Report for 1906.

GREEK EVANGELICAL UNION OF SMYRNA.

Reference Council in Great Britain:

Lord KINNAIRD.
Sheriff C. J. GUTHRIE, K.C.
Rev. W. Y. FULLERTON.
Rev. F. B. MEYER, B.A.

J. R. van MILLINGEN, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

Treasurers—THE BIBLE LANDS MISSIONS' AID SOCIETY.

BRISTOL:
ROSE AND HARRIS, PRINTERS, BROADMEAD.

1907.
\[ B \Delta + G = 81 \]

v. 24
TWENTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Greek Evangelical Union,
Founded in Smyrna in 1883
(For the year 1908).

As we glance over the year that is past, we "thank God and take courage." Not that we have to tell of some great movement or revival; but there have been drops of blessing here and there, and evidences of some increase in the spirit of enquiry. For this we are deeply thankful.

Our earnest desire is, indeed, to see numbers flocking to Christ "as doves to their windows," and to witness a great multitude come forward to take their places in the churches which God is raising up out of the deadness and decay of religious formality and indifference. This is not yet granted to us. Progress seems to be by inches, while our wish is to count it by miles. Shall we lose heart on this account? or shall we lower our standard of Evangelical strictness in doctrine and practice to make it easier for outsiders to come in? God forbid!
We believe no Christian work is worth anything, unless it is done on God's own lines; and surely God will not lower His standard either of Truth revealed, or of life inwrought by the "Holy" Spirit!

Besides, of what use would it be to have outsiders come into the Church, while they are still outsiders as to the real constitution and mission of the Church as "the pillar and ground (or stay) of the Truth," the aggregate of those who truly seek "to prove what is the good and acceptable perfect will of God" and to do it? Such "accessions" to the Church are the surest way to drag it down to apostasy, as has already been done in the old churches both Eastern and Western.

The readers of these Reports are, we presume, desirous to know why the Evangelical movement is making such slow progress among the Greeks. The chief answer to this question is, of course, that the tilling of the ground and the sowing of the seed is to no purpose until the rain from heaven comes upon the parched ground. True spiritual work is, in the most real sense, God's work. But there are besides, on the human side of things, several serious obstacles to this work, which we beg all our readers to kindly bear in their minds and before the Throne of grace.

(1) The work done is inadequate to the need both as regards centres of preaching, and as regards the publishing of Evangelical literature for dissemination. What are nine or ten preaching stations to a widely diffused population of about 1½ million of Greeks in Asia Minor and the islands?

(2) The deep rooted confusion of external religion with nationality, which has been asserting itself in the Greek mind for more than ten centuries, is a terrible hindrance. The very ears of the people are stopped on this account to any religious doctrine that is associated with foreigners.
(3) Preaching has ceased in the Greek Church as a part of the service for about fifteen centuries. Ignorance, formality, and superstition have been the result. Ceremony and Religion are, for most people, synonymous terms. What a tremendous work must take place before the people begin to be enlightened even as to the simplest truths!

(4) Persecution and opprobrium is the inevitable portion of any who dare to come out on the side of the truth. Many count the cost and do not find courage enough to bear the consequences. Such are our tacit friends, and though useless to themselves, they help in some way to break down prejudice for the future.

(5) Want of employment obliges many Christians, and especially young men, to seek work elsewhere. Thus the working force in the churches is diminishing almost as soon as it appears to be increasing, and the work seems always to be in the beginning!

Against all these obstacles, we feel we are called to do the work that lies ready to our hands, trusting only in the Lord and waiting for His further intervention; and we are sure that if we remain faithful to Him and move on His own lines, the steady witnessing of these small churches will tell some day.

There are evident signs of increase in dissatisfaction with rites and ceremonies on the one hand, and with looseness in faith and practice on the other. Even among the clergy there are a few who would be glad of an opportunity to quit a system which keeps them under bondage as regards conscience; but the impossibility of making their living in any other way keeps them back. One, however, has had grace to come out and brave all difficulties; and after several months of hardship and privation, has now succeeded in finding a tolerably good situation.

Twenty new members were added to four out of the five churches of the Union on profession of their faith.
£50 were given by a kind friend, which enabled us to invite Mr. John Bakalopoulos, who completed his three years' Theological course in Marsovan, to share in the work at Smyrna. He did so, but decided at the end of his term, to prosecute further studies abroad. We wish him all needed grace to receive all possible help, while escaping all possible hurt in these times of conflicting opinion and endless theorizing.

Owing to a very pressing need of providing the school building in Ordoor with a second flat, the money that had been voted for Indalan, and could not be used (£ T. 25), was passed on to the Ordoor Building Fund.

Here follow a few items from each station:—

**Smyrna.**—Minister: Xenophon P. Moschou, Ph. D. The usual services have been maintained: Sunday morning and evening; Prayer Meeting on Tuesday evening; and an informal gathering for information and prayer on Sunday evening. Attendance has been fairly good, and on Sunday morning, during the winter, we had the largest audiences we ever had, exceeding sometimes 150.

Also the two Bible Classes continued to meet (one in Greek, the other in Turkish), the Mothers' Meeting every Thursday afternoon (except in the summer), and the Young Men's meeting, although few young men have been left in the church, most of them having gone to seek employment abroad. The Mothers' Meeting presents some encouraging features, and we attach great importance to it, especially as regards influencing the new generation.

Indeed, the conversion of the Evangelical children begins to be a problem which demands all possible reflection and attention. They find themselves within the Evangelical light, for which they did not sacrifice anything, and it is natural they do not show that degree of appreciation which their parents have shown. On the
other hand, the world around them is full of snares and seducing influences against which nothing can prevail save the grace and power of God. A Sunday School is provided for them, average attendance, 45; the parents are exhorted to be faithful in their duties to them, and from time to time some special meeting is held for their benefit. The Lord save them from the disgrace of being only Evangelicals in name.

The other Sunday School at Tsicoudia is kept up with somewhat less attendance and more order and quiet. A girl promised her teacher that she would seek Christ's mercy and grace to live according to His will. Two other girls were moved to tears on hearing about the love of Christ. Those who labour in this Ragged Sunday School, need to exercise much faith indeed, and call for the prayerful interest of all friends of the work.

This is the first time, in the last fourteen years, when there has been no addition to church membership. Several have asked for admission, but it was thought best to wait. One marriage has been celebrated, three deaths occurred, and four children belonging to Christian parents, were baptized.

Contributions to the Lord's work, including offerings to the Building fund, and for benevolent purposes, amounted to about £98. Considering the growing difficulty to find employment and the prevailing general distress, this figure is very encouraging. There is evidently no fear that the Smyrna Greek Evangelicals will lay up for themselves treasures upon earth!

The week of Prayer was well attended, and the various subjects more intelligently presented before the throne. A small collection of 11s. 1d. was sent to the Evangelical Alliance, in London. Also the watchnight service was held as usual, and the Hall was packed as never before. May that solemn hour prove the starting point for many souls.
Correspondence with absent members and friends was continued as much as possible. Seventy-four letters were written and several pamphlets and booklets were sent. We are grateful that a good many of them remember us not only by writing but also by contributing to the needs of the work from which they themselves derived benefit in the past. To them the wish of the Apostle is sent 2nd Corinth. ix. 8, 10.

Our kind friend, J. W. Gordon-Oswald, Esq., sent us about 170 Gospels of St. John (pictorial edition), which have all been distributed outside the Evangelical circle.

Since May, Mr. John Bakalopoulos helped in the work by preaching from time to time and by translating a number of tracts, which we shall be glad to publish when the necessary outlay is secured (£3 for four kinds, 3,000 copies each).

We had the pleasure to receive several Brethren from other parts, whose words and exhortations are always so helpful. In February, the American Missionary, Mr. H. M. Allen, visited Smyrna, and he preached to the Greek congregation, being interpreted by Mr. John Constantine. In April the founder of the Christian Endeavour Society, Dr. Francis Clark, preached once by interpretation. Later, in May, Mr. S. W. Gentle-Cackett, the beloved Secretary of the Bible Lands Missions' Aid Society, was with us for a few days and preached by interpretation; he also visited the church in Magnesia, to the joy of the Church there. Two of the Secretaries of the American Board, Dr. C. C. Greegan, and Dr. A. N. Hitchcock paid Smyrna, a flying visit, and an opportunity was afforded to address the two congregations, American and Greek together. In Autumn, Pastor Robert Wood, of Hull, gave us a very helpful address. Also Mr. C. Tracy, missionary resident in Smyrna, preached several times in Greek.
The clinic in Tsicoudia was continued, thanks to the unstinted labours of our kind friends—Drs. Bolton, Newton and Cavalgian. In all, 344 patients were treated. We are grateful to our friends for the help thus given to the poor of that neighbourhood.

The Lord grant His abundant blessing on all departments of His work in this large city.

Magnegia (about 45 miles by rail N.E. of Smyrna).—Minister: G. B. Kampouropoulos. The Church in this place is steadily growing, and as few, if any, leave it, their usual occupation being with the soil, every new accession to the Church is a helping hand to the larger extension of the work. Their influence also is telling upon the whole Greek community (which is not very large), and there is a hopeful prospect for the future.

Between 140 and 150 is the usual number of hearers on Sundays; and for some time now some of the outside people began to frequent the meetings.

One new member has been added to the Church on profession of faith; two marriages were celebrated, six deaths occurred, and five children of Christian families were baptized.

Their contributions to the work amounted to over £82, besides what they gave to their own Building Fund. Moreover, from small beginnings, a Society was formed for procuring medical help to the sick and poor. It is hoped that the Society will be able to have its own premises for sheltering also any who are entirely destitute.

The young men have been stirred to form a brotherhood with a view to start a Reading Room for the benefit of young men in general. About twenty-five to thirty-five gather once a week from house to house to study the Word of God together, and pray.

The Schools are in a comparatively hopeful condition. They number sixty-five to seventy boys and girls.
But they stand in a desperate need of a new building, the one lately bought by them being old, and it will hardly stand erect for another year.

Rev. S. W. Gentle-Cackett's visit is remembered with much pleasure.

Ak-Hissar ("Thyatira," about thirty-five miles by rail from Magnesia).—Evangelist: G. N. Proussaens. In the beginning of the year, great interest had been awakened among the people, and many Bibles, Testaments, and Portions were sold to the number of about 500 in a few months, and also a good many religious discussions were held. Later, this interest subsided, but the Bible being in the hands of many, there is every reason to hope God will bless it.

There are several who may be considered as "enlightened"; but they lack that moral courage to confess Christ publicly for fear of the results.

The little church, generally speaking, is in a better spiritual condition, and the Members are earnestly working for the Gospel. In the spring, when Mr. McNaughton visited the place, a new Member was added to the church on profession of faith; but towards the close of the year, one of the old members was excluded from communion, owing to inconsistent life.

Ordoo (on the Black Sea coast)—Minister: Panteles Philadelpheus. The work, in this large congregation, presents some special aspects, the chief of which is, at present, the necessity felt of keeping a vigilant watch against the inroads of the world into the Church. As a result of the formation of a church in a place, there follows an attempt of the world around to copy and imitate some of the good that it notices in the church. Thus, round the Christian church, a Christian-like world is formed; which, by some, is taken as a sure token that the world does indeed draw near the Christian idea, and, by way of making further steps
easier, they counsel the church to drop some of its strictness and come nearer the "reforming" world! Against such a tendency, the pastor and the leading members of this congregation, are working to prevent any possible confusion of things so diametrically opposed, and they deserve all sympathy and help by prayer.

The church building begins to be too small for the growing congregation.

Their schools also need more room, and the most natural solution of the difficulty is to build a second flat and use it exclusively for the girls. This, however, will demand from £150 to £180. They might have gone on with this, had they not been hampered with another and more pressing need coming from the sea. The waves have demolished the breakwater, formerly built, and they had to hasten and raise another and a stronger one before their buildings were damaged. The cost of this has been estimated at about £110 to £120. The congregation pledged themselves for £180 (about £72), to be paid within two years, and the one-half has been already given. Indeed, the burdens of this large, but poor, congregation, seem all too heavy for their means. Still, they go on giving and hoping.

Their contribution to the Lord's work, apart from these extras, amounted to about £136 10s. od.

With a view to increase their schools without retarding their progress to self-support, and in accordance with directions from the Committee of the Union, at Smyrna, they have started a School Fund, for which contributions are gratefully received.

Dr. L. S. Crawford, of Trebizond, visited this church twice, and was a month in Chambashi, together with Mrs. Crawford.

Semen (on the mountains of Ordoo).—Evangelist: John Anastasiades. Vigorous efforts are put forth
by the enemies of the Truth in this village to stop its progress. But, as more than one-third of its inhabitants are adhering to the Evangelical Church, it is very little these efforts can do. Still, there are those who are afraid of slander and family difficulties, and for their sakes, the Nicodemus plan has been adopted. Meetings are held in private houses in the night for those who do not dare to go openly to the Evangelical Chapel.

The greatest difficulty in this Station is with the men who are obliged to go to other parts of the country in order to bring to their families wherewithal to live. So they hear but a few sermons every year, while the greatest part of their time is spent away from the regular means of grace. Thus they are only beginners in Christianity.

The women, on the contrary, are staying continually in the village, and they get the benefit of a regular ministry. This is the chief reason why only few of the men become members of the Church.

The School numbers fifty-four children, and there is a prospect of getting more children if they could employ another teacher.

Four new Members were added to the church; two deaths occurred, and four children were baptized.

This congregation is showing itself, year by year, the very example of liberality; for, though extremely poor, their contributions to the work, including offerings for benevolent purposes and for repairs, amounted to £47 4s. 2d.

Itinerating Work.—Our itinerating Evangelist, Mr. Proussaens, spent six weeks in his own native place, Unieh, on the Black Sea coast, and preached three times every week.

Coming back from there, he visited Aidin, and found the few believers there in good state, while an additional
cause of rejoicing was found in the fact that the wife of one of them, an inveterate enemy to the truth, opened her house to the evangelist, and asked that the meetings should take place there. Four meetings were held with an average attendance of ten.

Later, he visited Kirkaghatch, a small town, near Thyatira. There he was received by the owners of a lime kiln, one of whom is a member of the Thyatira Church. For some evenings, they had prayers in his house, and several shops were visited in the daytime. The friends here paid the hotel expenses.

Bakiri, a village in the neighbourhood, was also visited, and some pamphlets were distributed.

Mr. Hyphantides, the pastor, of Bey-Alan, made his evangelistic tour in April. He visited Semen, and thence, in company with Mrs. Parthena, the Bible Woman, they visited Sinanlee and Indalan, where they had some opportunities to talk to several persons, and pray.

Later, while going down to Ordoo, he stayed a night in Kirazdera, and promised to come and preach to them on his return, which he did, the audience being thirty or forty persons.

He also had some opportunities at another village, Jahman, near Chambashi; but he was unable to itinerate any more owing to very painful rheumatism, from which he is still suffering.

Mr. J. Bakalopoulos paid a visit to the few brethren in Aïdin, and he had several meetings with them. He also visited Atdjé to the encouragement of a few friends who are interested there.
DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributed by the Stations during the year, £344:2:0½ ... ... ... ... ... ... 40862.25
From A. B. C. F. M. for Smyrna Field,
   £131:13:6 ... ... ... ... ... ... 15636.50
  " " " Ordoo, £50:0:5½ ... ... ... 5940.—
  " " " Semen, £13:12:10 ... ... ... 1620.—
  " " " The Bible Lands Missions’ Aid Society, £21:8:6 ... ... ... 2533.75
  " " " Mrs. Constantine, £30 ... ... ... 3563.—
  " " " for Itineration, £5 ... ... ... 593.—
  " " " J. W. Gordon-Oswald, Esq., £20 ... ... 2371.75
  " " " Miss P. Fry, £1 ... ... ... ... 118.50
  " " " A Friend (per Mrs. C.), £5 ... ... ... 592.75
  " " " All Nations Missionary Union,
       £4:19:11 ... ... ... ... ... 591.50
  " " " Miss J. Nelson for the house in Smyrna, £5 ... ... ... 589.—
  " " " Miss Grimston, £1 ... ... ... ... 118.75
  " " " A Friend who knows Smyrna, £5 ... ... ... 590.50
  " " " Rev. David Baron, £2 ... ... ... 236.25
  " " " Rev. and Mrs. Gordon, £2 ... ... ... 236.—
  " " " H. S. Saunders, Esq., £1 ... ... ... 118.75
  " " " Prof. L. S. Caldwell, £T.1 ... ... ... 108.—
  " " " Mrs. H. Saunders, £15 ... ... ... 1770.50
  " " " Miss H. C. for Magnesia Church re-
       building, £2 ... ... ... ... ... 231.—
  " " " Mr. Demetrios Paraskevas, 40 francs ... ... ... 189.—
  " " " Miss Green-Armytage, £0:10:0 ... ... ... 58.25
  " " " Miss B. Turnly, £1 ... ... ... ... ... 118.75
  " " " Miss L. B. Gordon, £0:5:0 ... ... ... 30.—
  " " " Henry Williamson, Esq., £T.1 ... ... ... 108.—
  " " " G. F. Manwaring, Esq., £1 ... ... ... 118.75
  " " " Miss Wishart, £1:8:0 ... ... ... ... ... 167.25
Per J. R. van Millingen, Esq.—

Miss Guthrie ........................................ £0 : 10 : 0
Miss Boyd ........................................... £0 : 10 : 0
Rev. G. Gibson, D.D. ............................... £0 : 5 : 0
W. Malcolm, Esq. ................................... £0 : 10 : 0
Dr. and Mrs. Watson ................................ £1 : 1 : 0
Rev. G. Thompson ................................... £0 : 10 : 6
Sir Robert Pullar ................................... £2 : 0 : 0
Mr. and Mrs. van Millingen ....................... £2 : 0 : 0

£7 : 6 : 6 .......................... 868.25

From Miss L. Atthill, £1 ......................... £118.50
", Miss L. Talbot, £0 : 11 : 0 .............. 65.—
", Miss Dray, £0 : 10 : 0 .............. 59.25
", A Friend from America .................. 50.—
", L. M., £,T.1 ................................. 108.—
", A. K £,T.1 ................................. 108.—
", Brethren in Kyrenia, Cyprus, £2 : 17 : 0 340.—
", Mr. John Chrysakes for Magnesia Church, 100 francs 470.—
", Mr. John Chrysakes for Ordoon Church, Church, 200 francs 940.—
", Mr. John Chrysakes for Semen Church, 100 francs 470.—
", Rent of Tsicoudia yard .................. 324.—
", Ordoon Congregation towards Itiner-ation .......................... 855.25
", Arrears of Rent of Baïndir Property, etc. 270.—
", Tsicoudia Clinic .......................... 246.25
", A Greek Brother in Smyrna, 400 francs 1890.—

Total £727 : 10 : 7½ — 86394.25

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

### RECEIPTS.

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<tr>
<td>for Work in Indalan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations and Contributions</td>
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**£785 8 5½**

Lira at Pias, 108; £ St. Pias, 116½.

THEODORE SOTERIADES, Treasurer.
## FOR THE YEAR 1906.

### EXPENSES.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£785</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.