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LETTER TO DR. RULAND from A.W. MARCH

^a
Hengchow College, Engineering Dept.
Hwaki, Kweiyang, Kweichow
October 28, 1944

Our correspondence has been largely thru Berkeley and by cable. It seems now appropriate for me to avail myself of a borrowed machine and let you know something of what is going on here.

I arrived at Hwaki about the middle of July and began exploring the situation, considering especially the wisdom of continuing the School of Engineering, especially since the rest of the institution had closed in Fukien, a wise course under the very inadequate conditions there.

Kweichow Province is one of the least occupied of the old 18, or later 22. The work of the Church of Christ in China is very new and represented by a few scattered youthful churches and comparatively weak ministry. Rev. Victor E. Hayward, English Baptist, is the secretary in charge and is doing a very fine work in gathering students, young business men, and government employees into the Church. There is no Higher Christian Education here whatever. Large numbers of students and intelligent young people are coming in rapidly from eastern provinces. Life in the Province is generally very primitive, though the cost of living is only a little less than that in Chungking and Kunming.

Kweichow University is just becoming established here and is putting up a large number of new buildings. They have succeeded in gathering quite a worthy faculty and a small student body but are not equipped for regular work as yet. Classes and teachers are very irregular and apparently standards are very low. In two or three years their plant will be available and there will be a place for books and apparatus so students and teachers can really work. This makes it possible for us to engage a number of these well trained men for our work.

Great China University moved here from Shanghai and began building its plant in this village. Later there was an opportunity to occupy abandoned barracks in the City, free of charge, and rent the three buildings they had completed to us. Tho very primitive from our point of view, they are better than those most of the schools occupy. A few weeks ago a Shanghai book shop, selling reprints of scientific and University texts, moved to Kweiyang from Kweilin and we have bought some of these for our engineering library, hoping to get more as we have the funds. Great China University has a fair equipment of engineering apparatus which they have boxed up and are not using. They are willing to consider offers to purchase part or all of this. I have not seen what there is there.

Kweichow Province is one of the best places to develop along engineering lines. There is almost unlimited water power all the year round so hydro-electric power could run many factories. Geologically, this is a province of great faults and intrusions of ore. I visited the provincial exhibit of geology and mineralogy and was much impressed by its variety and richness. The old name for the province was Kwei-fang, the land of demons. It is all mountainous, very cloudy, rainy most of the year, and was the center of large numbers of aboriginal tribes, healthy, partly civilized, and warlike. Few of the Chinese, or Han-ren, cared or dared to live in so inhospitable a country. Only recently have the Chinese come here in any numbers. The main highways cross at Kweiyang; one passes from Kunming eastwards into Hunan; another branches off this into Kwangsi to the southeast; the main highway to Chungking goes north from Kweiyang; to the south this same road continues into Kwangsi but has not been completed. Hwaki is on this road 17 ^{km} south.

The following table of our student body at present gives a little idea of its distribution and the effect of the war on China's population:

Kweichow province	28	Hunan province	9
Fukien "	3	Kwangtung "	9
Kwangsi "	1	Kiangsu "	8
Chekiang "	10	Other provinces	16
Total 84			

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These 84 are in two years, the first and second. For further work we send them to Chekiang University where there is more equipment of the Junior and Senior courses. We have about 29 students there now, registered under our name and expecting to receive our diploma when they have satisfactorily completed our requirements.

We have four departments as below, with the number of students in each:

Civil Engineering	14 Freshmen	12 Sophomores
Mechanical Engineering		8 "
Architecture	14 "	7 "
Chemical Engineering	29 "	8 "

also 1 special who did not finish last year.

Our proportion of Christians to non-Christians is rather high, 22 to 62. The 22 are from Christian homes or connections; 17 of them signed as Christians, themselves.

Our teaching staff is interesting. Stephen Tsao is Dean and teaches drawing; he graduated after three years with us in Shanghai the first year being in Hangchow. He is the mainspring of the work here this year and is carrying most of the responsibility. Mr. Koh teaches mathematics, is red hot on his subjects, studied three years in France, a very attractive person. Mrs. Shen studied in University of Shanghai and then went to Ann Arbor, where she wrote a thesis on light radiation and atomic structure. She is a very inspiring teacher in physics. Her husband, Prof. Yen, gives us part time in physics quizzes and lectures. Mr. Chang is head of the department of Chinese in Kweichow University and is giving us what we need in Chinese here. The man we had engaged for architecture was called to Chungking for government work and we have not yet found a man to take his place; hope to have him next week. The same thing happened to our professor of mechanical engineering, Prof. Ing. A Mr. Wu is giving the courses in Differential Equations. Mr. Liu, head of the Economics Department of Kwaiyang University is giving us a course in Economics. He studied in America and has an American wife and two fine little girls. We have a second man in Architecture, a nurse, and an athletic director. The proctor is a Christian young fellow from Chekiang University. At present we have a College Pastor, Rev. Nantu Wan, a protege of Dr. Tooker's; he spent some time in Kuling as pastor of the Chinese Church there after a second breakdown with T.B. He studied in Yale-in-China in Yenching Theological Seminary, and then in Yale Divinity School in New Haven. We may be losing him to the Home Mission Field in Yunnan Tin Mining Project in which Dr. Kepler was interested.

Now I think our set-up is pretty good. We hope to have a much larger enrollment next year when the quality of our work is better known. However, in war time and at present cost of living, our annual budget is about five million Chinese Currency. Of this we expect 480,000 CN from fees, 40,000 CN from Government grants, we had a balance from last year of about 500,000 CN. This leaves 3,980,000 to come from appropriations, or US dollars, about 40,000 at 100 to 1.

Miss Moffet wrote me day before yesterday, dated October 19th, that she had received a cable from you authorizing her to pay to us the appropriations for the current fiscal year, four thousand five hundred, plus 207.73 endowment interest. I believe the intention of the Board of Directors has been that this appropriation should be for maintenance of an office in Chungking until such a time as it is possible for Hangchow to join in the Union Christian University after the war. As you see, it is entirely inadequate for us here. Under present conditions we would not dare to attempt to reduce our budget. In the Government universities rice is given as a grant and teachers and servants are paid in rice, and students have their aid also in rice. With us the grant is in cash at about a half to a third of the market price of rice at present.

The Alumni Campaign for funds has been held up by President Lee's absence in Shanghai, I believe it is, and we had hope we might have something from that for our budget this year

copy of letter to Dr. Ruland from A. W. March
10/28/44 p.3.

I telegraphed repeatedly during July and August trying to find out what the situation was at the Home end and whether we could have an appropriation for the school for the coming year, but could get no reply. Finally, on the first of September we had to decide about renting the buildings, and engaging teachers and giving entrance examinations. Delaying any longer meant giving up the plan to continue the College. Mr. Leung wired me from Chungking to go ahead and trust the Board to back me up in continuing ^{the} work that has been going so well the last two years and showed good prospect of further progress. We expected to hear any day that our College appropriation had been continued but nothing came until this word to Miss Moffet that we could have the grant for office maintenance. We have been living on tuition fees and must have full appropriation immediately to carry on. It is too late to close now; buildings are rented; teachers engaged for the year, and we have agreed to take the students for the year.

This is a unique opportunity. Students may be drafted into the army at any time. Just now we have them here and they are eager to get all we can give them. We organized a student fellowship of about 25 last night, centered around worship and Bible Study but including fellowship in spirit, mind, body. Today another group came to me and said there were twenty more who wanted to start a second fellowship along the same lines. I am looking into the motives of the second group but the opportunity is here and we must meet it. The Youth of China Calls!

With best wishes to all of you,

Sincerely yours,

A.W. March

Note on copy received from Dr. Ruland,--
Copies sent to S. C. Leung
Miss Anna E. Moffet & Dr. Fenn.

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Board of Foreign Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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ANS'D

December 18, 1944

Mr. Arthur W. March
c/o Wen Teh Girls Middle School, South Bank
Canadian Mission
Chungking, Szechwan
Free China

My dear March:

Your letter written in Kweiyang describing the work of the Engineering College and presenting the problem of its finances is before me. Since your letter arrived, word has come from you giving only the brief word that Hangchow College of Engineering is closed. With the rapid advance of the enemy forces, we can see how that was necessary. I assume that no consideration will be given to reopening the college so long as the situation continues as it is. Personally, I feel that probably now that the college is closed, it will not be wise to reopen until the time comes when Hangchow can resume its work on a post-war basis. I am sure you and the others in charge of the Engineering School have been in close touch with Mr. Leung and the field board, and no important decision such as reopening will be taken without the approval of the field board.

I feel that I should write you fully about the financial resources of the institution. As you know, Hangchow, during this emergency, has received support from two American sources:

1. The appropriations made by the two ^{mission} ~~middle~~ boards
2. Emergency funds raised by the Associated Boards of the China Colleges. More recently the Associated Boards have been a participating member of United China Relief, receiving from United China Relief emergency funds for the China colleges. Under the restriction of the National War Fund, the Associated Boards are not permitted to raise funds independently. The emergency funds are allocated by the Associated Boards to the several colleges upon the basis of information and recommendation presented to us by Dr. Fenn, who has been serving as the agent of the Associated Boards. All budgets of the colleges and requests come to the Associated Boards from the colleges through Dr. Fenn.

For the present college year, the regular mission appropriations are available; in the case of the Southern Board the amount is \$3,500 and the Northern Board raised their appropriation to each of the colleges this past year to the amount of \$4,500. At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hangchow, when we assumed that all the work of Hangchow would be closed, and in order to hold the charter and office maintained in Chungking, we indicated that this amount would be available in connection with the expenses of that office. However, that office is not yet open, and even if later President Lee should open a Hangchow College office in Chungking, I should think that a portion of that amount should be available to meet the expenses of the Engineering School.

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December 18, 1944

In regard to the emergency funds of the Associated Boards, the situation is somewhat different from previous years. I have discussed the matter fully with Mr. Ballou and Mr. Evans before writing this letter. First of all, all funds of U.C.R. are forwarded direct to China and are made available there in Chinese dollars to the agencies and institutions assisted. In other words, no funds coming from United China Relief this year will be made available through the Associated Boards to Mr. Curry Hearn, the Treasurer of our Hangchow College Board of Trustees. In the second place, because of the critical financial situation, due to rising inflation, it has been agreed that all expenses of the China colleges would have to be reduced to the most rigid minimum, and the budgetary needs of each institution would have to be placed before the U.C.R. Field Committee through Dr. Fenn for decision as to what funds can be granted. Therefore, as a result of my conversation with Messrs. Ballou and Evans, I am writing to advise you, if you have not already done so, to place promptly before Dr. Fenn the full financial requirements in connection with the closing of the Engineering School. A copy of the statement should also be sent to Mr. Lennig Sweet, Acting Field Director of U.C.R. during the period that Mr. Dwight Edwards is in this country on furlough. It is probable that you will want to confer with Mr. Leung, as Chairman of the Field Board of Hangchow, and have him join with you in supporting this request.

Dr. Fenn is now giving the major portion of his time to other service, but he is still acting on behalf of the Associated Boards. Mr. Sweet may be addressed in care of United China Relief, Chungking. We had assumed that you were in touch with President Lee in connection with the program of the Engineering School, and we knew that President Lee was familiar with the method by which the needs of Hangchow are placed before the Associated Boards as a request for emergency funds. That made it difficult to understand the messages sent direct to the Boards, for under the present emergency, the mission boards have no large funds available to assist the China Colleges. In the case of our Board, where we are participating in 5 colleges in China all having an equal claim upon any emergency funds that might be available, we are in no position to provide substantial emergency funds for any of the colleges. Rather we are committed to work through the United China Relief Fund and the Associated Boards.

There is also a Scholarship Fund, about which I wish to speak. This fund was set up as a memorial to Dr. Frank Bible as a gift from his brother, and the income from it is to be used in aiding one or more promising students by scholarships in Hangchow College. In case it was not used before the Engineering School closed, it can be used to aid students who would normally be in Hangchow in their work in one of our other Christian colleges. The amount of this scholarship fund for this year is \$207.73 and can be drawn from Miss Moffet. Mr. and Mrs. Bible, who made the gift, are much interested in this fund, and there is the possibility that they may continue to increase the principal amount. They are anxious to have a report on how the fund is being used, some brief word about each of the students whom the fund is aiding. May I count on you to follow through on this matter and to get some information to me that I can pass on to Mr. and Mrs. Bible.

I shall be interested in hearing from you again about the closing of the school and what plans you are able to make to cover all its expenses. It is my understanding that President Lee is now back in former territory with the idea of taking his family to Szechuan. We can all appreciate the heavy burden of sorrow and anxiety which he has carried.

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Mr. Arthur W. March

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December 18, 1944

I had a pleasant visit in Berkeley recently, with the opportunity for a good visit with Mrs. March. We are confident that you will find ample opportunity for service during this period that Hangchow is closed. We have been much distressed by the recent unfavorable developments. The news has been brighter the past few days. We look forward so eagerly to the day when we can plan constructively and with certainty for the future of our work in China.

This is written as we are entering the Christmas season. It carries to you my very best wishes for the new and we hope better year of 1945.

Cordially yours,

Lloyd S. Ruland

P.S. Copies of this letter are being sent to Dr. Fulton and Dr. Fenn.

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December 18, 1944

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Mr. Arthur W. Marsh

I had a pleasant visit in Berkeley recently, with the opportunity for a good visit with Mrs. Marsh. We are confident that you will find ample opportunity for service during this period that Hangchow is closed. We have been much distressed by the recent unfavorable developments. The news has been brighter the past few days. We look forward so eagerly to the day when we can plan constructively and with certainty for the future of our work in China.

This is written as we are entering the Christmas season. It carries to you my very best wishes for the new and we hope better year of 1945.

Cordially yours,

Lloyd S. Rains

P.S. Copies of this letter are being sent to Dr. Bolton and Dr. Fenn.

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