

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

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Folder label: General Correspondence:

To: Dr. Haggard (ESH report from Chaochowfu, 1915)

From: Alice Giffin, Annie Giffin, Hallock

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Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service Associates LLC, Shelton, CT with financial support from The Center for Christian Studies, Shantou University, 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China 515063

3835 Lake Avenue South
Duluth 5, Minnesota

April 7, 1951

Alice Giffen

Dear South China Family--

A letter from Carl brought the suggestion that I write you this way and he will try to see that it gets around, so I am taking him up on it, though I think he really meant for me to get this done three weeks ago. It doesn't seem possible that I have been in the States that long, but the calendar says so. It was wonderful hearing from so many of you on arrival in San Francisco and others here, and I will get around to telling you so personally and individually some day, but I hope this will get to you first. All my good intentions of writing a general letter on board the Cleveland were of no avail for the trip wasn't the kind that encouraged any writing. It was a rough trip all but two days, and a couple of nights we had to stay awake to keep from rolling off the bunks. Guess next time I'll travel in the summer. Even the captain said it was his worst trip of the 23 the Cleveland had made. Everybody was seasick part of the time and groggy the rest. There was quite a group of missionaries on board, including Dick Bryant, wife and sons, Coles, Hollisters and Mrs. Brewster from Foochow way, Smythes, and Thomases of the Presbyterian mission and a number of Southern Baptist from Canton and Shanghai. Also some Congregationalists. So we did have good company. Some had waited six months.

It was wonderful to have Mrs. Hobart and Sylvia on the dock to meet me and take me home with them. I stayed there several days as I had my physical check-up there. I haven't gotten the final report from that, but everyone tells me I look fine, so you don't have to worry about me on that score. While in the Bay area I went out to see Mrs. Groesbeck. She is cheerful as ever though she is unable to leave her bed.

Louise Campbell was in Eugene, Oregon, at the time so I went there and had several days with her at her brother, Paul's, and saw David and Bessie and the family. They had also arranged that my cousin in Corvallis come down with his family for the day. On Easter Sunday we drove down to Cottage Grove to be with the Sutterlins in their church. It was a lovely service and Bill gave a good message. You can imagine what it was for the preacher and his wife to have us for lunch and the afternoon of looking at South China slides and movies on busy Easter Day with a sunrise service, Sunday School, Church and the prospect of evening service including baptisms in the evening. But they were grand as Bill and Ruth would be, and Judy was a nice hostess too. She is sweet. It made us kind of homesick seeing those movies though, with a lot of you folks in them.

From there we went on up to Seattle and stayed with the Burkets. I was only there one day but enjoyed it thoroughly. I also saw some cousins there. On the way to Minneapolis I stopped overnight with Edith Traver, and met some of her friends whom she had asked in. The time in Minneapolis was spent visiting several cousins, Mrs. Pierce, and attending the Minnesota State Board meeting. They are a lovely group of women. So you see I only arrived here on the 4th, and the three days since have been full with seeing folks and going to church functions.

Someone had written to someone else "Poor Alice didn't want to leave". That was when Louise Campbell left, I believe. Well, I didn't want to leave at that time, but I also did not consider myself "poor". I think I had a much more satisfying time of it in Weihien than the other folks are having. About Christmas time when the Swatow folks kept writing and saying that they were leaving, giving their reasons, and urging me to do likewise, I was still not sure that the time had come. It is difficult to say just when the decision was made, but things just gradually worked towards that decision. The

attitude of the students was turning somewhat, and there were many anti-American meetings. Word got through of the Action of the Boards asking us to return. The local authorities had surrounded the Catholic mission and were searching it thoroughly for incriminating letters. On January 2nd the Hakka Executive Committee met and spent a great deal of time discussing the advisability of my leaving. No vote was registered but it was their opinion that for my own good I should leave. I became convinced that for their good I should, though they said nothing that pointed the way. I made two attempts to put in a request for a permit, but could find no one home either time in the office. The request did not get in then until January 14th. By that time there was ample reason for leaving.

On the 8th there was a notice in the paper that all American property must be registered. Lillian and I went to the city immediately to inquire about details. We found the responsible persons in the meeting. The next morning without any warning a representative from the government came with the principal of the boys' school with a letter addressed to Lillian. It said that these men had come to take over the school, and that the boys' school principal was to be the principal of the girls' school and that Lillian would be vice-principal. They requested her cooperation in the turnover. Numerous meetings followed in which the teachers were each assigned certain responsibilities in the taking of the inventory. The next day the inventories were checked. It was the first time Lillian had ever had to take an inventory of the school property. The Christian students were called together several times while they explained to them the significance of the turnover. They were afraid of trouble from them. Of course it nearly broke the hearts of some for all Christian activities ceased that first day. We met on the hillside for vespers that first night and after singing some choruses we tried to repeat the 23rd Psalm. Nearly everyone broke down before we got through it. Then followed short prayers. It was a time of rich fellowship together. After that the girls met in small groups for worship in the evening either in their own rooms or outdoors.

On the 11th there was a big welcome meeting for the "two" principals, and the next day a big parade, welcoming the new principal and announcing that the school had severed all connections with imperialistic America. It was heart-breaking, not only to us but to many who had to take part. They at first told me I should continue to be treasurer until the end of the year, but then because they wanted some money I had advanced on teachers' salaries, they suddenly switched the job over to one of the other teachers. I taught, however, until the end of the semester. I also had to be very careful who came to my room, whom I sat by in church, etc., for fear of implicating them, but the Chinese themselves were most cordial to me. The teachers were given temporary contracts at the end of the semester and told they would not be kicked out. Before the opening of the new term, seven had been told they would not be needed. Actually they were told they would be sent to an indoctrination camp without salary, which was the same as dismissal. So there are few old teachers there now, and it makes it more difficult for the few who are.

School ran quite smoothly until the end of the semester though there was little actual school with the sending of the volunteers to military school, etc. I was glad that my permission to leave came during the winter vacation. My bigger things had been frozen but I was able to sell, by special permission, my sewing machine, my bicycle and to bring this typewriter with me. I brought bedding, some books, some of the more "bringable" household things, and what clothes were worth bringing. I was most fortunate in that I could come out with the Basel missionaries. That left Miss Berg there quite alone in the Blind Home and it was difficult for her to see us go. She had just returned and her responsibility was so great that she did not feel she could

leave so soon.

The church folks had a short, simple farewell for me at the end of the church service that last Sunday morning, followed by a picture. A number had a dinner for me. The morning we left quite a crowd from both our church and that of the Basel Mission met together around our two trucks and had a lovely service there committing us to the Lord for our trip and also the two churches and their work. The way the Chinese leaders took the responsibility upon themselves is wonderful. The outstations responded to the question of what they were going to do quite marvelously saying they would keep open and would give what was needed, or at least more than formerly. But with increased taxes and assessments it will be increasingly hard. A number of the younger Christians were trying tithing and testifying to the blessings of it. Pastor Wang will have to bear the brunt of the responsibility as he is president of the convention as well as pastor of the Meih sien church. It will also be hard for him personally for he used to have scholarships for his seven children in the mission schools and now there is none for him. Pray for him and the other church leaders.

We left by truck reaching Ho Nyen on the East River after two days. Then we joined the other Basel missionaries who were leaving from there and who had already gotten on a chartered launch. It could not have been more nicely managed if it had been planned. We thought they had already gone. But we just moved in with them and hired a river boat to be towed with the rest of the Baggage for the four days to Canton. From about 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. we women and children sat on the baggage outside the police office in Canton while the men went in to ten to business. It was a relief not to have to go in ourselves. They then sent us to a hotel and next day after having had all our big luggage moved to a godown, we spent the day going through it with inspectors. It had already been inspected in Meih sien. It was much more thorough in Canton, and I found my Mandarin came in handy there all right. We finally finished about 7 that night. The next morning we left on the 7 o'clock train leaving our heavy baggage for the China Travel Service to take through the border. It was with mixed feelings that we left China behind and stepped onto British soil. I was pretty rushed in Hong Kong, too, having only nine days there, but feel most fortunate in being able to get passage so quickly.

On arrival here there were letters from Louise and Lillian. Louise (Giffin) mentioned the fact that Frida Starky was so very thin and that she and Jessie Gilchrist were leaving the next day. She had heard from Marion Bell who said that Stanley Braisted sometimes came over for lunch. Lillian said that church had stopped for the duration of the land reforms. Louise Campbell's residence is being used for the school administration building. The enrollment was 103 compared with 152 last semester. Nearly all the teachers were new and things were being done so differently. Stella was uncertain but what she might have to return to Meih sien for Hwanan had been combined with F.C.U. to form Foo-chow College, or University. The dean, who wastes no love on Lillian, is living right across the hall from her in the room some of you may have stayed in as guests. She can't move without his knowing it. It's a tough spot.

Well, I am here for a few weeks anyway, and plan to be at the Convention in Buffalo and the preceding women's meetings altogether lasting from June 8th to 15th. I will undoubtedly leave here at least a couple of weeks before the 8th and do some visiting on the way with cousins and with Ray's family in Troy, Ohio. The future after that is very uncertain. I do not know how to plan nor what it holds, but know that God will lead just as surely as He has in the past. Will you pray that I might know His Will?

I see by the paper that Dr. Fridell will be speaking in two of the Baptist churches here tomorrow. I am sorry to say that ours is not one of

them. However, I must call him up in a short time at his hotel and see if I cannot see him sometime while he is in town. I'll also try to get to one of the churches for the service, but its being my first Sunday in my home church I feel I should attend there at least one time tomorrow.

Thank you all for writing, and forgive me if I take a little longer to answer your good letters personally.

Lovingly,

Alice Giffin

*Answer
to Mrs. Giffin.
The first note, we also*

*'They had a nice Easter
service together at
Louise's home.'*

COPY

Please return when convenient *L.R.H.*

3835 Lake Avenue South
Duluth 5, Minnesota
April 18, 1951



"Blessings"

Dear Friends,

It seems good to be writing you from this side of the waters again. You have made my homecoming very pleasant with so many letters sent to me when I arrived and then again so many, many birthday cards! Thank you very much! It is wonderful to have so many friends, and it was a real surprise to find how many people knew about my arrival and about my birthday.

I am thankful for a safe and quick journey by truck, launch, train and ship from my station to San Francisco. A rough-seawebent that the voyage across was not as relaxing as usual, but the food and company on board ship were good. It has been almost a month now since we landed, but it took me about three weeks to get here as I stopped over to visit in Eugene, Seattle, Spokane and Minneapolis. As far as I know now I will be here for another month, then will start east making a few visits on my way to the American Baptist Convention in Buffalo with its preceding women's meetings from June 8th to the 15th. Plans for after the Convention are as yet uncertain, as are those for the more distant future. Since China is not now open for return, will you pray with me that I might be willing to "go where He wants me to go"?

I am glad I was able to stay in China as long as I was. The last few months were months of learning love, and of realizing anew the dependability of God's promises. His Word became more and more precious as things became more uncertain. On the day that our property was taken over I found great comfort in the words of Jesus in John, chapters 14-17. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." These words had special significance and brought a deep sense of peace although it seemed that the foundations were falling out from under. That evening we went on the hilltop for our vespers service, for we were no longer able to have any religious activities on the compound. The students and teachers gathered there were drawn together in close Christian fellowship during the few minutes spent in prayer. Afterwards one girl who herself was in great sorrow, said to me, "Miss Giffin, have you true joy in your heart?" The question came to me with a shock. I had been seeking peace, but it had not occurred to me to seek joy. She added, "I hope so. I will be praying that you will."

The next Sunday one of the fine Christian women in our church sat next to me in the morning service. She asked how things were. I replied that they were all right. She said, "Have you real joy in your heart? I have been praying all week that you would have." So I came to realize anew the meaning of Jesus' words, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Physical foundations might crumble but our hope is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and nothing can disturb that.

The church, as I knew it, in China is taking up its responsibility wonderfully. It is particularly hard for the country churches to have outside help stopped suddenly, but they declared they would not close and that they would do their best towards the support of their workers. Their words were already being backed by concrete action before I left. It will not be easy for them. Continue to remember them and the church leaders in prayer.

Many of you have asked about my sister, Louise. She and a number of others are still at their stations, but we hope they will soon be able to come home also. Will you continue to remember them in prayer?

Thank you again for your prayers and your remembrances expressed in so many different ways, not only now, but in the past five years. My prayer for you is that you also might have His Joy in your hearts.

Yours in His service,

Edie M. Griffin

Prescott House, Kato Chichu,

Jan. 24th 1925.

Dear Mrs. Hildreth:

Many thanks for your picture and card which arrived just right for Christmas time. You surely are all looking well.

I am enclosing in this what we used as Christmas cards; but they were printed in America from a picture we had taken in Baguio just before the girls left for Shanghai; and they didn't get back here in time to use for home friends.

As you see Raymond & I are still here in Miss Cully's rooms at Prescott where we have been since Nov. 9th. Three times we were already to go when some thing happened to prevent - "no boats," "trouble on the rail road" etc.

Mr. Tshia came down to meet us, & he just went back last week. Things are all right at Koying and Mainfater & Mr. Giffin are there at work. Church and schools going nicely. The soldiers were in our house, for the first time in 23 years, before Mr. Giffin returned from Baguio. They stole, or destroyed nearly everything of any value. You can imagine how thankful we are that we went some

things home with yours last Spring.

And that reminds me - I don't think I ever paid your husband for my share of the boat which took them to the steamer. Mr. Adams & Mr. Whitman I think went with them and I supposed they paid my part. But I think they said afterward ^(with interest) they didn't. Let us know what it is and we will pay it, or he can collect it direct from the room.

Next cancelled if there is one - ^{what I don't}
About our only happiness now comes from looking forward to furlough. We have booked passage on S. S. "Pres. Madison" sailing from Shanghai June 16th the day after Louise's graduation & due in Seattle July 2nd. We will be in Minnesota & Wisconsin visiting relatives until Sept. 1st when we have the promise of a house in Granville where we hope to have the family together once more for a few blessed months. It will be Harold's last and Louise's first in college.

I guess you know Alice is in S. A. S. this year. Raymond is doing 6th grade work with me. Please don't expect me to write of conditions here. I'll leave that for the secretaries.

With lots of love,

Annie M. Kiffin.



A Joyous Easter
and
a
Jolly 4th of July.

My Present Feelings.

"Home" - where is it?

I don't know - do you?

Kaying has been.

Kak Chick - now is.

America - will be

But alas! I never was good at grammars.

I always have to hammer, & hammer

To get it into my head.

"Has been", "now is" - "will be

How can they all be the same

To say they "equal the same thing"

Certainly does sound tame.

"Has been" is past; and applied to Kaying
seems past forever.

That cannot be "now is", and this

That "now is", will soon be past also.

But what "will be" "has been"

That does sound more hopeful.

I do like bright spots,

So don't let's be doleful.

(over)

America past; America - future;
Very soon will be present.
Ah, that's what I want -
The past, present, and future
United in one -
'Tis the blessedest "Home"
Neath the sun.

A. M. G.

Ketchikan, June 22nd 1925.

Prescott House,
139 Kaka Chieki, Suva.
March 16, 1928.

Dear Mrs. Hildreth:

Your letter containing check for Twenty-five Dollars ($25 \frac{00}{100}$) gold just received. As it was made out to my husband I have forwarded it to him at Kaying. My first impulse was to say "you shouldn't have done it"; but since you explain it is not really from your own money, but a fund left for such purposes, we accept it in the spirit sent, and thank you most heartily for the gift and for your warm heart that made you think of it.

I feel sure Mr. Giffin will say to put it into the work, since you left the choice with us.

But it would come in most handy in replacing some of the necessities of life which were taken.

My machine (without which I can't seem to keep house), rugs, dishes, bed-nets, bedding, clothing, stores — everything of that

My friends in N. York will know, & I wish to say 142. lbs. - this morning. Of course you know religious teaching has been put back in all our schools this time, at least at N. York.

nature is gone. Of course we had some clothing & bedding with us down here.

And, I never cease to be thankful for the fact, that we sent our wedding gifts & some other most valuable keepsakes home with your freight.

Most of our furniture is still there, but that & the house itself was badly damaged. It was not real looting; but soldiers lived in the house and helped themselves to what they wanted.

We have never been so anxious to go home although Mr. Griffin has been at work at Koying since Oct. 13th & reports things much improved. Opportunities good for Christian work. The school had only 60 students a year ago, & has 200 now.

The Kuwintung, & Government Middle School are now in our favor & want us to take our buildings back; but they are so injured they cannot be used without a lot of repairing.

We plan to leave Shanghai on the Madison June 6, & after the summer in Duluth & Superior go to Greenville for the school year where we hope to have the family together. ^{strongly} Alice is with Louise in G. A. S. this year. Anne Wilce Griffin

		1927-1928
Kwong Yit Academy,	60 -	200
" " Elementary School	100 -	200
" " Girls' School	60 -	123
	Total -	523

About 30 of the girls' school pupils are of Academy grade.

Anna Foster has been there alone thruout the year. We all admire her pluck.

She has spent some weeks, ends at the German Mission on the other side of the city - otherwise she has been alone so long as foreigners are concerned, at the Girls' Compound. Our house is at an entirely different place, & Mr. Biffin has been alone there; but he is so thankful we didn't go

home in the Spring as some
urged us to do.

They say fighting has now ceased
in this province, so the soldiers are
now going after the bandits & Pao's
hiding in the hills. Hope they'll
get them out.

Raymond's heart seems to be all
right now. He is getting talk. I am
still teaching him. That is my one
comfort that I have that much
of my work with me, even if I can't
be in Kaying. Kaying is peaceful
but travel is still unsafe because
of robbers & worse yet kidnapers.

Sincerely

A. M. G.

Meinheim

(formerly Kaying)

Via Boston

Dear Mrs. Hildreth, Feb. 10th 1933

Your beautiful

Christmas picture came in good time and was one of the prettiest we received. I am planning to have it framed. The coloring is so soft and wonderful!

And its coming reminded us that you were more thoughtful than we were, for we didn't send to hardly anyone in America this year.

I guess it is a wrong idea, but it somehow got hold of me that people in America have so much & are surrounded by so many friends that they can't be expected

to remember us very long or to care for the simple cards we might send.

We feel increasingly alone since the Hakkas have been set off by themselves, and bitterly discouraged at the loss of most of our best Christian leaders.

It has also been a record year for strikes in both Christian and non Christian schools. Amos has had two big ones and there seems nothing left now but to gather up the pieces. Don't know just what will find left when school opens.

"Kak Kwang" at Kak Chieh has I think been just as hard hit.

And last night Mr. Liffin came home with the cheering news that

soldiers were in our school, & the leader of a thousand men (a "thou chong") was making our office in the chapel his headquarters. 'Tis the first time in 5 years I think that soldiers have been in our buildings. There's a big movement of troops just now - guess most of them are going down river to protect Suatow from the Japanese. We are having Chinese New Year and a dearth of news.

Terrible things have been going on in Shanghai, & of course with Alice & Raymond there we are somewhat worried. Feb. 5th a telegram came saying "American School quiet" but we know

from Chinese sources that there has been serious fighting in Shanghai since then.

Alice is taller than I and about as heavy which is saying a good deal. I weighed 150 lbs. a short time ago. She is about 145. She is 5ft. 5 in. tall. She is a Junior in S. A. S.

The last word I had from her was from Mrs. Burkett who has just come to Suatow from Shanghai who told Miss Foster what a "beautiful girl Alice Kiffin is". Of course we appreciate it. She is a very sensible, solid girl.

Raymond is not very large

for his age - weighs 95 lbs. + is
 5 ft $\frac{1}{4}$ in. tall, + a Sophomore in
 S. A. S. at 144 in.
 He is a dartering - I think.

Harold + Louise are much
 nearer you than us.

Harold graduated from Denison
 in '29 + has had 3 yrs. in Eastman
 School of Music in Rochester N.Y.

He is to get his musical degree in
 June I suppose. He has a tenor
 voice, + was called back to Denison
 to sing the Tenor solos in their annual
 production of the Messiah at
 Christmas. You know what that
 means. The highest praise I have
 heard of his singing at that time
 was - "He sang with his soul."
 What higher praise could there
 be?

He will be 23 - years old next month. He is engaged to a Baptist girl who graduated from Denison last June & is teaching Music in a school - (Grade & High school) this year. She is from Buffalo.

Harold has been asked to come here, but so far I do not think he has much idea of coming. His music training has unfitted him rather than otherwise for low grade schools such as ours.

Louise will finish college at Denison in June. She has been majoring in Religious Ed. & ^{for} minor taking Physical Ed.

She wants to do Social Service
ment or some such work, but
finds a girl can't jump from college
into such work. She's crazy to come
back to China but is too young for
3 years yet. She was 22 last June.

Will be going out everyday
this week for New Year Evangelism.
I have been till today but I had
a bad fall yesterday & am rather
used up tho not seriously injured.

We are having a terribly cold
rainy spell after months of bright
sunny weather.

Thank your lucky stars that
you don't have to worry about the
Japs. or the Reds. I suppose tho you
have troubles of your own.

Regards to Mr. H. & the children.

Sincerely, Annie M. Liffin

I'm writing on my lap by the fire, as I have my usual.

2nd yr

Chaochowfu, via Swatow, China,

Oct. 25, 1915.

My dear Dr. Haggard;

Something tells me that I ought to tell you about the week-end that we had a little while ago, the time that Mr. McGlashan of Kakchich happened to come up to see how things were getting on here in Chaochowfu. One can find a little to break up the monotony, even when one is studying the language.

On the aforesaid Friday afternoon I went in to the chapel to a meeting of Chaochowfu Baptists and Presbyterians, who were to discuss whether we ~~shd~~ should undertake to have an evangelistic campaign on Sherwood Hedy's lines, next year when Hedy comes to Swatow. That matter isn't settled, but the two or three hour's discussion that afternoon helped to clarify the situation, so that some of us at least were able to form pretty definite opinions.

While there, a band of strangers came into the chapel and laid their baggage down as if they intended to stay some time. I inquired from the Chinese who they were and the answer was siang-hang, and that they were Khoh-nang. Well, Khoh-nang is Hakka without a doubt; I interpreted the siang, as siang, (only a very slight difference of tone) which would mean trader, and hang is a big store or warehouse. Quite clearly these were Hakka merchants representing some Chamber of Commerce, or some similar organization, who had got in here by mistake; why didn't they leave? The Chinese were as much puzzled as I was. Finally it became clear. There is a Meanonite Baptist missionary named ~~Wians~~ Wians at Siang-Hang up in the Hakka country; this was his retinue; and of course being Baptists, they came to our chapel to stay. Presently Mr. Wians himself turned up, and I found that he was on his way to the Hakka Baptist Convention, which met at Hoko, where our Adams' are located. He was glad to come out and spend the night with me, and I was very glad to have him, as Mrs. Hildreth ~~was~~ in Swatow for the last few days, and our house seems pretty big when there is no one to talk to. Mr. Wians has a most interesting work, and I was glad to hear of it.

The next morning we went early to the railroad station, for several reasons; to see Mr. Wiens off on the train; to meet Lottie (that's Mrs. Hildret who was just coming back from Swatow; and to welcome Miss Soltman, who came up for the day, and McClashan who was up for the week end. Miss Soltman can be disposed of in a few words; she examined the Chaochowfu school in the morning, took dinner with us, examined the school in the village below the house in the afternoon, and took the train back to Swatow, McClashan stayed considerably longer with us, and saw something of the workings of the church.

First was Saturday afternoon, when we went in to the chapel for the examination of four candidates for baptism, and sat some three or four hours on Chinese chairs. An examination of candidates for entrance to a Chinese church is no light matter; it isn't enough to know that you are saved and love Jesus and want to join the church. One of my servants was one of the candidates, and he knows a lot about the doctrine but they advised him to wait a few months and study the Bible diligently, so as to understand it bet-
 ter; he was well recommended for character and conduct, too. The other was a teacher who understands the doctrine exceedingly well, but the brethren thought he hadn't attended church diligently enough (which was true) so they advised him to wait, and in the meantime show his zeal by faithful church attendance. The other two candidates were approved by this meeting, which corresponds to appearing before the deacons in an American church, altho this meeting was an open one.

Sunday morning we went in again for a double meeting, first a prayer meeting, and then a preaching service, followed by baptism. The church voted to accept these two candidates, and so at the close of the sermon I had the pleasure of administering baptism for the first time in China. The pastor of the church is not ordained and I am, so that is why I baptised them.

Usually, here in China, baptism is performed in a river or a pond, but this Chaochowfu chapel has a baptistery, allee sance Melican Church. And it is about as "alloe sance" as other things that Chinese describe by those

two very useful and flexible words. The water in this baptistery was not quite up to my knees, and the difficulty was not to bring the man up out of the water, but to get him completely covered. I think I prefer the river. I baptized in a river yesterday; it isn't so convenient in regard to changing one's clothes, but it is a much more beautiful and impressive ceremony.

Sunday afternoon we went in again for the Lord's Supper. Apparently one can't get into the heads of the Chinese the idea that it is possible to join the church at any other time than communion Sunday. I suppose that idea dates from the early history of the church when the only opportunity for baptism was when the missionary paid his visit to the church, and that was the only time for communion, too. ~~The visits were infrequent enough,~~ ~~and~~ Anyhow, the idea is firmly rooted in the minds of the Chinese, and as a matter of fact two of these candidates had been kept waiting ever since the last Communion Sunday, because then they applied too late to have their names acted on, so nobody thought it proper for them to be baptized till it was time for Communion again.

Since I last wrote you, I have been to Thaiyong in the hills, where we go to cool off in the heat of the summer. One of the privileges of the first two years on the field is the opportunity to go to Thaiyong for the whole summer. You can take the teacher along, and it is so cool and refreshing that you can study much more effectively than down here in the heat. In fact I know one missionary who stayed in the heat his first summer, and for July and August he practically couldn't do anything but exist, and didn't make a very good job of that. But my first two summers are over now, and I expect that next summer I shall have a chance to see what July heat on the plain is like. I always said, tho, that I would rather be a missionary to the naked heathen than to the Eskimos, and I expect to take comfort in thinking how much better it is to be baked by the sun than to have your toes nipped by the frost.

Since coming down from the hills I have had enough to keep busy. The

first thing to do was to get my mission accounts in shape, and that took all my spare time for several days. Then I had to deal with two applications for permission to borrow the use of rooms which are temporarily empty. One was a rather interesting case of a woman who belongs to the church here; her son, who is also a church member is teaching school, in a village where he married, and his mother would normally live with his family. But she wanted to come here where she could get some sweatshop work and earn a little money. She couldn't (or at least didn't) find a room which suited her and which she could rent, and so she wanted to borrow one of our rooms; I understood at first that she only wanted to live there a little while, but when I talked with her in detail I found she wanted to stay there eighteen months; to start out on that basis, she would probably spend the rest of her life there unless I evicted her like a cruel absentee landlord. So we had to tell her that she could stay there only a very short time, and that she must diligently search for a room; and that if she failed to find one, she was not to consider that her failure gave her a right to continue indefinitely on our property.

Another matter that has taken some time has been the consideration of whether Chaochowfu should undertake to have meetings on Sherwood Eddy's lines next year when Eddy comes to Swatow; along with this went the question of whether we could have Ding Li Mei come to Chaochowfu and hold meetings when he comes to Swatow in a few weeks now. The Chaochowfu people were sure they wanted Mr. Ding, because his work is to stir up the Christians and deepen their spiritual life; they were not sure they were ready to undertake the Eddy meetings, which involve a great deal of work, and - more important - require a large number of trained Bible teachers to take care of the products of the Eddy meetings. On the other hand, it is quite likely that we can have meetings next year when Eddy comes to Swatow, if we undertake the responsibility, but it is quite doubtful whether Mr. Ding

will be able to come to Chaochowfu for meetings. This fact that we could get what we weren't sure we wanted, and probably couldn't get what we knew we wanted, had complicated the discussion. The matter is not yet settled, but we have a committee which is considering it. Personally I don't think that we have enough qualified Bible teachers, but more careful estimate may bring a different conclusion.

Another matter that helped to break up the monotony was the Chinese Convention, which met in Chaochang last week. I was away from Monday morning to Friday night, and in that time did some forty-seven errands of various kinds, audited the accounts of ^{nine} ~~eight~~ missionaries, and attended ten meetings with the Chinese. I must say that I didn't understand what was going on, even as well as I did at the Convention a year ago. But I am somewhat consoled by the fact that a great many of the older missionaries were greatly puzzled by some of the things that were said. During the year new names have been invented for things, and the missionaries only knew the old names. Then when a man begins to discuss the thing by its new name before you figure out what he is driving at, he is deep into the discussion, and you haven't got the thread, and it is pretty difficult to find out what it is all about. But I suppose this inventing of new names is a sign of intellectual activity in the Chinese nation, and we ought to rejoice in it.

Our evangelistic services which we are holding in union with the English Presbyterian mission here, are still well attended, and if the speaker is at all good, his audience will stay right thro the evening. That means that many sit, and a goodly number stand, for two hours long, listening to the preaching. What encourages me more, some of them stay after the service to talk things over. The Chinese seem to think it is fine to hold these preaching services together, and we are hoping that something more may come of it.

rather
interesting
accounts,

Lin
Cook
Pete.

Liang Kuo Chiang
Peking
Nov. 15, 1924

Dear Mrs. Hildate:

I have just
received your letter and was so
glad to hear from you. I was quite
sure that I wrote you but the
letter may never arrive. I thought
to send one half yard instead of
 $\frac{1}{4}$ as you said because this
material was a little wider than
you said. I supposed you wanted
to make square napkins. That is
why I took the liberty to buy a little

Third class cars. We hunted
for a place and found a Harvard car
which was one third of an ordinary
1st car given over to the guards. The name
was Harvard car. By the time we arrived
three other families had settled down
in that place along with five or six
others. As we climbed in, setting on our
baggage and the baggage of one of the
families. I sat on a bench for about
24 hours, when I wasn't walking
around on about a two foot square part
of the floor, or climbing down and
wandering in the fields near by. We were
in this car two days, standing at a
little place where we no one could
get food for about 15 hours. ^{Spinnies}
Spinnies was so jolly all the time. In fact
the three other children ~~were~~ behaved very
well. We all had to be careful of our food
for we didn't know when we would arrive
at Indiania. The fact is that there was no

more. This is the bill -
6 1/2 yards @ 66¢ \$ 4.29
Postage .22
Total \$ 4.51

Since we left Portcharles, I have
been wondering how you got away.
I'm glad you had a good trip down
after getting on the boat. Well, we
had a wild time. We had expected
to take 24 hours on the train to get
from Portcharles to Trenton. We were
carried that amount of food with us.
We expected to leave the beach at
about nine o'clock but did not until
twelve. At Portcharles junction, the
Trenton train was packed, literally,
people standing in four cars, people
bulging out of the first, second and

room to stretch out in and sleep so we
slept sitting up, except for the children.
The second night, one of the families and
much of the baggage - being furniture -
got out and we stretched out on the floor
just enough room for each to have a space
6 feet by 2 feet. It sounds like a terrible
trip and it was for a few for they were
sick but we were all very golly and
made the most of it. The Lyalls family
finally arrived at Hanoi when we were
in the area.

I was especially sorry for the Chinese
for they were refugees going south to
get away from the fighting. Of course,
they took very little baggage & food. I saw
old cars and cars with people at night
the nights were frosty.

Peking is apparently very peaceful,
the soldiers that were guarding the streets
are not there in such numbers as they
were before.

Hoping to see you again, I am

Melina C. Hall