

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 15

Finding aid for collection available at:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.015>

Series: I. Correspondence

Box / folder: 7 / 97

Folder label: General Correspondence:

**From Alice and Ben Baker, to the Hildreths and copies of letters to others
(1928)**

For copyright information see: <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/permissions.html>

Originals of collection held at:

Yale Divinity School Library, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
(divinity.library@yale.edu)

Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service
Associates LLC, Shelton, CT with financial support from The Center for Christian
Studies, Shantou University, 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China
515063

At Home, March 28, 1928.

Dear Bob and Lottie,

I enclose a "copy" that gives you some of our reflections. I want to add a bit of personal word.

Bob, I have just read over your last letter to me so I will answer that first. By the way I also noted a request in the copy of the Sept. 28th letter which you sent with it. That of getting a vote on your study. I will see that that is put before the Com. which will be meeting soon. The letter I answer in detail is under date Dec. 28. Sorry for the delay.

The main this is the matter of your return. It was good to read of your confidence in the growing strength of Lottie and John. We certainly join you in hopes that both may get thoroughly well, and that you and Alice may keep so.

I appreciate your musings on the matter of the way the question of voting on return of missionaries was handled. I feel sure there was nothing personal in handing you over to the two Khms. It was the same in cases of Gledt and Lewis and Groesbeck, and would have been with me. The basis of the action was lack of sense of responsibility on part of the L. T. organization. They are not taking broad and efficient views of their responsibility. It was simpler for them just to let the matter be determined by the Kmu where a man belonged. They were not at all ready to get down to the serious business of weighing their resources against their need and the opportunities. And the Khms just voted "ju ku". That is what it meant. I do not think they would really dare to vote against a man unless there were serious charge. It would not look well to the home people who were paying the bills and also giving them a nice thing too. I do not think I should worry any more about their methods, nor about the degree of desire expressed in their vote. I think they would assume the same attitude towards you as before.

The real question is not their attitude, but the possibility of service and over a long period of years, for in my judgment you want to make your decision now as to whether you are to continue in this mission service. You will get your information on this so far as the field is concerned not from the Chinese, but the Mission and you close friends. I will suggest to Page the matter of giving you some light on this, and of course you can count on me doing as I would you to do for me.

As I see it now there ought to be good opportunity for experienced men who can preach and occupy places of leadership in the Ling Fong work when the skies clear. I doubt if there will be any opposition to foreigners by the public. I doubt the use of new men. At present, tho, this need is much limited by the prevailing conditions. Work among the churches is limited, even on this field Khou thinks I should not yet visit most of the churches, and robbers make me think very much the same. Our new evangelist in the City Lo Fong Ngung has been here over two months and yet public preaching has not been begun. I am urging him to make a trial of it and I hope this will be down as soon as he gets back from a visit home. If they can't do it yet here in the City you can see a missionary is much more limited if it involves touring the country. As the accompanying letter shows robbing is still prevalent, even right under our noses, rather kidnapping, which is much worse. There are places like Pang Khoi where we might preach now, but such territory is quite limited. I think the sphere of possible work will enlarge very rapidly as soon as conditions change by restoration of order. But this does not seem on the horizon yet. So-

So my candid opinion right now is that there is not now and will not likely be an urgent appeal from the Mission for your return this fall. I mean a call that would seem to justify you leaving your family. I wholly agree with you that Lottie should not risk it this year, nor John. If conditions change for the better rapidly and safety of travel is attained, it might be that the Mission would ask you to return this fall in view of Waters' return and the hope that the aggressive evangelistic work could be pressed. If conditions do not so change, it will remain a question as to how much Waters can do, so it will resolve itself into a plan to try it out, to which scheme you could hardly be urgently called with the necessity of coming out alone when the family are not well. This is my opinion, without conference with others. It would seem to me your plan would be to remain there another year, and then see how the situation is. I think you would be safe in so planning.

not
Noting word in relation to larger outlook, the question of mission service here or work at home. Considerable of the old job of the missionary is gone, most of it on this field. Administrative work is gone; handling of mission funds for the Chinese will become simpler and simpler, that is using less and less time. Casual visiting churches for Communion services will not be felt worth while as the task of a missionary, the Chinese must come more rapidly to looking after these functions. Teaching will be much more limited except in the larger institutions. There is the possibility of preaching to some extent in work like Waters plans, and this I think will improve. There will be the call, perhaps, for some teaching in connection with some kind of training work for the leadership of the Churches. The Chinese are now working on that plan. This preaching and this teaching will be asked of men who are able to make the Chinese want to hear them. The G. are going to put a man in this place simply because he is a missionary. One who fails to deliver the goods will be dropped. Then there is the possibility of personal work, which has big possibilities in my judgment if we could have the language so we could converse very freely and fully. And it will be very worth-while if a man can make friends, hold them and has the ability to turn his powers and his opportunities to spiritual account. We are now regarding this as our main opportunity except for service rendered in connection with trying to keep this multi-headed proposition here in the City from chewing itself to death. There is no doubt in my mind about the need for a missionary here at this post just now. Things would go to smash without him. I say that for I know you understand the case. But that is not worth while as a permanent job. Our main work is going to on individuals. We came back up here with conviction and we are more convinced now that it is so.

Now those are the elements in the situation as I see them. You will best be able to try to understand what you might try to do if you came back. I'll be frank with you, for I realize it is a serious matter for you to make a decision. A good deal of your future depends on it. You refer in your letter to envying Giedt and Lewis their return to the fields where the Chinese want them or need them and know they need them. This is the crux of the matter. If you have not assurance of such a relationship to the people now what are the prospects. I must confess that the impression I get is they are indifferent to the matter. It is going to be harder now to make such relationships than before. If you can father a program for the spiritual uplift of the churches and give yourself with abandon to making it work, there is a place for such constructive work. If you can prove yourself a teacher with a message so vital that you can hold the men the Chinese are now concerned to get trained there is a field waiting, if the institution gets going. If

If you can find men, make contacts, win them to fellowship and hold them and guide them into spiritual experiences, then there is need all about us. If you doubt yourself in the matters, then I should say you should seriously consider the wisdom of your returning to the field to make the attempt. If you decide to go back into work at home you cannot risk leaving that too long.

Now I have written as I would want you to talk to me. Get advice from others. Think the thing thru well. Unless there comes an urgent call to return, which I do not at all anticipate, this fall plan to stay on the year. I should say plan also to be ready to go into American work, indeed I would try to get in. Then if that opens up for you, it might go far towards helping you decide about returning.

I do want to say also, that in view of Lottie's experience with this climate, I am pretty sure I should have to get an urgent call to return to bring her back here in view of all the uncertainty, if I were in your place. Expenses are going up also, and missionary service is going to cost more which will involve returns being considered economically as well as otherwise. Just now summer vacations are a problem, entailing further expense on the Board if we are to get any, for Thalyong is yet not available. If salaries are not raised some of us will go bankrupt. All of which involves new scrutiny in the part of the powers that be in the matter of voting expensive considerations. (There is no reason for linking this statement up with that about Lottie's health, save the thought of the children and their need for vacation change suggested it to mind.)

Now I wonder if I have helped you with your problem. I hope you will take all I have said in the spirit I write it. I have tried to deal with the proposition abstractly. If you only remember how the lone, empty house across the wall cries out to you your loneliness you will understand how we feel personally about having you back in your own home here with us. We miss you all so much, and day after day we look at the closed doors and wish for them to open and to hear you call or just to see you moving about. It is painfully lonesome here now with you gone and the children away too. And lately Scout the dog the children loved so has died. It would be so much better to have you back.

In conclusion; this may sound somewhat "Now just look at me do it". I do not feel that. Sometimes I wonder if I would not be rendering better service at home. The troubles here at this centre of which I shall write you later draw on me terribly, and I can't escape the question how it is possible that this happens here if I have played my part. I have my work under review, and I realise I need to make appraisal of my methods, my work and my accomplishments.

This is business. But it brings our love for all of you
Be sure to Remember us all to Miss Wetherbe.

Fraternally yours,

Ben L. Baker

March 26, 1928.

Dear Lottie,

I must take time to give you a bit of news, personal. I have received your checks. Alice has your accounts, but I want to give you word of the checks.

You remember Bob sent out the specific ~~anyway~~ \$30 U. S. I paid Tay Kui out of that \$40 Max. Now you have sent another \$20 U. S. to make good that money advanced to Tay Kui. This \$ 20 sold for \$43.43. I paid back the specific \$40 and credited your account with the balance, paying the \$3.43 to Alice for you. The \$10 you sent for ~~specific~~ purposes was sold for 21.71 and that is credited on your account with Alice. She is attending to the various matters for you. You also sent \$10 for your account in Sept. That made \$22.21, and has been credited on your account with Alice. She has sent you a statement of the account and will send another later on. There is a good balance to your credit right now.

Tay Kui was here for the holidays, and went back to school a day or so late. Your word saying the money had been sent to Miss Lacey came just before he left. He thinks he will come out and get a job when this term is over, does not want to get too deep into debt. He is engaged to Lii Thida Kham here in the City. Alice has told you I am sure.

His sister has just come up for this term's work in the school. There was some delay before we could get arrangements suitable for her oversight. Pui Sin-ee and we will together look after her. Alice will tell you about the finances of the case. She looks well. I have her in my class, so I shall be able to tell you what kind of student she makes.

City Girl's School has about 35 pupils only- think due to the teacher the Chinese got, same as last year. Kio Thau has more than that, with one teacher. Boy's School has about 70 all told. Khon is principal, and lives at T. L. and is here once in 2 weeks perhaps. The school is a shadow of itself. Three teachers and some help from me. No trouble with pupils. Some religious work going on unchallenged, and more will be done, if the schools go on. We shall have a heavy debt this year, and with appropriations cut so, I do not see how we can continue. Kindergarten has about 35 or so. Lim Hui Chak, church preacher is made principal of the two G. Schools and the kind. We are on the Trustees. We are trying to get the church to run these. Fear it is too much for them. Think next year we shall have to combine all the schools to keep alive, but the question comes who will be the management. This must be worked out.

Goh Seng Li is getting a bit too prominent in the church. I wrote you about the thung-toa. Si f Tek got out about him and Lim H. C. That made a great mess. Later he came out with another. Now we hear a third is to come, mostly against the preacher. And yet Lim gives us the most helpful preaching we have ever had since I have been here. Si family are mostly out with the others. Thong Chiek is more or less with them. Lai Seng has made me a nasty mess with the shop, which question is still not settled. He has failed in business, and can't conduct the business. He hasn't acted square with me. Sunday we heard that his boy had been caught posting notices on Kim Sui gates attacking their newly employed cook as Red- because he failed to get the position there as cook. He has led Lai Seng a merry game, really largely caused the business failure. That is still boiling. Cook says if they catch him the soldiers will kill him. He had sent six letters to various K. S. teachers reviling the cook. Some mess. Withal there are a number of good people at the City and we are not ready to give them up. But there is some work to the job.

Lin Chhin has gotten a place with the Giedts. His mother lives at the K. Thau school as janitress. Wife and baby and A Eng are guarding your house. I have told them I must put a man in charge in the summer while we are away, and they agree, L. C. did. A Eng's mother in foreign parts has sent money and word for a friend to take A Eng back there some time soon. She says she is glad to go.

Sad to say, Lin Sau Chak's brother who has been living with him and studying in the City has ~~some~~ his mental balance, has been at the hospital for some time, does not get permanently better. But we are asking the Lord to spare us this trial. It looks as if Si was having his inning. He must be enjoying it. It is a great trial to Lin's faith, I know.

Academy is going nicely, with good attendance. Liu Beng is on the faculty this year. Have not met him yet. Tai's son William is here in the City with family, brought their letters to the City church. He is getting into business, and I am sure is going to make a good man. I have him, Tang Eng Wt, Lin Tai Liang, Kui On I's grand son, all in an English class. Alice and I are both helping the Lo girls in the same way ; for sake of our personal contacts.

Kim Sam borrowed K. T. Tag for meeting in honor of Sum Yat Sen recently. Meeting was announced. Group from school came down to conduct the meeting. Time arrived they went up stairs-but NOBODY CAME. Think of that, Sum Yat Sen's birthday meeting. That shows how afraid the people are to dabble in politics. You are liable to get hung on either side.

You have heard Dr. Leach had to return on account of ill health. I fear she will not get back. Keep your ears open. She went home really because she was sick. That is not the only reason why she may not get back to us. Don't say anything, but I have suspicions. We had a friend from U. S. visit us last fall, - a teacher from Ohio, who knew them years ago.

Dr. Wight is up here now. He said the other day the family were trying to get Peking's permission for them to come, too. I am surely hoping they will. It must be very lonesome for him.

Mrs. Adams accompanied Dr. Leach, going home to be with her children at this period. Hope folks have not yet been able to return there quite a question on now about Bowfield. Furlough time is at hand, past due. We think he ought to go. But he says he has been warned repeatedly that when the foreigner goes the 'anties' are coming in and take possession of the whole place. He believes it and asks for someone to take his place. Various suggestions, none of which seem to warrant hope of going thru. He says he can't leave until someone takes his place.

Folks generally are well. Hope all of you are. Can't do more at this time.

This brings the love of all of us.

John and Alice we need you badly. We haven't any children here now. And what do you suppose has happened? Bessie's mother kitty gave us a family of four dear little kittens to-day- presented them to us in the dirty-clothes basket. They are cute to death. You should be here to take care of them for Bessie. Bessie would be sending love- if she knew I was writing, and Howard would too. Here is a bag and a kiss and a hug again for each of you.

Uncle Ben.

Bm.

April 28 , 1928.

Rev. J. H. Franklin, D. D. ,
276 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Franklin ,

I wrote you on Feb. 25th last. In the past two months since then there has not been much to write about, and we have had full call on our time. Now I am getting a communication ready for the Station Plan folks, and will enclose a copy. I shall appreciate it if you will have this sent to those whose addresses are herewith enclosed, some friends who are not on the regular station plan list.

We note you were in attendance on the Jerusalem Conference, making the trip thru parts of Continental Europe and we shall be looking forward to report of your experiences. It must have been a wonderful conference, and we are so glad you could share in it. Surely it ought to mean much for drawing all Christian peoples together and for the coming of the Kingdom.

I am glad to report that with us while nothing spectacular is occurring, things are turning out to the progress of the gospel. The political situation is quieter than it has been for some time, and gives promise of continuing so. We are encouraged over the continued appearances of friendliness on part of the people generally, together with indications that the common people are manifesting a willingness to give the preaching of the word a hearing.

There have been no further interferences on the part of the military in the nature of occupation of our school buildings. Such contacts as we have had with them personally have been friendly. An officer and his wife were here to call recently, and to my surprise was eager to give his understanding of the nature and justification of the Concessions. I stopped there. Two others just called. We could converse very little for they were from Chekiang but we welcomed them and they were cordial. It would seem that the military are disposed to be friendly. This is no doubt the result in part of finding themselves deceived by the propagandists, and the consciousness that they must have friends somewhere. If the radical get in the saddle, of course, we are in for trouble. But if the Conservatives continued to control it would seem that foreign relations if based on justice and fairness, and religious work are faced with with the best day we have had in old China.

Our schools are going on, but with attendance far below what it used to be, dues, I feel pretty sure, largely to present method of administration and teaching. The quality has dropped in both. Definite religious work is going on in the Girl's schools, with regular morning services and weekly prayer meetings; and there is fair attendance at Sunday services. The City minister is principal of these two schools, and if he remains next year we can hope for improvement; he is a very fine man. He has been principal only since February. The work in the Boy's School

is much less aggressive. Our evangelist has charge of the meetings in the school which the school authorities would point to as religious work in the school. But he is new here and more or less timid about being aggressive. I am not sure how free he is to determine his work in this connection. The fact is the principal of the school who is our field secretary also is not conducting the school primarily as a religious activity. He is here only once in two weeks or so, he has not a strong faculty, his position as principal is politics in the church; and so aggressive Christian work is not put foremost. I am hoping a change may come after this school year. I should not continue the school on its present program if the decision rested with me; but it is a phase of Chinese administration that we must endure until it can be changed in harmony with the principle of Chinese administration.

In the evangelistic work the outlook is upward. The evangelist is new, and the robbing and kidnapping and reports of Communist activities keep the minds of the people so wrought up that he has been slow to attempt aggressive work. But an evening meeting was held at the City preaching hall this week, and the result was most gratifying. The evangelistic confessed he was very much afraid as the evening for the meeting drew near, fearful lest there would be no result from his effort. But between 100 and 150 people came out and sat thru a good talk. This in the same place where an advertised meeting in honor of Sun Yat Sen a few ~~month~~ weeks ago, to be conducted by the teachers of the Government Middle School, fell absolutely flat, nobody coming to attend, indicates the present state of mind and the attitude of the people towards us. The evangelist is much encouraged and emboldened, and I hope from now on this work may be pressed as it deserves to be. I could force matters, but I prefer to wield a gentler influence; helping, but in such a way that the evangelist may take the initiative and feel he is really doing the thing himself. Our slogan is the enterprise is Chinese now, and we are just helping as we can. And it is gratifying to see that we have the nucleus and that responsibility is being assumed and the movement going forward. And we are no less grateful for the fact that they have a place for us and make us feel we are both needed and wanted. Slowly and with slips, to be sure, but in reality, the work goes forward.

I have visited one of the country churches and am now planning to go to another for the coming Sunday. This begins this phase of our work again, and I hope it will be found that we can go on with it with greater success than ever before. All depends on how the national situation goes; and we are hearing news of additional successes for the Nationalist Cause up north.

In regard to the work in general I want to mention the fact that the Chinese have decided that the Seminary on some basis must be reopened, and plans are being worked out. You will no doubt be having advice from other quarters in this connection. Mr. Speicher is the one missionary representative having a share in making the plans and from this it will be seen that whatever is worked out will be very largely Chinese thought and endeavor. The Ling Tong Council meets this week, partly to review the work of the Trustees and we shall then know more definitely just what is to be attempted.

This is all for this sitting. I shall hope to have a further communication for you shortly.

Sincerely yours,



AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

P. M. J. LEWIS
GENERAL SECRETARY
WILLIAM B. LIPPARD
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
GEORGE E. HUNTINGTON
TREASURER

276 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS: "TAVOTAM, NEW YORK"

JAMES H. FRANKLIN
FOREIGN ASSISTANT
JOSEPH C. BROWN
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Copy of a Letter from Rev. B. L. Baker

Chaochowfu, South China,
April 30, 1928.

To our Chaochowfu Station Plan Friends:

I do not recall how long it has been since we sent a letter. I wish it were possible to give you a good idea of all that has taken place with us since that letter went to you; but that is not possible. I must content myself with an attempt to bring you in a measure up to date in understanding the situation on this field.

We returned to China from furlough in February, 1927, our two children being left in Shanghai at school as we came through. China was so upset and our missionary staff so reduced that we were kept at the port, Swatow, for a full year, a year full of unusual experiences. The terrible attempts to turn China into a radical Bolshevik state reached their climax in our province and waned, though only after thousands were slaughtered and whole villages destroyed. So late as a month ago, even Swatow was greatly frightened lest the orgies told about in the regions to the southwest should be re-enacted in this port; but the Nationalists seem to have gotten the situation in hand and I am daring to hope, and to speak of the efforts of these violent enemies of law and order as having waned. However, up until recently, before it waned, we were continually getting our thrills, wondering what might be the next; and some of the "night be's" were best left unmentioned.

This great movement that has swept all China the past years though, has not all been bad. It has been more Nationalist and patriotic than Bolshevik, and has had great bearing upon Christian work. We have also had many new experiences, getting missionary activity and service rightly coordinated with genuine nationalism and Chinese indigenous Christian life and activity. For instance, we have had to face military occupation of mission property and try to find a solution other than dependence on western power; we have had to find our way anew to contact with Chinese life where we had been violently defamed by the radical revolutionary leaders, so that multitudes of the people really did doubt us; and we have had to stand aside and give over to our Chinese the leadership and administration of our Christian work, suddenly and before we thought they were ready for it, and to find our places of influence and helpfulness in a new order. Chinese preeminence in all the work has been our ideal from the first; we were working to that end and had accomplished much in putting administration into their hands. But there were instances where we did not think they were ready to take over control. The great movement political swept everything with it, and that included Chinese control of Chinese church life and, as well, our further missionary efforts in behalf of that life. It did bring new experiences, and we are still in the midst of

readjustments. Such are some of the things the interval since our last communication to you has brought to us. Now I want to help you get into touch with it all, too.

You can appreciate after what I have said that I today write you with something of the feeling of relief after the storm. There has been a storm, a tremendous one. Just so truly is it that we are facing a period of quiet, as I see it. So let me assure you not to put faith in those reports going the rounds in the American press that missionary work has been destroyed in China. Nothing is farther from the truth; Christian work has no more been destroyed than western business. Both, if rightly motivated and conducted in the spirit of equality and friendship, have their brightest days ahead.

A Proof That Christianity Is Not Dead

Our Chaschevfu Church is a fine illustration of the truth that work of the past years has not been in vain and that Christianity is not dead. This Church has grown up at a center where the missionaries have been conducting evangelistic work, that is, maintaining various activities such as schools, lectures, preaching, visitation -- such effort, by virtue of the necessity of the case, being missionary initiated, directed, supported, for we were in the period of trying to create the Chinese body which should in time take the missionary's place. Naturally, as the church came into being, it leaned. It has been very difficult to lead the people to assume responsibility. They have always been willing to help us carry on, but it was ever on the basis of their helping us; we were the ones to assume responsibility, for they were weak and poor. It was a matter of congratulation if they raised \$100 Mex (\$50 gold) for their work.

Now what has followed the upsetting movement of the past three years? Has this poor, weak, leaning church died? Has the missionary been told he is not wanted, and finding no place or opportunity to minister in the name of Jesus Christ, has he had to leave the field? As I write, we are now on the fifth month of a wonderful year for this church. Due to causes I can't take time to explain here, this church has called their own pastor, entirely subscribing his salary of \$300, and assuming other financial obligations that will raise their budget to at least \$400. The man they have called is not an ear-tickler. He is wanting in spectacular activities, but gives his people real spiritual meat in every service; and they like him and support him. He lives by the spirit, and by faith, and not by sight. He recognizes that he is the head of this people and he is earnestly leading them deeper and deeper into the fellowship of their Lord Jesus Christ, a fellowship he himself most certainly has. He has, it seems to me, as many and as serious problems as a pastor at home has, and he meets them in a spirit most gratifying. And withal, both church and pastor maintain the most cordial and fraternal fellowship with the foreign missionary. Never before have we been so sure of a place in the hearts and lives of these people as we are now; we fellowship as brethren, without question and wholly lacking in restraint.

China's upheaval gave the Christian cause a good shaking. It brought to an end some things in missionary activity and necessitated some new methods; but with us, at least, it was but the dynamiting of the soil and the pruning of the branch, destined to bring to this Chinese branch of the Christ-vine a period of greater growth and

productivity. The Chaochowfu Church is not dead, but in Jesus Christ : entering upon a new life of personal relationship and responsibility to her Lord. It is a great joy to us to see it, and I know you will rejoice with us.

I have much more I want to tell you, but I shall not make this letter too long. It gives us contacts again. I will send a further communication before long, taking up from here and giving you some of the details of how God has been with us and led us and others during these unusual times.

We feel sure many of you have borne us up in prayer and we thank you. Pray still with us that God may give us strength, wisdom and spirit to make the most of the opportunities we face at this time.

Fraternally yours,

BOB L. BAKER

Chaochowfu , May 16, 1938.

Dear Ones at Home;

It has been raining most of the day, and very heavy downpour, too, so I have been at home. Had a number of business letters to get off by noon. When they were finished being tired I thought I would go on a white ant excursion to see that things are in good shape to leave for the summer. I had observed the van-guard in a crack in the bathroom wall, so knew that as the rainy weather came I should get on the job, but really I felt pretty safe, not thinking that we are being bothered, for I fight them pretty steadily.

I suspected the drain pipe from the bathroom, which came up very near where the crack was, and first dug out all around the bottom of that; but found nothing. I was hoping I should find their entrance here, for closing them out would be a simple matter. Not finding it so, I knew I had better go after them in earnest. So I began a systematic search. Finally I went up to the roof. This is a dirty job, and a very hot one, crawling round in the dark with a lantern or, this time, a flash-light, and with tools and kerosene in hand to try beams and suspicious looking places. It is strange how much one can over-look on such an investigation ordinarily. I have given that part of the house some attention, but never saw anything to arouse my suspicions. But today I determined to make sure. My excursion revealed the fact that the ants had gotten in and had made a nest in the end of a very large roof beam just where it rested on the wall, right where the roof comes to the wall, and where the beam is pretty well surrounded with chinking. The face of the wall and the surface of the beam were plastered with a kind of mud-like substance which the ants manufacture, but it was dry and old and looked as if it belonged to work of earlier years, soon after the 1922 typhoon when ants got in. I began to go into it, however, and soon hit right into the nest. Kerosene was handy and I had improvised a kind of pump-spray, and I shot the stuff into the nest. I was in a close place, it was dark and hot; and I had to keep on the job once I had gotten to where the ants were. So I was about an hour and a half at that place. They have about destroyed the whole end of the beam in the wall, and I destroyed them by the hundreds, no doubt. They swarm something like bees, and I got this new lot with their wings on and the rest of the tribe too. Fortunately they had spent most of their efforts on that beam end and making their nest, so the rest of the roof was little damaged. But I got them just in time. Had we gone away for the summer and left them there the roof would have been badly damaged by the time we got back. I realize now I had some kind of an inspiration to go on the hunt this morning. I only wish now I had had it long ago. But I had not had any indication that ants were bothering us. This is another reason why I seem to be always busy. Thank the Lord you do not have to worry over this most wicked branch of the animal kingdom.

We have escaped floods this season to the present/. Recently river has been its highest this season. Now it is raining all the while, and if the same thing is going on up in the hills we shall have a flood shortly. That will keep us at home and give us time to get things ready for going away in June, but it keeps us from work and we are prizing every day now that we plan to be away so long. If we only dared to stay it certainly ^{is} more to my taste. But do not dare risk it with Bessie.

Now it is the 21st. The days have been very full. The flood did come, tho, thank the Lord, it was not a big one. We were shut off from the City for a day and a half. Alice and I both went in for a special service Saturday afternoon and were in all day yesterday. The water has subsided enough now to clear the ordinary walks. My what an experience there people living in the lower parts of the village do have: not only must all things be moved to the roofs and they live there while the water is up, in sunshine, clouds or rain, but they have to be on top when the water turns to go down and wash and wash until the water has gone and things are clean. And the operation has to extend to the streets as well as the courts insides. And some years it is a frequent experience. They surely ought to learn patience.

The meeting Saturday would interest you. Some three years ago a good spirit wanted to see a wider circulation of our New Testament. He went abroad, secured gifts for the distribution of the Scriptures and they are being printed now and offered for free distribution to anyone who will try to keep a record of the ones to whom the gift is made and persuade the recipient to do regular reading. Our minister here has given out about a hundred copies. He arranged this meeting Saturday for those who had been given the little books. Quite a number were present. We had a special program and a little tea following. The main talk was on Methods of Bible Reading. It was a nice little service, and did us so much good seeing that it was wholly planned by the preacher. He certainly is a live wire, the best we have ever had here.

We have just had word from Shanghai that it will be all right to go to Mokansan for the summer, so we are getting things in hand. We shall have to be away from here within a bit over two weeks. Letters to us should be addressed to Shanghai, care of Associated Mission Treasurers, until the first week in August. Those after that time should be sent on here as usual. Howard and Bessie have written. They are well.

The preacher's brother who is mentally off is still here. He gets no better, tho no worse. It is a great problem. We are now trying to make arrangements for a place for him when we have to go away. We are invited to a special event at Kakohieh for Thursday evening. I have to go any way this week so we are both going. Will hope to be back Friday evening. We are both as well as we can ask. This week colds came again. They are miserable. We try to keep going despite them.

This brings our love.

As ever,

Sam.

Chaochowfu, May 21, 1928.

Dear Bob and Lottie,

I have a number of copies for you, as you see. Want to add a personal word, but can't make it long.

First in regard to liberties with your house. The preacher's younger brother, Li Hsiang went off mentally some time ago. He was at the hospital at East Gate for quite a while. At times he would be pretty sane and again crazy as a loon, tho not violent. When he got bad he would scare the other patients so we had to plan for him. There were not enough folks at home for him to back to have them care for him. He could not be kept at the Kang Tai Tng with any hope of his getting better. I hoped quietness and a change and attention such as we would try to help give would restore him. So see his desperation, I proposed to Lin Hau Chek we would let him have your nurses room. I was thinking his mother would be able to look after his needs and we could help give care, and Lin would be free to come as he could.

This was done. We cleared out the room, putting in only such things as they actually needed. At the time Lu Ohhim or his family had charge of watching the house. He had gone to Kakchiok as Giedt's cook. His family later went to Kakchiok, and he sent an old woman of the family to stay at the house. His mother is watchman at the school here. Things went all right for a few days. Then the boy got out and got worse. We had to go the second mile; we gave Lin use of my little study. I found Lu Ohhim had allowed another Kityang man he knew stay in your kitchen, and when Lu Ohhim was away this man moved in to the kitchen. Apparently he was wholly reliable. But I did not like it. One day the boy Li Hsiang got down there and went right on into the house. So I took over the keys and told Lu Ohhim I would have to put the watching of the house in other hands. I have kept it locked giving our boy the privilege of looking after the watching. It was an arrangement satisfactory to Lu Ohhim also. I did not compel him to move his things out of the servants' room. But his wife has tuberculosis and I objected to their living permanently in the room. The old relative is still there. His family came back without talking it over and camped in the school. She, his wife, is much better, and they seem to get along at the school. Teacher seems fond of the baby. So we are letting it rest there for the present. But our boy is in charge of your things, and Lu Ohhim agreed that Thng Fahang was reliable and that he Lu Ohhim would stand to you for any losses. There will not be any of consequences. It appears that Lu Ohhim had loaned a thing or two of yours and perhaps had forgotten it. He had also allowed the teacher at the school free access to your upstairs to play on the baby organ. I did not know if this would be pleasing to you or not. But I should not have liked the plan and so it is not being done now.

We found no white ants the other day when we went over the house, but I am not sure there are none. Found some here as I have said in letter enclosed.

Li Hsiang is still here. We are working on plans for the summer. If you have ideas or criticisms please speak right out. Dick of the Mennonite Mission wrote out about coming back. I referred him

to you in case they wished to get the use of your house temporarily for the family until he could go up and find the situation warranting taking the family up. He spoke of coming out this fall. So if he writes you you will have the connection.

Things are quiet, and the preaching of the Word is not opposed. The head of the Ká Iok Kék is to speak at our place this Thursday night.

I must stop now. I hope to see Teu Kui in Shanghai.

✓ By the way I had a call to Academy Trustees Meeting Saturday, but flood out me out of going. It seems that Hioh Tcho has resigned, but that is all we know, for when or why is a mystery to us. We plan on going down Thursday.

Hope you are all well. We are except for colds right now. It is quite cool.

As ever,

Ben

June 27, 1948

Dear Lottie,

Your letters under date May 14th and 17th in one envelope came to us here soon after we arrived. I am enclosing a copy of a home letter that gives the news about us at present. I know you will accept that as a personal letter also. Now I wish also to reply to some enquiries in your letters.

The Nationalists have taken Peking. They have managed to go ahead elsewhere and not clash with Japan in Shantung. All will eventually come out well, perhaps, if they can only manage to find a way to unity among themselves. There is friction between the heads Chiang, and Peng, and Yen apparently. But now for some time we have been without definite news. Our papers have not come, and we have been too busy to talk much. There is not so much known it seems except the main items. We can get now news here, for we are all the foreigners except one other lady. So we shall have to wait to give you news of the political situation.

Swatow was quiet when we left. Personally we have not met any bad feeling on part of the Chinese. All the way here and here the Chinese we have met have been most cordial, tho of course we have met but few, none of them the students. They are the ones who would have feeling if any.

A Tzu is not satisfactory as a student. I had her in English. She is not diligent; but I have not had time yet to attempt to discover if there is any reason. I imagine she can be easily spoiled. I shall endeavor to get her once better in hand when we go back.

I met Tzu Kui in Shanghai. I am concerned over the influence the family have into which he is to be married. We told you, I think, he is to be married into Tieu Khun's family. She was a splendid girl when I had the school that last year. But she has caught the new spirit and it has changed her. I planned to have Tzu Kui come here with us for the summer, let him stay with Mrs Phai, and help a moderate amount with the house work, we are all sharing. Tieu Khun's family had sent him money to return to Swatow for the summer. He said at first he must go there first and then come here. Later he phoned me he would come straight here. But on arriving I found we had no place for him. The servant's one little room is almost demolished on two sides, and the cook has to find quarters elsewhere when it rains as it has been doing recently. So I hurriedly wrote Tzu Kui not to come now. If he gets the letter he must go on to Swatow. If he comes I do not know what we can do with him. I hope he gets my letter. If he goes to Swatow he may be married. I imagine that is why they want him to come. I hoped to avoid that yet, but it remains to be seen.

He is planning to study another year. He is talking of college, and would like to go straight on, I think. But I told him that he should finish the academy course and then see how things were. Taking a job for a while need not prevent higher training, but he is not attracted to that plan naturally. (I am not sure as to his religious life.) I hoped to help him this summer. If he goes and remains in Chaochowfu for the summer I shall know thru others about his spirit. That is the most I can say at this writing. He ought to have this last year of High School, and I agreed I would help to make it possible, if he could not make it on what you could help and what he could earn. More of this later.

Ng Phak Shiang is the teacher we felt was responsible more

or less for the slump in the City school. She is doing better, now, and has a good spirit. For some reason, tho, pupils are few, only 39, and we are facing a big deficit on Girl's Schools and the Kindergarten. We are telling them a new plan will have to be made for next year. We can't agree to stand for such a deficit again. It will come near \$300.

The Boy's school teachers are getting concerned that that school shall pass muster as Christian, and asked me to take the office of religious instructor for the school, laying emphasis especially on children's church work on Sundays. I agreed I would when we went back. We had three Sundays with the pupils and they responded. I think this can be made a profitable service. I intend to work on plans for that this summer. If you can find pictures of any kind suitable for the school children I should like to have them. You know it is no good to send poor pictures. Anything along the line of children's work that could be used in this work would be appreciated.

The City preacher has avowed he would not stay at the City next year. He hopes to get linked up with Waters. Possibly he would do better work in that capacity. He surely has a fine spirit. But some want to make it hard for him. I do not know what will become of the City church. It will be hard to find a man to take his place. I do not want them leaning back on the Special Evangelistic work funds and man. I am not sure at all just where they can find a man. I am pretty sure the Evangelist, Lo Tong Ngan will not be their preacher and let us try to get another man in his place. He is a fine fellow, but has not anything like the spiritual understanding and experience that Lim Hui O Chok has. I shall have to wait until I know more to write further.

I have not my correspondence with me, so do not recall how much I have written you about Hui Chok's big trouble. You know something of the opposition to him headed up in Si I Tek. That had about died down by the time we came away. I Tek has a job elsewhere. But when that dirty work was at its height it helped to cause Hui Chok's younger brother to go off mentally. I do not recall how much of this I told you. It was one of the most serious problems I have had to face at the City. Something had to be done for the boy. He was kept at the S. Gate hospital as long as possible. But he scared the other patients. He couldn't be taken to the Asylum, we did not have time to make arrangements, get information etc., conditions were such he could not be taken home unless the preacher gave up his job and went with him. We hoped a limited stay at a quiet place and proper care would bring him around. I agreed to let them have your nurse's room for him. This was soon found inadequate for the mother and father and Hui Chok himself all had at times to be there. So we gave them the use of my little study. We and our boys also did a great deal to help care for him. The old father is 70 odd years old and the mother, while younger, is not well, and they soon virtually gave out in strength and spirit to see the thing thru. It made a tremendous problem for the preacher. He and we had our backs up against a wall. Care for the boy had to be arranged or the preacher would have to resign his job, else they would have just to let the boy go, which of course we could not do. We finally let them have your servant's room and the kitchen so the preacher's family could come there to live while we are away. Your things and the rest of the house are all locked up and the keys are in our boy's care. I had a very plain talk with the preacher about this use of the property there. It was the best arrangement all around, and I hope it works out for good. I hope also you feel as we did about it. Hui Chok is one of the finest spirits I know in all our field. He faced one of the hardest questions I have seen our Chinese meet. We couldn't withhold these rooms from use when their use might mean so much to him and so much as an expression of our own spirit and attitude towards him.

The boy was much improved about the time we left. We hope he will soon come back to normal. Han Chak's hope is that he can work with Waters when he returns. He says that if the boy is not better or well when we return, he will hire a place somewhere in the City and take the boy there. He realizes we cannot decide to let him stay where he is permanently.

✓ Emily plans to be going back with us this fall. I have raised the question with her about living over in your house. That would put someone in the house as resident and solve the problem of empty house. She would prefer to live with us I know, and we would be glad to have her personally, but there are questions as to what is best for the most effective service. Of course we would take her to meals in any case, but if she had her headquarters in your house it would give both her and us a great deal more freedom and make the problem of entertaining guests much simpler. Alice has much more work going on in the home than in other years. Sometimes we have both had guests at the same time, and it is inconvenient to find places for them situated as we are. It would be much more so if Emily had some at the same time. She will have to make contacts with the people in this way if she is to render a service worth while, as I see it. She will have to plan definitely and do her best to have people come to her, and if she does she should have a place where she can receive them unhampered. Besides it is well worth while to occupy our unoccupied property just at present until we can see our way ahead further. Her decision to go into your place will solve the problem of further use as it is now being used.

Now I can't write more now. This is Wednesday, just a week today since we left Shanghai. It has been raining since Friday, and we are all damp and wishing to see the sunshine again.

Glad for the news of your family. Will write of personal things next time.

Love to all of you from all of us.

Gm.

Mokanahan, via Shanghai, China,

Aug. 12, 1928.

Dear Bob and Lottie,

I haven't written you personally since we came here, but I am sure I have sent you copies of letters in general. I will now enclose a copy of a home letter I sent off some time ago. That will save me writing more in detail.

Howard also had malaria and then a cold, but is about well now. Bessie has a slight cold, but is otherwise normal. How different our summer, especially our August, from what it was last year! We are indeed grateful for this vacation up here. Alice is plumper than I have ever seen her, but has trouble with her arches and does not get out for walks as much as we could desire. It is raining a great deal, which keeps us all in more than is good for us.

Your letter of May 14th is the last news we had from you. Hope you are having a good summer, one that puts the pep back into you all. John marvels at Bessie's size, but the time is not far off when he and Alice will begin to shoot up so we shall not recognize them. We have taken no pictures since we came here. Just to be candid, we are finding expenses too heavy now to waste any on pictures except in real worthwhile things.

You will want to know something of the people we are meeting. I can't begin to tell of them all but a few names you will care especially about. The Nasmiths are just above us on the ridge here. Miss Relyea is our next door neighbor, and the Hylberts a bit further on. Then there are Dr. and Mrs. Huisinga the Claytons, the Benjaminses, and the Deckers, and Dr. and Mrs. Frank Goddard. Their son Stephen was here for a short time then he left for America, Mr. and Mrs. Hipps and Misses Chapin and of the College, Mrs. Sweet.

Have you ever met the Morris of the Southern Presbyterian Mission? Well they are delightful people, and I find that they are supported by a wealthy man of my own home county in Kentucky. Isn't it strange what circumstances we meet as we work around the world. The Olivers, Baptists, in Y. M. C. A. are here, also Miss Peterson, and others. We are enjoying meeting them all.

We have a Sunday School of about 150. Howard was asked to act as assistant superintendent. We are glad for this because it links him actively to religious work. We have had a number of fine things said to us by people here about him, and he is a splendid boy; but we have to admit he is not voluntarily as interested in religious things as we could wish. We are thinking especially about the days ahead when he leaves us for life alone at home next year.

It has rained much this summer. Just now it is interfering greatly with tennis, bathing and walking. But we are not suffering with heat. The tennis and water sports will come off next week. Bessie has had a school mate, Betty Lyons, with her for a month and a half. We are alone now, and glad to have the chance to be alone as a family once more, the last time for a long period. You can realize we are grateful for it, for it is not just the pleasure, it is a problem of cementing the family relationships which are soon to undergo a great strain. And we want to give H. the best we can these last few days that remain to us.

In regard to Tsu Kih.

We saw him in Shanghai. He was undecided about next year. He is engaged to Lu Tioh Khun! They want him to marry now. I am disappointed in her, and tried to prevent the marriage now. I offered Tsu Kih a chance to come here with us for the summer, agreeing to meet all his necessary expenses and then find some \$ 30 or \$40 towards his years school expenses if necessary, he thought he would lack that much. At first he said he would have to go back to Chaochow fu. Later he said he would come here, this decision given over the phone just before we left Shanghai. On arriving here we found we would not have accommodations for him in this house, and I wrote at once to him telling him so. He missed the letter, and came on here. On finding I had written him to go on to Swatow, he decided at once he would not stay here tho we offered to let him room in the room upstairs with Howard. His expenses cost me \$25 , and I got nothing out of it at all. But in reality the mistake was mine in thinking we had accommodations here for servants and finding room only for our cook. So I do not hold it against him. Only in Shanghai I told him repeatedly I was making the offer not because I particularly wanted to use him, but to furnish him an opportunity to meet his expenses for the summer, and he could help me some to make up for the aid I would furnish him in school. Here he told me he came up only because he thought I greatly wanted him. I credit him with truth in the matter, concluding he nor any of them ever believe us when we talk frankly over such a proposition. It must be hard for them to be convinced that any one is actually telling the truth when we appear to be offering them a proposition for their good primarily.

He returned to Swatow. I have not heard from him since, but I presume they will be married. I hope, however, he can hold off for another year.

He represented to me that it was pretty trying to get thru on the funds available for another year. I confess that I do not think he is as self-denying in some matters as he might be, tho I agree that he has a trying situation with the family care as it is. And none of our students seem to have the same attitude about economy that most of us have who have had to earn our education ~~here~~. I suppose we have got to accept this as just a part of Chinese character at this stage of the game. Some said he was not so interested in the life of the church, in spiritual or religious things last summer. I do not know. It is certainly true the students in all of our higher schools are coming in contact with "criticism" of Christian teachings, questioning the virgin birth, the resurrection, the divinity of Christ and such; and no doubt they are less eager and zealous in their Christian lives as a result. But this is unavoidable where their minds are opening up to all truth. The essential thing is to help them to get their feet on solid ground in the end. So I should not worry yet about what will come of him, but we should plan if possible to help him to come to a strong and abiding faith if we can. It is not the time to drop him. If you can send him some good book that will help to pass thru this period well it would be helpful. I must also look after this more.

Now this is getting too long. There are a number of things in general you will be interested in. (1). You know the decision has been reached to reopen the Seminary, and that Lq S. Ku is Chinese president or principal, with Mr. Speicher as the missionary co-principal. Work is supposed to begin this fall.

Some of us feel that this will hurt Waters terribly. But most of us are ignorant of how it all came about. (2). The Chinese asked the Ref. Com. to endorse a request for quite an addition to our budget in order to get the Seminary operating. I do not think the matter passed yet. It came as a correspondence vote. Some of us are kicking on so many important matters coming for such votes. (3). There is a proposal to let the Boulder Point house go over to the Chinese for use. Speicher proposed to forgo his claim to it (he had asked to have it as he is in the Seminary work; his own house to be rented) and turn it over to Ling, R. C. and he go into the Carman house. Objection to voting by correspondence was raised, and a group asked that the matter be held up until later. Now Page says Speicher has approached Ling personally, telling him of his proposal and refuses himself to go into the house in question, and it is suggested that Ling rent it. Some of us insist that if the house is turned over, it should be to the Convention and not to an individual. Speicher knew this when he made his personal proposal. I do not know how it will come out. (4). There is a big proposal in regard to the building of a great big Kakohich Church. The Chinese have VOTED to raise \$10,000 from the Kakohich folks, \$10,000 from the churches of the field, and asked the Ref. Com. to endorse their request that the Board appropriate \$20,000 gold additional for said building. And imagine trying to get the thing thru by correspondence. And yet I saw word from Page this morning that the proposal was voted, with one vote opposing and two still to be heard from. Lewis has written the reasons for his opposition, and I have sent in mine. I was one of those not heard from. Page has sent on his reply to Lewis (does not use his name) and his letter re the matter to Dr. Franklin. I must confess he makes a poor answer to L. and a like presentation of the justification for the appropriation to Dr. Franklin, in my humble judgment. I feel such a serious matter should not have been decided without consultation. He declares the issue settled and has asked Dr. F. for the appropriation, when one member opposed, and two had not been heard from. I am considering resigning from the Com. I cannot sponsor the proposal. I do not want the responsibility for a share in it. (5). The Chaochowfu evangelistic work has at last been turned over to the Klu for administration, I am advised by Lo, who is the present evangelist under that work. I shall just hold my peace until I see how things will go. (6) Waters has been voted again to be the head of the field evangelistic work. But they could not find funds to put another evangelist into the work with him, one besides Lo Khick Meng, I mean. That may be a bit inaccurate. K. M. has been field evangelist this year. It was proposed to have still another one the coming year. It was voted down-- for lack of funds. (But \$20,000 U. S. could be asked for a new church at Kakohich. Can you beat it?) (The Chinese can talk of putting up \$20,000 for one church where the need is not so urgent as it has been in days past and according to Page's general remarks on the education situation, will not be so again soon, but they can't find \$500 to put another man on the field as evangelist. If they say they have no man, it is one thing. But to put the lack of finances as the reason seems a bit strange to me.)

Now I must send this off. Page's letters this morning will give me food for thought and take time for writing.

This brings our love.

We go back about Sept. 7/9

Answer. Ben S. Baker

Chaochowfu, China, Oct. 21, 1938

Dear Bob and Lottie,

In view of the passage of time, the long letter I sent you months ago, and the present conditions I want to write again briefly along the line then discussed.

The enclosed letter tells its own story. It shows where we are on this field at least in trying to carry out the idea of church working with great organization. I fear we are up against a smash of some kind. It is so-called killing business to keep this up. I am eager to get out of it all, that is the "talking, talking, and hearing stories about this one that one etc. You understand. I am at it all the time. This strife about the use of foreign money is enough to drive one wild.

On the other hand there are numbers of really spirit-minded people on our field. There are good preachers as well as politicians. One's opportunity of leading them, moving forward WITH them, in spiritual things is not to be despised. I am just eager to have more of this work. I am tied at present to the machine in its use of a meager \$2,000 Mex.

The opportunity on the field for presentation of religious and particularly Christian teaching was never better. There is as good fellowship with the field churches as far as I have been as we ever had, here in City, Pang Khoi, Phu Lo, Kip Tsui. From the manner of invitation to go to other places, I would think it just as cordial. The storm has blown over, there is no opposition so far as I can see, and people are cordial everywhere I meet them. China needs the gospel and the time is ripe to give it to the people.

Saturday a teacher in Sia-pak came and took me to visit that school. Teachers and pupils were cordial and courteous. Next Friday I have a date with him to go to Kim Sun. I am not sure how it will be there, but Emily has had very nice treatment on part of two of the teachers there in traveling to and from Swatow recently. So it would seem that the people are on the eve of the best treatment they have ever given us. Moves in political matters are helping. Notice has just come that Government wants missions to notify of occupied mission property by unlawful people, and restitution is promised. Foreign oppression will lessen, and cordial relationships are promised by conditions as I see them.

Now in view of all this you should consider your return. We want you, you know. The field has asked you back, and I am asked again and again when you are coming. There was no reference to the matter in the recent meetings. I am sure the Chinese just think the matter is now up to you. I do not think the "organization" is going in any way to interfere with our real evangelistic work. If they can have the funds to mull over they will give us a free way. If there were no funds, I suspect most of the "organization" would fall down. If your heart warms to an opportunity to present the message to people today there is work a plenty. If you want all the responsibility for relationships with the "organization" and let me go out free for preaching and the like I would be happy to death. When I last wrote I felt the conditions under which we would serve would be much more exacting than I see them today. I'd question a new man coming. But one with language and who knows the Chinese already has work to do and no question about it. — I ever share in a call to go with the Gospel. Sincerely — my love — Bob.

Handwritten: Lieber

Handwritten: Dear Alice, just now.
Can't write more.
Greetings to you all.
Ben.

Choochowfu, Oct. 23, 1928.

Dear Alice,

Breakfast over, Rally off for Swatow, I have a busy day ahead. This is "blue Monday" no doubt. I will tell you a bit about it. You will want to know as fully as possible about the whole situation. Will be brief, but try to touch it all.

Last week we had our Choochowfu Field Retreat and Association. The Retreat came first, was fine, and I hope did much good. Attendance was good. Then followed the Association. Khon, our Field Secretary, has a well formed machine. In the Retreat those on the other side were given prominent places, and furnished most of the spiritual feast. A different organization was effected when the Association got down to business. Troubles inside the local church had driven Tea Lou over to the Field group. He and two of Khon's men were made Nominating Com. They presented a schedule of names at a meeting I did not get to, saying that the first names on each Com. was to be chairman of the Com. (and by virtue of that fact members of the Executive Com.) This gave them the power to appoint 6 members of the Chiu-Ui, or Executive Com. for the field. This was not questioned in the Association, most folks were not thinking.

The business transacted was unimportant actually. The local field Council separated out and subdivided into its constituent parts, the various kou, and then prepared individual representatives to report to the Association. Little of this amounted to anything. Most of the "kou" had done little if anything. At another period the Educ. Com. met and discussed their report. This also was wind. The Day's School Trustees met and got a report from the school authorities. Debt of \$130. Actual condition of the school was passed over. Question of next year raised, but nothing done—except I was sounded out. Report to Association amounted to meager talk by the head of Trustees, unfair report by one of the teachers as to cause of the school's condition—actual condition referred to but not definitely stated, and report of Treasurer of the debt. Discussion was on latter point, and efforts made to raise the debt. Partially successful, actual results to be seen later.

The Field Sec. reported on how his time was spent. Made no report of how funds put in his hands were spent. He had already in the ninth month put out a written statement of how last year's funds were spent, this followed the publication of my financial report in the church paper in which was included the items of amounts of money I had paid over to him. He will have to put out a statement for this year later on. I do not think there was any misuse of funds, but he has too much control of the \$ set aside for expenses. Makes him appear too much as the "proprietor". The coming year that fund has already been pretty well divided up, leaving but a sum of some \$30 or so for Com. expenses. The division however works to his power just the same.

The churches reported conditions. Reports much as usual. In some ways just nominal reports. Twenty odd baptisms reported for the field. As all but five of these were ones under Khon's direct administration, baptisms by him, I know little about them. Two of the five here in the City have gone over to the Seventh Days—better feeding after getting what they could from us.

Four morning devotional services led by Ang Sun Hai (Tang-Lin preacher), Baker, Thong Chiak, Tang Chiang Sang (Kin-Chieh preacher) Tang Jia Sui spoke on How to Manifest the Indigenous Church; Khon on

Source of Weakness in our Church, and I on Jerusalem Conference.

The New organization for the coming year was set up, and the Council first met, subdivided into Kou, voted to ask for so much money to operate on the coming year, and prepared to report to Association. Emily and I reported to the Evangelistic Com. (Kou) that Bible Women were to be turned over to them completely for administration, and responsibility was accepted.

Question of Status of the Girl's School and Kindergarten was raised by report of the Ed. Com. (Kou). Now the report here on this is a long story. Briefly it is as follows.

Following upheaval and setting up of the Ling Tong Convention and its sub machinery over the whole field in 1925, my work went under the Convention Council, or its Exec. Com. No Board work was not turned over. After one year Boy's Ed. work was turned over to the Local Field Organization. Ling organization still retained administration of City Evangelistic work, and Girl's Schools were under local church with missionaries cooperating. Funds for all was listed under Ling Tong head by our Secretary (Mission). Last year end we followed suit in having church trustees administer Girl Schools and Kindergarten. This summer while I was away the Special Ev. work in City was turned over by the Ling Tong Exec. Com. to the local field administration- my advice had not been asked, tho I refused to endorse this request a year previous. (It was perpetrated in my absence). Of course, I agree to the principle and want to see such administration, if and when I am assured it will be done sincerely and well. Boy's school's sick condition does not warrant me in believing the move is sincere or gives promise of efficient administration. But that by the way. This indicates the trend of movement in the Ku or Field organization.

Up to the present on this year I find that the local church trustees more or less willing to help manage, but things have been worse than we thought in the schools and finances are heavy. Already we are behind \$100 on G. Schools, and \$30 more than I anticipated on the K. garden. Emily is here and positively refuses to get herself into such a place next year. I also refuse to continue such a policy. So we definitely decided to make the Chinese take the proposition they had cried so far, but were more than willing to have us finance. We put it first up to the Church telling them with emphasis that if they could actually provide for administration we would stand for letting them continue running the schools; if not we were going to definitely put the responsibility on the Field organization. This was done on a called informal meeting Friday before Asso. That Sunday I was in the country. Church had a meeting, but they are in two camps. Outlook was that responsible members would withdraw if a certain group in charge of the meeting got in control. So I finally reported to the Asso. that the G. Schools were under the Asso. but that they must provide for administration that would give the church freedom for activity. They agreed if the church recognized the unity of the Field and that the administration of the work formerly under the missionary belonged to the Field organization, that organization would be more than willing to allow the Church to select any and as much of the work as they could administer on condition that plans for such administration acceptable to the Field Exec. Com. be worked out and presented to them. It is the only working position for us missionaries to take. All depends on honesty of promise.

Following this understanding, when the Field Exec. Com. got in to session they discussed plans, apparently oblivious of any thought of the Church, the no final actions were taken.

Fire was struck when question of next year's Evangelist arose. Exec. Com. all said they favored retaining Lo Tong Kwong, except Toa Lau. He has failed to hit well with Lo. Com. at once seemed ready to discard Lo. Khon's group desire to, but dared not. This gave opportunity, and

they were ready to act, only lacking a man to replace him. Word got to Lo of the situation. He went to country yesterday, leaving a letter for the church giving up his Sunday School work- if as was told him, opposition was based on his possible injuring the church(which was told his was the objection). In the Exec. Com. I had stood for Lo, and urged that Com. ought not to act on one man's objection until they found Lo's actual standing with the Church members.

Yesterday William Tai was here- probably had been sent for- and he presented request that Church state its position in matter of Lo's staying. 22 held up hands as church members. 18 voted to have his stay. And deacons asked to make known wishes of the church to Exec. Com. Toa Lau is most active deacon just now, and refused. Others were asked to do it. There is a split in the church and this will define boundaries. Pot is boiling. Some accuse the younger folks, a few of them, of forming a group with Lo, and actually having fellowship with Si- the man every body says gets out the published accusations now and then. I do not know actual facts. I can't believe it bad as that. But it is a pit sinister that a few of the young men, never active in the church before, should be so suspected by some of our members of long standing and experience.

Following the action in regard to Lo, question of the status of Girl's School came up. I made a detailed report going back to 1925, ending with reference to the meeting the previous Friday week and following Sunday referred to above, and telling them finally, positively the work formerly under the missionaries- foreign missionary activity- work done with foreign money- was now under the Field Organization. No going back any more on that. I assured them over and again that the Field Exec. Com., yes, the Field Council- to both of which bodies they recognized their relation by sending delegates- had definitely voted that the Church should have the right to conduct any activity at the Common centre they showed they could really administer. This was understood clearly. Then came discussion and action. Those present- and by this time they were limited in number, mostly belonging to the young group- voted they would plan to run the girl's school. It was not official action for we did not have a quorum of members. On adjourning I was soon told that if things went that way those who have made the church in the past would break away. One group is happy and one is cross. The outlook is anything but pleasant. With the church in this fix and the Field pursuing machine methods, I can't see where we are coming out. To keep money going into this mess is wrong. If they do not get over this foolish mess and some advance program arranged, I am for cutting out all appropriations to this center until they come to their senses. All the turmoil and the mess when it comes to working together arises largely over the use of these foreign funds.

The more I see of what is going on the more I feel that the authority to appropriate funds from abroad- not their administration, but the say as to whether there are to be funds or not and how much - should rest in the mission. If I had the say now as to whether there would be any money for boy's school and for the special evangelistic work, and Emily could say the same for the Women's work, we could put the quietus on all this mess in a few days. The trouble is they all think the funds are CERTAIN. Our advice may be deferred to, but there will not be any real failure to have the FUNDS, such is their psychology. There would have been no split in the various groups had they known we could stop the funds at once. But when they are thought of as Ling Tong Funds it is all right to fuss and fight I am very frequently hearing this now from the Chinese themselves, the who do not desire to get the power of financial control. I am thinking my way to a position when the matter of funds comes up. REQUEST for the next year's funds were not even considered, taken for granted, in the whole Asso meetings. I wasn't even asked to consider requests. I expect to be at the MEETING when they are requested, you can wager on that.

*and all
Please save
return to
L.H.H.*

Mokanshan, via Shanghai,

June 24, 1928.

Dear Ones at Home,

Alice and I left Chaochowfu the 8th. Two days we spent at Kakohieh and the night of the 8th we spent on our steamer at the wharf at Swatow, sailing at daybreak the 9th. We had a very pleasant trip to Shanghai, most of the time the sea being like a great lake. We were grateful, for it gave us opportunity to rest, and we needed it.

It rained on us on the way and we landed in Shanghai in rain. But Shanghai is pretty modern, and we made the transfer there to a place to stay without particular inconvenience, thanks to motor cars and trucks. Children were well and in the midst of examinations. We had all we could do to get ready for coming here. We hoped to get off Saturday the 16th, the day after school closed; but owing to political unrest people have not been coming up here for the past two years, and we found we had to make a lot of inquiries and some unusual preparations if we wished to come up before July first. We finally got things ready and left Shanghai Wednesday morning at 8:05. Another indication that China is becoming modern is, we purchased our tickets right here to this house thru a China Travel Service, who took charge of us much like Cocks would and saw us safely here. It was a blessing to us, for we could not speak a word of this Chinese, and it is a trip of 150 miles, first four and a half hours by train, transfer, then 15 minutes again by train, transfer, then, ordinarily 4 hours by launch, but we had three and then four more by houseboat, and then three hours by chair coming up the mountain. They had English speaking Chinese at the various places where we transferred and on the trains and the launch and at the place where we got chairs. The trip was easily made.

There was just one hitch. Owing to shallow water in the river the launch could not get all the way to the place where we got chairs, and as I indicated they had to transfer us to a houseboat. This made us four hours late, and instead of arriving here at 8 in the evening we made it at about 1 A. M. Thursday. Some of the Chinese have done some dreadful things, it cannot be denied; but on the whole they are a wonderfully dependable people. Think of us four and a girl companion who came up with us to spend some weeks with Bessie, arriving at a river side at nine o'clock at night in a place where we had never been, unable to speak a word of their language, with this place some three hours further away on top of a mountain, the heavens dark and cloudy after a day of continued rain, our baggage all separated from us in the care of another houseboat, and no protection, humanly speaking, but the goodwill of the Chinese. And then remember also that they put us thru in splendid shape, and delivered our baggage in tact, except for a tin of butter that was lost from a package that broke open at the station in Shanghai. We were entirely at their mercy. They took care of us in a manner worthy of the best of us. They bought our tickets, checked our baggage, looked after us in transfers, had our chairs and carry-men ready and despite the night and the weather sent us right on to this hill-top as the it were day. And while we all thought of what might happen, none of us feared for a minute. Those in charge of us were both efficient and wholly trustworthy. This ought to be known by folks who are forming new opinions of the Chinese today. We are most cordially greeted by all the Chinese we meet here. Do not judge them all by their worst ones.

Mokanshan is quite a settlement. There are over 800 houses listed in the little booklet issued by the China Service Association. This would make quite a little community if all were occupied. Most of them belong to foreigners. A few Chinese families have come up, but we are among the first foreigners to arrive this season. The day after we arrived a young lady called, announcing that the "whole foreign community" had come to see us at once. And so it proved. She and we were all the westerners who had arrived up to yesterday. We think some more came last night-- in a pouring rain.

Most of these houses are scattered about on one mountain. A thick growth of bamboos up to two inches in diameter cover the mountain, except for roads, about the houses and the garden spots. There is also much other undergrowth mixed with the bamboos, so it is much like a wilderness. Paths, most of them stone-paved, go in all directions. We were so busy getting fixed up the first day or two and it has rained so much since that we have done little exploring. We have a postoffice, police headquarters, telegraph office, a church and a large assembly hall. A big swimming pool will be available when others get up and get the water turned on. We shall also have tennis. There will be plenty of walking, the we shall miss the trips to such places as we have at Tsaiyong, such as the Canyon, the falls and such places.

One of the Shanghai stores opens up a store here the first of July. We had to bring up supplies to last us until that time. We were concerned about what we might meet in this line aside from these boxed stores, but really we had no need to fear. Before we had been here a day the Chinese came bringing various things for sale. They have gardens, and as we are the first comers and they want to sell, we have all we need for the present. We have had beans, two green vegetables, potatoes, peaches, squash, bamboo shoots, chickens, eggs, milk all offered for sale already. We lost one two pound tin of butter on the way and we shall run short in that, but we shall not lack in other things. The house is convenient and comfortable, the badly out of repair. It is a question if it will be safe if a heavy storm comes. But we can only watch and take our chances. It is not substantially built and the ants have been at work the past two years, and extensive repairs will have to be made to make us thoroughly comfortable. But we can get along as it is vacation.

We brought our cook along, and we are glad. All the rest of the work we shall do ourselves, sending out some of the wash. The three young folks are taking hold nicely, every body cheerfully doing his share. We are rather expecting a boy friend of Howard's up soon for a while, and if he comes we shall have a lively household.

In the kitchen is an old small cooking stove. It is our cook's first experience with such a thing, he knowing only charcoal stoves. We have wood for fuel. It looked very dubious at first. But to date charcoal is not available, so he has to learn, and I am glad to say he seems to be getting along famously. The stove cooks well, which makes it easy for him to get adjusted. Friday afternoon the stove pipe suddenly fell down as supper was in progress. I was greatly annoyed. The fire was going and the smoke hole emitting its contents into the room. I could see everything getting all black and smoky, and got busy trying to stop the old pipe. The cook was unmoved. He declared the pipe was no good, said the houseman said a tinsmith could be called in the morning, and it would be all right. His charcoal stoves thus send their fumes and smoke into the kitchen, the under cover and with a flue to draw them off, and he took this very calmly. I moved out and left it to him. It turned out all right. We improvised a fire for the night and the next morning, and the tinsmith came and put us into shape.

Now it is Monday afternoon. A month's hard going before we left Swatow, then the days in Shanghai, very strenuous ones, and getting into order here, this was followed by a period of relaxation which we are not yet over. We just want to sleep morning, afternoon and night. Of course, the higher altitude also helps to make us feel the change. We are about 2000 feet up. Friday was a beautiful day, but it has been raining ever since. Weren't we fortunate to get up as we did. It looked as if the rain stopped just long enough to give us the trip up the mountain and two days to get settled. We can't do a thing out of doors. On going to Taiyong we always carried a lot of old shoes for the rainy days. We miss them here. There there is no undergrowth to bother one in walking. Here the roads are lined so closely that one can hardly walk along them when it rains without getting wet from the touch of the branches. So we have stuck pretty closely to the house. It doesn't matter much for we need the time to rest up.

We left directions to have our mail forwarded when we were at Swatow. So far not a single thing has come. We do not understand. I suspect our letters and papers will get badly mixed up, and no doubt we shall lose a part of it. Hope nothing important goes astray. If we do not reply to something you have written recently, you will understand.

Children are both well. Bessie is fat as a mole. Howard is thinner, but is in good health. He has been engaging in athletics, running several races just before close of school. He won several races, and was awarded three letters for his good record in athletics. He has also been elected president of the Moritory Council for next year and is vice-president of his class. For these things you know we are glad.

We never hated more to leave the work at Chaochowfu than we did this year; we had been so short a while actually on the job the outlook was so promising, and the need for us so plain, it was hard to pick up and leave. But this is our last chance to help mold Howard's character by direct influence for a long time, and it is critical. We have to talk over the matter of what college he is going to next year, and we have to help him plan, for he will have to earn a good part of his expenses. We are not able to finance him wholly even the first year. Besides I am hoping we can get more insight into what he should be planning for as a life-work. In view of the fact that we are thus facing one of the most important periods of relationship with our boy this summer, I hope you will join us in prayer that we may be led aright in making our decisions. It was for this and to safeguard Bessie from our South China climate that we were willing to come away so early and so far and stay the summer.

We are very glad to have Bessie's friend, Elizabeth Lyons, with us. She and Bessie get along beautifully. Elizabeth is two years younger, but taller than Bessie. She is fond of housework and is helping to interest Bessie. They are making candy now. If they do not bother the cook too much they will probably spend a lot of time in the kitchen. He is a fine fellow and will put up with a lot of bother.

Now that gives you our first impressions and early experiences at this resort. You will hear more during the summer. We are hoping the little colony will begin to grow by the end of the week. If any others have come up the hill we have seen nothing of them. But July first will surely bring them.

Hope you are all well. Now I wish I had money enough to give all of you a summer at one of these places. You would learn a great deal about China and incidentally about us missionaries. You would probably not enjoy it so much as at some place at home, however.

(Mokansen via Shanghai,)

July 29, 1923.

Dear Folks at Home,

It seems the more time we have the less we give to you; we have been here now nearly a month and a half and I have sent you only one message or so. Alice has sent others, but you have not had what was your due. However, it isn't that we have neglected you. We have been trying to get a little vacation, that is all. I am getting this started this Sunday afternoon, and hope to get it in the mail for you tomorrow morning early.

We have rested and have gotten back some of our pep. Bessie had a bad spell with a little boil in her ear, fortunately the outer ear, tho it gave her quite enough pain to make her suffer and kept us up with her at night. But she is fat and plump and quite happy. She is big for her age, but we find that there are others. The girl, Elizabeth Lyons, who is with us this summer, is two years younger than Bessie, but taller even than Bessie, tho not so heavy. We are relieved to find this as it does not make Bessie so different from others in her class this fall, she has been kept back by sickness so, as you know. Howard got a sun-headache, apparently, which put him to bed. The congestion settled about one eye and that was closed a while. Finally we got ahead of that, he was out yesterday on a job he got for a few days, and took cold and has been in bed all day to-day. He has not plumped up as Bessie has, but we hope he will get back to better condition when this blows over. He gained after getting here on horse oats, and put on all the flesh he wanted. He does not want to get too fat for he is interested in athletics. Alice is looking as well as I ever saw her, but can't stand long walks. I am about as usual; feeling much more like doing something now than when we came here. I laugh and tell Howard he got sick today for a purpose. He was elected Assistant-Superintendent of the S. School. The Sup't went off on a week's hunt with a party and left the job to H. He should have conducted the service this morning. It fell to me as he was in bed. I tell him I think he will quickly get well now. We had about 145 at S. School this morning, so you see we have quite a little community now.

Wallace and Homer will be especially interested in the fact that we have deer hunting right on this mountain where we are living. A friend told us about it some days ago and a bit later came over with a leg of venison. I went out with him after that and he got a shot at a deer within a half mile of where I am sitting. The mountain is a good big one, the slopes long and covered with bamboo groves and undergrowth, and deer and wild boars find splendid habitats in the wilderness, coming right up to our doors nearly at night to eat from the gardens of the Chinese who raise vegetables and corn for the foreign community, and peanuts for themselves. A number of men went off some ten miles from here for a ten day's hunt on Friday. I wasn't invited to join them, tho I wouldn't have gone if I had been, but one of them borrowed my gun, having left his own at home. About us on three sides the mountainous country extends off into the distance as far as we can see. So wild life has plenty of roaming space.

I was warned not to shoot a wild hog even with buck shot if he was a big one. They are said to be one of the most vicious of wild animals when hurt. The folks here say they have plates of thick skin that prove protection even against buck shot. They are hunted with rifles. I didn't see any that morning we were out, tho we did see where they had apparently been after the corn. We had to follow paths and hunt from them and over tracts where the undergrowth had been out for fuel some time ago. Where it had not been out it was over one's head and of course not suited for hunting. Thanks to the Chinese there are good paths that lead all about over the mountains.

I haven't been able to get over the view of these mountains thus covered with all this vegetation. We are further south by six hundred miles and in the tropics, but our hills are mostly bare or else covered with short grass. We have none of this deer hunting, nor do we hear much of other animals of any size. The fuel problem seems much more urgent down with us than here. But we are here some 150 miles from the coast, while I have never been further than 80 miles from it down south. I do not know how it is further inland.

We have been surprised that it gets so warm here at times. We have no thermometer, but we hear folks talk of temperatures of 90 to 95. at times. Usually so far such heat for a few days is followed by storms with cold. But we cannot understand the way the mercury goes up. We are no higher than this at Thaiyong and 600 miles further south, and we rarely have that heat up there. I believe Thaiyong is cooler than here. Perhaps it is due to the higher mountains about Thaiyong. Here we are on the top of the world, as it were, higher mountains are but little above us. There we have some 1000 feet higher all about us.

Now it is Monday morning. I did not get finished as I wished to do. Howard is still in bed. The cold hangs on and he keeps a bit of temperature. It is hard on him to lose so many days out of his vacation. I am wondering, tho, if this is not being allowed to come to him to give him experience. It is better now than when he is in school. We all have to learn the lessons in suffering, disappointment, trials. To have everything go just the way we want it all the time, or most of the time, does not seem to be best for any of us. At least few of us ever have such an experience. We know the trials, tho we never want them, can be made to bring us good. He is having an experience that is a part of life for most of us, and I hope he gets a blessing out of it.

Last evening it was my experience to give the family a little wild animal show. I was out at dusk looking after the swimming pool for Howard (it is his responsibility this week or so) and in a little ravine above the pool I saw what looked like a large rat running along rocks lying by the road. He came my way and I struck it with a stick I carried for walking. It was too dark to see well, but as near as I could tell the thing fell into a drain. I poked in and felt something soft, but it was a ball, and not a rat. As the rat did not run away I was puzzled. I saw no ball there before I struck. So I kept prodding the ball until I flung it out on to the road. Still I could not see well enough to tell what I had. Finally I got long straws of grass and putting them around the ball and the stick underneath I managed to get the thing here to the house. It proved to be a little hedge hog. He is larger than a big rat, has a sharp, pointed nose, feet like a mole's and for hair has long spikes $3/4$ an inch long that look very much like victrola needles. As soon as he is touched he rolls into a ball, with head and feet drawn together, and presents only a sphere's surface of prickly spikes to his enemy. We have all been much interested. We kept him over night, and all enjoyed studying him this morning. Now Alice has taken him over to the Kindergarten for the youngsters to see.

Samuel S. Baker

House 369 Mokansan via Shanghai,

Aug. 3, 1938.

Rev. and Mrs. R. T. Capen,
c/o S. S. Present Grant,
Seattle, Wash., U. S. A.

Dear Friends,

Capens letter from Chicago in May came to hand o. ki I was very glad to have this bit of personal touch with you people. As you note, I am counting on you keeping to the schedule therein declared, and this letter, I hope, will grant you as you bid old U. S. goodbye. As you leave friends there it will not be amiss to get welcome from those over on this side of the world. We are so pleased the plans provide for the return of the two of you together; and may China's welcome to you this time be such as to give you health and strength to do all the things you have in your hearts to do for her.

As you see, we are here for the summer at Mokansan. It is a lovely place, and we are greatly enjoying and appreciating the opportunities of meeting folks. There are no well over 300 up here in this little community. Aside from a few days it has not been hot, and we have much to enjoy. We are about as high as Thaiyong, but it seems as if at times it gets hotter here. We miss the Thaiyong all day trips and the beautiful spots we visit there; but there is much beauty here, and plenty of walking of a kind. It is better here for those who care for more level walking, if they do not require a different road each time.

We have a swimming pool (which, however, for the children does not equal some of those in Thaiyong, especially Trident) and tennis. But for some reason there have been a number of cases of ear, and tooth and eye troubles, and headaches, that appear to be connected with the bathing. Bessie had a several day trouble with an ear, and Howard is just out after ten days in with terrible headache that closed up one eye, then a cold and malaria following that. But for all their miseries they still love to bathe. We have a big auditorium for meetings, with Sunday School with attendance over 140, service at 11 a. m. and 5 p. m. and prayermeeting on Wednesday. Friday afternoon is stunt afternoon. Tuesday evening is concert evening. So there is plenty going on. We also have a library, and all are doing their full share of reading. The mountain is covered with vegetation, most of it over one's head plus thickly standing bamboos, and deer can be found even within half a mile from where I am sitting. A group have the past week been off on a hunt. No word yet of their luck. We are here with the children, and will take them back to school and return to Swatow early in Sept.

Dorothy Campbell arrived here last night. She and we are all the Swatowites here. She reports things quiet at Swatow. It has been hot, and a number are suffering with heat. Page, Velva and Miss Sellmann are holding the Kakohioh fort. Lewises, Abbie and Emily are at Unkung. Speichers are at Kuliang. Bousfields have just left on furlough. Adams family are at Onseefoo, Elsie is in Hong Kong, where Miss Cullley has just arrived.

Now this is Sunday. It looks like getting this to you at Seattle. Looking up the boat schedules I find I am already too late. But I can reach you in Japan. I hope you will take the thought and intention for the deed, tho it will not mean the same to you of course.

We wonder if you will trans-ship in Shanghai or go on to Hong Kong. In any case we shall be gone when you get to Shanghai. Wish we might have the pleasure of the trip down with you.

We shall be interested to know how the children are, and where you are leaving them. You are leaving them for a long time, and we are facing the same thing in a slightly different way in the case of Howard. Unless by some miracle which we do not now see as thing of, we shall not see him again before he goes to the States. He finishes the coming year, and we do not see any way yet of getting up here to see him off next summer. Bessie by being sick so much has lost time, and so will not be going for some time yet; a bad thing in one way, yet with its compensations, since it gives us more time with her.

There isn't much news in connection with the work. You know of course that the Chinese have voted to reopen the Seminary this fall. Lo Siab Ku and Mr. Speicher were elected co-principals. Plan is to take in one class this fall for preparatory study. All, I think, of our Hakkio missionaries have been asked to take some part in the teaching of this class, most of them giving short courses in history or the sciences, so I have been advised since we came here. Apparently there is no attempt to link this work up with the Academy. I do not know the terms or requirements. The course is a three year one, I think.

The Shanghai papers report some activities on part of the Reds, but Dorothy Campbell had heard little of it. It would appear that kidnapping and robbing are not so prevalent as they were this time last year or even in the past spring. I should think field work will rapidly become possible now, and the opportunity is promising. All the propaganda, so much of it falsehood, is certainly reacting in our favor, and evangelistic work should be pressed. It remains to be seen how much of it we missionaries can do.

You have heard of the death of Tang Si Chiang. It was very sad, and leaves us crippled. So far we have had no word of serious illness at Kakehioh of any of our force. But Dorothy says there is a good deal of typhoid. Let us hope the dysentery is quiescent this summer.

I shall have to stop now. This brings our best wishes and most hearty welcome.

Fraternally,

Baker

In reply to letter of 10/29/28
Ans'd.

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION
CHAOCHOWFU, VIA SWATOW
CHINA.

REV. AND MRS. E. S. HILDRETH

Chaochowfu, Oct. 31, 1928.

Dear Lottie,

Your letter dated Oct. 1, came today. It is good to get this further word of you. You are certainly a loyal good friend, true to the core, and Bob just like you, only he didn't write and you did. But of course we know it is from both of you in spirit.

I can't write long, for I sent you a communication on the 21st; but I want to save my soul. You deserve not to have to wait for replies to your letters, and you will get your deserts this time at least.

Long since you have had advice that we are a divided family. You know it is hard on both of us. Alice is worked to the limit, it would appear, got into a much more exacting and demanding job than we were thinking, much of it being due to the rush of the opening of the most prosperous year S. College has had, so far as student attendance is concerned. So we are separated. I will forward this letter tomorrow to her. I have one here from her today, copy, which she had intended sending you, then in the rush neglected it, and finding it wondered if she had failed to send to me. It tells its own story. I shall not repeat.

Emily is in your home all right, living in these two north rooms. We eat together here. So far she has not had many guests or callers. But we both plan to be in the City nearly every day, taking our noon meals in there. She has my office and I moved to a room under the auditorium, the most unsatisfactory room, but the one available at the time. We have Mus Phai and Thag Tshang, latter at home now on account of reported death of brother. Cook raises question if he is coming back, or if he does whether he will stay long. So we are on the lookout for another boy. Fact is we simply can't get along with just the two men. They can do it all right when they are well and here, but in case of illness or we are away, one of with boy and other wants to be in City, it is an awkward situation. Lu Chhin is with ~~(Gardner)~~ also Gek Sia.

I can write you better about the Sem. after I have been down for three weeks teaching this coming month. I am wondering where we are myself. Speichers go home in Feb. He has it all planned so as not to need foreign direction while he is away, but expects all of us to give time on the staff; first it was one month a year, now two. I am not sure how it will work out. Waters will soon be here, we hope, and then we shall better size up how things stand. Waters house has been turned over to the Ling Tong, and they allowed Academy Trustees to have it for Principal Ling. Ling was the one who wanted it first.

Board writes they are sending fuller letter re the Kak-chich Church. This also was or is Ling's pet project. So far as I can find on this field there is no enthusiasm for it whatever. I do not believe for a minute that the field will raise anything like \$10,000. Kakchich may, but they get five to one if they do if the Board agreed to their proposal. Our Association met recently, but nothing was done in regard to this proposal. It means about \$1,000 from this field too. They squirmed much under the Ling Tong levy of some \$140 or so.

The City church subscribed and has paid up to date on the preacher's salary. Subscriptions amounted to some \$370. They have paid Ling 11 months and there is still a balance on hand, this besides all other expenses which will amount to from \$80 to \$100. Bessie and Howard have \$10 in the \$370, but none of it is mine, tho mine went largely for the expenses. This year they are paying several \$ a mo. on janitor. Do you wonder that the devil got busy. Things were beginning to move. I am hoping we may yet steer the ship clear of the rocks. Gou Mok-su has been called for the next year. Fear he will not prove so strong as him. Lim goes to the Kakochio Hospital. It Tehai to Phou Iah Sia. Lim Tzu Liu to Kia Lat. Lo T. Hwang will probably stay here as evangelist. Will send a report on Association later.

Now about your check. Lottie, it is just lovely of you and Bob to want to do this for "the-grown-ups". We appreciate the fact that you want to with gratitude we cannot express. And it overcomes me to have you speak of your doing it out of regard for us, as expression of what your hearts feel towards us. You should not speak of what we have done for you. In no way is it what you have ever been doing for us. I have hurt you as you have never hurt me. I can only say that was out of love, but for you it was hurt just the same. And you have been our true friends despite all. I do appreciate your friendship more than I can say. It is a sacred friendship. And for that reason it seems like hallowed money when you send this check, hallowed so that we are in no sense worthy to receive it. I am sending it on to Alice, telling her I wouldn't for the world seem unappreciative or hurt you, but I do not see how we can accept it. A small remembrance, or even a letter without anything, is all needed to express your regard for the children. You are not rich, and so should not make such gifts to them. You are so thoughtful: you know when the children's birthdays come. Perhaps Alice knows about those of John and Alice. I have to confess to being a dumb brute with his nose to the wheel, who is not big enough in friendships to know little things. If Alice deposits this check, just let us credit it on your account and take the spirit of your offering for ourselves. We shall think just as much of you, and somebody else will be blessed also. If she should put it to the credit of the children's college funds, then it will but be a seed that must bring forth fruit for the college days of your kiddies. They will come along after Howard at least is out of college. Bessie, poor girlie, is having a much harder time. I rather think she is out out to do something worth while without the regular cut and dried college training. We shall see. God bless you for your love, love for us all from all of you.

By the way you sent a check for your account while we were at Mokanshan. I think I acknowledged it. But as a matter of fact I have misplaced it, and have not been able to find it since I came back here. I may have left it with Alice. Will look thru your correspondence again and write her. You can hold up payment until you hear from me again. The papers covering your account are partly here and partly in Shanghai. Can't make a statement to you now. A Tzu wants more than the \$2.00 a mo. in addition to tuition. I may allow her more for Tzu Kui's sake. But I rather fear she is not doing so well as she might. I shall keep her in mind, and advise you further.

Thanks for the pictures. It is good to look into the faces of you all. I shall try to get some of myself at Kakochio. Alice wanted to send from Mokanshan, but we did not get much of value there. I do not know if she has since sent anything.

This brings love for all of you from all of us.

Ben