Ge Zhaoliang ( )

GE ENGUANG

Ge Enguang, *Chinese Seventh-day Adventist History*.

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Ge Zhaoliang ( ), courtesy name Xinqing, was born in 1898 in Nange Village, Laiyang Counth, on the Shandong Peninsula; the village is now administered by Laixi County, Qingdao. He was raised in a Christian family. His father, Ge Luochun, was a literate farmer and also a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Notably, all three brothers of Ge Luochun were members of the church as well.

In his youth, Ge Zhaoliang studied at Mingde Middle School in Qingdao, where he accepted the Christian faith, and later transferred into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1920, he and his wife went to Shanghai to pursue further studies at the Shanghai Missionary College. After graduation, he was assigned by the China Division to serve as principal and vice principal of the North China Bible School. At that time, the school was located in Jinan, Shandong, and later moved to Fengtai in Beijing, where it was renamed the "North China Training Institute" (likely around 1934). The North China Union Mission was also based in Jinan before later relocation to Beijing.

In 1925, Ge was ordained as a pastor. Among the officiating clergy were several foreign missionaries, including Rui Ciyi (W. J. Harris), Huai Peilin (James Henry White), Ai Pei'er (G. J. Appel), Kang (Gan?) Shengdian (R. M. Cossentine?), and publishing secretary Ai Delan (Adlai A. Esteb).

Pastor Ge's wife, Dong Yulan, was also born into a church family. While in Jinan, she served as a woman evangelist.

In 1932, when the church began opening new mission fields, Pastor Ge was the first to request assignment to Rehe (Jehol) for evangelism. It was shortly after the Mukden Incident (1931), and the Japanese army was preparing to advance into Rehe, making conditions extremely difficult. There was no established church in Rehe; it was entirely a new mission territory. Undeterred by the hardships, he resolutely embarked on the path of pioneering work, dedicating himself to opening new fields for the church.

After arriving in Chengde, then the provincial capital of Rehe, he initially stayed at an inn before renting a street-front house where he began holding evangelistic meetings. After more than a year of preaching, there was over

a dozen church members. (By that time, the Japanese army had already occupied Chengde.) Later he purchased a house on Liangdian Street, where attendance grew to fifty or sixty people. Churches were also established in Chifeng and Pingquan, both of which were then part of Rehe.

In 1937, he was transferred to Fengtai to serve as director of the North China Training Institute. At that time, the missionary Pastor Gan (Cossentine) was acting principal.

In the spring of 1941, he was transferred to Beijing, where he served as superintendent and general field secretary of the North China Union Mission until 1946. During these years, church work was very difficult: first because the regions was under occupation, and later because, following the Pearl Harbor incident, Japan imposed strict controls on church activities. During this period (possibly in 1943), Pastor Ge and Pastor Li Chengzhang crossed the blockade line, enduring great hardships and danger, to reach Chongqing and held an annual meeting. (At that time, the area north of the Yellow River in Henan Province belonged to the territory of the North China Union Mission.)

In 1946, he was transferred to West China Training Institute in Chongqing, where he served as a Bible instructor and head of the ministerial department. Later that year, after the seminary's relocation, he became principal of the institute.

In 1948, he served as itinerant evangelism secretary of the West China Union Mission.

In 1949, he was transferred to Kunming to serve as president of the Southwest China Mission.

After 1953, when church organizations were dissolved, Pastor Ge returned to Jinan, where he worked as a self-supporting evangelist and continued to lead church activities in the region.

In 1958, when even self-supporting evangelism became difficult, he went to Tianjin to live with his children. There, he carried out literature evangelism, translating the works of Mrs. Ellen G. White and sharing them with relatives and friends.

On May 24, 1986, he passed away at the age of 88, resting from his labors in the Lord.

Pastor Ge's life was one of deep dedication. Throughout his many years of service, he faced dangers from bandits, carriage accidents, war, and imprisonment. Yet, with the Lord's presence, he came safely through them all.

During his lifetime, he composed a couplet, written in calligraphy by Wu Landi, which Pastor Ge often displayed in his home as a personal encouragement. The couplet reads:

Proclaim the Way, yet never neglect the charge to teach;
Rescue others with a heart that feels their peril as your own.

Guided by the spirit of "preach the word, in season or out of season," he continued to travel and conduct evangelistic meetings even while serving as president or director. He also composed many widely appreciated

sacred songs for evangelistic work and published several poems and travel writings in the Moshi musheng (Last Day Shepherd's Call).

Among the Chinese pastors of that time:
Duan Yongqian, Zhang Boqing, Shan Letian, Bai Ziheng,
Wang Dejun, Jiao Wenl, Wang Xiyuan, Tan Xinxu,
Shen Jiansi, Zhang Qianguang, Liu Funing, Geng Fuguang, and others.

Pastor Ge Zhaoliang had five children:
Eldest daughter: Mei'en
Eldest son: Enguang
Second daughter: Meiju
Third daughter: Aiguang
Fourth daughter: Meirong

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