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The Revival in Seoul

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Asked to write something concerning the special meetings recently held in Chung Dong I would mention first some things that seemed to militate against their highest success. Such for instance as the absence of our veteran missionaries. Dr. Underwood being confined to his home after the first two or three evenings with a very heavy cold and Dr. Scranton being called elsewhere by his work, Mr. Bunker who was to lead the music was unable to be present a number of evenings because of illness, and Mrs. Underwood's absence for similar reasons during the last week were felt to be a loss. Then the weather was bitterly cold most of the time, and the church was not always as warm as it should have been, especially in the inquiry room. If we add to these items the fact that this was our first attempt at Union evangelistic work attended by that incompleteness of preparation and ignorance of the best methods which is likely to accompany first efforts we can readily see that future efforts may be expected to prove much more fruitful. The movement began in the calling together of the pastors of the city churches for conference 10 days before the meetings began. It was decided to hold day meetings in each church and union meetings in the evenings - A Methodist missionary to preach in the Presbyterian Central church and a Presbyterian in the Chung Dong Methodist church. It was thought best for one man to do the preaching night after night. Committees on music and literature were appointed and an executive committee put in charge of the whole work. The two weeks beginning with January 26 were decided upon as specially appropriate because of the Korean custom of stopping work at that time - their New Year season. The committee felt that the first week should be spent in special effort to revive the native church and that the invitations to outsiders should not be distributed until the second week. Personally I am inclined to think this was a mistake and that the night meetings should have been for the unconverted from the first, leaving the work of reviving the believers to be carried on in the day meetings, which were held morning and afternoon by the pastors of the several churches. Audiences varied a good deal, there being a perfect jam one evening when the weather was especially pleasant. Altho much hampered by having to use two hymn books with only some fifteen hymns in common the singing was very hearty and as one not long on the field remarked the people sang as well as congregations do at home and the solos and duets both from foreigners and natives were very helpful. Perhaps the assistance of Drs. Avison and Hirst who took Mr. Bunker's place when he was absent and that of Misses Edmunds and Harbaugh at the organ should be

specially noted. One feature which seemed helpful was the repetition of Scripture by the congregation. Many precious texts were repeated line by line after the leader. The fifteen minute prayer meeting just before service was also very helpful, one being held by the foreigners and one by the natives holding positions as elders, deacons or Sunday School teachers. The presence of the Spirit of God was manifest in the hearty confessions of sin, the preacher being stopped one evening by a woman rising and saying that in listening to the Word she saw her sins as she had not before, and there were also many testimonies to a quickened spiritual life.

In response to the invitation men and women arose night after night to express their desire to follow Christ. A few times the inquiry room was quite full, and how to best conduct an inquiry meeting in a heathen land is still something of a problem. Dr. Cutler who had principal charge of the work with the women had an experienced Christian relate her experience one evening, and then had the women offer brief prayers to their newly found Father. On the men's side also we tried to have individual prayers and tho the words were stumbling these first prayers touched our hearts and doubtless reached the throne of God. Among those who came out were a few of the official class, but the soldiers were especially numerous. Owing to imperfection in our arrangements many of the names were not taken. During the last few evenings a copy of John's Gospel was given to each new inquirer and a short time taken in the after meeting to explain some text from that book. 130 Gospels were thus given out and there to the men as very few of the women could read, and the number of women who arose to express their desire to lead a new life is estimated at 40 50. The meetings continued for sixteen days and then closed because of the winter class beginning its sessions. The last night was one of the best in visible results, 13 rising on the men's side for prayer and 17 others coming forward afterwards. It ought to make us ashamed to think that we have never before tried to have union evangelistic services, and the results though small as compared with Pyeng Yang are certainly sufficient to show what God is ready to do for us when His servants come together "with one accord in one place." No account of the meetings would be satisfactory without mention of Brother Hounshell who was always ready to take an earnest part in the early prayer meeting or in conducting the testimony and after meetings.