

FACULTY REPORT OF
NANKING THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1937 - 1938

by
Pres. Handel Lee

Gratefulness. It is very hard to make any report to you this year which is a most unusual year and which is unprecedented in history. I hardly know how to report or what to report. But there is one thing that comforts our hearts and encourages our faith, and that is that every member of the staff and faculty and their families have been kept well and safe by His Almighty hand during the past difficult months. His grace is abundantly rich for every one that loves Him. His grace is, indeed, abundant as the Psalmist has said, "For Thy mercy is great above the heavens", and "The earth, O Lord, is full of Thy mercy". We have learned that this is true in every sense from our own experiences of the past months. I will report briefly the work and condition of the Seminary during the year.

Our Baccalaureate sermon was preached by the most distinguished educator and missionary, Dr. Arthur J. Bowen, on June 20th; and the Commencement address was given by the noted scholar and General Secretary of the National Christian Council, Dr. W. Y. Chen, on the 22nd of June. The messages of these two speakers helped the graduates as well as all who attended these services. We are very grateful to them for giving us these most splendid and inspiring messages.

We graduated nineteen students. Three received the degree of Master of Religious Education, seven graduated from the Tao Hsueh Course with five receiving the Tao Hsueh degree, and nine from the Refresher Course. I am very glad to report that, as far as we know, graduate, except one, is working in the church as preacher of the Gospel or teacher of the Bible to the younger generation. They are all doing good work for the Kingdom of the Lord.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACULTY

Dr. C. Stanley Smith, Vice-President of the Seminary, was granted extension of furlough for one more year in order to enable him to complete his Ph. D. work at the Divinity School of Yale University. Word has come from him that he is expecting to finish all his work and to receive his degree. We congratulate him upon his success in his studies. We earnestly hope that Dr. and Mrs. Smith will return in the autumn to help the Seminary. We have missed them the past two years and their speedy return will be highly welcomed by us all.

Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Flopper took their regular furlough this past year. They have also taken studies in their fields of interest at the Divinity School of Yale University. They have been doing good work. We have missed them so much during this year, and we hope very earnestly that they will return in the autumn.

Rev. and Mrs. Frank W. Price also took their regular furlough this past year. Rev. Price is also taking studies in the Divinity School

of Yale University. He has been doing good work. Aside from his regular studies he has been active in speaking and in raising funds for relief work in China. We hope that they will return early this fall to help the Seminary.

Prof. H. L. Sone is the Acting Treasurer and Chairman of the Property Committee of the Seminary. He has been undertaking a very heavy load in the Seminary because we have so few faculty members left this year. He has worked hard and sometimes I was afraid that he was overworking and would impair his health. Ever since the beginning of last December, he has been doing relief work among the refugees. He has forgotten himself in helping those poor people who were in need and distress. Later he was made General Director of the International Committee for which he was admirably qualified. He has put himself wholly, without reserve, into the relief work. Many thousands of refugees in Nanking can witness that Mr. Sone has manifested the Heart and Spirit of Christ. We are proud of our Seminary that one of its members has rendered a service of such lasting value to the people.

Besides his work for the International Committee, Mr. Sone has protected our property from damage. Without his being at the Seminary all of our buildings would likely have been torn down and things carried away. He has helped the Seminary to save thousands of dollars. He has also helped to protect the personal things of the staff members. We are all very grateful to him. He was separated from his family for nearly ten months. His family are now in Shanghai. We extend to him every good wish. May the good Father bless him and his family.

Dr. Ralph A. Felton. Dr. Felton took his family to Japan last summer. Because he could not come back in the fall, he went to Korea to help the Seminary at Seoul. He has been doing good work. He came to Shanghai the early part of March. He then went to Poochow and Peiping to hold Pastors' Conference. They are greatly benefitted by his presence and his leadership. Dr. Felton has written a very excellent report. I hope that all of you can read it.

Mr. Paul T. H. Chen. Mr. Chen has served the Seminary faithfully for seven years. He was granted a fellowship for study in America and went last autumn. He is in the Library School of Illinois University, Urbana, Illinois. We have heard that he is doing good work. He has been worrying a great deal about his family. We are very sympathetic with him. He is planning to stay one more year in the States. We wish him success and relief from worry about his family.

Rev. Francis P. Jones. At our last Board of Managers Meeting, Rev. Jones was invited to join the Seminary faculty as a representative of the Methodist Mission to teach in the Departments of New Testament and Music. He is now at the Union Theological Seminary, New York City. We hope that Rev. and Mrs. F. P. Jones will come in the autumn. We shall be most happy to welcome them to the Seminary.

Mr. Tao Chung Liang. Mr. Tao stayed in the Seminary and has been in charge of the Refugee Camp there. There were over three thousand refugees, both men and women, in the buildings and on the campus of the Seminary from the last of November to February 4; about one thousand, largely women and girls, from February 5 to April 9 to May 16th. He has been very diligent in caring for the poor.

The other staff members and their families have gone to other places for safety. Some are in Hunan and Hupeh, some in Chekiang, some in Anhwei, and some in Shanghai, and so forth. We are very thankful that, tho so widely scattered, everyone is well and safe. The love of the good Father has been shown to us and His promise to keep His own safe has been fulfilled. Praise the Lord.

The Fall Term of the Seminary was scheduled to open on September 20th. When the fighting was begun in Shanghai in August, the Governing Faculty met on the 28th of that month and decided to postpone the opening of the Fall Term to the 30th of September.

We opened on September 30th as scheduled. I led the opening exercises in the morning and preached on "My peace I give unto you". There were eight faculty and staff members and twelve students present. A few days after the opening a few more staff members and students came. The regular class work began on October 6. The morale of both the faculty and students was very good. Preparations were made to meet the emergency. A special Committee was appointed to study the situation and also to find possible places in case we should have to move the Seminary. The Committee members were: Prof. H. L. Sone, Dr. Li Tien-lu, Mr. Chow Ming I, and Rev. Handel Lee.

Many meetings were held and no practical solution was ever reached. Up to November 17th our intention was to move the Seminary to Hupeh or Hunan. At the same time Mr. Tseo Ping I was asked to go to find possible places. He left for Hankow immediately. A Committee on Transportation was appointed. The members were: Prof. H. L. Sone, Chairman, Mr. Chow Ming I, Rev. Tseo Ping I, Chang Keh Siang. The Business Committee were to take charge of baggage. The members were: Rev. Newton Chiang, Chairman, Wang Wen Tien, Chu Ching Tsu, Sung Yuen Li, Wu Sing Tang, Wang Kao Tung, and Tao Chung Liang.

The Transportation Committee worked very hard trying to get accommodations to go west. Every effort was made and nothing could be gotten at all. After the 19th of November there were only a few faculty and staff members left in Hanking. They were: Dr. Li Tien-lu, H. L. Sone, Handel Lee, Chow Ming I, Chu Pao Hwei, Tao Chung Liang, Wang Wen Tien, and Mrs. Li, the matron. Under these circumstances, and with less than a handful of faculty members, it would have been impossible to carry on the regular work, even if we could have gotten transportation.

A Governing Faculty meeting was called on November 22nd. After discussing the various problems such as the small number of teachers, the restlessness of both faculty and students, no transportation available, etc., we decided to suspend the class room work temporarily and to resume the work at the call of the Governing Faculty. The actions taken were:

1. Voted to suspend class room work temporarily and to resume the work at the call of the Governing faculty.
2. Voted that we pay to all our faculty and staff members full salary to the end of our fiscal year, which is June 30th.
3. Voted that faculty and staff members who are leaving Hanking be given a travel allowance of fifteen dollars per person, and the same amount be given for each child. (A girl who

is married or a boy who is working shall not be given this allowance.)

4. Voted to return the balance of the board fee to the students and that the Treasurer be allowed to loan to each student some travel money which would be taken up with the Missions. The loan shall not be over thirty dollars.
5. Voted that the servants who are willing to stay may do so, and if any should wish to leave, let him do so.
6. Voted that the students who have work scholarships be paid to the end of December.

Since the suspension of the class work on November 22nd all have left Nanking, except Prof. H. L. Sone, Mr. Tao Chung Liang and Mrs. Li, the matron. For several months the Seminary staff has been widely scattered and the whereabouts of the staff for some time were unknown to each other. Later Dr. P. F. Price and Dr. Andrew C. Y. Cheng and others did a real service to the Seminary by printing the Information Bulletins, giving the news and whereabouts of our staff members and students. This Bulletin has fulfilled a real need and has helped many people by relieving their anxiety for their friends and loved ones. We appreciate the good work that they have done in Shanghai.

I will add a few words about my-self. After the decision to suspend class work, I planned to go to Hohsien to join my family for two weeks of rest. I fully expected to return to Nanking on December 10, but it was impossible to go back at that time, so we lived in Hohsien city. Later we found it too dangerous to live there any more so we moved to a small village which is about twelve li from the city. We have had many exciting experiences. We continued to live there until the time that we returned to Nanking on April 2nd. Although we have suffered material losses, yet every member of the family is well and safe. We have evidence that the good God has been with us in time of peace and in time of danger.

Since my return to Nanking, I have been busy again with my Seminary work and with calls to do religious work in the Refugee Camps. I am glad that we came back and still have a little chance to catch up with the work and to give our little share in His work.

We are now confronting many problems - difficult ones - for which we need your guidance and above all the guidance of God so that we may follow His will, not ours. We need your constant prayers that we may be guided to do exactly what He wants us to do and to glorify His Name. Amen.

Respectfully submitted by
Harold Lee