. VAN MILLINGEN, ESQ.,
LEEWOOD,
DUNBLANE,
SCOTLAND.

Contributions marked "for the Greek Evangelical Union of Smyrna," may be sent to Rev. S. W. Gentle-Cackett, Secretary, The Bible Lands Missions' Aid Society, 7, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.; or to J. R. van Millingen, Esq., at the above address, or by postal order or cheque straight to—

X. P. MOSCHOU, PH. D.,
c/o SAILORS' HOME,
SMYRNA,
ASIA MINOR.

A fourth (revised) edition of the Prayer Cycle for Asia Minor has come out, and copies may be had from Mrs. Constantine, 2, The Ridgway, Wimbledon, Surrey, England.
“Brethren, pray for us.”