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April 5, 1926

Mr. C. T. Song
West China Union University
Chengtu, West China

Dear Song:

I am very glad indeed to be actually at work for West China again. I enjoyed my experience in Shanghai, but West China always had my heart, and so I am very happy in my new job.

I hope that you and your family are in good health and that your work is going along very well.

May I trouble you to send me a brief statement of what you consider to be the need and purpose of the university. Why should we carry it on? What is the best reason you could present to a man in asking for a gift of \$100,000.? If you can send this rather promptly it will be much appreciated.

I do hope that you will send me a few personal thoughts and items along with the letter. I cannot tell you how greatly I enjoyed my visits with you when I was in Chengtu last. I should appreciate very much any thoughts you have about the present situation -- what attitude ought a Christian to take; for example, in dealing with other religions. You have had a real and remarkable religious experience. What does it mean for you to call Christ Savior? In what sense is he a greater leader than Confucius or Buddha? -

We have been a much divided family since leaving China last July. I have been traveling most of the time. Our two older daughters have

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been in France, and Mrs. Yard and the two younger ones have been in Watertown, Connecticut. The older girls are due home the end of this month and we shall be very glad to be all together again. I am glad to say that we are all in very good health and hope that you and your family have not been sick during the winter.

With real affection,

Sincerely yours,

Y/P

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C O P Y for File Original sent to Dr. Yard'

West China Union University
Chengtu, West China
June 6, 1926

Mr. James M. Yard
West China Union University
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Yard:

What a pleasure it is to hear from you! How happy I am to know that you are now actually working for West China again! We shall expect to see you in Chengtu soon. When do you plan to come over?

What a great joy it must be to you to have all the members of your family together again! I hope this letter will find you all sound and well.

The need and purpose of the university are two-fold: spiritual and intellectual education. The purpose is to train and produce great leaders of vision and thought. Therefore the need is to have more efficient teachers who can give themselves to the work. We should carry it on, because Christian education is what the world needs. The best reason I could present to a man in asking for a gift of \$100,000 is that the university is doing an unique work, namely to realize the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man. The world is in great need of young men and women who are efficiently trained to carry the responsibility of pulling the world together. We need men of strength, of vision, of large heart, and of great ability. To produce such men seems to me to be the job of the university. God is eager to see his world turning into one family, but He cannot realize His Ideal without man's cooperation. And man cannot co-operate without proper training. University not only is in need of efficient teachers, but also of money to carry on the work. We need to have a good library, and a good laboratory.

A Christian's attitude toward other religions ought to be honest and fair. He ought to be such a student of truth that he never dares to look down upon other religions, but quietly tries his best to learn to understand and appreciate them. Men of other religions are his brothers and sisters, and he can learn much from them as well as give what he has to them. He ought to be humble. Either in his preaching or in his conversation his attitude ought to be always sincere toward other religious men. He must not quarrel with any like the blind men quarrelled about the elephant. He ought always to be conscious of the fact that he knows so little. He must live his own religion in such a way that other religious man cannot but feel the attraction. I feel more and more that religion is a matter of living and not of talking. Don't you think so?

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I call Christ "Savior" because He saves me from sin, from temptation, from the world, and from myself. He is my Savior in a very real sense. He saves me from fear, from Satan, and from death. He is my life, my strength, my power, my joy, my truth, my way, my friend, my brother, oh! my very self if that self is going to mean something to the world. I must die on the Cross; He must live in my place. So I call Him "Savior".

He is greater than Confucius or Buddha, because He is more divine. But He is so very human. He is God in the real sense and man in the real sense. So He can bring God and man together and let them enjoy each other in a very special sense.

However, I feel that the world - specially the Christian world - have not yet really begun to understand either Confucius or Buddha. A lot of Confucius' teaching is wrongly interpreted and compared. Confucius is not what the Christians think he is. He is far more and bigger. I have spent the last two or three years in digging again into his work. What a new Confucius comes to have contact with me! As regard to Buddha, there are simply thousands of books written about him and his teaching. He is deeper than most of the Christians think. I feel that we Christians ought to try afresh to understand and appreciate him, rather than comparing him and seeing his faults. What do you think, Seeker of Truth?

My dear Mr. Yard, I can never forget the times we spent together in Chengtu - specially the hours together in San si kai. I am so deeply grateful to you for your Christian life and spirit, for your friendship, and love. You can be sure that you are constantly remembered. I wish I can see you face to face and talk with you. There are so many lines of thought that we can exchange and talk together. However, I suppose I must stop.

Well, I think I have said a word about my work yet. I am sure you will be interested to know it. I am now teaching 12 hours in the University: 6 hours English and 6 hours religion. I am also teaching 4 hours in two of the best Government schools. I am preaching every Sunday in the Hostel service. Besides, you know, a lot of personal touch or translation, etc. I am also trying in my spare moments to improve myself.

With much love,

Very sincerely yours,

C. T. Song

P. S. My wife wishes me to remember her to Mrs. Yard.

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July 19th, 1926.

Mr. C. T. Song,
West China Union University,
Chongtu, West China.

Dear Song:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of June 6th. I am always very happy to get a word from you and this letter was particularly inspiring.

Such work as I am doing of course goes very slowly and I have not seen many results yet. However, I am constantly meeting people in different parts of the country and am working on plans that ought to yield a large sum within the next three or four years. It is too bad that someone could not have been at work on the job I have for the last three years. It seems now that the wise thing to do would be for the union universities of China to join in a campaign for a large sum of money with which to endow Christian education in China. It has taken us several years to understand the situation and the criticism of the anti-Christians has helped us to clarify our thought on the whole situation. I think we are more ready, from an intellectual standpoint, to attempt a campaign for large funds than we have ever been. Of course we shall have to answer all sorts of criticisms and objections.

I am perfectly delighted with your attitude in this letter and am always glad to know that you are on the faculty of the University. I know that your religious experience is real and that your mental outlook is broad and liberal. Only such a man, in my opinion, can make much of a contribution to the religious training of the present generation of students anywhere in the world. Sometimes I wish that you might come to America for a year or two of study in one of our universities. If the money could be secured, could you leave your family? I am not saying at all that there is any possibility of getting the money for I have no one in mind at present who could contribute it, but I know that your usefulness would be increased with the added experience that such a year would give you and as I am writing, it occurred to me to ask what your attitude toward such a proposition would be.

My family are all very well and we are looking forward to a good vacation together by the seaside. I hope that you and yours are all in good health and that you are having a good restful summer. With kindest regards,

Ever sincerely,

JMY/RT

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West China



Union University

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, WEST CHINA

July 27th 1926.

Rev. J. M. Yard.
New York.
Dear Mr. Yard:

I am not sure at this moment as to your correct address but will find out before sending this off. We are here at Omei having a really fine summer. Anna, Harold and Ethel Ruth all have had trachoma, one of the little things one pays for living in China they each have had operations with general anaesthetic, Harold had injections of pure carbolic in the lids of his eyes, surely the daddy must have been some sinner for his son so to suffer. The poor lad makes no complaint never a whine against the country but takes it as part of the job. If one were to get sentimental it only wants a bit of imagination as to what a ~~man~~ child's eyes mean to the parents so show just what we have gone through. After the operation they have had to have bichloride and dry boracic rubs every three days all summer. We are mighty glad we are at the hills in the cool else it would have been just too much. The children are simply wonderful about the whole matter.

Things about the University present one of the greatest studies in the whole variety of life in China. Never in my ~~XXXXXX~~ years of school work in China have I seen students get down to real hard study as they did this past year. They seem to have gone through the ultra patriotic notions and are beginning to realize that knowledge for the mind and power for the heart are essential before beginning any real work of reconstruction. They are ready for any form of social service work, I had the work in the world to select men to run a Sunday School enough teachers and to spare. What the student in China to-day needs is an implicate faith in hi. If they are convinced of our absolute honesty in all matters in even our pet theories they will give us the benefit of the doubt and work with us. Ideas that are tried theories that are part of our very life they will accept, but to bolster up a worn out creed finds them sadly wanting. Strange that they should be so much like the youth of other lands, but true.

As you are well aware we are trying to make learning by head and learning by hand march side by side. While I was home I got some of my friend to get behind me with the equipment for a machine shop. ~~When~~ We have two nice lathes, and a gasoline engine we have a fine drill press and some minor tools but are sadly in need of a gear cutting attachment for the lathe and a small planer that will take small bits of work say up to two feet. We also need a set of tin working tools, such as circular shears, seam folding machine in fact a complete set of hand tin-working tools. We are helping Dick in his attempt at preserving and a big business it will be. Then we need a vulcanizing machine there is growing up a tremendous trade in bicycles rickshaws and all kind of tire repairs a vulcanizing machine is essential. All kinds of machine shop tools and accessories are needed so that the boys can do the best work in their time. You would be delighted to see what we have already done, all kinds of bicycle, sewing machine, typewriter,

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watch, clock, scientific equipment are being repaired. Get this over to some audience or individual, picture the Womens Hospital the terrible need, the only place where women can get attention, the poor officials all coming, then horror, the sterilizer goes off, nothing nearer than Hankow can help, the consternation of the staff, the reputation of modern ~~xxxx~~ surgery at stake, a S.O.S call to the University Machine Shop, can we help? Sure send it along, that ought to get some attention. Then again the Clock Tower is to be set up all the munificent gift is to be open a light away above the twinkling orphan lights is needed, can we set it up with a storage battery, sure let us at it. And in the darkness shines out a new light, then the intricate works of the clock need attention to make Dr Coles gift of service, the Machine Shop is ready, self supporting not asking grants but so sadly in need of equipment. We have discovered a real mechanical genius. This work is going to give to the church of W China men of real worth because it gives them a chance to earn their way but equipment is so needed.

I am sending you a few samples of the work that is being done in the studio, how can we help you? send us your order for bits of photos that you can leave with your friend as you move around, something that is real China, it is all done by the boys earning their way through to a Christian education, they need a rebuilt typewriter to keep accounts and make out bills, they need a MOVING PICTURE CAMERA, we have a fine gift from the Eastman co it has been on the way for some time now, if it gets through in good condition we will be able to get you some good results. Do you want lantern slides of Mr Fang and Yang Shao Chuen and men of that type? We have them on hand. Tell me in detail just what you need and we will get it for you. I have not been able to get photos of paper making but will keep an eye open. It is difficult to get to those places where things are made when the weather is just right.

Yours very sincerely.

S. H. Soper.

Good scientific text books on Electricity, Electro plating, Blue print reading, models in wood and brass, or books on model making will be of real service.

S. H. S.

2914575

West China



Union University

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, WEST CHINA

December 8th 1926.

Rev. J. M. Yard.
150. Fifth Avenue.
New York.

Dear . DR. Yard;

The committee have asked me to write you in the matter of Agricultural extention work.

Our first move is along the line of publicity. At our meeting this week it was decided to link up in this work as much as possible with Nanking. As you are aware they publish a monthly paper for farmers and students. It is a valuable aid in the type of work we are now beginning. We have decided first to secure as many subscribers as possible among the farmers and ~~Middle~~ schools as we have the opportunity. Second, we hope to contribute to that paper items of special interest to Sze Chwan. Third, we hope to make certain adaptations of the matter issued at Nanking so as to meet conditions in Sze Chwan. Fourth, we hope to publish these in the church paper issued in Chengtu by Orlando Jolliffe called HOPE, this paper goes out to all the schools and churches in the connection. Fifth, we want to start a series of lantern lectures with a view to getting the interest of the farmers, during the time when they are free, in general agricultural problems. These lectures will be written out in English and Chinese so that they may be used even where trained experts cannot go. Sixth, we want to hold a series of half day institutes among the farmers near here, one on the Improvement of Dairy has already been held with the finest results. Seventh we want to prepare a series of exhibits using charts, specimens, and live stock, we had a big show last year at the local fair and want to continue this work.

I could go on in this way up to umpteenthly but you will see that from our present program of publicity and extention we are hoping to make the very best possible use of all that is being done in Nanking but are forced by reason of our geographical situation to meet local conditions by supplanting the work at Nanking in a very large measure.

The next step in our Publicity and Extention program is to prepare men to make an itinerary of the nearby districts. The committee considers that two graduates of the Union University who have had at least two years at Nanking will be needed for this work. They will spend part time here during which they will give short courses of an intensive linking up with the departments of Education and Science, they will prepare exhibits and hold local institutes for farmers, they will make one itinerary each term at least. In addition to these two a later step would be the getting of a Veterinary Doctor as an addition to the staff.

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West China



Union University

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, WEST CHINA

Now, the above program is being begun right now . We are getting out literature, we are using what we can of the Nanking materials we are holding some meetings with the farmers. Each one of the committee is backing this work with all he can spare of time and money. Five or six empty houses on the campus means that some folks that are staying by the stuff are carrying a wee bit extra . We want you to help us , and know you will is at all possible , in the following way. We need a small annual grant of say two hundred gold dollars for Publicity and Extention in getting out our own material to the farmers, in holding local institutes , in getting small exhibits. Second we need several sets of slides on agriculture in foreign countries and also about Fifty gold dollars to get sets ready on local conditions this would need a small amount about twenty five dollars gold a year to ~~keep~~ keep up to date. With this annual grant of say two hundred and fifty dollars we can make a lot of hte work that is now being done here of real value to the community around.

Dr. Brown will write you a statement of the complete scheme when the committee has finished its work. In the complete scheme will be the support of two men while in Nanking and after they come back this money we will need at once as one man at least is ready to go to Nanking in June 1927. If you can assure us of his support it will put heart into the whol bunch as we must plan to have him here when Dick goes on furlough in 1929.

Let me say that the fact that you are behind us and working so that we can make our work reach out to the community is of the greatest help to us .

Yours very sincerely.

S. H. Soper.

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West China



Union University

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, WEST CHINA

Dec 20th 1926

Dear Dr. Ward.

The enclosed explains itself. Just this morning I had made for Harold Burns a bunch of lantern slides quite equal to Home stuff I had to charge him \$0.50 for slide and \$0.50 for the negative yet this work is important if we could finance it. Last night I gave a lantern talk to a mob they were glad to come and want more. This is the time for publicity that is of real educational value. Shoot us along a bunch of slides and also a good Edison battery we can charge it here it is needed for publicity work.

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I can get into the big fort middle schools
if I can keep up my supplies. An Edison
Battery is essential a lantern we can fit
up ourselves out of stuff we have here

All going fine again.

Yours

Sam. H. Soper.

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