Report for 1909

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.

1910.
TWENTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Greek Evangelical Union,

Founded in Smyrna in 1883

(For the Year 1909).

It is very necessary to remember the Apostolic injunction, and pray for kings and all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life. This need comes to be more and more imperative in countries like this, where political fermentation is going on, and the minds of the people are entirely absorbed in politics. All interest is concentrated on pressing questions of the day, and very little is left for them to bestow upon spiritual things. Poverty and want of employment are the natural accompaniments of such conditions, on account of which many are constantly leaving their homes in quest of bread elsewhere. Our congregations are more or less thinned for the same reason, and the Work suffers in consequence.

In view of all these difficulties, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the blessing of God vouchsafed to
our little Union during the past year. The large Deficit of the previous year has been reduced to nearly £22. This has been the outcome of a special effort on the part of the congregations, and of continued kindness on the part of our friends.

But the urgent demand of the Work is much beyond the simple paying off of the remaining debt. Our field is indeed great, and the labourers at work are exceedingly few. The five workers of the Union are called upon to influence the Greek population of the extensive coasts of Asia Minor, which much exceeds one-and-a-half million of souls!

We greatly need at least one more worker, who would take occasionally the place of some of the others, or would evangelise in parts yet unoccupied.

We greatly need a Bible-woman for Smyrna to do most necessary work among families. Homes may thus open which are otherwise inaccessible.

The Girls' school at Semen has been sustained for another year by the efforts of the villagers and their friends; but it is doubtful whether they will be able to keep it up for a long time, unless it be taken on by the Union.

These are some of the most pressing needs of the Work at present, and we refer them to the prayerful interest of all our friends.

The proclamation of Salvation full and free has been faithfully continued for another year, and we note with thankfulness that thirteen new members joined the church in two out of the five stations. With some of these persons this step meant a very great deal. To frequent our meetings is generally considered as deserving at least censure and opprobrium; but to take the decisive step and join the church as a regular
member, is still looked upon by many as treason consummated. Friends withdraw; doors to a situation are often closed; and one has really to sit down and count the cost before daring to come forward as a declared follower of the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ. A slight change of attitude is indeed noticeable, but we are yet very far from enjoying the precious privilege of true Freedom of Conscience as a principle recognised and accepted by the community at large.

We now proceed to give some of the items from each station.

Smyrna.—Minister : Xenophon P Moschou, Ph. D. This City is second in the whole Empire as regards the Greek population, and presents an exceptionally good field for work among the Greeks: yet there is only this one worker to preach the pure Gospel to them! People generally persist in discountenancing and even opposing the Evangelical movement when they can; but a party is silently forming, we believe, who, though very small at present, will in time dare to patronise the movement on ethical if not on truly religious grounds. Young people also grow up with more liberal ideas, and there is a good prospect for the further future: yet it is both our desire and our duty to hasten this future as much as possible.

Progress would have been much accelerated, humanly speaking, if so many of those who at times joined the church were not driven—mostly by the force of circumstances—to seek their livelihood in far away countries. Their place in the working force of the Church remains empty, and the Work finds itself continually at the beginning.

The meetings in the American Chapel have been generally well attended, especially the Sunday morning service. Outsiders have always been present both in the morning and in the afternoon. The Tuesday
evening prayer meeting might be better attended, although there has been considerable sickness in many families, which made attendance in many cases very difficult. The Wednesday evening evangelistic meeting at the Sailors' Home has grown somewhat, but it is small as yet.

Of our two Sunday schools, the one at Tsicoudia remained closed during the latter months of the year, owing to the epidemic of small-pox raging in that neighbourhood. The other, which is held in the International College, resumed work in October. The Children of this Sunday school have been collecting for some years now the sum of £1 : 4 : 6 in half-pennies and farthings, which was lately sent as a Donation to The China Inland Mission.

The Mothers' meeting has been better attended and is showing increase in interest. The starting of an occasional "Missionary meeting" consisting of information as to Missionary work in other lands, proves very helpful towards increasing the zeal and enlarging the hearts of the mothers.

Through the kindness of our old friend, J. W. Gordon-Oswald, Esq., we received a box with several hundreds of Gospels of St. John, pictorial edition, for free distribution among outsiders.

This year we had a share in Rev. F. B. Meyer's visit to our City. He was here for a few days in April, and spoke twice to the Greeks by interpretation. The memory of his visit will be lovingly cherished by many; and only Eternity will reveal the value of such apparently "occasional" visits.

A number of tracts and booklets, published in Athens, under the patronage of H.M. the Queen of Greece, were sent us by Mr. J. Chrysakes. Also some hundreds of tracts from the Church at Athens.
Two new members joined the Church on profession: one of them a teacher with a family to support, which was a brave step to take, knowing full well that by doing so he lost all hopes of being possibly employed by any Greek community in the future. Three marriages were celebrated this year, and three deaths occurred.

Contributions to the Lord’s work amounted to £99, not including an extra Donation to the General Fund of the Union “from a Greek Brother in Smyrna” of £16. Also more than £20 was contributed to the Building Fund, nearly £10 to charitable purposes, including Adana sufferers, and £3:7:6 on behalf of the American Bible Society. The total amount of the Semi-jubilee Fund came up to £88 or very near to what was originally promised. Now taking into account the hardness of the times and the real poverty of those who contribute, it is a matter of deep gratitude to God who gave so much love to the hearts of these brethren.

The Week of Prayer was kept as usual, and a Collection of 14/3 sent to The Evangelical Alliance Headquarters in London, a small expression of heartfelt sympathy with its noble work.

Magnesia (about 45 miles by rail N.E. of Smyrna). Minister: G. B. Kampouropoulos. This is the oldest congregation in the Union; and it has been steadily growing until lately, when the Evil one tried very hard to stop its progress both by outside difficulties and, what is worse, by inside trouble. In reference to this the Church was visited and admonished, and there was a general agreement to forgive and to forget; and our hope is in the Lord to enable each to perform his or her share in the duty.

Almost the entire congregation here are vine dressers, and depend upon the success of the raisin crop for
their living. This past year's produce was plentiful, and the prices consequently very low. Most of the brethren have been obliged to contract debts. On this account their contributions fell by £5:13:0.

Thyatira (about 35 miles by rail from Magnesia). Evangelist: G. N. Proussaeus. Interest here has been steadily growing, especially among young men. They come together on Tuesday nights for prayer, and have an opportunity of confessing Christ before others. An evening class kept up for some time helped much towards drawing these young men together.

Older members keep steadfast, except one, whom it was necessary to put under discipline, as his ways were causing considerable harm to the work.

It is very gratifying to notice here the general esteem in which the Evangelicals are held, notwithstanding the opposition of many to the Truth. There have been occasions when on important questions of a general character, the opinion of Mr. Proussaeus was asked, which is an evidence of recognition and respect.

Contributions to the work from this poor and weak station showed an increase of nearly £3. This is a tangible evidence of the progress made (Phil. iv. 17). Moreover they gave £T.2 for repairs, and sent £T.3 to the Adana sufferers.

Ordo (on the Black Sea coast). Minister: Panteles Philadelphicus. The enthusiasm with which the Gospel was welcomed and accepted by so many of the Greeks in this small town, is still a characteristic of this congregation, large indeed in size but poor in circumstances. The work is telling more and more upon the other inhabitants. Meetings have been steadily continued, and some special effort was put forth for some time for the edification of older members, with encouraging results.
Attendance at the various meetings has been good throughout: there is no custom with them to stay away from meetings. Apart from the regular services, the various societies (such as C.E., Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A. and Mothers' meetings), are faithfully doing their work.

The difficulties occasioned by emigration begin to be keenly felt here also. A large number of young men have left already for America; and even whole families have begun to look away to the Far West. Already some families have left, and others are preparing. No one knows where this thing is going to stop.

As regards the need of strengthening their Schools, the Ordoo Christians are doing their best. This year they gave £40 over and above what the Union gave them for the Schools.

Eleven new members joined the Church on profession, and, according to the wording of the Report from that station, "only," two marriages were celebrated.

Contributions to the work amounted to over £136—not including the above mentioned sum of £40. Besides, more than £20 were given to benevolent purposes including a special help to the American Bible Society (£T.3), a grant for the Adana sufferers (£T.4) and help towards a Girl's Boarding-house in China under the Women's Board (£T. 5).

Semen (on the mountains of Ordoo). Evangelist: John Anastasiades. A great and unprecedented drought during the summer completely destroyed the very limited crop that is raised in this high and cold region. On this account more individuals, and families also, left the village to seek bread in the maritime towns. This caused some decrease in attendance at the meetings, and more decrease in the contributions. Still, they did bravely, as they gave nearly £31 or only
£7 less than the previous year. Besides they gave about £3:10:0 for benevolent purposes, including help to the Bible Society (£T. 1) and a Donation for the work in Micronesia (£T.1). Also they brought their contribution for the church building up to £22.

The Truth in this village is permeating the whole population. The time is evidently coming when the Gospel will have its full victory as regards recognition and persuasion. May it rule also in every heart!

**Itinerating Work.** Mr. G. N. Proussaeus, at Kirkaghatch, Bakir, and Yayakeoy. He found people so taken up with politics, that very few showed any desire to pay attention to any other subject. He was permitted, however, to speak on the Plan of Salvation at one of the Clubs. He was accompanied by a Colporteur of the American Bible Society, who had a good opportunity at a café. Constitutional Liberty has not yet been properly understood in this country, and the herald of the Gospel finds circumstances almost as difficult as during the reign of Terror. Still perseverance is bringing its fruits by degrees, and one often meets with persons who heard the itinerant evangelist at some place or other.

Mr. A. Hyphantides, of Bey Alan, in Pontus, reports an extensive tour made in the uplands of those parts. Nine different places were visited, mostly villages and hamlets. He had opportunities of conversing with many, and of preaching outside churches and at other places. In one village he was even permitted by the priest to preach inside the church, on condition that he would not touch upon the errors. He made a good use of the opportunity to speak about the awful state of the sinner, and show Christ as the only Saviour. He also was enabled to dispose of some 140 Bibles, Testaments or Portions.
Itinerating in those regions is extremely difficult on account of the complete absence of roads, and the possibility at times of not finding even a horse or a mule to hire. Such was the case in one of his travels, when after the fatigue of a long walk he was exposed to the cold blast of the higher level, and had rheumatism in consequence.

In some of these villages he found some families who declare themselves as Evangelical. May they be used of God as the seed to multiply and cover all that region.
DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributed by the Stations during the year Pi.
(including £T.1 from L.M.), £356 : 10 : 7 42337.75

From A.B.C.F.M. :

For Smyrna Field, £118 : 2 : 3½ 14026.—
For Ordoo Field, £54 : 11 : 4½ 6480.—
For Semen Field, £18 : 3 : 9½ 2160.—

From The Bible Lands Missions' Aid Society, £10 1188.—

The Bible Lands Missions' Aid Society for an Evangelist, £15 1765.50

Mrs. Constantine, £35 4137.75
Mrs. Constantine, £1 for Itineration 118.25
Miss P. A. Fry, £1 118.75
M. L. E. ("a friend"'), £5 594.—
Mrs. MacLachlan, £T.1 108.—
Miss Grimston, £2 237.—
Miss E. C., £5 594.50
Anon. (per Mrs. M. C.), £5 581.50
Miss Baker-Munton Medj. 40.—
Rev. C. K. Tracy, £T.5 542.—
Miss E. Cairns, £4 for Itineration 475.—
Mrs. Tottenham, £5 593.—
Mr. S. Oeconomides 54.—
Mr. John Chrysakes for the poor at Semen, £1 118.75
Mr. John Chrysakes towards the Deficit, 40 fcs. 189.—
Extra offering from the Girls of the Smyrna congregation. 739.50
Rev. and Mrs. Gordon, £2 236.75
M. L. E. (a friend), £5 594.—
Miss Mary Moffat, 5/- 30.—
H. S. Saunders, Esq., £1 10 : 0 178.—
A Friend (T.), £5 594.—
Miss Grimston, £1 117.75
Dr. and Mrs. Watson, £2 237.50
Rev. David Baron, £2 235.50
Mrs. Saunders, £10 1179.—
Per J. R. van Millingen, Esq. — £ 5 0
d Rev. D. and Mrs. Cairns 0 5 0
Miss Boyd 0 10 0
Miss Agnes Boyd . 0 10 0
Rev. J. Gibson, D.D. 0 10 0
Mrs. Priestman 0 2 6
Lord Guthrie . 1 0 0
Sir Robert Pullar 2 0 0
Mr. and the late Mrs. J. R.
van Millingen 2 0 0
J. F. W Deacon, Esq. 2 0 0
Ditto. for Biblewoman 1 0 0

£ 9 17 6 1166.25

From Mr. Ath. Paraskewas, $20 486.—
,, Miss Sargint, £1 118.75
,, Dr. R. Lee Bolton, £1 118.50
,, Huntington S. S. Society, Northfield,
Minnnesota, £T.1 108.—
,, Rev. J. P. McNaughton, £T.5 540.—
,, Prof. S. L. Caldwell, £T.1 108.—
,, Miss H. Constantine, $10 245.25
,, Mr. Bas. Tchaousoglou, $5 120.50
,, Miss, Wishart, £4 : 8 : 0 522.50
,, A Friend in Smyrna, £T.1 108.—
,, Rev. N. C. Burrough Medj. 3 60.—
,, G. F. Manwaring, Esq., £1 118.50
,, Miss E. Tilby, 3/- 18.—
,, Miss Atthill, £1 118.75
,, Miss Dray, £1 118.75
,, Mr. George Photou, Aidin, £T.2 216.—
,, Mr. Alexander G. Ioannides, £5 590.—
,, Sale of Books granted by Mr. J.
Chrysakes. 56.—
,, A Greek Brother in Smyrna, 400 fcs. 1890.—

Total, £736 : 4 9½–87428.50

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, 1188.  

THEODORE SOTERIADES, Treasurer.
**FOR THE YEAR 1909.**

### EXPENSES.

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<td>Light, Heating, etc.</td>
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<td>Postage, Printing of Reports, etc.</td>
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<td>Teachers</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Teacher</td>
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<td>Travelling Expenses</td>
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Subtracted their special effort for increase of Schools... 4758.75  
**Total** 213140.25

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<td>Female Teacher</td>
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Subtracted their effort for Girls' School 1429.25  
**Total** 8758.25

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<td>A. Hyphantides</td>
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**£758325**

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 sixth (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.