

118 2535

UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

FUKIEN

Corres.

Talcott, John G. 1935-1939

Tan, J. M. 1935-1941

118012575

1200

June 6, 1935

Mr. John G. Talcott
Talcottville
Connecticut

Dear Mr. Talcott:

I want to express to you again my deep appreciation for your reception to me yesterday. We are so glad that you accepted the election to be a co-opted member of our Board of Trustees. Your long service in educational work on the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut, and your deep interest in the Christian movement in China, fits you most excellently for the service which we need. We are quite sure that with the contribution of your wisdom and judgment, Fukien will go ahead with greater progress than before, although we sincerely believe, and probably with our "prejudices," we have already done much that is commendable.

It was also very gracious of you to take over one of the urgent financial needs of our University. Your contribution of \$1,000 per year, beginning with this one, for a period of seven years, toward the support of our English teacher, Miss Eunice Thomas, greatly strengthens our service in that field. You can send the money in at any time, payable to the Treasurer of Fukien Christian University, at 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Conn., has invited me to attend its Commencement exercises on Sunday, June 16th, at 6 o'clock, to confer on me the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, as an expression of appreciation for the kind of work we have been doing at Fukien Christian University. If it is convenient, I hope that you can be there at that time. Enclosed herewith please find a ticket for that occasion. It will be a great pleasure to see you there, if it is convenient for you to come.

With kindest regards,

Yours very faithfully,

CJL:HV
Enc.

Under separate cover - 1 copy Fukien catalog

1 " Constitution

1201

January 11, 1937

FUKIEN

Mr. J. G. Talcott
Talcottville
Connecticut

My dear Mr. Talcott:

We acknowledge with sincerest thanks receipt of your check for \$1,000 covering the support of Miss Eunice Thomas for the fiscal year 1936-37. Our formal receipt is enclosed.

We are very sorry that you have been ill, and hope that you have now fully recovered.

We are always grateful for your warm and generous interest in Fukien, and in all of our Christian higher educational program in China. We look forward to having you with us at the meetings of the Fukien Trustees and other China Colleges groups this year.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:MP
Encl.

1202

FUKIEN

April 26, 1937

Mr. John G. Talcott
Talcottville
Connecticut

Dear Mr. Talcott:

We are very sorry to learn that continued ill health is likely to prevent your coming to the Annual Meetings of the Associated Boards and of the Fukien Trustees during the second week in May. You have certainly been having a long siege of illness. We trust that you are steadily improve, and that in a few weeks more you will have fully recovered your health and strength.

Obviously, we should not count on you to take any very direct share in the activities of the members of the Associated Boards and of the Fukien Board of Trustees here in the Metropolitan area during the next few week. But we would like at least to have the privilege of including your name among the sponsoring committee for our China Colleges activities here in the Metropolitan area during May and June. The members of the Associated Boards in the Boston area have been doing very faithful work during the last month or two, and we in the neighborhood of New York City should not do any less.

Mr. McBrier's luncheon at the Bankers Club last week was a very pleasant and successful affair. All those who were present indicated on cards like the enclosed the ways in which they will assist during the next two months. I was asked to send these cards to all members of the Metropolitan group who could not be present at the luncheon, and to invite their cooperation in whatever way they can assist.

As I have just said, we hope that you will at least serve as a member of the sponsoring committee. If, a little later on, you can help in any of the other ways indicated, we will be grateful.

With all good wishes for your rapid improvement in health,

I am

Very cordially yours,

Executive Secretary

BAG:MP
Encl.

1203

December 22, 1937

Mr. John G. Talcott
Talcottville
Connecticut

Dear Mr. Talcott:

Thank you most sincerely for your generous contribution of \$500 toward our China Colleges Emergency Fund. Our formal receipt is enclosed.

You will be glad to know that the campaign has gotten off to a good start and that we now have in sight approximately \$100,000 toward our objective of \$300,000. We will have to reduce our activities somewhat during the next ten days, but immediately after the holidays will try to press ahead vigorously toward the completion of the fund.

We hope that you are now feeling quite well again and that you will have a most enjoyable holiday season.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:MP
Encl.

1204

EMERGENCY FUND
Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Fulmer
[17
over
[12/15/37]

My contribution toward meeting the emergency needs of the Christian Colleges in China
is..... Dollars (\$500-), as follows:—

\$..... ✓transmitted herewith.
\$.....payable before January 1, 1938.
\$.....payable at my convenience on or before.....1938

Any specific designation of this gift I may wish to make is indicated on the reverse side.

Name JOHN G. TALCOTT
DEC 15 193..... Address TALCOTTVILLE, CONN.

1205

I desire to designate my gift as follows:—

☒ For allocation by the Associated Boards as the emergency needs of the several Colleges may require.

☐ For meeting the emergency needs of the institution checked below:—

Cheeloo University (Shantung)

Fukien Christian University

Ginling College

Hangchow Christian College

Hua Chung College (Central China)

Hwa Nan College

Lingnan University

University of Nanking

University of Shanghai

Soochow University

West China Union University

Yenching University

1206

JOHN G. TALCOTT
TALCOTTVILLE
CONNECTICUT

June 13, 1935.

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

My dear President Lin:

I greatly appreciate your letter of the 6th, though I fear you have over estimated my value as trustee of Fukien Christian University.

I am pleased that Wesleyan University is to honor itself in conferring a degree on President Lin. I thank you for remembering me with tickets of admission - however as I shall not be able to be present, I am returning them.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Talcott

JOHN G. TALCOTT
TALCOTTVILLE
CONNECTICUT

January 25, 1938.

ack 1/26/38

My dear Dr. Garside:

Enclosed please check
for five hundred dollars for Fukien Christian
University in part payment of my pledge for
support of Miss Eunice Thomas.

President Lin's letter of
November 19th is very instructive and shows his
fine spirit.

Sincerely,

John G. Talcott

1 ck. attached

1208

January 26, 1938

Mr. John G. Talcott
Talcottville
Connecticut

Dear Mr. Talcott:

Let me acknowledge with sincere appreciation your check for \$500 toward the support of Miss Eunice Thomas. Our formal receipt is enclosed. The continuation of your support of Miss Thomas is particularly appreciated this year, when dollars are more valuable and more welcome than ever.

This week's mail brings a long letter from President Lin reporting in general on the situation both at the University and in the community at large. While the situation in Foochow for the last four or five months has been one of constant uncertainty and tension, the educational work there has been able to go forward in a relatively normal way. If the Japanese do not invade the province, the work of the second semester should likewise go forward without serious interruption. If such an invasion should take place, the University is planning to transfer its work temporarily to the American Board property in Shaowu, where it hopes that it might continue for a time without molestation. A number of the matters in President Lin's letter will be reported to the Fukien Board of Trustees in due course, and some of them will probably call for our consideration and action.

In the hope that it may be possible for you to be present at the annual meetings of the Associated Boards and the Fukien Board of Trustees in the first week in May, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:MP
Encl.

1209

May 21, 1938

Mr. John G. Talcott
Talcottville, Conn.

Dear Mr. Talcott:

I am greatly pleased to acknowledge your letter of May 19 enclosing \$500.00 representing a payment on the support for Miss Eunice Thomas at Fukien Christian University. Receipt is enclosed herewith. On behalf of the University and the Board of Trustees permit me to thank you for your continued interest in this very worthwhile project.

Miss Thomas is doing remarkably well and, as you know, Fukien is carrying on in a very unusual manner. The Provincial Government has closed its own rural reconstruction school and turned the project over to Fukien Christian University together with its appropriation, feeling that the University is more capable of handling the project than could be done by the government. In many similar ways, Fukien is making a place for itself in Southern China, and we all rejoice that it is carrying on so nobly.

Very truly yours,

CAE/B
ENC.

12 10

June 20, 1938

Mr. John G. Talcott
Talcottville, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Talcott:

A generous gift by the Rockefeller Foundation has just brought us within \$25,000 of our \$300,000 objective in our Emergency Campaign for the China Colleges. We are anxious to raise this final \$25,000 quickly - not only because the funds are so urgently needed by the Colleges to close the fiscal year June 30th, but also because our success would be a striking demonstration of America's friendship for China at this time of crisis.

The enclosed bulletin will give you more information about this gift and the present status of the campaign. You will be interested to know that the gift of \$5,000 referred to in the second paragraph of the bulletin was from one of our Fukien trustees, Dr. William Bancroft Hill.

TK e

We are grateful for all the assistance you have given us during the past year, and know that if there is any further aid you can give the emergency committee during this final effort you will be glad to give it.

Very sincerely yours,

PDC:MP
Encl.

National Chairman

1211

February 1, 1939

Mr. John G. Falcott
Falcottville
Connecticut

Dear Mr. Falcott:

That two-line letter of yours dated January 30th beginning "Enclosed please find check * * *" gives us a tremendous lift. It adds zest to the day's work.

Yes, I know you are a good friend of Dr. Lin and devoted to Fukien Christian University, but I want you to know how your abiding interest in this work thoroughly stimulates us who are in the midst of the work.

May the Lord grant a spiritual blessing far beyond our poor powers to command.

Enclosed find receipt.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAR/B
ENC.

12 12

JOHN G. TALCOTT
TALCOTTVILLE
CONNECTICUT

January 30, 1939.

ack 2/1/39

Fukien Christian University,

150 Fifth Avenue, New York City,

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find check for five
hundred dollars on account of my pledge.

Sincerely,

John G. Talcott

FUKIEN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Foochow, China

Office of the President

November 19, 1937

Dr. B. A. Garside
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Garside:

The Japanese forces have made advances on all the lines in the North as well as getting control of Shanghai. The Chinese have expected all of this, as well as even worse things to come. We are prepared to have all of the coastal provinces occupied by the Japanese forces as the war goes on, but we will not let them have the same without paying due price for it. China's final victory will come when Japan proves herself unable to keep the places she has occupied and collapse on her excessive assertions and display of military prowess. And when we do come back it will be truly the beginning of a new life for China, so the Chinese are neither afraid or discouraged over the recent military reverses.

The Japanese have started occupying an island, Ching Men, outside of Amoy, and are trying to land forces on the mainland near Amoy. So far, they have not been successful. Foochow continues to be quiet, although we expect that some trouble will come sooner or later. Our university has a fine spirit. Both the students and faculty are going along in a normal mode of life as we have reported to you during the last few weeks. We have sent a man to Shaowu to investigate the conditions of the American Board property there and the possibilities of the future development of agricultural extension service. The man has not come back for a full report yet. When we have considered the conditions we may make a plan which may be submitted both to our Board of Managers and Trustees. We received a cable sometime ago from the American Board in Boston giving their approval of our making use of their property in Shaowu.

From the educational point of view the present disaster may prove to be an opportunity for a fundamental readjustment of Christian higher education to China's needs. We hope that both the responsible people here in this country and our friends abroad will seize the opportunity and make the best of it.

Yours sincerely,

C. J. LIN

MP

12 14

JOHN G. TALCOTT
TALCOTTVILLE
CONNECTICUT

May 19, 1938.

ack'd 5/21/38

Mr. B. A. Garside, Secretary,
Fukien Christian University,
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

My dear Mr. Garside:

Enclosed please find check
for \$500.00 toward the support of Miss Eunice
Thomas.

Sincerely,

John G. Talcott

1 ck attached

12 15

JOHN G. TALCOTT
TALCOTTVILLE
CONNECTICUT

March 21, 1939.

Dr. B. A. Garside, Secretary,
Fukien Christian University,
150 Fifth Avenue, New York

My dear Dr. Garside:

Replied to your message as follows: "Could see Bishop Gowdy between 10 and 12 A.M." This refers to the 28th, and I can send automobile to Hartford for him, if you will inform me as to the place and time. It takes about half an hour to drive out here.

I shall be pleased to have the privilege of meeting Bishop Gowdy.

Sincerely,

John G. Talcott

12 16

JOHN G. TALCOTT
TALCOTTVILLE
CONNECTICUT

May 15, 1939.

Ack 5/17/39

Fukien Christian University,

150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find check for \$500.00
in payment of the balance of my pledge for the
school year.

Sincerely,

John G. Talcott

12 17

May 17, 1939

Mr. John G. Talcott
Talcottville
Connecticut

Dear Mr. Talcott:

Enclosed you will find receipt covering your check for \$500.00, enclosed in your letter of May 15th, representing the balance of the payment toward the salary of Miss Eunice Thomas at Fukien for 1938-39 fiscal year.

Bishop Gowdy was in the office after having seen you and was enthusiastic over the opportunity he had of talking with you, as he felt there were many things in common which made the conversation especially delightful.

All of the trustees and officers appreciate beyond expression your help and support in carrying on this work, and I know that Dr. C. J. Lin is especially grateful.

With added thanks, I remain

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B
ENC. (receipt)

12 18

會育教教督基建福
Fukien Christian Educational Association
Foochow, China.
州福國中

RUBY SIA, General Secretary
Office
Pao Shu Yuan
Foochow, China

J. M. Tan, Assistant Secretary
Office
Fukien Christian University
Foochow, China.

Feb. 1, 1935.

Dear Press Lin:

Your letter was just circulated around several days ago. We are very glad to learn that you and your family are keeping along very well. We are also very glad to hear the good news about your successful work in America. Really, your success has greatly encouraged every one of us. May God bless you and your whole family so that you can have good health and mind to do the valuable work which you are undertaking.

This winter vacation may be called a marriage vacation. Five FCU men are married. Mr. Cheng Chung Fu, our Biology assistant married Miss Li Min Ching (李敏卿), the athletic director of Wen Shan Girls school on Jan. 24, while Mr. Lin Kung Hsiang, one of our alumni, married Miss Liu Teh Hui (劉德惠), a Wen Shan graduate, on Jan. 26. Dr. Francis Chen has just returned from Amoy with his new bride Miss Chen Chia Hsi (陳嘉喜), one of our freshmen, who did not come last term. Miss Shao Ching Tuan, one of Mr. Shao Ching Yuan's sister and one of our freshmen girls left for Canton with her new husband, Mr. Li Lai Yung, one of our alumni working at Lingnan University. Dr. T. H. Cheng will marry Miss Chen Chia Chien (陳嘉珍) on Feb. 9. When you come back in Fall, you will find that FCU is full of happy atmosphere.

Prof. Stowe, Dr. Sutton and Dr. W. Y. Chen left for Shanghai a week ago. Prof. Stowe will travel in the East China under the auspices of the National Religious Education Association, while the latter two will come back soon after attending the Council of Higher Education meeting. Prof. Farley also went to Shanghai a week ago for the purpose of visiting most of the Christian colleges in the East China. On the campus, we have more than thirty students, so we do not feel lonesome.

Six students graduated in January. They are Messrs. Chang Hsi Hu, Chen Chen Fu, Chen Chu Chiang, Cheng Wen Lan, Liu Yu Lin, and Teng Tsun. Mr. Chen Chen Fu will work in our Biology department next semester. Mr. Chen Chu Chiang will work as a chemist in the Union Hospital, Foochow. Mr. Cheng Wen Lan will teach in the Talmage College. Mr. Teng Tsun has been asked to go back to Shouyu to be the principal of a primary school. Mr. Chang and Mr. Liu have not yet found any job.

The old dining room is being remodeled to be a social center. Offices for SCA and SGA are provided in the upstairs, while rooms for playing pin-pong and personal interviews are provided in the downstairs. Temporarily, it is a very good student center because it is well situated. The swimming pool was completed.

Did you read anything about the military control of school life beginning from the Spring semester? It was decided by the

Foochow principals' meeting that the military control must begin from the first day of next semester. All students must wear uniforms in and outside the school. Student's freedom will be greatly restricted. This may bring a revolutionary change to our school life. Its purpose ~~is to enforce~~ rigid training on students. Of course, many minute difficulties ^{are} in enforcing it. But such training may help to correct the present romantic and luxurious life of students.

One more thing is being enforced by the government. All young men except policemen or soldiers are compelled to work three days for government without pay. Any one who can not do the work must pay to the government \$1.50 for three days. One kind of work was already started at Foochow, i.e. digging canals in the city. It seems to me that this is a good plan for solving a part of the problem of unemployment and a lot of public things such as building public roads & the like can be done. Otherwise, our government is too poor to pay anything for public welfare.

Several days ^{ago}, I read an item of news in the News Bulletin of the Association Press by Miss Chen Wen Hsien. She said that she was asked to join the lecture group for sometime.

With best wishes to you and your family.

Very sincerely yours,


J. M. Tan.

150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.
April 2, 1935

Mr. Tang, Jen-Mei
Fukien Christian University
Foochow, China

Dear Jen-Mei:

I wish to thank you for your several letters to me with reports of your work and conditions in our University.

I have just written to Dean Chen about your coming to America. There is no hurry for your coming. If you stay at F.C.U. a year longer, it will be most convenient to yourself and Dean Chen. The arrangement at Allegheny will be open for the next few years; in fact it will be open as long as the present president is there. I hope, however, that in the next few weeks I may be able to make some better arrangement for you for further study in America, but I am not sure of the possibility just now.

Some time ago you wrote me about a contribution toward the family of Chang-hsien. I did not have time to go into it. If you can wait I will do something when I get home next summer. I have been terribly busy all of the time and can only write to China on most urgent business.

I hope you will excuse me for not replying to your good letters earlier. I certainly appreciate your thought of ~~me~~ us here, and your valuable contribution to F.C.U., and to the Christian Educational Association. I follow very closely the work of our staff members through the reports and letters from F.C.U.

With best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

CUL:HV

Grozer Seminary,
Chester, Pa.,
July 3, 1937.

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

FUKIEN

Arch 1/6/37

Dear Mr. Garside:

You may have heard that I transferred from Drew University to this Seminary in last December. As I have told you, I have planned to do some graduate work in education. As Drew has no department of education, so I came here, although I liked very much. This seminary has a very satisfactory arrangement with the University of Pennsylvania so that a student of this seminary can do part-time work at the University. I am now taking part-time work at this seminary and and part-time work at the University. This arrangement is very ideal to me, because, preparing myself for service in a Christian college, I need some theological education in addition to the courses of my major field.

This summer, I am taking one course under Dr. Jones. That is the Principle of Guidance. The Personnel work at Fukien Christian University is taken as a subject of my special study. But I do not have any data with me except relying on my own memory. Time is too short for me to ask F. C. U. to send me statistics. Does your office have a copy of the latest English catalogue (may be 1935-1937)? If so, will you please lend it me for a couple of weeks? Furthermore, do you have the weekly bulletins of F.C.U. for the last two years? If so, there were some statistics published in the bulletin. If you can find them out and send them to me with the catalogue, I would appreciate very much your kindness.

Letters coming from President Lin said that Mr. Theodore Chen, the Dean of the University, was coming to this country. He and his family shall be at San Francisco on the 18th, inst. They will spend the summer at the University of Southern California.

With best wishes for a happy summer,

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Tan

1222

Grozer Seminary,
Chester, Pa.
August 11, 1937.

ack. 8/16/37.

Rev. B. A. Garside,
Associated Boards for
Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garside:

Under separate cover, I am sending back to you the catalog and F. C. U. bulletins which you have lent me. My subject for the term paper was 'A Critical Study of the Personnel Work at F. C. U.' for which a mark of 'A' was earned. As to the pamphlets published by the China Christian Educational Association, since you have extra copies, so I do not send them back. Thank you for all the valuable help.

Have you heard anything from Mr. Teddy Chen since his arrival? I wrote him one letter, but so far no word has come as yet. I wonder whether my letter has reached him.

My summer school work was over yesterday. Now I am entirely free and shall stay in the campus for the rest of the summer. Anything I can do for the Boards, please just let me know.

Again with thanks and best wishes,

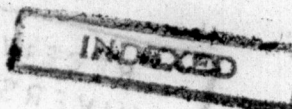
Very sincerely yours,

J. M. Tan

1223

CROZER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT



Ack. 5-22-40
JJP
Copies sent to
Fuk. Episc. Com.
5-22-40
VW

Dr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.
My dear Dr. Garside:-

May 21, 1940.

On last Wednesday in New York I spoke to you regarding the case of Mr. J. M. Tan, who has been with us at Crozer for several years, taking the most of his work the last two years or more at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has completed successfully all of his work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, with the exception of his thesis, and even that has been prepared for publication. Mr. Tan has been offered a professorship at Fukien Christian University, and he is preparing to sail in the summer if he can possibly find the money to pay his passage.

Mr. Tan's salary at Foochow will be only \$225. (Chinese currency) per month, which, at the present rate of exchange will be barely more than \$10. U. S. He has nothing saved up, and I am wondering if the Trustees of Fukien Christian University cannot do something to help the young man reach China. I am confident I can secure half rate ticket for him across the American Continent, but the total cost of his journey would probably be \$150. to \$175 U. S., even though he would go third class across the Pacific. I have not made an accurate estimate, but I think our Seminary has put into Mr. Tan's education not far from \$2,000., because we believed in him so thoroughly. However, we have never paid the traveling expenses of any of the Oriental students, and I cannot ask the Seminary to do so in this case. Is there not some way by which the Trustees of Fukien Christian University can help him out?

It may be suggested that the school would advance his passage money, to be repaid from his salary, but at the present rate of exchange his entire salary for fifteen or eighteen months might be required for that purpose. Moreover, he has the problem of the publication of his thesis. In this country this would probably amount to \$400. or \$500. He could probably have it published in China for one-fifth of that amount, but naturally he is anxious to go back to China with his degree. Usually the University of Pennsylvania will grant the degree without the publication of the thesis if a deposit of \$400. or \$500. is made with the school to insure later publication. In the case of Mr. Tan a very extraordinary thing has been done - he has been told that if a deposit of \$200. can be made by May 27 his degree would be awarded in June, and he will be permitted to have his thesis published in China at the lower cost and the deposit returned to him. But it is absolutely impossible for him to raise the money so far as he can see. And again, our Seminary does not feel it can possibly meet such expenditures for students after having given them scholarship aid for some years. If you see any way at all by which you can help Mr. Tan I hope you will do so.

I am leaving almost at once for Atlantic City,

Hotel Dennis.
JHF-S

Cordially yours,

J. H. Franklin

1224

INDEXED

May 22, 1940

Ack
5/23/40

Dr. J. H. Franklin
Hotel Dennis
Atlantic City, New Jersey

My dear Dr. Franklin:

Your letter of May 21 to Mr. Garside, referring to Mr. J. M. Tan, has been discussed by the Secretaries here in the office.

It is unfortunate that the date of May 27 is so near at hand, as it makes it very difficult for us not only because we need to get decisions from the necessary people who are away from New York, but also because a cable to the field is involved. In order to try to meet this emergency, we are taking the following steps: A letter is being sent to the Executive Committee of the Fukien Board, requesting them to take two actions:-

1. The sending of a cable to President Lin, asking for authorization for the payment from the Sustaining Fund of the amount necessary for passage.

2. An authorization by the Fukien Board to advance the money necessary for the deposit on the thesis, to be repaid when the thesis is published, and subject to the eventual approval of the President of the University.

By this method we hope to secure authorization to make the deposit before May 27, and later to receive permission by cable for the payment of the passage money and the final authorization for the payment to the University of Pennsylvania. We hope that this procedure will produce results that will meet the emergency.

I presume that the payment to the University of Pennsylvania can be made direct if we are advised as to where the money is to be sent, and to whom the check is to be made payable. Can you supply us with this information?

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JIP:VW

1225

APR 25 1941

517

Cable Address:
Hsiho, Foochow

學大和協建福立私
FUKIEN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
SHAOWU, FUKIEN, CHINA.
武邵建福國中

Code
Missions

Dean of Personnel Office

處導訓

READ
J.W.D.

Feb. 24, 1941

NO REPLA

Dr. J. W. Becker,
152 Madison Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Becker:

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the steamer letter you have kindly sent me, and to offer my apology for having not written you until now. How are you? Are you coming to China sometime? It is my hope that you will come to Foochow or Shaoowu when you make your next visit to China.

Last September right after my arrival at Foochow, I went home for a very short visit. Then I came to the college and have been here since then. My office work has been quite difficult, yet quite

1226

2-24-41

(2)

interesting. In addition to my administrative work, I am teaching two courses in education.

On Feb. 28th, we shall celebrate the 25th anniversary of this college and are looking forward to having a grand time then. Many persons of great distinction are expected to come. We are also making this an occasion to raise funds for scholarships and warm responses have been given to our call for financial help. This shows the value of a Christian institution and the trust Chinese people are having in a Christian college. This good result has greatly encouraged us to go forward with our work.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
J. M. Tan

COPY

Fukien Christian University
Shaowu, Fukien, China
June, 1941

Dear Friends in America:

Ever since my return to China, I have been thinking of writing to every one of you personally. On account of the limitation of time and the high cost of postage, however, my desire cannot be realized. I am, therefore, taking advantage of the service of our Board in America to forward this letter to you in mimeographed form.

I am glad to tell you that in spite of all the difficulties in connection with my return journey last year from the States to Shaowu, the location of this college, is a very happy one. Quite a large group of Chinese students from various parts of China representing all kinds of educational institutions came back on the same boat, S. S. President Coolidge, with their advanced training in the States. So far as I know, each one of them has reached his or her destination in safety and is now working for the reconstruction of China.

Fukien Christian University with which I am connected is an inter-denominational Christian institution of higher learning in Fukien, which is the main source of secondary school teachers and educational administrators in the province. In the past twenty-five years, it has developed from a very small college to a university with three colleges and ten departments with about three hundred students and more than seventy faculty and staff members. As a result of the increasing contributions made by its graduates both to the church and to society in general and the internal strengthening of its faculty and equipment, the institution has evolved from a provincial university to a national one attracting students from all the neighboring provinces such as Kwangtung, Chekiang, Kiangsi, Anhwei, Kiangsu, and so forth.

Accompanying the growth of the university there have arisen many new needs. First, the enlargement of the faculty and the staff brings about the problem of maintaining their traditional solidarity which so far is still quite good. The better offers of governmental institutions and the appalling rise in the cost of living have made it difficult to secure or retain competent persons with Christian background. If we in the future fail to get the right persons to staff our college, the solidarity of the faculty will be affected. Secondly, the increase of students coming from government high schools may gradually thin out the Christian character of the college unless we can get capable Christian teachers for our college. Thirdly, the fall of Foochow and its neighboring districts in the latter part of April, from which many of our students have come, has created an impending need for relief for those students whose homes are affected. Without substantial help they will be compelled to drop out of school next fall because of financial reasons.

In addition to the needs of our college, there are urgent needs resulting from the pouring in of thousands of refugees and refugee students into Shaowu. Many of them have fled without bringing anything with them. One example will illustrate the courage of these refugee students. The first group of them arrived at our campus with a boy of fourteen years of age. He followed the group walking more than two hundred miles in eight days with a bundle of clothing and a few catties of rice on his back. Such a spirit as this deserves our admiration, encouragement, and help. Their needs are very urgent; and we are doing our best to assist them. In short, the needs of the college internally and those of the society outside the campus are many. You as one of the many great friends of China who helped her in one way or another will be interested in knowing this situation. In case you or your friends want to know more, I will be more than happy to supply you with further information.

1228

In general the spirit of the people is still good. On the other hand the continuous increase in the cost of all daily necessities from three to more than ten times pre-war prices has made life very difficult for everybody, the salaried class in particular. For example, the average monthly salary of a professor in this institution is not more than US \$12.00, while a pair of shoes costs more than US \$2.00. It is an embarrassing task for a professor to maintain a family of four or even two. The situation for those with lower salaries is of course still more difficult. In the long run this situation, unless improved, will eventually affect the spirit of the people.

You may have heard that the Chinese translation of the word "crisis", is wei-chi or "danger-opportunity". From our Christian point of view it is wrong to look at the situation from its danger side alone. It is more important to see it from the angle of opportunity arising therefrom. No doubt this is a great opportunity for the rejuvenation of China, especially for the development of the Christian movement in this vast country. We could hardly find a better period with the attitude of government leaders so favorable toward and so appreciative of Christian activities, be they evangelistic, educational, medical or social. The minds of Chinese youth are searching for something worthwhile. What better soil could we find for our Christian message! The attitude of the masses is very favorable toward the Christian gospel as a result of the relief work and other activities carried on by Christian institutions. The trust of our government leaders in Christian people including the missionaries has been manifested in various ways. There is a great opportunity for Christianizing China in this period. It is my hope that American Christian friends will continue to contribute generously to this saving task as they have been doing.

I am fully conscious that what is happening in Europe is occupying the front pages of your papers and magazines. Under such circumstances it is quite natural that your attention is drawn to Europe. Nevertheless I trust you understand that the struggle in China is as important as, if not more important than, the European struggle, either from the standpoint of strengthening the Christian movement or the preservation of democracy. America, Britain, and China are the three main fortresses of democracy.

With kindest regards,

(Sgd.) J. M. Tan

The Celebration of Christmas at Fukien Christian University

The Celebration of Christmas 1941 Fukien Christian University (1941)

Fukien Christian University is a Christian Institution. In the past twenty-five years, it has been endeavoring to bring the message of Jesus Christ to Chinese youth and to disseminate the Good News among the Chinese people at large. In order to realize this purpose, the Christmas season has always been well used. Our Christmas celebrations have been full of vitality and glances. Attractive programs have been provided to express our joy in honoring our Savior, to renew our faith in Him, and to remind us of our responsibility in carrying out His teachings. Especially at this dark moment of the world's history, there is crying need for a cheerful and encouraging message to save us from the deep ocean of despair. It was with this background that Fukien Christian University planned for Christmas, 1941.

Our Aim---In addition to the general background mentioned above, the celebration of the 1941 Christmas was designed to serve two specific purposes: (1) to reaffirm the loyalty of the Christian members of the community to our Savior, and (2) to stimulate the interests of the non-Christian members in the Good News. The latter point deserves a special explanation.

While at Foochow, Fukien Christian University was more or less a provincial institution drawing its students mostly from the Christian secondary schools in Fukien. But since our migration to Shaoow the institution has gradually assumed a national character and has begun to attract boys and girls from all the provinces in Southeast China. Most of these youths from the other provinces come from a non-Christian background. How to assimilate them and how to make them become interested in Christianity has presented a great challenge to us. The Faculty Religious Activities Committee and the Student Christian Association have been endeavoring to make every religious festival interesting, religious, and educational in order to stimulate the interest of these non-Christian students in Christianity. One of the two main purposes of the Christmas celebration of this year was directed toward that end.

Our program---Our program covering two entire weeks was as follows:

Dec. 16 (Tues)	8:50 a.m.	Chapel, - "Christmas Story"
18 (Thurs)	8:50 a.m.	Chapel, - "Christmas Story"
20 (Sat)	8:50 a.m.	Chapel, - Special Christmas Music Service
21 (Sun)	9:00 a.m.	East Gate Church--Joint Christmas Service (F.C.U., Foochow College, Wen Shan Girls School and other schools)
	6:00 p.m.	Pageant
22 (Mon)	8:50 a.m.	Convocation, - Special Christmas Program
23 (Tues)	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Party for Workmen
24 (Wed)	6:30 p.m.	Candlelight Carol Service
		Midnight Caroling
25 (Thurs)	1:00 p.m.	Open House
	3:00 p.m.	Christmas for War Orphans
	6:30 p.m.	Community Christmas Party - program by Dept. Clubs; exchange of gifts.
28 (Sun)	2:00 p.m.	Faculty Christmas Party - program by faculty children.

1941 [2]

The Celebration of Christmas at Fukien Christian University (1941)

As indicated above the first week was introductory or preparatory. The chapel services were devoted to telling Christmas stories and describing the Christmas customs of other countries, one to a special Christmas music service. Then came a joint celebration in which all the Christian schools in Shaowu and the church participated. The most inspiring and entertaining parts of the entire program were the Christmas pageant and the candlelight carol service. In order to attract the attention of the non-Christian students a university convocation which all the students attended was utilized for a special address on the meaning of Christmas.

One of the important and significant features of the Christmas celebration was the utilization of this occasion to raise money to help the needy people in Shaowu as well as in Foochow. It has been the custom at Fukien Christian University to call "Christmas Bazaar" at this season and to use the funds thus secured for charity. This year the total amount received came to more than \$800. It was used to help the Old Peoples' Home, prisoners, and war orphans in Shaowu, and the Boys' and Girls' Blind Schools in Foochow.

For the purpose of a general celebration, a community Christmas party was held on the evening of Christmas Day in which the departmental clubs furnished the program which included the exchange of gifts. Finally, the Christmas celebration was closed with a faculty party in which all the faculty children presented the program.

The Christmas celebration is a part of our religious program. It is designed to preserve the good Christian heritage of the institution and to maintain the religious life of the community. In celebrating the Christmas of 1941 we were brought to a clearer recognition of the urgent needs of the world for the message of our Savior and to a new endeavor to cooperate with all the Christian agencies in the world in carrying out the commission which He has given us:

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all the commands I have laid on you. And all the time I will be with you, to the very end of the world."

Jen-mei Tan
Chairman of the Religious
Activities Committee

1231