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Hwa Nan
Publicity Reports
Miscellaneous 1949-1950
n.d.

學大女南華
HWA NAN COLLEGE
FOOCHOW, CHINA
州福國中

January 12, 1949

Dear Friends,

Our school opened for the fall semester on September 17, with an enrollment of 312 students. The Freshman class totals 119, representing 17 highschools, 5 of which are government schools. The young women come from highschools supported by the Methodist, Anglican, London Mission and American Board (Congregational Boards of England and America), Seventh Day Adventist, Roman Catholic and China Inland Missions. There are 11 non-Christians among them. In the upper classes, four students have not yet been baptised, although they call themselves Christian. Thus, the Christian percentage of the whole school is very high, and the spirit of the College has made possible a close fellowship between students and faculty during these days of tension.

Many of the students have expressed their appreciation of the privilege of celebrating Christmas this year. The center of their interest and enthusiasm was giving Christmas to unfortunate people.

Choirs from many schools: Fukien Christian University, Fukien Theological College, Cheeloo University Medical College (here as refugee from Tsinan, Shantung), Anglo-Chinese College, the Fukien Government Conservatory of Music and our own Hwanan chorus, gave a Christmas Concert, "The Messiah" on Christmas week. Many tickets were sold and the Proceeds given for scholarships for needy students.

Christmas week at Hwanan is a full week. The English Club gave a party for the Blind School. They read a play and gave a treat of refreshments-noodles and meat and peanuts. The superintendent expressed special gratitude for the protein, because the high cost of living has almost cut from their menu the protein content foods.

On Christmas eve the students presented a pageant for the student body and faculty. Afterwards the chorus went out carol-singing visiting all of the other schools of the city. The usually quiet Foochow streets resounded with song - "Hark the herald angels sing" (Were they angels?), "There's a song in the air", and "Silent night, holy night" which was the favorite of all. They sang in English and Chinese, making every-body happy. At the College, another group of students kept open-house for the representative singers from other schools. Hot tea, candy, cakes, peanuts were served to over 20 groups, most of whom numbered from 10 to 30. No one counted, but several hundred young people wended their way into the Hwanan campus between nine o'clock and dawn. What a jolly time they had! Faculty and perhaps some older people were glad that Christmas comes but once a year! But the students enjoyed every minute.

Christmas morning at ten o'clock we had the Sunday-school celebration. Over 400 children came into the Social Service Hall, from homes in the neighborhood and from villages as far away as three miles. The children are now friendly and understand many of the Bible stories. They recited some Bible passages and sang hymns from

memory. They love dramatics and gave a vivid Christmas pageant. They were also given a Christmas treat of candy - three pieces each - Cookies and Christmas cards. At the same time, they had Christmas celebration at the Nursery School, for children under five. One wee two-year-old, whose father sings in the church choir, showed her heritage by singing a Christmas song in perfect melody and rythm. The grandnephew of Dr. Lucy Wang, spied her among the listeners. The little boy is three-and-a-half years old. He was already dressed as one of the wise men, and peeped through the curtain, calling, "Great Aunt! Great Aunt!" Dr. Wang tried to quiet him. But as one of his nursery friends came up and echoed his call, "Great Aunt," little Quietness-and-Truth swung his arm like his Great-Grandfather preacher and announced, "She is MY Great Aunt", and the friend subsided. These Nursery School children are a delight, both to the students who do practice work and child guidance study with them, and to the relatives who are deeply interested in their development.

At noon on Christmas Day, Faculty and students joined in a dinner. One faculty member was seated at each table with ten students. There were songs and stunts and good-will everywhere.

At the North Gate of Foochow is a shelter for old people and invalids. They live a very straightened existence. During the early weeks of December, the students sold used Christmas cards; every box that has come from American friends is hailed with gladness by our girls. With the money thus earned, and from offerings and a special gift from our Bishop's wife, the students had enough money to give all of these treats, and money left over. They investigated the neediest places in the city, and decided that these old people and invalids were the most pitiable. They made up enough to give each inmate five dollars (G.Y. About US 25 cents) This was for the 300 people, a wonderful gift.

Down from the mountain came 57 children from the free school at the summer resort. Barefoot, and under enormous rain-hats, they trudged ten miles down the mountain, to our Social Service Center. Most of them had never been here before. They, too, sang and recited Scripture; but they were well ready for their lunch of noodles and meat. Each child was given one suit of cloth from the summer residents. Even the prospect of the ten miles up the hill did not dampen their joy. As they lined up for their pictures, they felt that this was the crowning moment of their lives up to the present.

In spite of the political turmoil which has caused strikes and unrest in many parts of the country, our student body has continued unmoved although pressure has been brought against them constantly. We have been able to follow the academic schedule without interruption. Our final examinations begin next week and the semester will close on January 20.

"Let us be like the bird, for a moment perched
On a frail branch while he sings.
He feels it bend, but he sings his song,
For he knows that he has wings."

Very sincerely yours,

Doris Yin-Ming Hsu,

Dean and Acting President.

Foochow, China
Hwanan College
April 10, 1949

Am. file

Dear Friends,

In spite of the political unrest in China, Hwanan College opened as usual for the second semester on February 15. Naturally, our enrollment was a little less than that of last fall. A total of 282 students registered and paid their fees. Because of the inflation, the fees seem to be much higher than those of last fall, but in reality, they are less. The price index changed almost every hour through out the day, at the time when we took in fees. For instance, the rate that we took them in was GY\$48 per catty of rice; the following day, we paid out to employees at the rate of GY\$ 78 per catty of rice. Thus, we cannot avoid a constant loss, averaging from 30%--40% in salaries and current expenses.

Although the school has sustained such a heavy financial loss, the students have suffered equally, or even more severely. Most of them come from the middle class of society, and their parents have had to sacrifice to send them to college. Quite a number could not possibly have continued their college course had we not endeavored to give more scholarship aid. This semester, thirty-three percent. of the student body receive total or partial scholarship aid; last semester it was only twenty percent. All students who are on scholarship, work from one to six hours a week. Most of them teach in the Free School, some help in laboratories of the various departments, and some do mending, knitting or other manual work. Friends and alumnae came forward with these extra scholarships when they were most needed. We are very grateful to our alumnae for their swift and generous response. Although the times are so hard, their gifts met our immediate need and were much more than ever before.

Many times during this financial stress, gifts have come unexpectedly at the crucial moment. They have truly been an answer to our prayer. During Chinese New Year season, due to the difficulty in transmitting money from Shanghai, the college was caught short just at the period when the staff had to settle their accounts. Several good friends dipped into their own accounts and loaned us enough for the emergency. Even when our appropriation is sent from Shanghai, it loses thirty percent. before it reaches us; so we were desperate, not knowing how to manage to pay our debts. In a marvelous way, God answered. A promise of US\$750 came literally from the sky, by air mail from an unknown American friend. This strengthened our faith in God's care, and gave us courage to go forward.

We feel that now we can sing for joy for the near-completion of Payne Hall, the construction of which has been going on for the last two years. Because of inflation and the unrest among workmen, there have been constant worries, anxiety and difficulties. The new building makes use of the basement, and lifts the third floor to a full story. This gives much more space. The top floor is to be used for the library, adequate for the present needs. The second floor is used as biology laboratories and class rooms. The first floor accommodates the administration offices, the physics and home economics laboratories. The basement is shared by the home economics department and the students' activity rooms.

Before Payne Hall was burned, we used the top floor as our auditorium. Since our present library is in a most unusual place, the attic of the dormitory, Trimble Hall, we need desperately a place for our library. Although an auditorium is very important to any institution, yet we had to make the choice between these two essentials. Consequently we had to give up the auditorium and are forced to continue using the small assembly room of our pre-war Social Service Center. If seated to its utmost capacity,

three hundred people can be crowded into it. At times, when both students and faculty come to a meeting, we have to face the problem of how to seat them. Thus, some of the faculty must stay out or sit in the hallway or in the next room. As it is, the auditorium is much too small for our student body. We do not know how to solve this dilemma now. What shall we do next fall when the enrollment will increase? With the uncertain political situation, more students stay near-by for their college work. Our student body is limited only by our dormitory space, and many more students are day-students than ever before.

Our past experience has taught us that by faith and prayer many of our problems and difficulties have been solved mysteriously. Therefore we pray and hope that in the future our need for a new auditorium will be met. The site has been selected and the building plan has been drawn but we need the "motivating power" to start the machinery of construction.

The Founder's day of Hwanan College will be celebrated on May 1. It will be very appropriate to commemorate in this way, the great faith, far-sightedness, undaunted courage and inspiring, sacrificial spirit of the founders of Hwanan. At present, with the turmoil and unrest all around us, we need to re-dedicate our lives to that which is permanent and peaceful, that is the Kingdom of God. It is a real challenge to us, Christians of China, to prepare ourselves for the great cause of bringing His Kingdom on earth. We, Christians, have a greater responsibility for the new era of China than ever before. We need your prayer as we face the future of uncertainty. The following quotation gives us guidance as we advance on the road of difficulties and problems:

"Closer, dear God, to Thee, throughout each day;
May every act of mine Thy love convey
To all who in distress, sorrow and need confess.
May they Thy peace possess
Given by Thee." (Elizabeth Byrd Sylvester)

With Easter Greetings.

Yours sincerely,

Doris Yin-Ming Hsu

Dean and Acting President.

院學理文子女南華立私

HWA NAN COLLEGE

FOOCHOW, CHINA

州福國中

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

室公辦長院

June 14, 1949

Dear Friends:

It has been my deep regret that not long after I returned from my trip to North and South America I was ordered by the college physician to take a complete rest. I am so thankful that it came after the Centennial Celebration here in Foochow for I had hoped to be present at this occasion for a long time. It was a pleasure and privilege to meet the delegates from abroad and from the ten conferences in China. It shall always be an inspiration to recall those great days.

We at Hwa Nan were especially happy to welcome Bishop and Mrs. Corson, Miss Louise Robinson, Miss Dorothy McConnell, Mr. J. S. Patterson and Mr. H. W. Kendall. Their much appreciated messages to our board of directors, faculty, alumnae, and student body were most inspirational and encouraging. We were overwhelmed with gratitude for the deep interest they showed in our work and the great concern they had for our future. Their stay was far too short to suit us. I was so sorry that I was not able to let them know what their visits have meant to the college and what encouragement they have brought to our faculty and alumnae. I do want now to take this opportunity to send them my belated "Thank You". I also want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have written me and who have sent us gifts during the past year and a half.

I am sure you will be as happy as I am to hear about my recovery which is nothing short of a miracle. It is only by the Grace of God that I have my health back for His service. After being at Glendale Sanitarium, Clifton Springs Sanitarium, Union Hospital in Foochow, and hospitals in Shanghai the doctors all seemed to advise me to be patient and let time and nature take care of my ill health which according to their diagnosis was only a temporary discomfort. Not until very recently I was invited by Dr. and Mrs. M. K. Yue to spend some time at their home. Dr. Yue, the superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, Putien, who is one of China's prominent surgeons is a brother of Dr. Patricia Yue, the head of the Chemistry department at Hwa Nan. Mrs. Yue is one of our alumnae. She was dean of Hwa Nan College at one time. It happens that the heads of the surgery and medical departments of St. Luke's hospital are my cousins by marriage. They both are graduates of PUMC. A group of my closest friends in consultation with my family felt that invitation from Dr. and Mrs. Yue was too good to decline. They did all they could and tried by every effort to make the trip of 80 miles possible for me. It seemed providential when Dr. Sarah Fong, another Hwa Nan alumna, who evacuated from Changsha with her family came thru Foochow in February to take a bus trip to Putien where her husband's home is. I was invited to go on their chartered bus and had a very comfortable trip.

It was while I was a guest at the Yue's, that Dr. Yue decided that what I needed was a simple operation. But it turned out to be a major one. Dr. Yue and my cousins were quite aghast to find the bad condition I was in. Dr. Yue told Bishop Lacy that I should have had it done long ago. How I did suffer but I was given the very best care I could have gotten anywhere. The doctors, the nurses, Mrs. Yue, and my cousins did every thing they could to make my days in the hospital comfortable. I was in hospital for five weeks. I owe debts of gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Yue and to St. Luke's Hospital and I thank God for His answer to the many prayers of yours and mine to spare my life to continue my humble service for Him.

The news of Nanking reached me while I was still in the hospital, I began to think of returning to Foochow then. By the time I was ready to come back the political situation had become very tense. Some of my missionary friends were evacuating from Foochow. For a

while the rumors made it impossible for me to come through. Dr. Yue very kindly offered to let me come in his hospital ambulance. But I had to return to Putien from Hsing-chiang by boat because the bridges between Putien and Foochow were destroyed. I was persuaded to wait until the bridges were repaired for the ambulance to try once more, but my heart could not be at ease. I felt that God had spared my life-not for me to sit around in Putien waiting while I knew that I was needed at the college-especially when I learned of the departure of Mr. Lacy. Finally I succeeded in convincing Dr. and Mrs. Yue of the urgency for my return. So they arranged a messenger and a sedan chair for me to come by way of Futsing leaving almost all my belongings behind. I certainly surprised my family and friends in Foochow when I appeared here after three days travel by chair and the last five hours by river launch. They had already given up the hope of my return for the time being.

It was such satisfaction to be able to get back in time to see Dean Doris Hsu, who was acting for me, off for Hongkong on her way to the USA. I owe her and the members of the faculty a deep debt of gratitude of their loyalty, and untiring effort in the splendid way they carried on during my absence. Dean Hsu is now in Hongkong waiting for her visa to the States. It will not be long before she will bring to you greetings from us all in person. I hope she will be given the privilege, which I had, in visiting you and the many friends who are so interested in our work. I am sure you will find her one of our finest representatives. Jean Chen is traveling with her. Jean, as you know, has been head of Hwa Nan Home Economics Department. She has done a splendid piece of work and is now off for well-earned further study at Kansas State College. I hope she, too, will have the privilege of meeting you.

It is indeed good to be able to return to the college after being gone for a year and three months. It has been most gratifying to see the college going on strongly in spite of all the difficulties and rumors. I was very sorry not to find Dr. Idabelle L. Main, Mrs. Mortimer, and Mr. and Mrs. Lacy here when I returned to the campus, but my heart lifted with praise and thanksgiving when I walked into the college gate to see the beautiful and magnificent Payne Hall rebuilt in full and in use again. I seemed to hear our late Mother Trimble's voice once more as she said, "Lucy, don't you worry, you will build a greater Hwa Nan and better Hwa Nan some day". Praise to our Heavenly Father for the fulfillment of Mother Trimble's prophecy!

To have so magnificent a building finished in a time like this is something unusual! It means nothing else but that God wants Hwa Nan to go on for the purpose for which she was founded. So in spite of all political uncertainty, and stress and strain we keep on going one day at a time with grateful hearts. We are looking forward to end this academic year with our regular baccalaureate service on June 19th and commencement on June 22nd. It is most fitting for me to close this letter with what Miss Trimble said to us at Hwa Nan's celebration of her Jubilee in China in December 1939, "We rejoice with great gratitude for the way in which our girls are filling places of leadership, and proving their allegiance to the Lord Christ. But the battle is not won, and we need some message to put courage into our hearts, and iron into our blood. So with Rupert Brooks we would say, "Now God be thanked who matched us with this hour." It is glorious to be alive at this hour. And does it not fill us with courage--that knowing us altogether, still He trusts us and so has "matched us with this hour?" And does it not inspire us to pray that prayer of Wylie's--"

"My Lord, adjudge my strength and set me where I bear a little more than I can bear."

Very faithfully yours

Lucy C. Wang
Lucy C. Wang
President

UNITED BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA [2a]

150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

Tel. WAtkins 9-8703

Cable: ABCHICOL

June 20, 1949

Dear Friend of Hwa Nan,

China is very much in the news today. With Communist armies advancing steadily, I am sure those of you who are interested in Hwa Nan College are wondering what the latest word is from this Christian institution.

Enclosed is a folder giving the most recent news from the campus. Thus far work is proceeding normally and all faculty members are safe and well. College administrators, as long as they are allowed academic and religious freedom, intend to carry on no matter what changes occur in the political setup.

The future is filled with uncertainties, but we have reason to hope that Hwa Nan will be allowed to continue its work even after the Communists take Fukien. Never before in all the crises which this mission-supported institution has met has it so needed the moral, spiritual, and financial support of its American friends.

The missionary enterprise has never depended on human certainties; Hwa Nan and the other Christian colleges in China would not be in existence today had their founders waited for a clear view of the future. Surely we have the faith to support that work for which so many young Chinese women leaders of tomorrow are willing to risk so much.

Sincerely yours,

Elva M. Peel

(Mrs. Leon Roy Peel)
For the Hwa Nan Committee

HWA NAN COLLEGE

150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.

[15]

To assist Hwa Nan College in its present crisis, I hereby
contribute the sum of

\$.....

Name

Address

Date.....

Make checks payable to Hwa Nan College
Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes

HWA NAN COLLEGE

150 Fifth Avenue, Suite 903

New York 11, N. Y.

LETTER, DATED 7 JULY, FROM PRESIDENT LUCY WANG

HWA NAN COLLEGE

"It seems such a long time since I wrote you. Certainly "much water has passed under the bridge". My long illness seems like a bad dream. I have sent out copies of a general letter to my friends telling of my miraculous recovery. Of course, one copy of it went to you. In order to save postage I asked my friends to mail them for me from Hongkong because there has been no steamer service for more than one month. This letter may get to you before that one.

"Thank you very much for your letter dated June 2nd which did not reach me until 23rd on account of the flood on Foochow air field. It has been very kind of you all to be so concerned about my health. I thank God for "His Grace is Sufficient" in all times. It seems that He made me well and strong in time to take my responsibility now. I must thank you all for your constant prayers on my behalf.

"How wonderful it is to be able to take up my work again. I was most thankful that I reached our campus in time to see our Doris Hsu off for Hongkong on her way to the USA. How I have thanked God for Doris Hsu. She is a very capable girl. As a student she was very active in student government. I discovered her leadership in 1927. At that time she represented the student body and I the faculty and we worked together for the interest of the college as a whole. When she graduated in 1928 I invited her to teach in our high school - at that time our high school was a department of the college - and assisted Miss Landist in the biology department. She went to Michigan in 1930 from the college. It is most gratifying that our close friendship and cooperation have lasted since. I am so glad that she can have this well earned furlough this year in your country.

"Thank you very much for your cable to Doris and the \$3,300 you have arranged for her expenses. I have heard from both Stella Wang and Josephine Hwang. Stella is now in Swatow visiting her mother and Josephine in Singapore trying to bring her mother back to Foochow. We hope they will get here in time for the opening of the college.

"Hwa Nan Board of Directors have kindly extended my leave of absence to the first of August. They have appointed Dr. Patricia Yue of the chemistry department to act for me and Dr. Violet Wu of the physics and mathematics department to act for Doris. They have been carrying on splendidly since Doris left. I appreciate deeply their thoughtful considerations. I have been very careful and have been going very slowly. I still follow my doctor's order in taking resting hours religiously. However, they did insist that I should have the honor to preside at the baccalaureate service and the commencement exercises. We were indeed most thankful to have had our commencement week with its regular programs in spite of all the uncertainty and unrest. There were twenty seven girls graduated two of whom were Collin Scholars.

"In order to protect our campus majority of our faculty are staying in the college this summer. We also have a group of students whose home cities have been turned over and the communications cut off. Our immediate problem is how to keep our campus unoccupied by soldiers. Anglo-Chinese College junior high property was asked to house 600 soldiers yesterday. We have no idea how long we can hold on. When requests come we can find no way to say "No". Only God Himself can keep them out if we pray hard enough. We are living "One day at a time now." Communication may be cut off any time. Please write us by air mail anyway. Your constant interest, encouragement, and prayers are greatly needed. "The storm may roar without us, Our hearts may low be laid,

But God is round about us And can we be dismayed?"

Then, "Fear not, faint not, halt not now. In Jesus name be strong,
To Him shall every people bow We sing the triumph song."

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
院長辦公室

華南女子文理學院
HWA NAN COLLEGE
FOOCHOW, CHINA
中國福州

September 5th, 1949

Dear Friends:

It is such a joy, satisfaction, and encouragement to receive some of the replies to my last general letter. I am indeed grateful for your deep concern about us in our present crisis. I want to assure you that your fervent prayers have wrought wonders. By God's grace I have been more than recovered. One of my colleagues said that I am a "pre-war Lucy." Yes, I am quite strong physically and stronger than ever spiritually. I am confident that your prayers and mine have brought this to pass. "His grace is sufficient."

When I returned to the campus on May 19 from Putien to see Dean Hsu off to the United States, I never dared to expect a regular closing of the College. But we closed our year not only with regular Baccalaureate Service and Commencement Exercises, but also with all the other regular Commencement Week activities. Twenty-seven graduates went away with the inspirational message from Bishop Chang at Baccalaureate and the challenging message from Dr. James Ding at Commencement. My heart was filled with gratitude and thanksgiving as I handed out the diplomas to those graduates who will become workers for our Church and society.

We were very happy indeed to have Dr. and Mrs. Harold S. Matthews attend our Commencement. We were happily surprised to learn that Mrs. Matthews knew our "Mother Trimble" personally. I was greatly impressed by these statements she wrote in her letter to me, "I prize the booklet highly. It is strange to me to realize on reading it how much of Lydia Trimble's message from China actually penetrated through to one insignificant little Sunday School girl in the Morningside Church in the period somewhere around 1904!" How true it is as St. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 3:6, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." How wonderful it is that God has led Dr. and Mrs. Matthews to devote their lives to the service in China. What an encouragement it has been to us to have Mrs. Matthews come at this time to strengthen our faith in this noble task which "Mother Trimble" started. This is another indication that God wants Hwa Nan to go on.

On account of the unsettled situation, our faculty have had little vacation. Some of them have had no vacation. We had to plan and help those girls who could not go home because of the difficulty in travel and because their home cities had been "liberated." We are very thankful for some special gifts which have enabled us to have the service of these girls in our Social Service Center. We are carrying on three schools in the neighboring villages and one right here on the campus. The enrollments in these schools total around five hundred. Here on the campus we have been able to keep the soldiers from occupying the buildings, but the one across the road from the main campus was occupied by a small group of officers for three weeks.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
院長辦公室

華南女子文理學院
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In spite of uncertainty Hwa Nan expects to open on September 24th. Plans for the fall semester are already under way. We are expecting Stella Wang who returned recently from the States. She is now spending a little vacation with her mother in Mei-Hsien. We had a cable from Josephine Hwang saying that she was leaving soon. She is now at Singapore with her mother whom she had not seen for many years even before the war. Their coming will have a tremendous effect on the loyalty and ideal for the service of our students. I am sure you will rejoice with us in our new addition. Dr. Helen Chang of Ginling College has accepted our invitation for the coming year. As you know with Dr. Chang's rich experience as teacher and administrator, her coming will add much to the strength and courage of the faculty. You may be interested to know why Dr. Chang has chosen to come to Foochow. Dr. Chang's mother is in Foochow. She came with her son, who is a graduate of Nanking University, and a friend of one of my cousins. However, we have to thank Mrs. W. S. New for introducing her to us. Perhaps some of you know that Mrs. New, Chairman of Ginling Board of Directors, was on our campus for two months last spring. She taught one unit on Counselling for us and had many interviews with the students. We all enjoyed having her and appreciated her service to the College.

Only last week in response to the proposal made at the annual meeting by the United Board, Hwa Nan sent in her plan. It was for an experimental one-year Folk School for Village Girls - ages 17-19. Such education is greatly needed in China, and we have been wanting to experiment on it. But because of lack of funds, we have not started. We hope the United Board will approve our plan and also our budget for the plan. As soon as we get the money - \$5000 U. S. - we can start.

I am sending this letter to the New York Office with the mailing list and asking that it be sent to you. I hope I may have an opportunity to write you again soon, but until then, remember us in your prayers.

Very sincerely yours,

Lucy C. Wang
Lucy C. Wang
President

CONFIDENTIAL

20 SEPTEMBER 1949

A CABLE DATED 17 SEPTEMBER FROM PRESIDENT WANG, HUANAN COLLEGE

COLLEGE OPENS SEPTEMBER 24TH. (WE) EXPECT NORMAL ACADEMIC (AND) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(THE) GENERAL FINANCIAL CONDITION (IS) BAD. MANY CANNOT AFFORD SCHOOL, (AND)

COLLEGE ENROLMENT MAY NOT REACH 200. STUDENT RELIEF (IS) DESPERATELY NEEDED

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

17 OCTOBER 1950

LETTER, DATED 25 SEPT., FROM
PRESIDENT LUCY WANG, HWANAN COLLEGE

I had hoped to write you during the summer vacation, but as things worked out there was NO vacation. In fact school did not close until July 28 and all of the month of August and ten days in September were given over to a required government course. So those of us who have administrative duties were doubly busy, for the work of the coming term had to be planned for in addition to the required study. This meant that my days were full and even the nights were encroached upon.

It has been a great pleasure to receive letters from you in answer to my April general letter and they have been a gentle reminder of how remiss I have been in writing you through all these months. For a while I was very apprehensive and discouraged fearing that the student difficulties that had assailed other Christian institutions would inevitably come to us at Hwa Nan. But I firmly believe that a veritable act of God saved us that ordeal and I am deeply grateful. Fortunately college girls are more mature and less easily swayed and our fine large Christian group again helped us save the situation. We regret that the present unrest, uncertainty and restrictions have all conspired to cause our foreign friends to return to their respective countries. You just cannot realize what a blow this is to the Christian leaders here. It will definitely hamper our school work especially in the English and Music departments, but I am sure that in some way even the work of these two departments will be provided for.

All along I have been especially anxious about just how we could carry on in the face of present conditions and then on June 18th my daily devotional readings in Roy Smith's "Making a Go of Life" (see page 184) opened with this sentence - "Even Jesus questioned life" and then prayer at the end of that page was utterly timely for my need. I am quoting it, as you may need it too. "If faith was capable of supporting Jesus through the crucifixion, O God, then it is also capable of supporting me through the hard hours and days that lie ahead of me. If it worked in the case of my Master, it will work in my case. I will live by faith. Amen" And another prayer in that same week has given direction to my days. May I quote it also? - "Nothing, O God, can happen to me today which cannot be made to serve some holy purpose; nothing will happen to me that will be sufficient to defeat thy efforts in my behalf; nothing will befall me that will be finally fatal, if I continue to put my trust in Thee, Amen." You all know how I depend on my daily quiet time for my day's direction. I enjoyed Dr. Stanley Jones's book last year and now I am reading with great joy the above-mentioned book which Dr. and Mrs. Howard Matthews so kindly gave me when they left Foochow.

But to go back a bit. You will be pleased to know that we closed our last academic year with regular commencement activities including a well-attended baccalaureate service. There were 61 graduates and every department of the college was represented in the group. Now these graduates are scattered from Mukden to Hongkong. Some entered government service, but the majority are in private institutions. But this is past history, for now the new term is one week old. College opened on September 18th with the usual round of examinations, registration, conferences etc. The total enrollment is 178 representing some 21 high

schools 12 of which are Christian. From September 18 - 20 we had the enforced orientation meeting in which the policy and aim for the entire term was set forth, discussed and approved. This was a joint teacher-student-servant group and effort was made to unite, and coordinate all groups. Student activities and departmental instruction as well as personal conduct - all came in for discussion. The aim of the whole idea was to show how students may achieve all-round development, to have real ability and solid knowledge and to be capable of analyzing and carrying out creative work. At one of the meetings the government speaker called attention to the fact that Christian believers and non-believers have equal freedom in any institution and that even in indoctrination courses care should be taken not to antagonize either the religious or the non-religious. The spirit of the meeting was good and it gave me a greater sense of encouragement than I have felt for some months. The road ahead is still not smooth, but I will have faith.

My letter to you would not be complete without telling you the next chapter in the history of our Nursery School and the Folk School. The latter will carry on in its usual quarters, but we are extending the course for the first group and hope to enroll another thirty pupils to begin the course. The original group has been very industrious. They have made towels, tape and other woven articles. I do wish you could hear the looms thumping as these youngsters learn the techniques of weaving. The Nursery school is expanding and is moving to larger quarters. Student aid in the school will be on the half day basis and the whole project becomes more and more a laboratory for the education department. This type of work seems to be growing in favor here. Three of our graduates are establishing Nursery schools. Perhaps this may develop into another speciality in which our girls will excell.

We do not know what the new term has in store for us. We are sure the way will not be smooth, but with your interest in us, your prayers to aid us, and the All-Father to guide us, we will go forward.

Comrades at HWA NAN

By MYRTH BARTLETT

Although it was late September, the day had been unusually warm for Foochow. Now as the shadows lengthened the sloping lawn of the college campus was dotted with groups of students, enjoying the little breeze that stole up from the river. The sound of their gay voices and occasional bursts of laughter made Wang-mah, the old gate-woman, smile as she sat knitting at her post.

"Well, Mei-lan, did Dean Hsu let you take all the courses you wanted?" asked Ching-ai.

"Yes, she said she would let me try because I'm a senior. But she insisted on tennis, too."

"I think she is letting us all carry more this year. She knows how we feel with our poor country at war. But of course we would be of no use if we broke down our health. My! I wish I were twins!" Seuk-ing stopped for breath.

"I really don't see how we can take time to sleep this year," Ching-ai went on. "We must not give up teaching in our free day school. Then there's work to carry on in the villages. . . ."

"Oh, yes," exclaimed Cie-lang, coming up. "Aren't you proud of Madame Chiang. She sends the most interesting plans for our village work. She seems to be everywhere, planning and working."

"Yes," agreed Seuk-ing, "I wish I could be half as resourceful and worthwhile someday."

"Well, you are doing your bit, right now, Seuk-ing," Mei-lan assured her. "I heard Miss Li say she could not do without you in directing the gym classes. But listen! There's the supper bell!"

Mei-lan and Seuk-ing hurried away, but Ching-ai and Cie-lang stopped by the steps to the main building to admire the bright array of asters and zinnias, planted in pots by the faithful old gardener.

"How he works all the hot summer to make the college beautiful for us when we return!" Cie-lang said thoughtfully. "Oh, Ching-ai, I wonder if the other girls can possibly love our Hwa Nan the way we seniors do. You know, my family were very unwilling to have me come down river to Foochow this fall. They fear the danger is so much greater here from bombs. But I begged and begged."

"Ai-yah, Cie-lang, what would I have done without you!" Ching-ai slipped her arm around her friend and they sat down close together on the steps.

"Well—when the launch came round the bend, and I saw the roofs of our college, the tears began to run down my cheeks, I was so happy. I tried to turn my head away so that no one would see, but an old woman patted my knee and said, 'Now, now, Cia-cia, there haven't been any bombs for days!'"

They laughed softly as if they were quite used to bombs, and Cie-lang went on, "I wonder if girls in other countries care as much for their college as we do."

"Oh, yes, I'm sure they do," Ching-ai exclaimed. "It's school girls that help to pay for our college here. Well—they wouldn't do it if they didn't love their college, too."

Cie-lang drew a long breath and looked down to where the Ming River reflected the sunset clouds. "I suppose we ought to go to dinner, but I'd rather sit here and talk."

"Oh, yes, Cie-lang, so would I. Here are some sesame cakes," she drew a package from her pocket, "and I have some fruit in my room. Besides, I have something very important I want to ask you about before the others come back."

"What is it?" eagerly.

Ching-ai drew a letter from her pocket. "It's this. It just came today. It's from Bo-seng and she's sick and cannot come back this year."

"Bo-seng!" Cie-lang exclaimed in consternation. "But she was to be our student-body president."

"I know it. But now we'll have to call a meeting and elect a new one. I wish you could be the one, Cie-lang."

"Oh, no, Ching-ai. You know I have my hands full with the Y. W. work and glee club. Besides it should be a junior."

"Yes, that's true. I suppose lots of the girls will vote for Fei-ding, she's so pretty and popular. I would, too, if she had not held so many offices." Ching-ai paused, considering, then went on, "There's a girl I'd love to see have the honor. She's always worked hard for everything, and been so quiet and modest."

"Who is it?" Cie-lang asked, trying to think.

"Well, I don't suppose you'd guess. She's so little and unassuming. But I know she could do it. It's Yu-ling."

"Yu-ling!" Cie-lang exclaimed. "To be sure, it's true she has always done all the hard things that had no special honor."

"And last year she walked clear to Ah-do to conduct the Sunday school there," Ching-ai added, "when someone else was sick."

"Well," said Cie-lang after a moment. "I'll be glad to talk to the girls about her. She surely has qualities we need this year,—courage, perseverance, common-sense and tact."

"Oh, I'm glad you think so, Cie-lang." Ching-ai jumped up. "Come, we'll talk to the girls in the dormitories tonight. It's a good thing both Yu-ling and Fei-ding are day students. I'll be sorry if Fei-ding is disappointed, but Yu-ling really deserves it."

The next few days were more than busy for the college girls, but no one complained at heavy classes, or the committees she was asked to join. The mails and occasional radio messages were anxiously watched for news of the war. Very often a girl would stop in the hall to grasp the hand of a friend she had not seen before. "Oh, I'm glad you could come back," she would say. "The war does not seem quite so terrible when we are here together, does it?"

It was hard to stick to lessons, however, for though there had been no bombings nearby for a time, the danger signal came often, and planes zoomed back and forth across the sky. Although there had been no announcement from the faculty, the report grew that the college might be moved inland to a place of greater safety. Many families who could afford to

had already left Foochow, and moved farther inland, or down to Hongkong or Singapore. But in the midst of this, the teachers and older students went on with each day's tasks in a manner so calm and poised that the new girls were reassured and inspired to show an equal fortitude.

A special meeting of the student body was called for Saturday morning. There was much business to be discussed and greetings and plans from Madame Chiang Kai Shek to be read. She was counting on them, she said, to be the brave leaders of all the fine, brave women of China.

Finally Bo-seng's resignation as president was read and accepted. Then Mei-lan, who was presiding, called for nominations to fill her place. Almost immediately Fei-ding was nominated. Next Cie-lang rose and made a little speech to nominate Yu-ling. That this was a great surprise to Yu-ling, was quite evident. She started and looked around in a dazed way when she heard her name. Then she rose and began to explain why she would not do for the office.

"Sit down, Yu-ling," said one of the girls, laughingly pulling at her dress. "Don't you know that isn't patriotic. We do anything asked of us nowadays."

Yu-ling sat down and the election went on. It all happened very quickly, for the girls liked Yu-ling, though they had never thought to tell her so before. When the ballots were counted, Mei-lan smiled and said, "I think you all knew that Fei-ding would make a good president, but you wanted to prove to Yu-ling that she would, too. Yu-ling, you have been elected."

Yu-ling slowly made her way to the front, but Fei-ding was there before her. With her usual gay charm she grasped Yu-ling's hand and assured her of her support in everything she wanted done. Then while the girls crowded around their new leader, Fei-ding slipped away. If she was disappointed she would let no one know it.

The weeks slipped by and the girls discovered that Yu-ling had put her whole heart into her new responsibility. At first she found it very hard to preside, so she made the meetings short, but she did enough work on the outside to make up for it. She chose her committees with care and inspired the girls with her own spirit of service.

One evening Ching-ai and Cie-lang were hurrying home after a conference at another school. "Wasn't Yu-ling fine today?" asked Ching-ai. "She forgot all about herself when she was making that appeal for patience with the younger students who want to do rash, hot-headed things."

"Yes, you'd think she was our mother, instead of the littlest one in the group."

"Well, I guess she's had to be a sort of mother for a good many years. You know she was taken into the Lin family when she was quite a little girl to be the wife of the oldest son someday, and to help take care of the smaller children."

"Oh, I'm glad the Christian people are doing away with that old custom. Aren't you?" asked Cie-lang. "I think that's the reason Yu-ling is so small. She's always had to work too hard. But how did she have a chance to go to college?"

"I'm not sure," said Ching-ai, "but from something Yu-ling said one day, I think this Lin Sieng-sang is quite progressive. He wanted his son's wife to be educated, so he sent her to school. Then the son died, and not long after his wife died, too."

"Ai-yah! What a lot of trouble," exclaimed Cie-lang.

"Yes. So you see Yu-ling has really been a mother to the children. Then Lin Sieng-sang married a much

younger woman. It was—do you know who it was, Cie-lang?"

"No, I do not know these Foochow people very well," Cie-lang said.

"It was Fei-ding's older sister."

"Isn't that odd! But see who's coming down that other road. It's Yu-ling. She must have gone home after the meeting."

"Oh," exclaimed Ching-ai, "she looks so pale. I hope nothing is wrong." They waited for her to join them. It was quite evident that something was very wrong, however, for Yu-ling could only cling to them at first and try to crowd back the tears. Finally she told them with trembling lips that she must leave college immediately. Lin Sieng-sang had to go on a secret mission for the government, and he wanted her to help Lin Tai-tai to take the three children to Singapore.

"Of course, I cannot refuse after he has given me such a fine education . . . and I love the children! But to leave college now . . . especially after the girls have trusted me with the student body work!" Yu-ling turned away to hide the tears.

"Oh, how this terrible war reaches out its fingers to hurt everyone!" cried Ching-ai. "But surely, Yu-ling, we will find some way out!" They hurried up through the gate to President Wang's office, knowing that she would help if she could.

The three days until Yu-ling must sail slipped away, however, and still her going seemed inevitable. Finally it was arranged that a special launch should take her down to Pagoda Anchorage so that the girls might give her a farewell dinner. They made it as gay as possible with red banners and funny speeches, that Yu-ling might have a last happy memory and know how much they all loved her.

President Wang presided in her wonderful, understanding way, and as the hands of the clock crept toward nine, she called on Fei-ding to give the last bon voyage speech.

"I want you all to know," Fei-ding began. Then she paused as if to steady her voice a little. "I want you all to know that this is my little plan, and quite a selfish one. I'm doing it because I want to. You see Lin Tai-tai is my sister, and it is fitting that I should go with her instead of Yu-ling. Besides, I want to learn how to take care of children, and I want to take the long voyage to Singapore."

Just then Yu-ling jumped up and ran to put her arms around Fei-ding. "Oh, you are wonderful and unselfish!" she exclaimed. "But it cannot be. My things have all gone down to the ship."

"No," Fei-ding laughed and turned to the President. "It is true, isn't it? We have planned everything and your things have been brought here to a room in the dormitory where you are to live while we are away. But I'll be back to graduate some day, too, you know!"

Now the girls waited for no more speeches but at a nod from the President they jumped up and surrounded the two and carried Fei-ding down to the gate where her ricksha waited. As they went they sang softly the old college song they loved.

Through the lanes of Southern China

There are lights along the way.

From your torch of truth, they in radiant youth,

Lit their lamps and silently have gone away.

But Hwa Nan, thy gleam, still doth light their dream

As they bring the glad, new day.

(Tune: "Where my caravan has rested.")

[17]

Dr. Wang: I am deeply grateful for this restful change which you have so kindly given me and for the unfailing inspiration from you all here. More than anything else this will make it possible for us to carry on.

Today I am here to bring you greetings from China in general and greetings from the Board of Directors, Faculty^{alumnae} and students of Hwa Nan. I also wish to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for the unfailing support during these years. Without your support in the form of annual grants we could not have survived. Just to be able to continue to turn out young people to meet the urgent demands for qualified persons was sufficient reward. I want to say again I am grateful.

It was good to see and to meet so many American boys during the last years of the war - some of them very young, some of them very handsome, most of them likable and most of them homesick. When they couldn't talk to us they used Churchill's sign of Victory and the Chinese returned it by saying "Ding Hao." There was nothing artificial about it. These boys had left their homes to help the Chinese people. We had the privilege and pleasure of entertaining the American boys on the Hwa Nan campus. We invited them to the Christmas and Easter programs and to our commencement. They seemed to enjoy the Christian fellowship. Some of them began to see the wonderful and marvelous work done by Christian missions. Some of them were just beginning to realize the sound basis of the Christian missions.

At the very outbreak of hostilities China decided to follow a twin objective: to resist and to rebuild. The Ministry of Education did its very best to maintain the schools with a view to supplying the country with teachers and leaders. The Christian schools were maintained in spite of a scarcity of supplies and of equipment but it was gratifying to us to see the native teachers and executives trying to meet the challenge. They tried to fill a big whole left by the loss of western teachers.

Teachers of biology encouraged the study of native flora and fauna. Native chemicals were found to be of use in little ways: bars of soap, jars of glue and bottles of ink. These all helped out. Teachers insisted on a study of the countryside to see what they could produce from their own back-yard.

During war-time, living inadequately demanded careful planning and economy. It

was difficult for educational leaders to overcome the difficulties. They were poorly housed and heads of families worked hard to overcome the difficulties yet they kept up with their work. The life of the teachers and students was hard. On the whole it was very hard. For that matter they are not any better off now. Friends, if I could only have time I would open the door of memory and tell of hundreds of observations during these years. I must go on to say what these memories and observations taught us. First and foremost, we have learned that war is dreadful. We should not have another one. An educational institution must learn what Nicholas Murray Butler called the international mind. The world must be made one brotherhood, - within the four corners of the four seas we are all brothers. This calls for a change in the human heart. Herein lies a challenge to Christian education. Herein lies their boundless hopes and aspirations.

Specifically, what does ^aChristian educator want? He wants to maintain the highest academic standards. You cannot have ^afirst-class world without first-class nations and you cannot have first-class nations without first-class training. Christian educators should seek the creation of strong Christian character, inspiring service, love of God and love of man. Where can we find a better place ^{for} ~~than~~ the teachings of Jesus Christ? Therefore Christian educational institutions have a unique opportunity and Hwa Nan College wants to do her share. There is no need of taking your time by telling you about that marvelous institution, the growth of that institution - it is an inspiring story of Christian spirit and Christian sacrifice. We are grateful for what it means to the womanhood of China. You have supported it all these years. You know its past and you know its present and its future.

Enrollment
I think some of these up-to-date facts may be of interest to you. In 1913 when I registered in Hwa Nan College - at that time Hwa Nan College was only a term. There was an enrollment of only 60 and 28 graduates of the high school. The total enrollment today is 400. 180 of these are college graduates, the others from the high schools. There have been more than 1200 graduates from that college and high school. There are 400 alumnae of the college and about 40 of these have been in the United States and gotten higher degrees, 9 have received their Ph.Ds and one a degree of law. Still others are pursuing their studies today and one may be able to get her M.D. in the fall. ~~Seven~~ are

Seven are arriving in this country shortly representing five conferences of the Methodist Church in China and 24 of its graduates are teaching in some colleges. 130 are teaching in secondary schools. Eight are *evangelistic workers* 24 are medical doctors

and only four are *nurses*. Two out of this four are in New York now. Friends, this is the past of Hwa Nan and right now we are thinking about thirty years ago. (There was a little girl who came to school just because she was of little help to her family. Her

family had no education. Mrs. Lacy sent her to boarding school and then she went to Hwa Nan. *BA* She went back to her *old* village and she taught there. Then she was granted a scholarship in America. *U.S. Michigan - MA in one yr.* In 1939 she came back and she is now again on the ocean.

Thirty years ago Christian education gave her a chance and now she is a scientist and she is a Christian. This is Hwa Nan's task. Another girl was given away by her family because *she was a girl*. She came to Hwa Nan and graduated in 1922. She was principal of our primary schools and she was asked to take charge of war orphans. It was touching

to see these girls and boys of all ages come in response to Christian love for the first time. *gave them love & kindness - parents killed* *gave them faith & gradually getting them home* *on placing - clothes - packages*

Then I am thinking of another girl of Foochow from a non-Christian home who came to Hwa Nan. During the war years she went to West China and there was made principal of our Methodist Girls' School. She is now in this country in Scarritt College studying.

(3) Another girl after graduation worked in a woman's war time organization and she gave of herself graciously.

Not only our home governor but the governor of the next province sent their daughters to Hwa Nan and the Commissioner of Education sent his daughter to Hwa Nan. Another Commissioner of Education's daughter is of high school age and is in our high school. The grandson of the founder of Amoy University sent his daughter to Hwa Nan.

Really, it is a great inspiration to be able to meet these people. We were away from our own campus eight years and came back to a wrecked campus. We are grateful to Mr. Lacy for his vision. We moved 7 of the 14 buildings from Nanking downriver to Foochow and they are now on Magaw campus (?). We need books; we need equipment. Just the other day I received a list of books we need in our library. We need equipment and books and we need buildings.

Rest Chow

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8 yrs

1939 - back to Hwa Nan

1945 - Hwa Nan

1945 - Hwa Nan

1945 - Hwa Nan

1945 - Hwa Nan

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Curriculum

First, we have to maintain all our registered departments and second, we ought to strengthen our home economics departments and then our music department. We have a two year course in music now and want to raise it to four years for a major.

Hwa Nan has survived these most difficult and critical years of her history. We must admit that her students and faculty these years in exile were a great tribute to suffering and courage. To the best of her ability she maintained her academic standards. She continued to make the contribution she always did. She supplied the secondary school with competent teachers and she supplied the social movement with Christian leaders. They were willing to serve. Hwa Nan has met a great need and we want an opportunity to continue our contribution. Fukien has one-fifth of the Christian Chinese today. There are thirty mission secondary schools in the province. Christian educational work in Fukien should be topped by a number of colleges. In the last twenty years the question of cooperation between Fukien Christian University and Hwa Nan College has been studied. Today, challenged by the recommendations of the Planning Committee and stimulated by the sheer competition of government institutions, ~~it~~ this question has been brought forward again. We are determined to maintain a high academic standard. We are quite ^{aware} aware of the limitation in financial support and the supply of Christian scholars. Such limitations do not allow each institution to carry on alone and so we have adopted coordination and steps have been taken in a two-fold aim, letting each institution maintain its autonomy and maintain its distinctive contribution. Hwa Nan knows that the obstructions to coordination have not been

Hwa Nan ~~knows~~ knows she needs to make a compromise but foremost in her thinking is the future of the Christian colleges. She is ready to help further the movement of coordination and she endorses the plan adopted on the field. I feel we are headed in the right direction and we are looking to this group for guidance.

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