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COLLEGE FILES
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Benedict, Walter J	1935
Bingham, Brewster	1941
Bishop, Merlin	1941

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March - 16 - 17

March 13, 1935

Rev. Walter J. Benedict
12 Read Avenue
Crestwood
Tuckahoe, N. Y.

Dear Benny:

I remember our appointment on March 16-17. I am writing you to ask you how you can direct me to come to your place. I shall be back in New York again on Friday, March 15th, and you can write me at 150 Fifth Avenue about the details. I shall be glad to come to your place for Saturday evening for a visit, and if you desire, I could stay over on Sunday evening. I shall also remember to bring my motion picture films with me. They are of 16 milo-meter size, and you will need a projector as well as an operator, if you would like me to show them to your people on Sunday evening.

As I told you when you were in Hartford, I would like to have some opportunity of good contacts that will bring certain substantial contributions to our work at Fukien. If you can make some preliminary arrangement for me, and then you can help me when I am there to get in touch with those prsons whom you think would be good for me to meet, I would deeply appreciate it. I am trying to build up a list of friends for Fukien of about 500 persons, who will be willing to give us \$10.00 or more each year. I do hope that from your Church you will be able to help me secure a number of those friends.

Mrs. Lin and I certainly enjoyed your visit with us at Hartford. I shall look forward to meeting Mrs. Benedict and your children before long.

Yours very sincerely,

C. J. Lin

CJL:HV

0807

ASBURY CENTENARY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crestwood, N. Y.

FRED BERGER
Treasurer

A. L. GERRING
Financial Secretary

JOHN S. CHAPMAN, JR.
Recording Secretary

WALTER J. BENEDICT, *Pastor*

Pastor's Address
12 READ AVENUE
CRESTWOOD, N. Y.

Tel. Tuckahoe 2955

Dear C J:

I have written Mrs. Carl Fowler. I trust that when you call her, 338 West 72nd St, Endicott 2-1510, you will have real success.

I am preaching Sunday on "The Relation of a Man's Religious beliefs, to his practical life". I wish you would write me briefly before Saturday, saying whether in case Japan goes farther into China in her imperialistic push, this country should engage her in war and attempt to destroy her in order to prevent the evil consequences which her expanding imperialist and militaristic policy, must definitely bring. Would the intelligent Christians in China consider this practical action and welcome it, or would they prefer to work out the solution of this problem without armed intervention from America.

Very cordially yours,



Asbury-Centenary Church
Methodist Episcopal
Crestwood, New York

Dear C J:

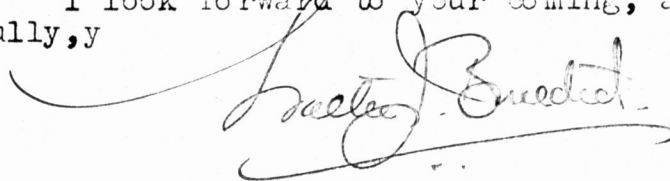
I wrote you a letter addressed to Hartford which I do not think you will receive in time to benefit from it.

We are expecting you Saturday afternoon, whenever you are able to come up. You will come from Grand Central, leaving on the lower level. Our station is Tuckahoe. If you are able to drop me a line saying by what train you leave I shall appreciate it, and meet you. If you cannot do this, when you reach Tuckahoe call me- Tuckahoe 2955.

Mrs. Benedict will tell you that she would like you to speak for ten or twelve minutes in her Senior Hi Department, and a Mrs. Martin, would like you to talk about the same length of time to the Junior Department. You will preach in the morning, and I have arranged to show the pictures to the Senior Hi School people in the evening.

I am in the process of forming a World Friendship Commission in the church, and we are inviting some of the people who will be on this commission in to meet you Saturday night. I do not expect that there will be many personal gifts as a result of your visit here. What I do expect is, that as a result of your appearance before all the groups in our church, we shall be able to take you University as a Church project and designate a substantial amount each year to it.

I look forward to your coming, and am, very faithfully,y



Asbury-Centenary Church
Methodist Episcopal
Crestwood, New York

Wednesday

Dear C.J.:

We are looking to see you on Saturday. Come out whenever you are able. Our Station is Tuckahoe, on a branch of the New York Central. You can get trains from New York City, almost any time. If you are able to let me know in advance I shall meet you- otherwise call me from the station. My number is Tuckahoe, 2915.

Mrs. Benedict would like you to speak for about ten or 15 minutes to her Jr. Hi Department; and Mrs. Martin would like you to appear briefly before her Junior Department. You will preach at the morning service and show your pictures to the Senior Hi Group in the evening. This is a full day, but you can take it easy.

I am much improved in my cold, and am looking forward to your visit here. Kindly mention me to Mrs. Lin, and I am,

Very cordially yours,

Dr. C.J.Lin,
85 Sherman Street,
Hartford, Conn.



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March 20, 1935

Rev. Walter J. Benedict
12 Read Avenue
Crestwood, N. Y.

Dear Walter:

Please accept my thanks again, both for yourself and Mrs. Benedict, for your most cordial kindness and hospitality to me when I was with you last week-end. I had a very profitable time with you, and those persons whom you introduced to me did express their interest in our work. I am quite sure that we shall be able to make real contacts with your Church and those people there.

I shall call up Mrs. Carl Fowled next week when I return to New York. I hope that through her I may get into contact with the lady whom you and Mrs. Benedict suggested to me.

With regard to your next Sunday's sermon on "The Relation of a Man's Religious Beliefs to his Practical Life." I can say without reservation that China would not like to see America go to war with Japan on account of the last imperialistic aggression on China. War will never settle anything, and on the contrary, it will strengthen militarism, and increase hatred, which are the seeds of further destruction and wars. We Chinese hope that our American friends would realize the grave situation that has been developing in the Far East and will exert effective moral forces through existing or new peace organizations in stopping Japan's aggression, rather than resort to force. Of course, we Chinese are working very hard to gain more time so as to make China stronger and better able to resist whatever Japan may decide to encroach further. It is our belief that when the world public opinion is more effectively organized and expressed, it will be enough to check Japan's imperialistic desires, thus leaving China time to strengthen herself, and when China is strong through internal reconstruction work, we will not need to fight Japan, for Japan would have to withdraw herself. But, we certainly need a better and more effectively organized world public opinion, and through some definite channel, like the League of Nations, or any other means, to carry out this purpose. In this respect our American friends can immediately help by creating a moral sentiment in this country, and through their government, as well as by cooperation with the Chinese people.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

C. J. Lin

CJL:HV

0811

May 10, 1935

Rev. Walter Benedict
12 Read Avenue
Crestwood, N. Y.

Dear Walter:

How is your Committee on International Friendship coming along? If there is any way that I can be of service toward that plan, kindly let me know. I certainly enjoyed my visit with you and Mrs. Benedict.

We are planning to leave here for China in the middle part of July. I hope to do some intensive cultivation work in the month of June, when I am not accepting speaking engagements. It has been quite difficult to raise money. Since I saw you last we have not secured any funds toward meeting around \$17,000 for the coming year, or \$7,000 that is needed for the present current budget.

I just came back from a trip to the middle west attending the Laymen's Missionary Congress in Chicago. The Congress was quite successful in general. I was one of the speakers there and was kept quite busy in attending group and committee meetings. I shall be around the office in New York during the next couple of weeks. When you come to New York kindly drop in.

Please remember me to Mrs. Benedict, your brother Mark, and also to your children.

Yours very sincerely,



CJL:HV
Enc. 1 copy "Rural Service at Fukien"

0812

ASBURY CENTENARY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crestwood, N. Y.

FRED BERGER
Treasurer
A. L. GERRING
Financial Secretary
JOHN S. CHAPMAN, Jr.
Recording Secretary

WALTER J. BENEDICT, *Pastor*

Pastor's Address
12 READ AVENUE
CRESTWOOD, N. Y.
Tel. Tuckahoe 2955

June 21st, 1935.

Dear C.J.:

I have been negligent in the matter of my World Friendship Council, but have raised \$50 toward the \$100 that I promised you. This is being sent to you thru the Board of Foreign Missions, so we receive W.S. Credit for the gift. The other half will be sent you in the fall.

We also have the Pop-Corn but do not know where to send it. If you will drop me a note saying where you will finally be in this country, I will see that it reaches you there.

Some of the members of my congregation mentioned the fact that you had appeared in the paper as among those honored at commencement. I did not get the University, but in any case let me congratulate you.

As ever, and with best regards to you wife and children, I am,

Mr. C. J. Lin,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.



0813

June 21, 1935

Rev. Walter Benedict
12 Road Avenue
Crestwood, N. Y.

Dear Walter:

It was very good of you to write me on June 19th. I am glad to know that you have succeeded in organizing your World Friendship Council, and have already raised \$50.00 toward the \$100.00 contribution which you are making toward our work at Fulton Christian University. We shall look forward to receiving the same through the Methodist Mission Board, and the rest some time next fall.

We shall be here until July 5th. You can send the pop-corn seeds to us either at 150 Fifth Avenue, our office here, or to Dr. Caroline Buttrick, 5 Calvered Place, Scarsdale, New York. We shall look forward with great anticipation to plant the same in Poochow.

It was Wesleyan University that conferred upon me the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, last Sunday. It was rather gracious of Wesleyan to do Fulton such an honor, and I appreciate your thought of asking the connection.

We may come to New York two or three days before our sailing, and we hope that we may see you again before we leave. Meanwhile, kindly convey our best regards to Mrs. Walter and your children.

Yours as ever,



CJL:HV

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OFFICE COPY

July 13, 1941

Mr. Brewster Bingham
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Brewster:

Four years ago you graciously offered some help towards the religious work for students at the university by supporting Tsai Chao Siu and his family on the campus. Mr. Tsai, as you probably know, is now at Crozer, but we have two persons who will be coming to us this fall, and I wonder if you would like to consider your offer again.

The first person is Mr. K. S. Wang who has his B. A. and M. A. from Yenching University and is one of Dr. Stuart's best liked students. After graduation Mr. Wang served a couple of years in the National Y.M.C.A. in student work, and later as director of student religious work and teacher of Philosophy and Comparative Religion in the Hangchow Christian College. During the last few years he has been serving in rural work in Pootung and Executive Secretary of Relief Work for Refugees. For the last two years he has been Special Commissioner of Relief for the National Commission of Relief, with headquarters in Fukien. He has done quite a valuable piece of work in this province. He has preached a couple of times at the university and would very much like to return to direct religious work again. We need a man to guide the students and Mr. Wang has sent in his resignation and is prepared to accept our offer. He will be a very valuable man to help in the Christian work among the men students. You may have heard of him or read about some of his books, etc., especially as a Christian. He was once a Buddhist monk before becoming an earnest Christian. His family is already in Shaowu.

The second person is Miss Huang Siu Chi, one of our graduates whom you probably remember. After her graduation she served for several years as Student Secretary in the National Y.W.C.A. During the last two years she has been studying at Crozer. We have just heard that she is on her way coming to accept a position as a leader in our women's department. You may remember Dr. Scott's opinion of her even when she was a student and her good record as a Student Secretary both in Shanghai and in West China. We are expecting her to arrive in Shanghai the end of July and she should be here by the middle part of August. Our college opens on September 1 and classes begin on the 15th.

We are offering to each of these persons a salary of about \$260.00 per month including \$30.00 special allowance towards the present high cost of living. There should be added about \$300 per year for a special social allowance, 10% of their salary for savings endowment which is our pension arrangement, and 1/6 of their salary towards furlough expenses. We estimate that it would cost about \$1000 a year for office supplies for their respective offices, so that the total cost of each person's service with F.C.U. will be a little more than \$5,000 per year, Chinese Currency. For the present year we have to pay US\$300.00 for Huang Siu Chi's return travel expenses. At the present rate of exchange, figuring an average of \$18 to \$1, it would cost about \$880 for 1941-42 and about \$580.00 U. S. Currency for 1942-43. The above information is itemized as follows:

0815

Salary of one person @ \$260 =	\$ 3,120
Social Allowance "	300
Savings Endow (10% of salary)	312
Furlough Exps (1/6 of ")	520
Office Expenses	<u>1,000</u>
Total for one person.\$ 5,252 x 2 = LC\$10,504

LC\$10,504 ÷ 18 = US\$583 for 1942-43
 Add 300 for travel for Miss Huang
US\$883 for 1941-42

I wonder if you would be good enough to make a contribution of US\$880 for 1941-42 and a pledge for \$580 for the next year.

We are asking for two years support because we can be assured of their service for this period and at the end of that time the conditions will be more clarified, for the war can't go on forever in this state of confusion, and the rate of exchange might be different. I will also give these people a chance to prove whether they are worthy of your further support. With the addition of these two valuable persons our students will certainly be entering a new phase of religious training and direction. We hope that you may give it your favorable consideration.

Our general financial conditions have been difficult as you can easily imagine. The income from our endowment has greatly decreased because of the low rate of interest in America. There is a Sustaining Fund given to us through the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China campaign, but the amount is proportionately quite low for Fukien, and although the present rate of exchange has been very favorable in the sense of securing more Chinese money it is only a little more than four times as much as we used to have when you were here while the cost of things, and particularly the essential articles for daily living, has gone up from ten to twenty-five times. Then we have the additional emergency expenses incurred because of the war infliction on the members of our faculty and the student homes where the Japanese have occupied territory. We have about 100 students whose homes have been affected in recently occupied areas of Foochow and on the coast of Chekiang. All faculty and staff members have been very fine in their spirit and devotion to their work. All of us have been working much harder and are probably happier also in these difficult times. Our present salary hardly meets our daily household expenses, but since they all know the conditions of the university finances and the general conditions of the nation they are willing to contribute what they can for the final success of our national cause. We feel that it is very important that our students during this time of emergency should have more guidance in the Christian life and we are anxious to secure the services of those two persons. We would not have adequate financial resources for their support, but we are starting on faith and hope that some friends like yourself will come in and help.

All of your friends among the faculty and student body are well in Shaowu, and my family joins me in sending you and Frances our best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
 (Sgd.) C. J. Lin

CJL:A

By China Clipper 7/15/41
 Copy by ordinary mail 7/15/41

ABCCC Copy/JP

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ack - 9-12-41

Salem, Conn.
Sept. 10

1941

Dear Oliver:

You may by this time have another job and be far away, but even so I must write you to (1) apologize for not having written you long, long ago. Shortly after we returned to this blessed country you wrote us asking for help in interesting 'Brahmins' of Connecticut in F.C.U. We were only about $\frac{1}{4}$ alive last summer, and along with a good many other letters, yours never got an answer for lack of élan vitale. We are very sorry, and want to make up for the sins of the past as far as possible.

The immediate occasion for this note ⁽²⁾ is to ask you how to send money to the college. Some weeks ago, "C.J." wrote us asking for a special gift for a special purpose. I wired him 'Yes' but have done nothing more. If you will tell me to whom I should send my check, I shall be glad to do so. Thanks!

Frances and I are having a grand time here on our piece of land, trying to learn to cook and cut grass, etc., like the 130 million other Americans. We want to go back, of course, but have to get husky first!

If you are near here, before cold weather sets in, do let us know. We'll give you some 'mien' or Tiger-meat to make you feel at home.

Yours,

Brewster Bingham

0817

September 12, 1941

Mr. Brewster Bingham
Salem
Connecticut

Dear Brewster:

It was a pleasant surprise to receive your letter this morning, and to prove how welcome it was, I am answering it immediately. We would be happy to help you in forwarding your gift to C. J. Lin. You probably realize that the freezing of funds has made it extremely difficult to send money to China. Licenses must be secured, and there is a great deal of red tape to be cut. I, therefore, suggest that you make out your check to Samuel Thorne, Treasurer. This office would then be in a position to handle the matter through the conventional channels.

Last year we were very fortunate in raising about \$30,000 in cash for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Fund of Fukien Christian University. In addition to this amount, we have substantial pledges still outstanding.

I expect to be wandering about in the State of Connecticut next week, and if I would not be intruding, I would like very much to call on you. It is possible that I have some news of Fukien which you might find interesting. Although, I expect you have been as closely in touch with the situation as we have here in this office. At any rate, it would be nice to see you again.

As for myself, there is little to say except that I am still with the Christian Colleges in China, and I am devoting as much time as possible, which unfortunately is not much, to the affairs of FCU.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Oliver J. Caldwell

OJC:P

0818

September 25, 1941

Mr. Brewster Bingham
Salem
Connecticut

Dear Brewster:

It was a pleasure to have an opportunity to talk with you the other day, and I hope that whenever you and Frances are in town, you will come around to our office.

I am enclosing our receipt for your check for \$883.00. Mr. Evans assures me that this sum will be forwarded direct to Shaowu. I should like to thank you for your generous gift to the University.

I will try to find material on conditions in China which may be of interest to you. We will keep you on our mailing list, so that from time to time you will receive our various reports and bulletins.

I should like to add that if you ever feel that you can give some time to the affairs of Fukien Christian University in this country, we would all be grateful. We still need about \$20,000 to complete the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign, and that amount of money will not be easy to secure.

With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Oliver J. Caldwell

OJC:P
Enc.

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COPY

(Confidential report to the trustees)

Foochow, Fukien
May 7, 1941
7/1/41

My dear C.J.:

I know that you have been wondering about things here in Foochow and on the Foochow Campus. All means of communication has been cut off with the outside. The Post Office is still closed. My friend, Rev. Loren Humphrey, came down from Mintsing overland by way of Ingtai and is returning early tomorrow and has agreed to take this letter and mail it in Mintsing. So I will try and give you a picture of the situation here since the invasion. Since this will be carried out of occupied territory before it is mailed, I will be able to tell you more than I could if it went through the post office, for the P.O. is also under Japanese control.

Since the first landing down on the coast I have been down on the Campus practically all the time for I have felt that it was imperative for a foreigner to be down there. I had some worries about the Christian Herald work but, after arranging things as best I could, in that I felt that I must be down river when trouble came.

On Saturday, April 19, rumors were many, but I knew that an advancing army could not reach FCU for some hours, and I wanted to remain here as long as possible, so I kept in touch with the Consul, who informed me of the troop movements and did not leave Foochow until the next day. All day Saturday and Sunday planes flew overhead, bombing some in the approaches around Foochow. The siren sounded Saturday morning at 4:00 and did not go off at all. There was some machine-gunning but not as much as one might expect. On Sunday morning it seemed that, if I were going to get down to FCU before it became dangerous, I should go at once. No boats were on the river so the only way to reach there was by walking. Leaving at eleven, I arrived there at 2:30 pm.

On Sunday planes were busy all day bombing, machine-gunning and flying over the city and surrounding territory. Several times on my way to FCU I had to take shelter when the planes were flying low and machine-gunning. Sunday afternoon a group of planes flying in formation released many bombs beginning with the Methodist property, next to the Stone Church, that in the upper compound, that has been occupied by business people for some years. From this as a starting point they almost cleared out a path down to and including the Yenping boat dock. Mr. Kierkegaard's (Postal Commissioner) house was hit with several bombs, but none of his family killed or injured. His gateman was killed and I think another servant. The Seminary was in this line of bombing, but no bombs struck that. It is estimated that from 100-200 bombs were dropped. It is also estimated that from 250-500 were killed with no estimate of the number injured.

On my way down to FCU, I met many people coming from lower down the river, trying to get away from the trouble. Some soldiers were coming toward Foochow also. The launches had stopped earlier and some of them had been burned and sunk in the Foochow harbor.

When I arrived at the campus, I found the staff and workmen very much frightened but somewhat relieved by my arriving. I immediately had a meeting of the staff and organized things, giving each man something to do. Until that

0820

time there had not been much trouble with thieves but knowing what Foochow was having, I was expecting it, so prepared. Consequently, as far as I know, we have not had anything taken, although several attempts were made.

All Sunday night shooting could be heard in the not too far distance. A few soldiers had been stationed down at the jetty and about four in the morning opened machine gun fire on a Chinese Navy launch that was headed up river. This brought everyone out. The Navy Launch was abandoned here at the jetty and before leaving on foot it was set on fire. The soldiers stationed at the jetty also left. The shooting further down river became louder and more often as daylight came. One bunch seemed to go in about Mill Valley and head over the mountain toward Foochow. Shooting was often back up in the hills. Soon a small army approached Hui Gie, shooting every few paces, not at soldiers but seemingly to bolster up their own courage. One old man was killed--because he was wearing a hat that looked like a soldier. One woman was shot as she ran up into the hills. A few shots came on the campus, one going through a window in the Apartment house back of the Sutton house. The staff not knowing what would be attempted ran back up into the hills. I stayed near the front gate. The soldiers passed in orderly fashion, not causing any trouble. They passed off and on most all day. Tuesday more passed and by Wednesday, the 23rd, motor trawlers were running up and down the river unloading supplies from ships that had broken through the blockade at the mouth of the river, and were anchored at Pagoda Anchorage.

A large group of horses came over the Kuliang range, entering the city at the north gate bringing heavy artillery. There were probably two thousand horses.

The trawlers have brought in many trucks, armored cars, motorcycles, touring cars, and bicycles. Then a big amount of general supplies that would follow any army.

The occupation of Foochow was very orderly. No resistance was met and therefore no fighting occurred in or near the city. For two days after their coming there was no order, looters continued and a certain amount of raping on the part of the Japanese soldiers.

On the morning of April 25th, soldiers coming by the campus took the US flag that I had on the front gate - one of Roderick's cloth flags. I registered a complaint through the Consul which resulted in apologies and the return of the flag within a few days.

About noon on May 1st soldiers were going with their horses toward Mamuci and broke in the gate leading to the Agriculture Department. I questioned their motive, and they said they wanted water. I told them that the river was full of it and they said alright and went away. Many of the soldiers and most of the horses have gone by steamer--reportedly to Kwangtung.

The electric light plant was started about the third day after their arrival. Telephone service was resumed before that.

The policy in the Agriculture ^{Department} has changed from experimental to production. It is necessary to keep a staff large enough to protect the property and in the agriculture to raise as much food stuff to offset the keep of the maintenance staff, as possible. Now we have Agriculture coolies working in the fields and the B.M. (Business Management) coolies doing the same. After you left, I rearranged things much as we talked over before you left. More fields were

placed in cultivation. The AM coolies were taken and placed in this field work. Many other smaller changes were made to better the situation in general.

I have talked with McClure about these changes and he thinks it would be much better since the invasion and says that we should sell the chickens immediately. I wish that I could get word from you before going ahead with anything but there is no telling when a letter will come from you. I shall wait as long as possible hoping to hear.

Something will have to be done about the food situation with the staff before long. There is enough rice to last almost until the end of this month. The food situation here in Foochow is still serious. Prices are high and food is scarce. Unless something is done most of the workers will not stay. In the first place they are afraid and think that they would be safer out in the country and most of them seem to have some relative on a farm where they can go and live. Thieves are so bad that it is necessary to keep extra watchmen on for protection of the property. There are rumors that the Japanese will bring large quantities of rice and, if that is true, the problem will be more easily solved. I am, of course, keeping in close touch with McClure and he is advising with me.

We had many things packed for shipment, but the boat did not come down and now there is no way to ship to you. The automobile engine that I was sending up was all put in good shape but of course now it cannot go. My greatest concern is about this drum of oil for the electric plant. I know that you will be needing it soon, but it seems to me that you cannot plan on ever getting it through.

I hope that things are going well up there. There is no indication that the Japanese plan to go further interior so I think that you will not be molested. Now there is only a skeleton force holding Foochow. Try not to worry about things down here. We will do the best that we can.

Sincerely,

Note from another letter says:

"The worst thing that we have to do now is bowing to the Japanese. Yes, foreigners must do it also. Foochow ain't what she used to be."