

Abbie G. Sanderson Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

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Folder label: AGS to family, from Swatow, with enclosed excerpts of article by Toyohiko Kagawa and circular letters from other missionaries

Dates: 1935 Sep - Dec

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(141)

Sewatow, China

September 5, 1935

Dearest One:

We had a marvelous trip from Fookow - calm as could be all the way - and never a drop of rain - It is fairly hot here, but not too hot - School began yesterday and I taught three classes right off the bat.

September 8 -

And so - ! I didn't get my letter off at all last week to my beloved family - My time has been pretty well taken up since I got back from Kuliang - but I have decided that I shall accomplish now in the

long run, and stand the
chance of being a better
missionary, if I make it a
point to go to bed earlier
than I did last year, and
take each day's work as it comes,
trying to do what I can well,
and letting the rest go - That
is an ideal, anyway - and
the "letting the rest go" will
be no difficult as any part
of it, I see very plainly -
However - I've had a very
happy, helpful summer,
and the days since I
came back have been busy -
but restfully full, if you
know what I mean - Some
big problems loom ahead,
but they don't seem so

grim and forbidding as problems often do -

One problem was that of Carl Capens language study. The Board wanted him - and his bride, whose parents are missionaries in Korea - to study mandarin at the Peiping language school. He wanted to - and his father wanted him to - Some - a very few of us wanted him to - A majority thought he had better come here for a year - and it was so voted. But the matter was reconsidered, and the result is that the Carl Capens go to Peiping for a year - I'm so glad for them! They'll get the advantages of the language school + of learning how to study Chinese properly - all the lectures etc - as well as a foundation in mandarin, before coming down here - So that is settled temporarily -

Another problem is that of our High School Bible Classes (Sunday school). The youngsters have had to go at 8.30 for S.S., then right on to church which is not out before 11, and then those who are in the young people's society go to that meeting at 1.30 and are there until 3 - It is a pretty long program! The students don't like it, and the teachers don't enjoy teaching it for the most part - So at our faculty fellowship meeting on Friday night the teachers voted to have the classes arranged at some other time than Sunday a.m. at 8.30 - I am to have one class of seniors and I shall have two sessions instead of one - Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 to 9.30!

I don't mind, really - and the matter is settled thus a little more satisfactorily to students and teachers alike - There is one thing I don't like about it, however, and that is that in the middle of the week it is hard to settle down to a "Sunday" atmosphere. It may be, however, that we need more to get the "religious" business considered an everyday affair, and not reserved for Sunday -

If I'm going to bed at 9.30 I've got to go now -
So goodbye - With love -

Athi

September 15, 1935-

• Dear Ques:

Where did I leave off? Arranging for music classes or getting ready for the dormitory girls' party? Or what? Things have been going on the last few days quite with the usual hurry and bustle of the opening of school.

This week we have had a few "extras", too. Tuesday night I invited five women teachers here to eat upon the lawn - picnic supper, by colored lantern light - and later moonlight. It was very nice, though short. For two of us had to go at 8 p.m. to a school executive committee meeting up at the principal's house - The women teachers now are all former students except the new dean (Miss Hazel Chen) whom I met at Kuliang - I think we are going to like her very much. Thursday night was the fall Moon Festival night, the 15th ^(Chinese), when the moon is at her prettiest. That night was chosen to hold the first teachers' meeting of the year - and it was held out on the principal's lawn - a very lovely setting, and a wonderful moon. Almost all the talking was done in mandarin - so you may be sure I was especially glad for any opportunity I have taken advantage of to study mandarin! I can understand more than I ever did before - but it is very difficult for me to speak any of it.

On Friday Louise Campbell arrived from America with Dorothy, who had been to Hong Kong to meet her, and the Baskets, who had waited down at Chung chow, the island where they have been vacationing, until Louise should come through Hongkong - That afternoon Edna Smith and

Beatrice gave a picnic supper to us all in her honor. Lots of fun - only I had to run off pretty soon to choir rehearsal and then immediately back home to faculty prayermeeting -

Last night I invited the women teachers and the girls at the dormitory to come over and play games in the evening. We strung lights out on our new lawn and had cushions for them to sit on - I hope they had a good time, but I'm not too sure of it! It had suddenly turned gold - so that the ice-cream which I ordered was not the most fitting in the world for refreshments! However - we managed to keep fairly wide-awake - until nearly ten o'clock - But I was tired the next morning - and yet there was a new Sunday School class demanding my attention. We planned at first to have the Bible class changed to another day, but couldn't find a single other hour in the

whole week except Sunday at 8.30 a.m.!

Tuesday night:

I really am ashamed that this has not been sent to you. When I was writing it Sunday night I suddenly realized that if I am to be at all strict with myself about getting to bed early, I'd have to leave the writing of the letter until morning - Then yesterday it just didn't get written. Yesterday was Louise's birthday & Dorothy invited Beatrice and me to the dinner and had all the missionaries come in for dessert - and for music and fun afterwards.

This summer I was greatly impressed & have Betty Williams always at leisure, never too busy to help people talk over problems, no matter what they were doing. It made me wish all over again that my life might be so ordered that I could have a "heart at leisure from itself". It is so so easily to slip back into the rut of rushing madly from one trivial detail to another! Perhaps something can be attained after a while, but I'm afraid that in my case it will take years of discipline!

Much love to you

Abbie

(11 days since I sent the last one!)

Sivatou, China

September 26, 1935

Dear Cues;

This is the day when Mabelle is arriving in Hongkong - we suppose! If she does arrive there, I think she will send us a telegram to-morrow and let us know whether she is coming right on up to Sivatos to arrive here Saturday. If she comes right along, we shall have our little welcome teas, meetings, etc - right off on Saturday and Sunday (and get them out of the way!) -

Our upstairs is at present all torn up. The cause of it all is this: During the summer I had the house boy paint my bathtub, at a cost of paint for 30¢ per can, instead of the usual \$4 to \$6 to the regular painter. The boy did a pretty good job on the bathtub - painted some of the other bathroom furniture too - but when I saw the floor I was aghast - white spots, smears and smudges all over it, and well out into the bedroom! So I had to have my bathroom floor varnished - I got a cheap man to do it, but he used a nice shiny varnish and when it was done it looked so grand that I just had to have the bedroom and study done - We decided that Mabelle's room should be done too, now before she goes into it; that left only the dining room - which was really about the worst of the lot!

(Living Room)

So when we found that, would cost only about \$2. more, we had to have it done too!

Marion has been sick with dysentery - and couldn't come upstairs, so I have been eating downstairs with her, except for breakfast. Enid does not come home very many times a week, so I have been the only one who has had to step from rug to rug - flying across the far stretches or jumping them - or going by way of the back veranda when I wanted to get to bathroom or bedroom! I am truly amazed to find how few of the bureaus and bookcases got moved against things with faces covered, so you couldn't open the drawers. One or two of them did, and of course those were the ones we had to open to get things out of!

The varnish is pretty well dry now and we shall try to get the house back in order today - New dining room curtains are already up and they don't look too bad for pieces snatched from the patch-bag! Along last spring we found some curtain and upholstery material in Svatov that was cheap, so we have those ready to go up to. I don't know that we can get it all done before Mabelle gets here, but we shall be well started. There is one thing we need terribly that we haven't got and that is a covering for our living room floor. Our matting has all gone bad at once - We ripped it up and sewed it over again - and

now it really looks worse than ever - It was rough and frayed before, but now it has flaked out into a great number of ugly spots which we didn't notice before - Well - we have two extra little pieces which can cover the worst spots, and the rest will just have to be endured until we can scrape something together for some kind of rug -

Marion seems better the last two days, but she doesn't talk much about being sick - and I never know just how she is -

I am getting very eager for a letter from you; didn't get one last week, though I had two the week before - As I remember to tell you how many people ask about you - ? Edith Traver always, whenever she sees me - and many others very often. They are asking now what you intend to do this ~~summer~~ ^{winter} - I too, am wondering whether you will be able to manage through the cold weather in the little house all by yourselves - I have an idea that you want to if you can - Is that right?

Much, much love to you both.

Abbie

Suatsow, China

October 6, 1935

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Dearest One,

I was very glad to get your letter yesterday - but sorry if the name "Oxford Group" worries you - I think if I could talk with you now you would agree with me that if the Lord really guided a person to say certain words to another person, it would be right for him to say those words even though in former times he might have considered it an "abomination to the Lord" to do so.

Last spring I think I should have felt ashamed to have come people - or any body! - knows that I felt an interest in the ways of the Group - Now I feel so sure that God is using that as a Way - not the only way - to do some of his

back in this world that I feel I
cannot help it if people criticize,
or make fun, or call me one-sided.
I know that my life as a missionary
has been very far from what it ought
to be. I have believed with my mind
that I could be more used of God
than I have been used - I have
kidded myself into thinking that I
was doing the best I could - when
I know that I wasn't putting forth
that extra effort to "listen" to find
out which of all the things I was
doing were the things that I
ought to be doing - I was "casting
all my care upon Him" and then
hassling every bit of it straight
back into my own hands to worry
about - And did I lap up every
least little bit of praise that came
my way?! (And how!) I'm
afraid writing all those sentences in
the past tense doesn't convey the
right impression - for I don't believe
any more than you do in what you

call "instantaneous sanctification" -
"capitally changed in a moment"
a changed life, - some people would
rather it to say I still worry, low praise, do
say - many things out of first importance etc!!
But seeing some of these lacks,
desiring to have them changed, and
desiring that to the point of actually
taking God at his word that he can and
will change them if I let him, seems
to be a more hopeful state of affairs
than the previous state of knowing I
wasn't a very good missionary and
throwing the blame not on myself
but on conditions in which I live
on other people - etc. etc.

If you hear ^{or} of a group that is
breaking up a church - you may know that
there is something wrong about that group -
and probably something wrong about the church.
I believe it is very easy to go to extremes -
and if people try to make ^{other} people wake
up to the standards of honesty & purity, get
forget themselves, the standards of love
and unselfishness, they are bound to
get way off the track of what they

next after -

As I see it, the people I met this summer are dead in earnest to try & work out in daily life the principles of Jesus as laid down in the New Testament - They have been working them out, in the very same kinds of situation where I have been failing -

Ergo ——— ! - - - - - !

So - whether a group is ever formed here or not - whether I am ever again in my life to meet with a Fellowship Group, at least a little window has been opened! The rest of the story can't be written yet - since it is still in the future -

Now - does this sound like heresy? - If so, what part of it? If it does - & you - please tell me - 'cause I feel there is a danger of my seeing one-sidedly these days - & I don't want to -

I want to send you some-
thing on this subject by
Nagawa, but can't get it
copied for this letter -

I love you - a lot!

Yours

Abbie

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Seaton, China

Oct. 13, 1934

Dearest One.

Have I mentioned the fact yet that Mabelle has arrived - and that we had a tea for her; that the Capeus arrived several days before she did, and thus was a tea for them? So some of my work is passed over to Mabelle, and by all rights I ought to have a little more free time than I had before - Guess I have, but I don't seem to get many extra things done -

Today has not seemed as rushed as it might have, had I not started the day with a quieter heart than I have sometimes done - My Sunday School class came as usual at 8.30 - and following that I went to church, where Mabelle and I sang a duet "The Stranger of Galilee." It is a beautiful song; Mabelle brought it out with her - After church service we went to the Bungalow and sang it for Miss Solman. Then I came home and tried to finish collecting my thoughts for a task later on in the day - After dinner, did some more mending then - went to the Y. P. meeting at 1.30, where Mr. Capeus gave a fine talk to the young people.

At the stroke of three I ran home - and got here in time to have the Daring Endeavourers come for their meeting. They had a welcome meeting for Mabelle last Sunday night, and a number of the older girls have joined; this was the first meeting where they have

met for the principal purpose of having a religious meeting. They got plans under way also for hand work - looking forward to Christmas, and to making the toy animals, patchwork pillows, etc, that they made last year - Just what they will do we don't know, but at least a start has been made - I gave the girls a talk on ^{finishing} what

Then after that Mabelle and I ^{then begin} went up to see Mrs. Ling, who doesn't get better very fast - Came back and got ready to go over to Dorothy's for supper with her on her birthday. It was a very happy occasion, for Louise got down from Kaying last night. She came down to take Mrs. Leach of Washington up to Kaying - Mrs. Leach is a former pastor's wife and knew very well Mrs. Whitman of Kaying - She is making a good visit to South China - nearly a month in this vicinity - They are leaving Tuesday, so we were very glad to be with Louise tonight -

Much love to you
Abbie

Swatow, China
October 22, 1935

Dear Ones:

At last I have copied for you the extracts from Kagawa's article. I had not intended to send you so much of it, but having jumped into it, I found that it was difficult to jump out anywhere in the middle of it, as I had expected to do. I wonder what you will think of it. It gives his attitude toward some things quite plainly. Some of the references I do not entirely understand; some of the co-operative Movements he mentions are beyond my ken. Perhaps you have read more about them than I have.

I have written you nothing at all about the "big time" that has been going on here in Swatow for the last few weeks. We thought we were surely headed for some kind of climax, but the thing appears to have dwindled to nothing, on the outside, at least. The Japanese have been agitating to have their rice imports into Swatow, and other kinds of shipments, free of all customs duties, according to some treaty or other made at some time or other. Great discussions have been going on about it but nothing is out in the light. The Chinese have not dared to open their mouths about it, and no Chinese paper has printed anything about it. Seven Japanese men-of-war were anchored in Swatow harbor for a number of weeks.

We heard various rumors that the Japanese were demanding all the goods to come into Swatow duty free, that Swatow should cease to be a military center, that a certain good-sized portion of the best residential section of Swatow City should be ceded to them as a Japanese concession, that one hundred Japanese policemen be allowed to patrol in Swatow (in the concession only, or both in and out, not known), and that all boycott of Japanese goods, such as has been enforced spasmodically off and on, should cease at once. Which of these things were really demanded we do not know. What demands have been acceded to we do not know either, but an agreement of some sort must have been reached, for six of the seven gunboats picked themselves up one day last week and quietly moved off. That happened the very day after an English and an American gunboat came in, but whether there was any connection there, we don't know either! In fact, we seem to be pretty much in the dark about the whole thing. But we have had no fighting, and as far as we know no land has been ceded as a Japanese concession. We think there was probably yielding in the matter of paying duty.

On Wednesday our new doctor, Geneva Dye, arrived and we went out to the steamer to meet her and then in the afternoon about fifty of us attended a tea given in her honor. She is to live at Eastview with Edith Traver and Dorothy Campbell. On Friday morning I took her up the hill to give her a glimpse of our students in ~~the~~ assembly, then showed her around the grounds and back down to the Woman's School, where she gave a chapek talk to the women. Yesterday morning we started her off in her language study. She seems like a very fine young woman.

Marion is still up at Kityang and they hope she is beginning to improve, but it is slow business. Miss Sallman is feeling marvellously better these days, but whether there can be any permanent improvement is a big question.

Much love to you,

Abbie

Greetings to Groupers the World Over

by Toyohiko Kagawa

April, 1934

Early in 1931 in a classroom of Shanghai University the Christian leaders of China assembled for a Fellowship Conference. At that time I met the father of John Roots, one of the leaders of the Oxford Group Movement. John's father is Bishop of the Diocese of Hankow and exerts a great spiritual influence along the Yangtze River, as well as all over America, which he has just revisited for missionary propaganda. At that time I was happy to learn that Bishop Root's son was headed in such a good direction. And on that occasion there was another American, Dr. A.R. Kepler, the secretary of the Church of Christ in China, who was rejoicing because his son had been influenced by the movement. Not only then, but through the years of turmoil that have intervened, the Christian Fellowship, formed with Chinese friends then, has endured, and last month Dr. Kepler and these friends welcomed me again to deep, reconciling fellowship with Oxford Groupers in Shanghai. Chinese Christians who through the Group, and especially through Mrs. Millican, the wife of the Christian Literature Society secretary, had been enabled fully to forgive the recent sins of my country against them. I asked their forgiveness and through Christ we were reconciled. In the hospitable atmosphere of the home of Mr. K.S. LEE, who gives a wonderful testimony to the power of Christ to change his own life, we shed our tears together in reconciliation. I am impressed with the power of Christ to reconcile Chinese and Japanese in this time of acutest strain between them.

.....
And as I have heard repeatedly from friends in Canada, the leaders of the Group Movement there desire a closer relationship between the Kingdom of God Movement (in Japan) and the Group Movement. That is just what we are praying for, here in Japan. We want to link up with friends in England, Canada, and other countries in a world-wide vision of the Fellowship of the Kingdom of God, as your editor, Frank Raynor, expressed it.....

When Bishop Roots came to Tokyo a year ago last autumn he brought the book, For Sinners Only, and as a result I asked three of my helpers to translate it, working at triple speed for rapid publication. Meanwhile some of the Christian women leaders of Japan were having prayermeetings at the home of Miss Shaw, praying for the coming of the Group to Japan.....

By the end of 1933 quite a number of people were earnestly seeking the Group way of life. In order to help them to enter that experience, two house parties, one in English and one in Japanese, were held near Tokyo... and just at present two are being held near Osaka and Kobe. At both the Tokyo house parties the Holy Spirit made his power felt in a very special way. Many lives were changed and nearly all were greatly influenced. This was especially true of the Japanese party..... The following are quotations from latter testimonies received later:

"I feel this time meant more to me than anything I have experienced in my life. By knowing and making sure that God is alive and Christ is working now as never before, all my trouble and fear disappeared. Now I feel I can say with Paul that I can do all things by the power of God."

"I am very thankful we went to the party. It is marvellous what a change it has made in us. We still fall a lot, but it's wonderful how we are changing..... I do want to be ready for anything that may come."

"It was a wonderful experience.....There were no loose ends..... I felt that the idea of such parties and the principles employed there were all due to an experience of God. We all surely experienced something in the fellowship, or Koinonia, which marked the early church."

Now there are social, ethical and religious reasons why the Oxford Group Movement has such power. In the faith of this group in the direct guidance of God lies the secret of the new conviction and assurance in supernaturalism that Nineteenth Century Christianity almost lost. No matter how it may be criticised, the essence of religion lies nowhere else than in this conviction of God's direct guidance. Is it not true that we have been too deferential to materialistic civilization and so have failed to emphasize the spiritual experience of God's revelation and guidance to the uttermost? It was this craving for God, this unutterable joy of the experience of the grace of God, which attracted the students of Oxford University. It was this which they grasped when they had reached the point of utter disgust with materialism. This Quiet Time method is both fully personal and fully social; it is also Oriental and scriptural. Man's very existence demands such mystical experience.

* The Groupers..... restore to the family, the home-unit, the warmth of spiritual fellowship which it had largely lost since the eighteenth century. As a worker in the Kingdom of God Movement I have much to learn from their manner of putting forth their utmost effort for one wandering soul. The building up of society will never come while we forget the individual. Where can you discover any result from social revolutions, without the conversion of the individual soul? I do not mean by this that there is no need for social change. It is just because there is need for such change that I insist primarily upon the need for a genuine religious movement such as the Group Movement, centred upon the transformation of the individual. The experience of the Groupers of regeneration, and their testimony to such regeneration, - their "sharing" of Grace and of Confession, - their assurance of the Holy Spirit, - whoever wants to criticize these things, let him criticize! I am convinced that all of these Group methods are simply carrying on the eternal types of religion, and that the Groupers are paddling in the main current of pure Christianity

The start of the Co-operative Movement in Denmark was in the work of a Christian pastor. He was asked by a laborer, "Rev. Pastor, it is very good that you want to help us find God, but could you also tell us how to get our daily bread in this life?" Here in Japan we find these two quests coalescing, and that we as Groupers in the Society of the Friends of Jesus organize Co-operatives to solve the problem of bread for our people, we and they are enabled to find God, and not otherwise.

I ask you who are Groupers in Britain and America to remember that most of the people in the world are poor, very poor. You may be more comfortable, but even in your own countries you have millions who are unemployed now. They tell me that 85% of the population of England is urban, and 80% of that of the United States, and that millions are unemployed. So we must go out of our bourgeois groups, down, down to the lowliest. We shall find God there. God dwells among the lowliest of men. He sits on the dust-heap among the beggars, He stands in line with the unemployed. It was in the slums that I found God most deeply, while I lived for nearly fifteen years there. None of us will know God as fully as we might until the whole world is evangelized.

Evangelization means Emancipation ! The Evangelion, the Tidings of the Jubilee, means the emancipation of every human being from spiritual, social, political, and physical oppression, according to Jesus' own manifests in the synagogue at Nazareth (Luke iv, 18). This one Greek word, Evangelion, was used by the early Christians to mean both evangelization and emancipation, concepts which we have separated nowadays. They thought they were inseparable. Since the Oxford Group Movement is distinctly a love movement, which has recovered the flavour of First Century Christianity, I ask you Groupers to carry out the Love Movement completely in action. Carry it out until you have established in all the world the seven kinds of Christian Brotherhoods which are the modern exemplification-- the Co-operatives:- 1) Producers, 2) Consumers, 3) Credit 4) Marketing, 5) Insurance, 6) Mutual Aid and 7) Utility Co-operatives ! Get the tariff walls abolished between nations and establish international trade agreements to make production gear into ~~perfect~~ consumption, and end waste and competition. Thus you will abolish unemployment and war, and make abundant life-- economic, social, political and spiritual-- possible for everyone. God had greatly blessed you, but you may not keep that blessing unless you share it in world-wide service. If Britain and North America will help us in our mission work in the Orient, we can carry through in the power of the Holy Spirit. My desire is to establish a concrete ~~of~~ Christian Internationale.

England has the Consumers' Co-operatives, Denmark the Producers', and the Credit Unions were strong in Germany before the present debacle. What we need is all the seven forms fully established and interlocking, in international as well as nation-wide absorption of activities hitherto carried on by private competition in the old, cruel, wasteful, laissez-faire manner. This is what I mean by the Christian Internationale; and I believe that God will lead us up to it through the Christian Internationale of Prayer and Friendship which I proposed to the Chinese and other friends gathered in the Fellowship Conference in 1931 in the classroom of Shanghai University. That conference of Christian leaders unanimously accepted my proposal. Almost immediately after that Fellowship Conference our hearts were broken by the Manchurian War and the Crucifixion of Shanghai, which happened because we had not yet been able to organize the world-conquering Christian Fellowship then aspired after in germ idea. These recent tragedies are God's stimuli through which He is guiding us to concentrate all our efforts and give our very lives if need be to its full realization. Every one can help by organizing prayer groups and Co-operatives in his own local community, and by praying for the international organization of the Co-operatives which may come partly through such world-wide movements as that of the Groups, partly through the present agencies of foreign missions. But first study thoroughly ! And be sure of your guidance ! I believe that guidance will come to my Groupers in this direction.

I am especially grateful to the friends in Canada who are working to bring together the Kingdom of God and the Oxford Group Movements. They are seeking to secure God's guidance, not only for the individual soul, but at the same time for corporate Christian action. Executives in big business meet in groups to seek agreement among themselves as to business policies, but they leave God out. These Christians of the Oxford Group in Canada are meeting in Groups with Jesus Christ in their midst, and seeking guidance corporately, repenting of the corporate sins of modern capitalism, aiming at corporate action in world-wide economic and social reconstruction.

See ! Though they admit that they are evangelists of the individual, they swarm like locusts and attack the cities ! Ninety or a hundred of them at a time attack a city with a cell system like that of the Communist organizers. They move from soul to soul in close single combat, ready to shed their last drop of blood for the extension of the Kingdom. They are indeed knights, Crusaders of the New Age. Like the people of the Ittoen religious order of Japan, they live by faith, have no possessions, and are lay religious. It is a great blessing to England that many Oxford University students have been influenced by this Movement; it is also a great contribution to world history. One feels that one's prayers for a great many years have been answered.

Ah ! The Spirit of God is working !
And to the wine-bibbers,
To those drunk with lust,
To those who fall into hell,
To the would-be suicide,
They are showing clearly
That Christ is salvation.

As I read such an attractive book of testimony,
The longing steals over me
That we in Japan also
May be melted into the grace of the Universe
With these Oxford Groupers.

Shall we not save the Orient from its gloom
By sharing with them the Grace of Guidance and Confession ?

(Extracts from an article in the magazine "Groups" edited by Frank Rayner, author of The Finger of God and other religious books. The aim of this little monthly magazine is printed on the cover of each issue:

"Created to promote the wider fellowship of the Spirit, which is manifesting itself in the various forms of the Group Movement, this Magazine is independent of sectarian or sectional control."

In this article Kagawa while wholeheartedly supporting and encouraging the Fellowship Movement, gives timely warning regarding some of the possible pitfalls into which Groups and Groupers are in danger of falling if they do not strive for a world-wide view. Here he shows his keen power of appraisal as well as his sympathy with the needy in the world and his spirit of true Orientalism.)

Pu-tow, China

October 27, 1905

Dearest Ones on Earth:

We are a very happy family once more! Marion came back yesterday and it is awfully good to have her here again. Clara came with her, prepared to stay as long as is necessary. Marion is still very weak. She says that she blames the most of the weakness on hypodermis which were administered for the purpose of getting rid of the amoebic dysentery "bugs". (She administered the most of the typos herself, by the way! I can't imagine ^{my} pushing one of those needles into me!)

It just happens that Erid has been sick with tonsillitis for several days, so she has been at home in bed. Then we have another guest, Miss Seeger of the Basel Mission in Kaying, a German lady, here for the purpose of studying kindergarten for a week or two, since she is planning to open one in Kaying.

So there were six of us around the table this morning at breakfast - and the conversation was slightly (!) more lively than it has been when Mabelle and I were here alone -

I was greatly relieved when I received a note from Clara saying that she was coming with Marion - and was going to stay long enough "to see her out of the woods".

Marion has no reserve strength to speak of, at present. Still, she walked up the hill herself yesterday, from the jetty, but she was pretty well fagged afterwards. Clara has been rather planning to go to the medical conference in Canton next week, but she gave that up without the griver of an eyelash, so to speak, when she felt that she could help here.

This is not much of a letter but I'll send it along as it is instead of waiting for time to write more —

Very very much love to you

Abbe

Suatore, China
November 6 - 1935

Dear Mother,

I've letters from you
today! Also a letter from Helen
and a letter from Lena Greene from
the Cold Willow Home in Concord, where
she is matron. She was afraid of
the job, but has had no trouble at
all - 85 people to arrange food &
living arrangements for - Bertha
is at home alone - working -

We have been having many meetings
here - Maribel Lester, of Kingsley Hall,
London, has been here with a group
of people and has been one of the
chief speakers at Presbyterian meetings
over in Suatore City -

She came over to this side once, and

spoke for a half-hour to the missionaries
and then to a mixed audience
in the church in the evening - I was
very glad to see her and hear her, yet
I have the feeling that she was not at
her best in that meeting - in either
meeting. She was obviously very tired,
and it may be that we should not have
asked her - or that she should not have
come. We couldn't know that, of course.

Her co-worker, Miss Gladys Given,
happened to be here in Stratton at the
same time, though not in the same
group. Miss Given spoke in the
church Sunday evening on the power
of fear in one's life, and Monday
morning at the academy on the
International Voluntary Service Movement
which has been rebuilding villages
destroyed by the war ⁱⁿ Europe and

is preparing to do other good deeds
all over the world - People
enjoyed her talks very much -
She is as deeply spiritual as
Miss Lester but she was able
in her talks to make people
see her interest in world-wide
economic problems. Miss Lester
is just as interested in them,
but she referred to them in
such a round-about-way
that people didn't get hold of
what she was saying - fine
though she is.

Sunday afternoon we had
a treat. Mrs. Millican,
wife of the Christian Literature

Society in Shanghai, is with
the group or team in ^{London} the city
and she came over & spoke to
about 25 Chinese and foreigners.
She had been asked to speak
on the Oxford group but she
simply told of a few experiences
that had come to her since
she has been in that group -
the last two or three years -

Everyone was delighted with
the help she gave, I think -
She answered the questions that
had been in some people's
minds - and, although she did
nothing that sounded like urging
us to form a group here, I think
what she said would all help
toward that end, rather than
hinder -

I was so glad to have her speak of the Fellowship as a way, not the way as some have done - People have been saying, "There is nothing new in this; it is all old."

She told of a Methodist deacon who made that kind of protest - First meeting he said "Nothing new here; just what the Methodists have always taught." About the third meeting he decided, "Guess I was only ~~sort~~ half right; these people have got what the Methodists used to have but have lost"!

This kind of fellowship group

may not work out here at all.
But I think the nearer each one
of the missionaries gets to the
things that the group stands for,
the better we shall find our
lives getting ^{the richer they refer to.} Being always in the
attitude of desiring to yield one's
whole self to God - and taking
some time every day to the
accomplishment of that purpose -
There is nothing new, it is true -
and there is nothing about which
any one need to think he cannot
understand. It is just trying
on a little different tack, to do
what you have always wished
to do, but you got just a bit
farther along with it, and really do
some of the things you wish.

It seems to me I must have told
you long ago - I wonder if I failed
to do so! - that Marion ate
Chinese food just one month,
and was very glad to get back
to American food again -
or rather, to American style
cooking - We managed to live
fairly cheaply in the few months
following that episode - but
now that Mabelle is here again
I am not sure just how
things will be - She is house-
keeper this month, and we
are having simple enough
food so far, though it is
good to have a little variety

from what we have been having
for the last year or so. Mable
always thinks up some good
things to eat - , somehow or other -
things that the rest of us forget
about. She is more "housekeeperly-
minded", I should say.

Here are some pictures which
you may enjoy squinting at.
I know you'll like them, for
I have learned from experience
that the ones I'm not in
cell forth the comment "Oh, Abbie
isn't in that one" — ! Does
that sound egotistical — ?

In another way I think
you may not care much
for them, because they have
pretty much the same snick,
all of them ! I was afraid

I shouldn't look natural, you know, if I didn't have my mouth open !

Dr. Dye is a fine little woman, we think. She has started in the language study with a will and gives every sign of doing splendid work. She is going to the hospital one hour a day to keep her hand in the medical work.

Must stop & mail this.
Love you !

Abbi

Elise sends
the enclosed

Dearest One,

(168)

Suitland, China

November 11, 1933

Day before yesterday I received
two maps of Palestine ^{too some one in Shanghai} - just exactly
what I want to use in my Sunday
School class. The day before that I received
paper patterns for some toy animals from
Bernice Grew of Xow. I ~~to~~ already send
the girl make a cat - and it is too
late for words) - The day before that
I had a lovely piece of dervity from
Helen Clark - I suppose it is for
a Christmas present -

I am very happy to have all
these things, yet they make me
somewhat uncomfortable for two
reasons. One reason is that they
remind me that Christmas is fast
approaching and that I have as
yet done nothing about it. The other
reason is that I am reminded
of many white cross packages which

have come in the last few months
(and before!) that have not yet
been acknowledged. And I have
that same old trick swelling up again
that I could for once in my life catch
up" all the loose ends and begin fresh -
It seems as though I should be
able to get some where if I could only
begin with a clean page - no tag
ends to drag one back! But that
doesn't seem to be the way life is
made, or the way I am made - or
something! And it would seem that
just at present my chief problem is how
to keep myself quiet and unflustered
enough to get some of those disturbing
tag ends finished up -

I'm going to begin now, by not
rambling on and on to you in this
letter, as I would like to do, but writing
a few things I have got to say -
and then getting another letter
or two written -

I must write to Uncle Arthur

He has evidently received the handkerchief I ~~wrote~~^{sent} to him by the woman who came out here, but nothing more is said about her. He is very anxious to know what he shall do with the pewter tea canister I once gave him - It doesn't really matter - but he has asked twice now - so I'd better answer, and tell him to give it to some one he would like to give it to -

I'm sorry you are having so much work with preparing diets, and eating them, and trying to get the proper kinds of "clean outs," etc. - I suppose these are some of the "little things" we should not allow to trouble us so much - and

yet these little things somehow
are so often the things that keep
us more than anything else from
having a peaceful, satisfying sense
of joy in living - ! Lena Cushing
wrote me the other day "I have
believed for a long time that 'all things
do work together for good' - and
I guess we have just got to keep
on believing that - and living
truthfully, as though we were sure
it is true -

Much love

Abba

Coming to
us from anywhere,
folks must "go down to the
sea in ships". These brought to our

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Woman's Bible Training School this year a fine lot of young women, mostly Christians, to be trained as servants of the King of Kings. But some who came heard the Gospel for the first time. Each of the Personal Workers in the School is praying definitely for these who have not yet found Christ and whom we hope will soon accept Him. The number of baptisms this year is the largest in our Mission's history with a number from our School. The School missionary society, and that of the local church are having interesting monthly meetings and each is supporting a Bible woman and contributing to the support of the woman general evangelist for our section. The work some of our teachers and students did this summer is a great joy. Ships took them from our island shore to many villages. The reports at our first prayer meeting were thrilling. Our principal's was best. Her village is 3 miles from a church and roads were flooded by the rains which ruined most of the crops this year. Miss Chen had classes all day and at night. Large groups which she taught Bible stories; reading; writing; Mandarin and a little English. She used their Ancestral Hall, which the elders refused her before on the ground that the "ancestors will not come to take the offerings if Christianity is given here." Her family is the only Christian one there, but she hopes for many soon and that some day they'll have a church. The joy in her face and voice showed what it means to this girl, busy all year with her heavy responsibilities here, but using her vacation time for work for her Lord. Please pray for this and the work of the School and Sunday Schools and churches in which our students have so large a part. I am very busy but thankful to be well. With Mrs. Worley's retirement; Miss Sollman's very serious illness, I am the only missionary in the School, where we've

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formerly had three. Our kindergartner, Miss Work and problems are heavy. I am so glad staff is so loyal and willing. We are praying that another missionary may soon come to prepare to take over the privileges we older ones must pass on as time flies. Music is in the air with preparations for our School Christmas pageant and the Sunday School White Gift and church music. There remain many who have never heard the "Good News"-old yet ever new.

Never has it's healing and comfort been more needed in this sick old world. May it's joy be yours this Christmas and through 1936. - Your missionary, Elsie M. Kittitz

Smith helps in teaching some music and English.

I can carry as much as I am and the Chinese

Swanton, China

Nov. 17, 1933 -

Dearest One,

And as the days go by!
We are in the midst of getting ready
for a big musical to be held in
the church this Thursday evening.
We have been getting ready for
several weeks now - trying at the
same time to get started on
Christmas work, for there isn't much
time after Nov. 21 to get ready
for Christmas. Second Monthly
Examination comes in between
then and Dec. 25 and spoils
several of our rehearsals - so
it behooved us to be forehanded -
For the musical our Young People
are preparing a special setting
of "Nearer My God To Thee", with ~~an~~
alto and tenor duet in one place, a
Lass solo in another - and a soprano
alto and tenor trio in another. That
chorus is entirely by students -
They are preparing another song "I will
sing praise" in which they have
invited Dorothy and Mabelle and Beatrice

And Mr. Ling, Mrs. Capen & me to help
them out on the different parts - That
will be the final chorus of the evening
and we are practicing hard to
get it into shape -

Friday night we had a full
practice at the church - and we
tried to give thorough practice to two
two songs and also to the one which
was sung today in church. Saturday
night we met again for the same
purpose - here at our house. The air
is surely full of music these days!

Have you ever heard me say
"This has been a pretty full week"?
I thought I was going to "let go"
enough so that I wouldn't say
that so much - but truly, there
have been a lot of things this last
week! See if you don't think
so!

Sunday night I stayed at
home and shampooed my hair -
Monday the whole company was
at Edna Smith's for a farewell

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supper for the Grosbeaks - It was a pathetic thing to see them keeping a grip on themselves against the hard fact that they are leaving to leave for good - We all realized, though, that ~~neither of them~~ ^{neither of them} (especially he) ~~are~~ in condition to stay on longer. Building the church down in Bangkok has meant a great deal of strain - a great testing of patience and endurance - almost too great to be borne -

Tuesday night we had as guests three Chinese teachers - It was a pleasant quiet evening - but even then Marion was not feeling well and the next day she was miserable and went to bed in the afternoon - malaria - She has been in bed ever since, and is just today beginning to feel more like herself -

Wednesday night no prayer-meeting. Before prayer meeting we

had a rehearsal of the extra members of the chorus for next Thursday night. At prayer meeting we heard Henry Waters tell about his work in the Philippines - He is enjoying work and problems in Iloilo - He and Conn are here, you see, visiting Father & Mother for the last time - for Mr. & Mrs. Waters go home in the spring not to return. We are losing our older missionaries fast!

Thursday was my regular night at school - The hour of the evening prayer service has been changed from 6.30 to 8 (between the first and second study hours). I knew it but I forgot temporarily - and got over to school at 6.30 - Two of the teachers, Miss Lee & Miss Chew, were just finishing supper & they came out and chatted with me. During the talk we arranged to

Take walks, and study English one day, and Mandarin the next, two days a week after four o'clock! Well - the days seem full already - but this seemed like the good an opportunity to miss - so I shall hope there will be time to do other things that need to be done, and get this entered in it. These two are fine girls, and they could give me an end of help to the girls if they would. They do help a lot, but they could do more -

Friday afternoon I arranged my class work and went out to the steamer to see the Goubats off. Then Clara and I went on to Liverton to do a little shopping. Came back in time to get my supper and go over to the church for practice. Then came back to our house for faculty prayer meeting - During that -

meeting there was expressed a new feeling of hope that China is somehow going to get together on the matter of opposing Japan. We don't like to think of war -

but the Japanese have been acting abominably in regard to asserting rights and grabbing things here in China - and it is true something was done about it. Never before have we been able to see much hope that the political leaders would present a united front against Japan, but just recently there seems to be a new note of getting together and really getting down to hard tasks. There is a kind of air of expectancy, not the hopeless, head-shaking dejection that we have seen so much of, recently.

Saturday I went to church in the morning and came home at noon with just time to arrange the place cards on the table for a luncheon given in honor of Dr. H. N. Luce of Hartford Seminary, who is visiting in Swanton over this week-end. Four of his former students were present, - Mr. Luebeck, Dr. Ji of the C. P. Mission in Swanton, Emil Johnson, and P. J. S. We also invited Miss Clara Smith, (Mrs. Baker's sister who has come out to live with them for a time), Dr. & Mrs. Henry Waters, and Principal Ling, who with the people already in the house made a tableful of twelve.

Dr. Luce is full of the idea of making the Christian message a more simple one, approaching it from a more scientific angle.

Some people will not agree with his ideas, but he has been working for more than twenty years on the problem of how to begin telling this Christian message simply, so that anyone can understand it, and scientifically, so that intellectuals, agnostics, atheists, philosophers, will be helped to believe and will find themselves accepting the idea of a personal God, whom we can find through union with Christ Jesus, or as he puts it, through knowledge of Jesus—

Well — there was not very much time left after luncheon — and before long it was supper time and we had to get ready for the evening practice —

Today came S. S. and church as usual — then I came out

of Y. P. meeting early & kept
think with Clara of how we could
help Dorothy Campbell who is
having some difficulties just
now. Then I went to Dorothy's
and had a long talk with her.
She is such a fine girl -
and if she has now got on
the way to a more joyous
satisfying life of service it will
not be from any thing that I
could give her - unless it be
the encouragement that comes
from knowing that there are
one or two earthly friends who
are trying their utmost to give
sympathy and understanding.
Clara has been a real help to
her - but there are one or two
experiences Dorothy and I have
had which are so similar that
there ought to be special help
come from that fact. It's troubles

will straighten out if she can get clear on her spiritual and mental attitudes - as things would for all of us, I suppose!

Clara is writing a letter to put in with this - I have read it as I know how sweet some of it will sound to the ears of a fond mother and father - You just take it all with a grain of salt, though. Clara is prejudiced, I fear - All the same - it has been good to have her here - aside from the fact that I've been tremendously relieved to have her here when Marion was getting on her feet.

Dr. Luce is speaking at the

church tonight, so I must go
to hear him.

Aren't we lucky to be guests
to meet Mr. & Mrs. Lan Poling?
I'm looking forward to it very
eagerly.

Much love to you -
and to each of the others
Alto ^{separately} -!

Hope you are both well this winter. Please remember us
to the Church's Lent across the street. I tell you how pleasant
I the time with you and in this house. Miss Perkins
surprised that just why much. Another meeting to you both to the
class I.

Kakchik, Swanton

Nov. 17, 1935

Dear Mr & Mrs. Sanderson:

Perhaps Abbie

will slip a note with her letter this
week. It has been grand to live
next room to her for three weeks.
I have liked Abbie for a long time,
but this year we have found so
much which makes us even
better friends than before. Your
tall daughter is one of the main-
stay on this compound. Her good
sense and understanding of people
and helpfulness toward all is
even more evident this fall
than in previous times. The talks
which we had with some of the
missionaries in Hukiang meant a lot
to both of us.

These new generations
have let some of the things which
our parents stood for slip by. We knew
as children it was "there and so"
but we have not emphasized the
important truths enough. The fellowship,
which Abbie has probably written about

have brought to mind some of the
essentials and shown how much fuller
and richer lives can be when fully
surrendered in every detail to God. The
thing which perhaps has helped me as
much as anything is that we need
not spend energy worrying about our
wrongs, but as I John 1:9 says our
part is to confess and he will cleanse us
from all. The complete surrender of
self and willingness to seek and follow
God's daily leading are the truths emphasized.
I have found it easier to talk with
people on spiritual matters.

Marian Stephens is better now.
She has had a long sickness. We hope
she will stay well now all winter. There
have been many pleasant things
about being here this fall. I like living
in Nityang but out here are seen
more people. Just these weeks we
have had several noted guests ~~pass~~ away
whom it has been a privilege to
meet and hear speak. Our Poling goes
through Wednesday. The Hobarts are
entertaining him at noon while the
steamer is in port. Abbie & I are among
the guests invited to meet him.

Hope you are both well this winter. Please remember me
to the family & Aunt across the street. I still often think pleasantly
of the time with you and in this house. Miss. Perkins is
saying that they are much. Christmas is getting to you both & they
love it.

Wakchick, Swanton

Nov. 17, 1925

Dear Mr & Mrs. Sanderson:

Perhaps Abbie

will slip in a note with her letter this
week. It has been grand to live
next room to her for three weeks.
I have liked Abbie for a long time,
but this year we have found
much which makes us even
better friends than before. Your
tall daughter is one of the main-
stays on this compound. Her good
sense and understanding of people
and helpfulness toward all is
even more evident this fall
than in previous times. The talks
which we had with some of the
missionaries in Vakiang meant a lot
to both of us.

Younger our generation
have let some of the things which
our parents stood for slip by. We knew
as children it was "there and so"
but we have not emphasized the
important truths enough. The Fellowship,
which Abbie has probably written about,

Sewanee China
Dec. 1, 1935

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Dearest Ones,

Was I sick when I got two letters from you yesterday! Yes - but 'shamed, too, for two weeks have gone by without my writing to you, and that is something I don't intend shall happen - What shall I do about it? Write two this week?

Maybe - or maybe I'll send you an air mail letter sometime - as soon as I find out how it can be done and when the "Clipper" is traveling - I understand that the price at present is \$1.00 ~~gold~~ U.S. to half an ounce - and if I send to Manila to mail it that will be 20¢ more -

That would send 11 letters to you by ordinary mail and it therefore seems like quite a lot of money! The letter would take at least 15 days from here - if it had to go by way of the P. I. - and that is not enough shorter time than some of the letters go now to persuade me to send the expensive kind to you - Maybe if I have some very thrilling news to tell you some day - but I don't expect to - at least - not the kind that would have to be written in such a hurry!

These two letters from you yesterday
were very welcome ones indeed -
The first told of some of father's
chopping down apple trees, and asking
some very swell stationery to write
to me on! Black & white in the
back of it - latest style, no doubt -
You bet I was glad to get that letter,
for - even if you had taken ----- paper
to write to me on! I don't get enough
of your letters so that I go into great
states of mind concerning what kind
of paper you use -

The second letter told of Warren
Bis's visit - I was very much interested.
of course; but I am interested to
note a different slant of mind
in myself regarding that gentleman,
from one previously experienced. I
should like to see him now - whereas
a few months ago I think I should

Have been wary about such a meeting.
 I think I shall never again be as
afraid about anything in the world
 as I used to be — does that
 sound crazy? But somehow it
 seems to me now that there aren't
 as many things to be afraid of
 as there used to be!

If Warren B. could tell me where
 I could buy cheap a good second
 hand car to use while on furlough,
 I can see no reason why that
 wouldn't be as good an idea
 as to let Roy Miner help me
 pick out a new one. Maybe
 he would have good opportunities to
 know about bargains in cars —
 I can't imagine spending
 much more than \$50 for
 one this time, though! Some
 people have got fairly decent
 cars for that price, but I
 don't think I'd ever be lucky

enough to make that kind of deal. We shall see, however, what we shall see!

As to the time of my furlough, that is hard to tell just at present. We have spent much time in committee and out of committee discussing the pros and cons of whether this one or that one ought to be allowed to stay over until next year - I mean, 1937 - of those who are due to go in 1936 - and their name is Legion!) About half the mission is due to have furlough in 1936 - and if they all go, somebody will have some work to do in 1936-37, and I imagine that I'll be ready for vacation when it is due - after said year is over! My furlough is naturally due late in the fall of 1937; in normal

times I should probably come
 home a few months earlier -
 in July, at the end of the
 school year, as I have done
 before - As far as I know now,
 that is what I ~~hope~~ I'll be
 able to do this time - but with
 times so hard for the Board
 it is difficult to know whether
 I'll be asked to stay over
 another year or not - "Maybe
 if enough people want me
 to come 'hard enough', maybe
 I'll get there - It seems to
 me that nobody could want
 to come much harder than
 I do - ! But we can't tell
 anything yet - If it is the
 Lord's will that I'm to get
 home by last of July or first
 of August, 1937, I'll manage
 it, no doubt - I am
quite willing to coöperate !

I have another letter to write so,
much as I should like to continue
my chat, I really must quit
and go to that. Maybe I'll
have time to begin another
letter to you —

Much love,

Abbie

Patlyde!

Lay off beans, pa, and green
corn! You'll be Lapsies if
you do — they say!! —

Dec. 8, 1930-

Dearest Ones,

I am trying to think which of the things I have heard and seen lately I can best put into a letter which cannot now be called a Christmas letter, ^{even with the title} but which will take the place of a Christmas letter -

Maybe if I write some of them to you that will help me to decide how to write my general letter.

On Thursday afternoon at our regular women's missionary meeting Mr. Lee, the minister of our church, spoke on this year's "Golden Word" -

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel". This man has an interesting family; the oldest girl is the wife of one of our academy graduates who is a teacher in the

grammar school here; the next daughter, just graduated from the Academy, is our librarian; a younger boy is a bright lad, but he has always been a cripple and cannot walk and run as freely as other boys can. Not long ago this lad was baptized. Mr. Lee said that on the day of his baptism he said, "Father I can I be a preacher when I grow up?" His father said "Yes, I see no reason why not." He answered, "No, I can't -" "Why not?" "My legs! I can't walk and a preacher certainly must be able to do a great deal of walking." His father then said, "Boy, I hope that you will keep at your studies and learn how to ~~be~~ ^{hold} a pen" (that is, to learn the art of writing real literature), that you will read many books which will teach you the meaning of the gospel, that you will learn to know

the Bible and be ~~cap~~ able to write about the gospel. Then, when you are grown, you will have knowledge and a spiritual life of your own; you can write about it, and these books, traveling to many far places, will do just as much good, ^{as if you preached the gospel} and will reach many more people than could hear you in a church building. That is what I hope for you. The boy nodded his head; he could understand this, and it comforted him, and appealed to him.

Friday night at our faculty fellowship meeting, little Miss Christine Chen (Tang Aheng Hui) was the leader. She is a quiet little person but I'm here to tell you that she has a thinking apparatus! She always protests that she can't say much and that she hasn't anything worth

saying, but she throws out
a subject which soon sets
everybody talking. Her subject
Friday evening was "What is
the Christian way to look at war?"

Mrs. Van Poling when she was
here recently told about the
women in America who have
pledged themselves to set apart
some time every Monday to pray
for peace - between Italy and
Abyssinia, between Japan and
China - and in every part of
the world - She questioned whether
in the present circumstances, we
ought to pray for peace -
that is - to pray that war
should be wardd off -
Japan has treated China
so abominably that it is
not right to stand up and
say to her "you shall not."

There are things that are more precious than life - and when justice and righteousness are being violated, is it not wrong to keep quiet about it? The subject was a provocative one and the first thing we knew, opinions, suggestions, and further questions were coming from every corner of the room. One of the teachers, Mr. Chen (about whom I wrote a tiny bit in last year's Christmas letter) reported a conversation with some non-Christian teachers who were ~~prodding~~ ^{prodding} with such flings as ~~these~~ ^{as}: "Well, you say God is all powerful; what did He make the world in such a mess for - or rather - make men with such great possibilities for evil?" ~~Mr. Chen~~ ^{Mr. Chen} worked for more wisdom than he had ~~in order~~ ^{in order} to give an answer that would better.

Those who were asking the questions
~~felt ashamed~~
~~Discontented~~

~~He felt sorry that~~

Miss Lee told of questions
she had heard some of the
students and teachers discuss,
the general trend of which was
"Why is suffering necessary?"
and of the great difficulty in
finding an answer that would
satisfy the inquirers.

Well! we ran over time, and
still the meeting kept on. Many
of the questions raised were not
settled, of course, but the meeting
closed with prayer, in a note of
trust and confidence in God that
if we would but let him fill our
lives and hearts, that He would surely
bring order out of what seems chaos.

Not all could agree that we
must fight against war in all
constitutions and circumstances, but we

are all agreed that war is
despicable and frightful and
not to be resorted to if any
other way can be found -
I must quit now - and hope
to write more at some other
time —

Much love

Abbie



Swatow, China,
November 15, 1984.

Dear Friends:

Merry Christmas to you!

Last year at this time I was in the Shanghai Orthopedic Hospital. I am very glad to have spent most of this year at work in and near Swatow. I haven't been able to do much walking, but my co-workers and I have gone to three important towns to hold classes.

In Chaohowfa we lived in the large church compound in the center of the city, where women from other churches came to live with us. The city women came each day, and we had classes in Bible, health, child-training, music and Christian truths. In the evenings and late afternoons, when others could come, I held classes in Sunday School methods.

At an all day's meeting for many women, they resolved to do much church visiting and to go on with their studying. Two young women, sisters, said to me when the class was over, "Pray for us, for we want to work for others in our villages." I hear that they have been doing much.

At Kityang we had more than fifty enthusiastic, intelligent women. The Bible Class, Romans, they asked to have put at an hour when all could surely attend. Of the class in child-training they said, "We have learned a great deal to help us with our own children." And they declared, "The class in Christian truth gives us just what we need in talking to our neighbors."

One woman, both earnest and poor, from a town across the river, offered one of her two rooms in which to start a Sunday School. So every Sunday afternoon some of the women and young men go there to teach the women and children of the village.

The third place is a large village; there is no more space to tell of it here: of the class of girls and young women; of the thirty women, boys and girls baptized; of the young preacher and his wife. But there is need of much prayer for them, and especially for the young men of the place. Please remember them and us.

I have worked on the Swatow compound in connection with the Religious Education Committee, and in planning for the hospital evangelistic work with the workers there.

I went to Formosa this summer. That beautiful island is near by, but I had never been there before. It seemed wonderful to walk again as much as I was able to do there, but I have been having more trouble since then. However, I hope I shall soon be going about as usual.

Please know that I think of you much, and I know and appreciate your remembrance of me.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Sanderson, Love and best wishes from

Saml. Weaver

Edith Weaver

Wishing to hear of you,
I ask Abbie, am glad the
news lately is good.

It is good to see Abbie,
she is going up in the Kings.
Love & best wishes from Edith Weaver



LATE IN THE FALL,
IN FUKTEN CHINA

Sarah

Dear Friends,

Chrysanthemums and poinsettias getting ready to bloom tell me that Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far off.

This fall I have gone just once into the country. I hope soon to be able to go again for several conferences or classes of several days each with women of the churches.

Yesterday Ling Chi Mei came to see me; she is our new evangelistic worker who has been in Nanking in the Bible Teachers' Training School. Just now she is in the church at Harmonious Mountain where there is at present no pastor. As we talked, we planned for a children's meeting there each week. I was glad of books to give her, of songs and stories; she asked for games, and for a Christmas song.

More things are being done in Religious Education these days. For many years we have held classes for women throughout the country, and now classes for men are being held by teachers of our Theological Seminary in order to train volunteer Christian workers. Good Sunday School work is being attested in many places. Many volunteer preaching bands are at work. Opportunities are good everywhere. Last year more people entered the church in our section than ever before, more than five hundred during the year.

More women's missionary societies are being formed, and they are working in many ways, and reading and giving.

Many kinds of work call ceaselessly for the Spirit of Christ in his power and love.

My heart has been very sad lately because word has come of the death of a woman whom I knew first as a lovely young girl in my first village class twenty-six years ago. She has needed and wanted an operation, but her people did not approve. She has always been friendly, but has not been interested in Christianity, for her mother-in-law and father-in-law were opposed to it.

"Perhaps," says our little Chinese doctor, Beatrice Lee, "She would have become a Christian if she could have come to the hospital."

So many have done so, for here they have time to learn and to think, and the new way of life seems good to them. I am helping the preacher and the Bible-woman to plan the teaching and classes in the hospital, and also the follow-up work.

Troubles there are in China, plenty of them. In the north is the terrible famine, caused by the river floods. Communism is still at its ruthless work in many places. Japan, against the judgment of its better men, is pushing into China with guns and drugs. It is a time of distress in many ways.

I am glad always to think of the many of you who remember us each day.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all

from

Edith G. Traver.

*I am glad to hear from you all.
All good wishes to you
both!
E. G. T.*

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Suva, China

Dec. 19, 1905

Dear Quers.

Just home from a prayer-meeting that Edna Smith led. She had a good number of Christmas cards away - some new & some old - some by one or four people, and some by all of us - Mabel, Dorothy, Berdies and I sang an old French carol in the four parts. We held the meeting at the Bungalow, with Miss Solomon in the next room so that she could hear - During the meeting Mr. Waters related vividly experiences of this last week in going to the "Church warning" - thirty-year celebration of the independent Church of Au-thak out on Na-moa Island - very encouraging - good spirit - enthusiastic young peoples work, etc.

We have had another treat today; Dr. Edward Hume, the founder

of "Yale in China" at Chang-sha
is now on a "sympathetic investigation
tour" of mission hospitals - in
connection with all the boards -
yet with no power to do more than
make people everywhere he goes feel
that he is as interested in their
work as he ~~would~~ be if it were
his own. I felt so ignorant
all day long! He pointed out
how we ought to know the
big people in our town and
province more than we do; how
we ought to have more connections
with prominent laymen - how
we ought to know more about
geography, history, current
happenings and trends than
we do - He was at our home
for dinner and among other
things he said that when he
went up to Chaochow on yesterday
with some of the younger E. P. mission-

aries and asked the name of
the city, he couldn't find out
anything further than ~~Chao~~ Chao-
which is the old name. After
blundering around in the Bevatok
dialect a minute I stumbled on
to the Mandarin name Chao-an-
(or Tio-ang) and then he
said I was the first one who
had been able to tell him the present
name of that hien, a city prefect.
Well - that is not a record to
be very proud of! We surely
ought to know a lot more than
we do - I'm going to buy a
map to-morrow! ^{You had a meeting}
with Dr. Hume this P. M.

Well - I must quit now -
for I have an exam. question-
naire that ought to be
made out before I go to bed!
Love

Abbie

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Suifu, China

Dec. 31, 1905

Dearest One,

Tried to begin a letter to you yesterday but there were too many things going on - and still are going on! Still, we have a few days' vacation beginning to-morrow and if I have my wits about me I shall manage during the "stop" to get in a little rest and also to get a few tag-ends caught up - Mrs. Ling said the other day something about knowing how to rest while working. That is a secret I'd like to learn.

We do get too rushed and too tired at Christmas, and it is wrong.

This year was better than some years have been - but it was far from ideal.

I had your package several days before Christmas and revelled in each separate thing that it brought - fashion sheets, and all. The pink silk is lovely - I think you should have

kept it for yourself. But now that
you have sent it to me I shall
proceed to make it into the
simplest kind of blouse I can
manage, to wear with fall &
winter suits - It will just ^{take} ~~take~~ ^(! quite)
the place of the blouse ~~I made~~
when I was at home - with the
pinned ruffle around the
collar & cuffs - Do you remember
that one? I have worn it and
worn it. It gave out under the
arms, so I took in the seams
and I am still wearing it
and speaking softly to it when-
ever I pull it on over my head.
I have dipped it in a dye-bath
at least twice - I'm expecting it
to go any minute! But this new
one will take its place.

I want to write little messages, if
I can, to the ones who sent me
greetings and gifts. Please say
thank you especially to Aunt
Bertha for the Mum and to Aunt Fannie
& Uncle George for the card, - also to ^{such a beautiful one, with dups,}

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Uncle Will's people when you see
them - I'll try to write!

By the way - when you write
tell me what Phyllis' name is -
You ~~either~~ didn't tell when she
was married, but suddenly
one day your letter said something
about her home and her husband.
Did one of your letters get lost?
Who is he, and what is he doing?

I think I'll get some table
linen for Clyde and Phyllis both
and keep it a year, then when
I bring it home it can come
in duty-free - What size of
tablecloth would you think they
would find most useful?
And do you think it is
dreadful to wait so long
before sending wedding
presents? I hate to have people
pay duty on something that

They may not care much about.
And instead of paying duty
on the things myself I'd
rather put in a little more
and have the things nicer.

What is your opinion - ?

I want to write a general
letter soon. In fact I have
begun one once, but it
seemed so unsatisfactory that
I did not continue to the end.
In this letter I think I shall
tell something about the week's
various celebrations.

For me, Christmas ^{and goldenrod} really began
long ago - with music practices. ^{and goldenrod}
But we really knew it was here
Friday afternoon when the Daring
Endeavourers had their happy
little Christmas meeting and a
sale of the things they had been
making. They took in \$29.10, which
was clear gain, since the materials
for their work came from America.

Then the Young People had their Cantata Sunday evening - "the best that has been done yet" a number of people thought - It was a real accomplishment, for feel -

Monday night the young people had their own celebration - Tuesday night the Woman's School had their celebration at the church - and Wednesday night our school also celebrated in the church - with a very moving presentation of "The Two Little Orphans" - and other suitable numbers - Friday night was my turn to lead faculty prayer meeting - Saturday noon the mission people were all invited to lunch at the American Consulate - Sunday afternoon we attended a musical service at Swanton Institute - Our young people gave 3 of their 10 cantata numbers again - and when we were safely home from that service we felt that Christmas was really over -

I must say a little more about

this musical service. It was beautiful & the quietest they have ever had there in the noisy heart of the city. Everything was done in music - The introduction was a piano number "Dearest My God & Thee" - Even the prayer was not spoken, but a lovely prayer-song played on the violin. All the choirs of the various churches in Swatow, both Presbyterian and Baptist, had some share in the singing. The last number on the program was worth hearing, I tell you! All the choirs in Swatow (not ours, this side the bay) stood up together - some sixty or seventy - and sang an anthem "The Beautiful Land" which the various choirs had rehearsed separately and then had come together on for practice twice - It was good to hear - and well done - The amazing thing about it,

was the difference that was
to be seen between the musical
abilities and accomplishments
in Swanton now and those of
ten years ago — They couldn't
have found so many singers ten
years ago — and they'd have been
lucky if they kept one part on
the tune, to say nothing of all
four together. In the past
our young people here on this
side have had the reputation
of being the best singers in
Swanton. That is no longer true,
and they have got to look
to their laxicals! That won't
hurt them any, though!

We had one day vacation only,
Dec 25, last week — but
it will be better this week —

I must get this off to
you - so good night - with
many thanks again for the
things you sent.

E. Cranoka sent \$5 -
and E. Hursey Circle \$25 -
isn't that marvelous?!

Good night.

Abbie