

## Excerpts

### From Diary of a Mobile Clinic Trip.

#### Members of the trip:

Roy Habecker, MCC Clinic Supervisor  
M. Ditmanson, Doctor.  
Miss Susan, Nurse, an Amis girl.

Mr. Aoi, Dental technician Tyal tribe  
Lin San, an Amis preacher.

#### Monday:

After traveling by train, truck, and finally by bamboo-poled boat we finally arrived at Takangkou. We spent the night in one of the better village homes. In such a house usually live ten to twenty or more persons in a large unpartitioned room, sleeping on a raised platform along three sides of the room. We spread out our sleeping bags on the part of the platform made available to us and were soon fast asleep. It was after midnight when we were awakened by loud singing outside, and half a

dozen of the male occupants trooped in, returning very drunk from one of the frequent sake (rice wine) parties. They went to bed without bothering us, but were up again at 4 A. M. to resume drinking and talking, so we had little more sleep.



#### Tuesday.

All Takangkou knew that the Christian clinic had come and most people took the day off from their usual chores of tilling the small rice paddies or chopping wood in the mountains. We set up an examining table in the shade of an ancient banyan tree, and another drug-dispensing table inside a near-by house. After Lin-San had explained why we had come, and told simply the story of God's love through Jesus, we started seeing patients. Susan served as my Amis interpreter, and Lin-San similarly helped Roy in dispensing the drugs I prescribed. Aoi was busy all day pulling teeth, filling cavities and giving dental treatments. I checked 180 patients during the day. No medical care is available to the people unless they travel considerable distances and then they are usually unable to meet the doctor's charges.

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Our genial policeman host crowded his wife, six children and Susan into one room, so that we four clinic men could use the second room in his simple Japanese-style house. We had a more restful night than the previous one.

#### Wednesday:

This evening we reached the village of Chang Yuan. Here two thirds of the villagers are Protestant, one third Catholic. The Presbyterians have about 300 members. We were guests in the home of a Christian carpenter, one of the elders of the church. We went down to the church and found it all packed with young people enthusiastically practicing the "Hallelujah Chorus" in preparation for Christmas. The hall was lit up by a single dim oil lamp suspended from the ceiling by a wire. Practice was followed by a meeting and I was asked to speak. With dirty clothes and a three-day growth of beard I must have appeared more grotesque than inspiring. I preached in Chinese and Lin-San interpreted into Amis. Hymns were sung from memory and in several-part harmony. After the meeting the "Hallelujah Chorus" was worked on again. The Amis are prepared to stay for hours at their meetings.



The elder's family had heated a big cauldron of water, and we had hot baths in (or alongside) big wash basins in a shed outside before going to bed.



we boarded the night sleeper for Hwalien. Already we seemd to have moved out of one world into another! In two weeks the clinic hopes to resume from where it left off, moving southward along the coastal highway, possidy going as far as Orchid Island.

Dr. Marcy Ditmanson.

#### News and Prayer Items:

1. Thank God for additional helpers! You see their pictures scattered throughout this number. **Helen Wilmas** is hardly new anymore with all the work that has been piled on her shoulders as soon as she arrived. She needs your supporting prayers.

Then there are **Dr. Alvin Friesen**, **Esther Mae Andres** and **Susan Martens** all in language school. Pray for ability to master a very difficult language.

2. Pray for **Margareth Peters** who had to take an early furlough, due to ill health, that she may soon be restored.
3. Pray for the **Voths** who are soon going on furlough. Dr. Friesen says: "We will frequently feel in need of their advice after they retire, but we hope that many of you friends at home will be able to meet them and learn how God has worked through them in China, Japan and Taiwan."
4. For other changes, pray for: **Martha Boschman** who had to leave language school in order to fill the vancancy left in the hospital by **Margareth Peters**.

For **Marie J. Regier** who is being transferred to Hwalien in order to take over part of the work the **Voths** are leaving behind. And for those in **Tai-chung**, both the **Grabers** and the **Taiwanese** co-workers who have to take an additional load in order to take care of what she leaves behind.

5. Pray for very badly needed workers in the evangelistic field.
6. Pray for those problems which cannot be discussed publically, but which are acute nevertheless.

#### Thursday:

We set up our clinic in the Presbyterian church. The elders helped to register and organize the patients. During the day I checked 190 persons and Aoi took care of about 100 more with bad teeth. Women usually had children tied onto their backs. With the strong proscrition on smoking among Christians, few of the women used pipes we so commonly saw in other viallges. Many of both men and women had bright red staining of mouth and lips from chewing betel nut, a common mountain addiction. Men often wore knives.

#### Friday:

After seeing some more patients we went back to Taitung. At 10:20 P. M.



Susan Martens



Margareth Peters.

Mrs. Theodora Panderatz Mennonite Christian Hospital Melun, Hwalien.

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