

Zion Restoration Host

Elder A. F. LEE, Recorder

I AM inquired of by them that asked not for Me; I am found of them that sought Me not: I said, Behold Me, behold Me, unto a nation that was not called by My Name.—*Isaiah 65:1*.

But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, the Christ died for us.—*Romans 5: 8*.

He made of one every nation of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us: for in Him we live, and move, and have our being. *Acts 17 :26-28*.

IT may be interesting to the readers of LEAVES OF HEALING to know that the actual enrolment of Zion Restoration Host now numbers six thousand sixty.

This number is composed only of those who have subscribed their names to the Vow of Zion Restoration Host.

To these figures might also be added many thousand persons who are to all intents and purposes members of Zion Restoration Host, but who have not formally signed the Vow, but are and have been

doing faithful work for the extension of the Kingdom of God in the circulation of Zion Literature as far as they have had the opportunity. Among these it is pleasing to state that we are able to include those of many nations.

It also gives us peculiar pleasure at this time, when the name of Japan figures so conspicuously in the affairs of the world, to present to our readers a group of faithful



MEMBERS OF ZION RESTORATION HOST IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.

Japanese Restorationists.

This most excellent photograph reached us a few days ago, together with a very interesting letter from our Brother Tokika, who is so faithfully directing the work in that far-away land.

Feeling sure that the members of Zion Restoration Host will be interested in knowing something of what is being done by these faithful workers and the difficulties with which they have to contend, we

print nearly in full our brother's letter.

It reads as follows:

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, 1404 NAKAMURA,
March 29, 1904.

My DEAR ELDER.—Your kind letter of February 2d, and the application forms, were received some time ago.

I thank you for your words of encouragement and the interest you express in our little flock in the far East.

We thank God that He has kept us and permitted us to do what we could to carry the Gospel to our countrymen,

although we are only an insignificant little company of His children in His great Kingdom.

It was the first part of November, 1902, when we received orders from Elder Kennedy in Shanghai to go around from house to house and try to sell Zion Messages.

We had at that time the Message "He Is Just the Same Today" translated and printed.

Brother Kayeyema and myself obeyed the order and commenced

the work on November 11, 1902

It was a new experience to us, so we had some difficulty, but overcame the hesitating feeling and went out twice during each week visiting from house to house, explaining our aim and asking them whether they would not buy a pamphlet about Christian religion.

Most of the people received us kindly, but were surprised, for they had never received such a visitation before.

There were some, however, who received us coldly and refused to accept our Message.

The good-hearted people bought the

tract from us.

We continued in this way week after week.

Last summer Mother Saito joined us, and has been my companion every Friday since.

She has been very faithful, and with her I have visited a great number of houses and sold many Messages.

Since last fall two more brothers and four sisters have participated in this work with us, and a brother who is not here at the present time sold hundreds of tracts in the city and in his home.

In this way we have visited about twenty thousand homes and sold about one thousand six hundred tracts since the beginning.

Two of the sisters visit the Yokohama penitentiary weekly and teach some of the female prisoners.

The picture which I send you shows those who are engaged in the work. Let me explain briefly about the picture.

The old lady in the center is our beloved Mother Saito who is about seventy years old, the mother of Brother Saito who is now with you in Zion City, and who is her only son.

The lady at her right is Miss S. Takagi who is well known in Zion, and who keeps a store here where Zion lace is sold.

She has charge of the work in the penitentiary with the help of Mrs. Saito; they go there every Lord's Day afternoon, and their work is very hopeful.

The lady next to her at the right is her sister, Mrs. Takabatake. The lady next to Mother Saito, at the left is my wife. As she has three small children she is not able to go out regularly, but does so as often as she is able.

Mrs. Saito, the wife of the brother who is in Zion City, sits next my wife.

She goes to the penitentiary with Miss Takagi nearly every week, and when she does not go there she accompanies us in the house-to-house work.

At the left end of the line of gentlemen you will find me. The brother next to me is Mr. K. Kayeyema. He is my first companion and loves the work.

The next to him is Brother Masuda. He is the fruit of the labors of Evangelist

Burkland, who is now with you in Zion City. He is one of those who were first baptized in Japan by a Zion Elder. He joined us last summer and removed from his former residence to this place. He is faithfully doing the work with us.

The tall young man next to him is our young Brother Uyeki.

He is a relative to Miss Tagaki and lives with her. Although he is yet young in the Christian life he gladly accompanies us when we go out on the work.

These nine are the working Restorationists in Japan.

I wish to tell you that we, the Restorationists of Japan, are in a far more disadvantageous situation than those in America and other Christian lands.

First of all, we have the disadvantage of not being able to use LEAVES OF HEALING and other Zion Literature which is the power in the work.

Second, we have not as yet a suitable Message for our people.

Third, the Zion salutation "Peace be to this house" cannot be translated into colloquial Japanese, and consequently we cannot use it in our house-to-house work.

Fourth, the word God conveys to the mind of the people a debased and ridiculous idea, and not the grand and sublime thought which is conveyed to those in Christian lands.

The word, Heavenly Father, carries no meaning to us at all.

The only word in Japanese which conveys to the mind any true idea of the Christian's God is the word which means Creator of heaven and earth.

Consequently, when we visit the people we have to explain briefly what Christianity is and then invite them to learn its teaching.

If we use the word repent to them, they do not understand what we mean; we must explain its meaning.

It is a very hard task, and we find we cannot do all this in our visitation, for many of the people are engaged in their work.

We need, therefore, literature which will help the people to understand plainly what Christianity is, and why we endeavor to preach it to them.

Before we can wake the common people to the truth, we are obliged to visit them many times and supply them with different Messages.

It is difficult in Japan to sell religious literature, for people expect to secure it free; besides, there are many religious beggars in our country, and we are often mistaken for some of these. When we offer our literature for sale, some of the people give us a copper coin, just as they give it to the beggars, without taking our papers.

Of course, we do not accept it, but tell them that we come not for money, but to tell them about the Christian religion, and then we give them a paper.

It is not altogether hopeless, however, but quite the contrary.

I also, think it better to sell the papers than to give them freely, for what they buy they read, and too frequently what is given to them is thrown away.

We need to have, however, a supply of good, suitable Messages for free distribution to place in the hands of the common people of Japan and China, as the Restoration Messages which are commonly used are only suitable for those who are acquainted with the Christian religion.

The war is a great hindrance to the cause of the Christ here, for the people look upon Russia as a Christian nation, but which they consider is not working for the interests of humanity. This is another objection we have to explain away.

Pray for us all.

Hoping to hear from you son again, I remain, Very faithfully, yours in His Name,

D. TOKIDA.