

1914  
April 5

June 20, 1914

June 20 1914 A Sunday School in Annam. <sup>AW p. 205</sup>

A few months ago the children in the Gospel Tabernacle, New York, said good bye to a missionary who was going to Annam. He had been attending the Tabernacle and its Sunday school for many years, and while we were sorry to say good bye to him, still we were very happy to know he was going to a country where the little children did not know anything about Jesus. And now he writes to tell how the missionaries have opened up a new Sunday school in that country, the very first Protestant school in that great land. But we shall let you read his letter.

Mr. Birkel

My dear young friends:

It has been on my heart for some time to write a letter to you; and I think there is no time like today; for this day, April 5, 1914, marks the beginning of Sunday School work in Annam. Last Sunday the first Protestant chapel in this dark land was opened. Now, what do you imagine it looks like? To be sure, it is nothing like the fine big Tabernacle, where you go every Sunday, and where I went Sunday after Sunday for more than twelve years. Our chapel here is very small, and is built of bamboo poles and dried grass. Even the roof is of this dried grass. The benches are made of wood. Although our little chapel is not very pretty nor large, we are so glad to have it; for it is so necessary to have a place where the people can gather to hear of Jesus. Is it not too bad that this is the only Jesus church for Annamese in this big land? You know that in New York there are ever so many, many people—you see them everywhere—and you also know that there are many Sunday Schools and churches; but just think of it, here in Annam there are five times as many people as in New York, and this little chapel I have told about, is the first and only church where Jesus is truly worshiped.

And as I just told you, we had our first Sunday School in this little grass house today. Seven little children came this first time and heard about Jesus or "Thanh Ya Do" as He is called in this language. You should have heard them learning to sing that sweet hymn, "Yes, Jesus loves me." They seemed so glad to be there and we feel sure that before long many more dear little boys and girls will hear about our Sunday School and will come and learn that Jesus really loves them, and died to save them. And will it not be lovely when many of these little yellow-skinned boys and girls shall trust Jesus and find the same joy which we who love Him have found?

Today I heard a true story about a lady who was a missionary in Africa for many years. When she was a little girl, the noted missionary to India, Dr. Chamberlain, spoke to her Sunday School in a small town in Michigan. This great and good man asked the children to write this in their Bibles, "Mr. Chamberlain asks me to become a missionary." This particular girl wrote it in her Bible; but she added, "and I thought I would—may God help me." Years passed by; but one day she found herself on her way as a missionary to Africa. God had taken her at her word when she was only a little girl, and many years later sent her to dark Africa; where she did a great work for the Lord during her twenty years of service.

Miss Hazenby?

Today a greater than Mr. Chamberlain is asking you to

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become a missionary. Listen to what He says, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Who is saying that? It is Jesus. Oh, that some of you dear boys and girls would hear this command of Jesus, and would respond by saying, "Here am I, send me."

Pray for your little brothers and sisters in Annam.

Yours in the glad service of Jesus,

A. HENRY BIRKEL.