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Huachung  
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Wei, Francis C.M.  
1948 Jun-Dec

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

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校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

June 1, 1948

Rev. Arthur M. Sherman, S.T.D.  
802 Broadway  
New York 3, N.Y., U.S. A.

Dear Dr. Sherman:

I received your letter of May 24, and your cablegram referred to in the letter was received more than a week ago.

I have already written to Earl Fowler about the re-organization of our Board of Directors in the field. Since the Executive Committee at its last meeting decided to have the Annual Meeting of the full Provisional Board of Directors on June 28, it would not be possible for us to get the re-organization of the Board of Directors completed so as to let you know before June 20. Enclosed I am sending you a copy of my letter to the different mission heads, and from that you may see that we are doing everything possible to get this business of re-organization of the Board of Directors underway.

While I am writing, I would like to report to you and through you to the Huachung Committee that things are very quiet here in Huachung. Today is June First, and it was this day a year ago when some of the Wuhan University students were killed by the military. For sometime I was afraid that there might be some student disturbances on this day. The government has been taking very strict precautions, and I have been talking quietly to our own students about the seriousness of the situation. Our students are very sensible. On Sunday, that is, day before yesterday, some of them went to Wuhan University to attend a Memorial Ceremony there and came back without getting excited. Today they are all going to classes. With this day over I am confident that we shall be able to complete the term without any mishap, unless there should be some unexpected event arising from the general situation, which is not likely.

Prices are rising, but the rate of exchange for the American dollar is still in our favor, and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has decided to make a special bonus for the faculty and staff members with the US\$2,500 made available by the United Board. As a whole, we have been paying more to our people than Wuhan University has, but we have to bear in mind always that the government universities permit their members of the faculty and staff to carry extra outside jobs with pay, while everyone of our people here is devoting his whole time to the work in the university.

With the best wishes and affectionate regards,

As ever,

*Francis C. M. Wei*

FCMW/MRC

0852

June 1, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

My dear Francis:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Huachung Committee of the United Board for Christian Colleges in China acting for the time being as the Board of Directors of Huachung University held on May fifth. I do not think any special comment by me is necessary as the minutes are quite clear and understandable.

This will acknowledge your letter of May nineteenth. I am amazed at the various actions and recommendations by the Planning Committee. Their minds seem to be as changable as most womens. Last autumn they were planning on three or four faculty residences and at that time the Huachung Committee approved of three residences being constructed. Later letters mentioned four to six faculty residences. Your present letter speaks of twelve. They are also recommending changes that even have not been presented to the Huachung Committee for approval.

There are two actions in the minutes of the meeting I have enclosed that have a bearing on these plans. Vote #447 has to do with action to be taken after the architects plans for new buildings in relation to the whole campus are received. I am sure you do not anticipate starting construction on any buildings until plans for the campus have been received and accepted. Vote #449 has to do with the new buildings contemplated and that the action be approved when plans are given for four faculty residences instead of the three referred to above in the action of last October.

I am sure you recall that the Huachung Committee has not ever approved of a total student enrollment of over five hundred.

If negotiations have been completed for the purchase of the Chekiang Guild property you and your associates deserve great credit for this

0853

June 1, 1948

achievement. The University has hoped to have this property for so many years that there is real satisfaction now to obtain it. If the purchase is completed for approximately \$17,000.00 as you mentioned that is again a real achievement.

I was mighty sorry that it was necessary to cut the Huachung appropriation from \$12,000 to \$11,000.00. As you recall, I was in Cuba during the end of last year. I was away during the December meeting of the National Council when these plans were made for cutting the budget at the February meeting of the National Council. There was nothing I could do to avoid it. I think your budget has the first call on the \$2,500.00 received from the United Board for Christian Colleges in China. As you know, this along with the \$2,500.00 received about Christmastime was a result of the special campaign to raise \$600,000.00. Of this \$600,000.00, \$200,000.00 was raised from mission boards. \$52,000.00 of that money came from the National Council. It was our share for our interests in Christian colleges in China. Besides Huachung, St. John's and Ginling. I also wrote to many private individuals requesting them to send their contributions direct to the United Board. Therefore, I do not know how much more than the \$52,000.00 we had a hand in raising. After the budget requirements are met it is quite in order for the Executive Committee to consider using the rest of the money for the benefit of the bonus of members of the faculty and staff.

I am very sorry to have to tell you that \$1,200.00 raised for your salary by St. James Church School is part of their regular quota to the National Council. They simply ask for some specific project to designate their contribution to. This would not be an appropriation over and above the \$1,200.00 for Huachung. It is simply that St. James Church School takes as its Lenten Project, your salary which counts on the regular quota of St. James Church and is part of the regular budget.

I want to congratulate you and Huachung University on the honor that the Ministry of Education of the National Government has conferred upon you by granting you the Victory Medal. This is a great distinction even though many of them may have been conferred. I will pass on this information to the next meeting of the Huachung Committee of the United Board.

With very best wishes and kind regards.

Very cordially yours,

J. Earl Fowler  
Associate Secretary

JEF:O  
Encl.

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CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

June 3, 1948

Rev. Arthur M. Sherman, S.T.D.  
802 Broadway  
New York 3, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Sherman:

Since I dictated my last letter to you, Professor Fu has come in and informed me that he is definitely accepting the British Council Fellowship to go to Cambridge University for two years, and so he is declining the United Board Fellowship to go to America.

On June 1, I sent to Fowler the following cablegram:

"FOWLER INFORM MCMULLEN SHERMAN FU MAOCHI ACCEPTING BRITISH FELLOWSHIP FOR TWO YEARS STOP CABLE IF UNITED BOARD FELLOWSHIP AVAILABLE ANOTHER HUACHUNG MAN."

This cablegram must have already reached Fowler's hands, and you may have already been informed about it.

It is very difficult for Fu to resist the temptation of <sup>a</sup>two-years fellowship to go to Cambridge University in England because the United Board Fellowship is only for one year, although it offers a higher stipend. However, expenses in America are higher now than those in England. He is a very promising young scholar in Chinese Linguistics, and that is why the British Council has made such an attractive offer to him.

Since Mr. Fu is not going to make use of the United Fellowship, is there any chance of another candidate recommended by us this spring getting the fellowship relinquished by Mr. Fu?

Time is getting very late, and we would wish to have the information if another one of our faculty is going to go to America this summer on the United Board Fellowship.

While I am writing, I wish to report also that yesterday John Coe and I went to see a contractor about the erection of our houses and the extension of the New Yen Hostel. The contractor is Mrs. Shen, a Methodist Christian, who has been working for many churches and Christian schools in this center, and who has been found very satisfactory. It is easier to put up the buildings by contract than to try to do them ourselves, since it is not so easy to get all the building material and to manage the labor. Mrs. Shen's son, who is doing the business, will come to see Mr. Coe sometime this week-end, probably on Saturday. As soon as the contract is signed, I shall let you know. For the present we are doing only the Yen Hostel extension and eight to ten houses to cost around US\$52,000, of which about US\$9,000 will come out of funds already in China, designated for building purposes.

With every good wish,  
FCMW/MRC

Yours as ever,

Francis C. M. Wei

0855

June 4, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

My dear Francis:

This will acknowledge your letters of May twenty-fourth and twenty-seventh which have just arrived this week.

Dr. Sherman and Mr. Lyford are coming in early next week to discuss your letter of the twenty-fourth regarding the general plan of the University campus and the property buildings. I hope by that time we will have heard from Mr. Bergamini.

I greatly appreciated your letter of a more personal nature regarding John. You will be glad to know that Dr. Bien seemed very pleased when I told him that it was my understanding that John was supposed to return to Huachung after his studies in this country as an obligation due to the National Council fellowship assistance. I sincerely hope that everything works out satisfactorily and that he will take his place on the faculty. As far as I am concerned it would be an irreparable loss to Huachung and our Church work to have John go elsewhere. The more qualities John has that are like his father the better satisfied we will be and the more urgent the need is for his return to Huachung. I thoroughly understand your position and do not expect to tell John what to do.

The occasion of sending John \$100.00 from your funds here will give me occasion to to write to John and I will take the liberty of mentioning his return to Huachung. If it will not interfere with his connections with Huachung I would have no objection to his staying on another year for research work, after he receives his Ph.D.. I assume he will receive a fellowship of remuneration which will take care of this additional expense.

With very best wishes and kind regards.

Very cordially yours,

J. Earl Fowler  
Associate Secretary

JEF:O

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CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1948  
校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT  
FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

June 8, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler, Associate Secretary  
Huachung Committee  
Church Missions House  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

My dear Earl:

Your letter of June 12 arrived at my office on the evening of Sunday, June 6, and Monday being a very busy day, I had time only to read it over hurriedly, together with the Minutes of the meeting of the Huachung Committee acting as the Board of Directors of Huachung University, held on May 5, 1948.

It happened that yesterday in the afternoon after the meeting of the General Faculty, there was a special meeting of the Senate, which lasted for only one hour. I took the opportunity of reporting to that Senate meeting two paragraphs in your letter which had to do with the Planning, referring particularly to two actions of the Huachung Committee: viz., Vote 447 and Vote 449. The Senate will have its regular monthly meeting next Monday, the 14th, and your whole letter, together with the Minutes of the Huachung Committee, will be reported in detail.

I believe that my letter of May 21 reporting on the General Planning and the buildings to be immediately erected crossed your letter of June 1. Presumably you have already received my letter of May 21, and a cablegram from the Huachung Committee or its Interim Committee will be coming very soon.

It was very thoughtful of the Huachung Committee to take Action #447, so that the Interim Committee of the Huachung Committee may have power to act on the report of the architect concerning the new buildings, received during an interval between meetings of the Huachung Committee of the United Board for Christian Colleges in China.

I wish to assure the Huachung Committee that the Senate here and its Planning Committee have taken every care to spend as little money as possible and to spend it as wisely as possible. In your letter you made a very pointed comment that the Planning Committee here seems to be changing its mind very frequently. It is true that some months ago we were contemplating only four faculty residences, but later we found that it would cost more-and-more to rent houses outside for our faculty members. Certainly it is becoming cheaper to build our own. During this current year we have rented only two houses, and the rent we have to pay is far more than the cost of building our own houses if we take, say, 4% of the cost as interest and 6% as replacement value. So when the lease expires in August, we want to terminate it if we should by that time be able to have our own houses for use. That would mean the erection of two more houses of the permanent type.

Then there is the question of erecting a permanent hostel for men. That certainly ought to be a strong building using concrete and steel. It is very

0857

June 8, 1948

difficult to get steel at the present time except at a scarcity price. Cement is available, but there is a cement factory in the process of completion near Shih Huei Yao, which is only a half a day by boat down the river. Dr. Tregear visited that factory in early April during the spring vacation, and he brought back the report that when the factory is completed by next spring, it should be turning out one thousand tons of cement every day, which surely will bring down the price of cement. For this and other reasons, it is the recommendation of the Senate that we should delay the erection of a permanent hostel for men. Instead, we would vacate from Poyu Hostel four of the faculty and staff families which have been occupying one-half of the hostel since we returned to Wuchang from Yunnan two years ago. By vacating those families from the building we ought to be able to take care of 35 to 40 more students, and that would give sufficient accommodations for our men students during the next year. But this would mean the erection of four more residences, making a total of ten. This is the reason why the Planning Committee has been changing its recommendation from four-six residence, and now are recommending to erect ten instead of the four-six.

There is no way of giving more accommodation to the women students next September except by completing the New Yen Hostel, which was only partly finished by Mr. Bergamini in September 1937 after the war had already broken out in China. To complete this hostel we must use concrete and steel, but only for the floors. The plan as originally prepared by Mr. Bergamini carried the New Yen Hostel about 45 ft. to a point a little short of the southern edge of the Old Yen Hostel. This was the original recommendation of the Planning Committee to the Senate; they further recommended that the present kitchen and the bathroom over it be torn down and rebuilt as <sup>they are</sup> it is in a very poor condition. After looking the matter over again, the Planning Committee recommended that instead of building a separate kitchen and bathroom, the New Yen Hostel be carried straight through to the north edge of the present Old Yen Hostel, making an addition of 92 ft. instead of 45 ft. as originally recommended. The first floor would consist of a kitchen and serving room on the north end. The remainder of the first floor would be used for a dining room, which it is estimated would hold as many girls as can be accommodated in both the Old and the New Yen Hostels. At the present time the dining room in the Old Yen Hostel is inadequate, and if free, could be used for other purposes. The north end of the second and third floors would be used for toilets and bathrooms. The remainder of the second and third floor would be for dormitory accommodations for women students. This would give slightly more dormitory accommodation than was contemplated when the addition was to be carried only 45 ft.

It is the recommendation of the Planning Committee, approved by the Senate, that all the new houses be erected on the grave land to the south of the proposed middle road instead of erecting some of them on the City Wall land and some of them on the grave land. The City Wall land is not very easy to use, and the Planning Committee felt that without the services of an architect it would not be possible to build satisfactory houses on the City Wall land. This means a modification to the recommendation on the location of the residences reported on Page Seven in my letter of May 21.

Mr. Coe and I went to see a contractor, Han Hsieh-sen, the firm which built Wuhan University before the war, Griffith John Church in Hankow, and a few months ago the I Hsun Middle School for Girls of the London Mission in Hankow. The family which owns the firm are Methodist Christians, and they have been most reasonable in dealing with Christian institutions in their business.

0858

Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 3.

June 8, 1948

Mr. Shen, the manager of the firm, came over on Saturday, June 5, and Mr. Coe took him to look over the land on which we proposed to build the ten residences beyond the city moat; and Mr. Shen did not seem to have any hesitation in using that land for the residences.

We are waiting for your approval by cable before we sign any contract with the contractor, if he should present a reasonable estimate. There is a very serious question whether the residences will be completed by the contractor before September 10, but they ought to be ready for occupancy by that time as the families must move in in order to make room for students in Poyu Hostel. The extension of the New Yen Hostel will take an even longer time, probably way into the middle of the coming term. Even though we should start the construction by the end of June, it would take at least four and a half months, and that would mean that the work would be completed only by the middle of November. The houses may take only about eighty days.

Last week I was at the American Consulate, and discussed the matter with the American Consul as to the advisability of investing money in the buildings we propose to start immediately. His idea was that it would be justifiable for us to spend the money we propose to spend if the buildings were needed to give more comfort to the faculty and students. What we propose to build at this time is just for that purpose, and not for any expansion at all. This is another reason why we are postponing for the time being the erection of the men's hostel, which would be one of the major buildings.

I hope the Interim Committee will be able to reach a decision on our report as presented in my letter of May 21, together with this letter as a supplement to it, and will send us a cable so that we may immediately take the matter up with the contractor and avoid further delay. We have been waiting so long because it is the desire of the Administration at least not to do anything out of order, as far as approval from the Huachung Committee is concerned.

Yours cordially,

*Francis C. M. Wei*

FCMW/MRC

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Mr. Fowler,

This is my only carbon.  
Please hold, pending my  
return about Sept 16.

O.S.Z

Reverdale Inn  
Delhi, N.Y.  
June 22, 1948

My dear Francis:

This is the fourth or fifth letter which I have started to you in the last three months. The others became so old in process of getting born that they were not worth mailing.

You must have wondered what was the matter with me and certainly I have wondered myself. Probably Arthur and Earle must have given you their impressions. At first I thought it was simply a temporary disturbance of nerves, but now I have to conclude that Father Time is in control for the present, at least.

We have rented our house in Englewood for three months and our family of five is spread out in various directions. We are hoping that such a program will be a good change for us all. I propose to give as little thought as possible to U.S. politics, world disturbances, China troubles, etc, and simply vegetate as far as the newspapers, radio, etc. will permit.

I propose to finish and mail this letter before I start on such a program, however.

I hope you will tell my friends at Huachung that my interest in the University has not decreased at all, but that my state of health simply makes it impossible to carry on the duties which I have enjoyed so much in the past. I am hoping that these three months will give me some vigor, but I doubt if I can be of much help hereafter, except as a counsellor. I am simply holding on as Treasurer until the consolidation in the United Board will be complete and my job for Huachung will be turned over to the financial staff of that Board.

Everything seems to be going on in the Huachung organization better than in any of the other universities and therefore the delay in the transfer has not caused any criticism. I hope we can receive before long the 1946-47 and 1947-48 reports from John Doe. These will form a starting point for the new procedure, but if we have to make the move before they arrive it will be difficult to avoid some confusion for a while. I hope that when I get back in September I shall be of some use in adjusting these matters.

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No doubt Dr Sherman or Mr. Fowler has reported to you the substance of our discussion of your plans for additions to the campus. I was in fairly good shape when we met and fully agree with them, but I will add a few personal impressions regarding the general plan as it appears to an old engineer.

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(a) Judging from explanations by Sherman and Fowler as to topography and type of existing structures, this is the best general arrangement that I have seen. A plan to include the Guild property may be still better.

(b) The structures which you propose to build at once will not occupy spaces where they may present serious obstacles to modification in the use of the campus later, as the university shall expand.

(c) The arrangement of hostels and faculty residences on the property purchased before the war, does not appeal to me at all. I recommend an arrangement for students more like the residential campuses at Yale. Under such a plan only a few faculty members are in residence on the student campus and these are carefully selected to their ability and apt in handling personnel problems. Only a limited number have this ability although they may be fine teachers and directors of research.

(d) These comments are made before seeing Mr. Bergamini's report, which should have reached Mr. Fowler by now but which I have not seen.

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There is one other matter on which I will offer my personal impressions and judgment. This pertains to the probability of sufficient support from the United States for the Churches, Colleges, and other Christian activities in China during the next few years.

The time of generous contributions from business corporations and personal estates generally is ended for the present at least. We shall have to depend upon the churches, religious organizations, and benevolent estates such as have provided most of our income before the Japanese invasion. The funds therefore will come to China mostly through the former channels and such expansion of channels as can be developed.

This has been foreseen by the officials of the United Board and is one of the main reasons for caution about expansion, about which so much has been said and written. Our expansion to double our prewar student body, much as it is justified, is quite out of line with this development in our resources. Except for the necessity of close cooperation with the other Christian universities, I am quite in accord with your policy, and therefore have not raised any objection, but I am sure you should not increase your student body, and therefore your housing capacity above 600 until conditions in China and in the United States have been clarified greatly, which may mean a number of years. If you were here and could study the world conditions as we see them, I am sure you would agree with me.

There is no question of justification for the expansion of all the Christian universities and especially for Huachung, but there is a grave question timing, in which the United States and England are involved as

other universities are expanding their student bodies.

such as China.

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One thing more:- I am not sure that one paragraph in your letter W-L 23 of April 22 was answered by Mr. Fowler. This pertains to the use of the so-called "Free Funds" of the University. The "irritation of some members of the old Huachung Board" was limited to the Yale-in-China representatives who were forced with the need for even handed support of the personnel of all the institutions in China for which they are responsible. This irritation disappeared long ago. The policy of holding these funds in reserve has been vindicated fully by the events since the policy was adopted. I wish we could provide liberally for the needs of all our faculty and staff, but we can only endeavor to make all the available funds go as far as possible. Our success thus far is proved to some extent by the standing which Huachung has in the minds of the Committee on Finance of the United Board.

The words "we" and "our" in the above paragraphs mean the executive staffs in China and New York, acting under the leadership of you, our President, and I hope with a true Christian spirit of consideration for all the faculty and student body.

---

Please give my warmest regards to all my Huachung friends, which include those whom I know only by name. If I was a few years younger I should certainly hope for an opportunity to come to see you all.

Mrs. Lyford and my daughter, Olive, who are with me, send you their affectionate greetings, and we would all like to be remembered to the Wards, Coes, and Los.

Very sincerely,

P.S. This letter has been typed by my daughter as part of her practice and she apologises for the many mistakes!

P.S.2. Please address any personal letters to me at 54 Dana Place, Englewood, N.J. and send any letters regarding university matters to Mr. Fowler at 281.

BR-STANDARD TIME

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**DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN  
MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

JUN 24 1948

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June 30, 1948

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CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

校長 韋卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

June 30, 1948

Mr. David W. K. Au, Hon. Secretary  
Board of Directors  
St. John's University  
C/o Butterfield & Swire's  
Shanghai

7110  
Copy for Huachung  
Committee & Bishop Bentley

My dear Mr. Au:

I received yesterday your letter of June 25, and I was very sorry to hear of the recent troubles among the students in St. John's University.

In days like these a university president has no easy job, and sometimes he is not entirely responsible for the behavior of the students. St. John's University and its President have my deepest sympathy.

It is very kind of the Board of St. John's University to extend to me again the invitation to become the President of the University. I received the first invitation about the same time two years ago while I was in England, and it was not due to any lack of time for consideration that I declined the offer. Even at that time I was able to see the issue quite clearly.

I have been serving my Alma Mater here for thirty-eight years, and since 1926 I have been Acting President and then President of Huachung University, in which now Boone University has the leading part. We have just finished the third year of the Ten-Year Plan, and our development has already reached the fifth year. It is very challenging to take a few years more to complete this plan, which is a very interesting one. However, I have been president for too long a time, and at the same time both my Chinese and English manuscripts have been piling up, with still a few more ideas to put in writing to get them off my chest. I would like to be released even from my present administrative work in order to devote more time to another type of service. So when our Board of Directors met day before yesterday I urged them to find my successor, but they voted unanimously not to release me from the office. Therefore, I have to put aside again my own interest in order to do the work to which I have been called. It would not be possible for the Huachung Board of Directors to release me although they may share my feeling that the needs of St. John's may be greater than those in Huachung.

Please convey my regrets to your Board of Directors and assure them of my continued deep interest in the welfare of St. John's.

With cordial regards,

Yours sincerely,

FCMW/MRC

0867

June 30, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

My dear Francis:

I have just sent you the following cable:

"BERGAMINI CABLE RECEIVED STOP AUTHORIZE PROCEED CONSTRUCTION WITH DUE CONSIDERATION BERGAMINI'S SUGGESTIONS"

We anticipate that you will take up direct with Mr. Bergamini the suggestions that he has made and that any construction will have his full approval. The following is the copy of the cable we received from Mr. Bergamini:

"CABLING WEI APPROVE EXTENSION YEN HOSTEL SEVENTY FEET NORTH NOT NINETYTWO FEET STOP WHAT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FACULTY RESIDENCES SOUTHERN EDGE PROJECTED MIDDLE ROAD STOP WHO PLANS AND SUPERVISES CONSTRUCTION"

Please keep us informed regarding the answers to the queries in Bergamini's cable.

This will acknowledge your letter of June eighth. I have had it for several days but have waited until we heard from Bergamini before replying. I know that you know me well enough to realize that any pointed comments in my letters are not made with any particular animosity. I am frightfully overburdened with work and pressed for time. I try to make my letters as brief as possible and some comments may be pointed due to the pressure of other problems.

You mentioned in your letter that there is no plan for any expansion but under the present building projects you mentioned in other paragraphs that arrangements will accommodate more students for both men and women. The Huachung Committee and also the United Board for Christian Colleges do not anticipate any real immediate

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Dr. Francis C. M. Wei

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June 30, 1948

increase in student enrollment. We appreciate that it is necessary to take fifteen per cent more students than you want to have in order to maintain a definite number of regular students. That is, in order to have a student body of five hundred at the beginning of the year it will be necessary to have from five hundred and fifty to five hundred and seventy-five students. I am sure you do not anticipate more than this number.

In the rough drawing of the campus that you sent us the row of faculty residences along the south side of the proposed middle road would appear to be barracks type tenements. If this is the case none of us who have seen the plan are impressed. We hope there will not be a long row of residences joined together. A duplex house would be quite all right but putting more than two-family houses together would not be very desirable on a University campus. We note that the latest suggestion by the Planning Committee approved by the Senate is to build all of the new houses on the grave land south of the proposed middle road. The individual houses set apart on the old city wall look like a much more desirable arrangement. However, if it is impossible to build these houses with the present supervision I suppose it is not advisable to go ahead with the former plan. There is nothing for us to do but leave it up to the judgment of the authorities there in China, with Mr. Bergamini's approval.

We were all very happy to receive word that you had concluded the negotiations and purchased the Chekiang Guild. This is a real accomplishment. We all hope that Commencement on Friday, the twenty-fifth was very successful and a happy occasion for all.

With very best wishes and kind regards.

Very cordially yours,

J. Earl Fowler  
Associate Secretary

JEF:O

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Letter from Francis C. M. Wei to J. Earl Fowler dated July 6, 1948

Dear Earl:

I wish to write and report to the United Board through the Huachung Committee that on June 25 we had our commencement exercises, which closed another peaceful year in Huachung.

There were only twenty graduates, together with two left over from last year, making a total of twenty-two. It was a small class because it came back with the University from Hsichow two years ago when most of the students found it impossible to come so far. Beginning next year, we shall have larger classes of graduates, probably about 45 a year from now, and twice as many the year later.

On June 28, the Board of Directors, as appointed by the cooperating missions, the alumni, and one non-voting member from the Evangelical United Brethren Mission, met and voted to have the Board of directors of Huachung University reorganized according to the Constitution. The official Minutes are being prepared by Dr. Frank Fulton, assistant secretary to the Board. As soon as the Minutes are ready and sent to me from Kuling, where Dr. Fulton now is, I shall have them duplicated and sent to you for the United Board and Huachung Committee, as well as the various cooperating missions abroad.

Besides the mission and alumni representatives, three members-at-large were elected, and they are Dr. H. J. Shu of Hankow, Dr. Wang Shih-chieh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Tsen Tze-chu, Manager of the First Cotton Mill in Wuchang.

Dr. K. C. Wu, Mayor of Shanghai, was elected Chairman of the Board, Mr. C.C. Lao, principal of the Yali Middle School, vice-chairman, and the Rev. Stewart Craig of the London Missionary Society was elected secretary. Dr. Frank Fulton was elected assistant secretary on the recommendation of Mr. Craig who had been elected secretary, so that all the correspondence might be taken care of by him in the university by the secretary's instructions.

At the meeting, the President's report was read and adopted. The Treasurer, Professor John L. Coe, presented his preliminary financial report for the year, and it was also approved. The financial report will be ready only at the end of July when the books are closed.

The University's operating budget for the fiscal year 1948-1949 was also presented by the Treasurer and approved with modifications. Enclosed please find a copy of the budget, which please present to the United Board through the Huachung Committee at your earliest convenience. You will notice that in this proposed budget we have about the same figures for all the different items of expenditure, and for our income we estimate that we have between ten and eleven thousand dollars U.S. to be found by the Huachung Committee abroad. It is possible that grants by the Central Govern-

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Letter from Francis C. M. Wei to J. Earl Fowler dated July 6, 1948

ment and possibly by the Provincial Government may be increased; and if that should be the case, it would reduce the deficit.

Mr. Coe would probably write to the Huachung Committee through you later, but the Board of Directors officially approved the method he proposed to pay the salaries, beginning with August 1. The method is to pay the money actually realized by exchange locally to about 90% of the salary itemized in the budget for each of the members of the faculty and staff, leaving 10% of the salary to meet the possible fluctuation of exchange. This will eliminate as much as possible the occasional bonuses, which have proved to be not very satisfactory; but if exchange should continue to be in our favor, so as not to make it necessary to use the 10% surplus each month, a small bonus would be paid at the end of each three months. I hope this will prove satisfactory to the Huachung Committee.

The general plan for the development of the university proper was unanimously approved by the Directors after consideration.

In the President's report the question as how to meet any possible emergency owing to the political situation was raised, and the Board voted to authorize the University Senate to take action on behalf of the Board of Directors to meet any contingency in case neither the Board nor its Executive Committee could find the time to meet in an emergency.

Again, the President called the attention of the Directors to the fact that he has served in the same institution for thirty-eight years continuously, and as Acting President and then as President since 1925. He asked the Board of Directors to look for a successor as soon as possible. The Board voted that he should continue in his office, and he agreed to do so under protest. In times like these, everyone ought to stick to his guns until the situation is much better.

The day after the meeting of the Board of Directors I received another invitation from the Board of St. John's University asking me to consider the offer as President of St. John's. After consultation with Bishop Gilman, I have again declined the offer, and enclosed please find a copy of the letter to the St. John's Board. Dr. W.W. Yen has just written to urge me to consider the offer, and I am very sorry that as far as I am concerned, the question is now closed. One thing irritates me, and that is there seems to be some idea in the minds of people in Shanghai that St. John's is a superior, more important institution than Huachung. That may be the case, but those of us who are serving in Huachung cannot share that feeling. We are in a very strategic center, and with the encouragement of the United Board and all the cooperating missions, we may have a future as great as that of any

Page Three

Letter from Francis C, M. Wei to J. Earl Fowler dated July 6, 1948

Other Christian University in China, not in size, but certainly in importance and quality of work.

Prices are terrific, but the exchange is keeping pace with the price level. There is the danger of flood this summer, because the rainfall has been so heavy, and the river is rising steadily. But according to the Customs records of the water levels for many years, the danger of a flood may be obviated if the rain should stop for another two weeks. Since yesterday the weather has been fine.

I went to the party at the American Consulate General yesterday to celebrate the anniversary of July Fourth and had the opportunity of meeting many of the Chinese officials, both military and civil, and they felt more assured about the general situation. The day before I was to the Annual Meeting of the Canton Club in the Wuhan center, and many of the business men there had the same feeling as well. This is certainly very reassuring.

I have declined four or five invitations to attend conferences in Kuling and elsewhere, because I want to stay on here and keep troops out of our campus if possible. Towards the end of August I may go to Kuling for a training conference under the auspices of the National Christian Council and the National Committees of the YMCA and YWCA, but I promised to stay for only one week instead of the whole fortnight.

I am not writing to Mr. Lyford on University business. His last letter to me indicated that he might not have the strength to attend to all the details, but I am sending him a copy of this letter in case he should have the time and strength to read it, as treasurer of the Huachung Committee.

With affectionate regards,

Yours as ever,

(signed) FRANCIS C.M. WEI

P.S. After dictating this letter in the morning, I received in the afternoon your letter of June 30. Both your cable concerning the construction of the houses and Yen Hostel by a contractor, who is a Christian, and who built Wuhan University fifteen years ago and some mission schools and hospitals in Hankow. The construction for the houses is under way, but Yen Hostel will be started later. The Senate has already decided to have a freshman class in September not more than 200. Probably the enrollment will be around 550, which is within your estimate. The houses are not in a row, but they are double houses.

F.C.M.W.

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SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
FOR THE YEAR 1948-1949

Income.

Western Sources	US \$	Foreign Sa.	
American Church Mission	12,000.	9	3/4
"          "          "          Miss Johnston	5,000		
China Mission Ev. and Reformed Church	6,600	1	1
London Missionary Society	750	2	1
Methodist Mission	1,050	3	1 1/2
Yale-in-China		1	
Evangelical United Brethern	1,000		
Harvard-Yenching	5,000		
Special for Scholarships	900		
	32,300	16	4 1/2
<b>Local Sources</b>			
Tuition and fees	12,000		
G    Government and gifts	400		
Registration fees	500		
	12,900		
To be found by the United Board	10,605		
<b>GRAND TOTAL INCOME</b>	55,805	16	4 1/2 Vol.

Expenditure

<b>Administration and General Budget</b>			
Personnel	8,805	2	1-3/4
Equipment, wages, etc.	10,690		
<b>School of Arts</b>			
Personnel	16,700	9	
Books, magazines, and incidentals	1,215		
<b>School of Education</b>			
Personnel	3,270	3 1/2	2 1/2
Books, magazines, incidentals	2,185		
<b>School of Science</b>			
Personnel	9,975	1 1/2	
Equipment, maintenance, books, magazines	2,965		
	55,805	16	4 1/2 Vol

The above budget is drawn up on the same lines as that of last year. It is impossible at this time to predict the effect of the continued inflation or the effect of a currency change when and if it should occur. If the effect of a currency change should be such as to throw this budget seriously out of balance, it is recommended that such a deficit should be taken from reserve.

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY FOR 1948-1949

[5]

Administration	US \$	For. Sal.
Personnel		
/President 3/4	845	
Chinese Sec.	675	
Eng. Sec. 1/2		1/2 Vpl
Asst. Eng. Sec 1/2	230	
Dean 1/2		1/2
Dean's Clerks 1 1/2	260	1/2 "
Registrar 1/2		1/2
Registrar's Clerk 1/2	130	
Asst. Registrar	570	
Treasurer 1/2		1/2
Asst. Tres. 3/4	565	
Tres. Clerk	260	
Business Man.	405	
Dean of Women 1/2	450	
Alumni Office Clerk 1/2	130	
	<u>4,520</u>	<u>1 1/2 3/4</u>

Administration	
President's office	450
Entertainment	100
Postal, Tel. & Tel.	375
College functions	160
Promotion	435
Dean and Registrar's Office	340
Admissions	500
Treasurer's Office	110
Business Office	125
CCEA	50
Wages	<u>260</u>
	<u>2,905</u>

Library	
Librarian	800
2 Asst. Librarians	1,220
4 clerks	1,040
1 typist	260
Local periodicals	250
Foreign "	125
Equipment and incidentals	<u>350</u>
	<u>4,045</u>

Medical		
Physician		1 Vpl.
Nurse	375	
Maintenance	<u>225</u>	<u>600</u>

Physical Education	
Director	590
Maintenance	<u>600</u>
Scholarships	<u>1,500</u>

Maintenance and Operation		
Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds 1/2		1/2
Furniture	375	
Repairs	1,625	
Grounds	875	
Sanitation	160	
Heating	<u>500</u>	
Light and Water	200	
Rentals	500	
Insurance	50	
Grand Total Expenditure	<u>4,735</u>	
	<u>19,495</u>	

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PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY, 1948-49

Personnel

	US \$		Forl Sal.
Chinese Dept.			
3 professors	2,920		
3 asst. professors	2,280		
1 lecturer	545		
1 junior lecturer	450	6,205	
Dept. of Western Languages			
3/4 professor	270		1/2
4 asst. professors	1,545		2
2 lecturers	1,090		
1/2 assistant	250	3,135	1 1/2
Dept. of History			
1 1/2 professors			1 1/2
3 lecturers	1,635	1,635	
Dept of Economics Commerce			
5 1/2 professors	2,995		2 1/2
1/4 asst. professor	190	3,185	
Philosophy-Psychology			
1 1/2 professors	1,345		
1 Asst. professor	750	2,090	
Religion			
1/2 professor	450		1 1/2
1 1/2 Asst. Prof.			1
1 lecturer		450	1
TOTAL PERSONNEL		16,700	9

Books, magazines, incidentals

Dean's office	10	
Chinese Dept. Books	100	
" " Research	180	
Western Languages	250	
History	125	
Economics-Commerce	125	
Geography	125	
Philosophy-Psychology	175	
Religion	125	1,215

GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURE

17,915      9

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY FOR 1948/4

Personnel

Education			
3 1/2 professors	1,980		1 1/2
2 Asst. professors	740		1
Music Dept.			
3 1/2 asst Professors			1
1 junior lecturer	450	3,170	2 1/2 Vol.
Books, magazines, & operation			
Dean's office	10		
Investigation	75		
Extension	1125		
Books and magazines	250		
Practice school	1,250		
Music and instruments	375		
maintanance	100	2,185	
GRAND TOTAL EXPEN ITURE		5,355	3 1/2      2 1/2

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PROPOSED BUDGET FOR SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY, 1948-1949

Personnel	US \$	For. Sal.
<b>Biology</b>		
2 Professors	2,085	
2 lecturers	<u>1,090</u>	3,175
<b>Chemistry</b>		
3 professors	2,160	1
1 junior lecturer	450	
1 assistant	<u>400</u>	3,010
<b>Physics</b>		
1 professor	1,100	
2 lecturers	1,090	
1 assistant	400	
1 technician	<u>450</u>	3,040
<b>Mathematics</b>		
1/2 professor		1/2
1 asst. professor	750	<u>750</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>          </u>	<u>9,975</u> <u>1 1/2</u>
 <b>Maintenance and equipment</b>		
<b>Biology</b>		
Maintenance and equipment	984	
<b>Chemistry</b>	984	
<b>Physics</b>	<u>657</u>	2,625
<b>Books and magazines</b>		
Biology	100	
Chemistry	100	
Physics	100	
Mathematics	<u>30</u>	330
Dean's office		<u>10</u> <u>Y</u>
Total Maintenance and Equipment		2,965
 <b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		 12,940    1 1/2

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Huachung  
University  
Gen. Correy

July 21, 1948.

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

My dear Francis:

Many thanks for your letter of July sixth which arrived a few days ago. I cannot tell you how happy we all are that you completed another peaceful year at Huachung with your commencement exercises on June twenty-fifth. I will pass this word on to Dr. McMullen at the United Board.

I am mighty glad that the Board of Directors has met and reorganized according to the Constitution. We will be looking forward with pleasure to receiving the official minutes.

I will have your letter copied and the proposed budget for 1948-49 and send copies to Dr. Sherman and Dr. McMullen. It will probably be some time before we can have a meeting of the Interim Committee to take any action on this. I will be out of town for the month of August.

I must congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on several scores. First, that the Board of Directors did not accept your resignation and also that you were honored by being invited to become the President of St. John's University for the second or third time. They surely want you badly as shown by their persistence. I congratulate you for having turned down the honor. I heartily agree with you that it is not a greater honor to be President of St. John's than it is to be President of Huachung. This would surely be a very bad time to make the change from a peaceful, strong, cooperative spirit like there is at Huachung to a place of dissension like there is at St. John's in Shanghai. I do not agree with the opinion at St. John's that a great deal of the difficulty rises from the Union scheme. It is very easy to place the major responsibility on the students from the cooperating institutions. I think the major cause for their student troubles is the very large unassimilated student body. In order to get back on their feet as a Christian University and institution they must cut down their student body considerably. I understand that their whole organization has been washed out and they are starting ~~over~~ from scratch this fall with a much smaller faculty and smaller student body. What will become of the Union University has not been indicated. We here in New York are very reluctant to consider pulling out of the

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Dr. Francis C. M. Wei

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July 21, 1948

Union scheme. I have talked very briefly with Dr. McMullen and the proposal will probably be to continue the Union scheme but for the time being to carry three separate institutions on their own campus. Very little can be done during the summer months as so many of the important people are out of town. At the present time there are large numbers of people going to Europe, not only our Bishops to the Lambeth Conference, but many important leaders going to Amsterdam for the Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

It is very reassuring to know that you have met with the American Consul and other Chinese officials, both military and civil and that they feel more assured about the general situation in Wuhan. The general picture in China is not good and many people are very apprehensive for the future. We all hope and pray that the situation can be worked out satisfactorily and that there will not be a big upheaval.

I am glad that you plan to get to Kuling for at least a week or two. I wish you might spend more of the summer up there and get a good rest and refreshment. I understand you will have company on the campus as I heard from John that he and Mary planned to spend the summer at Wuchang.

With very best wishes and kind regards.

Affectionately yours,

J. Earl Fowler  
Associate Secretary

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
BOONE COLLEGE  
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE  
HUPING COLLEGE  
WESLEY COLLEGE  
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

July 28, 1948

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

My dear Earl:

I received yesterday your good letter of July 21, which had come in very good time.

Enclosed I am sending you a copy of the official Minutes of the Board of Directors, held on June 28, and a copy of my Annual Report, which are both for the Huachung Committee of the United Board for Christian Colleges in China. Under separate cover I am sending to Dr. McMullen the same documents, and to you, as well as to Dr. McMullen, copies of the reports of the administrative officers in the university.

You will please note that by action "Voted #1" the Board of Directors of Huachung University has been officially reorganized and ready to function. By action "Voted #2" the members-at-large were elected; and by action "Voted #4" Dr. K.C. Wu was elected chairman and Principal C.C. Lao vice-chairman. By action "Voted #5" the Rev. Mr. Craig was elected secretary with Dr. R.B. Fulton coopted as assistant secretary. By action "Voted #6" Professor John L. Coe's appointment as treasurer by the President of the University was approved.

Please also note that by action "Voted #3" the Board of Directors recommended to the Board of Founders, now the Huachung Committee of the United Board that the constitution of the Board of Directors be amended to assign two places on the Board for representatives of the London Missionary Society. As soon as this has been approved as an amendment to the constitution of the Board of Directors, please let us know. By action "Voted #7" the secretary was instructed by the Directors to write Mr. Lyford a letter of appreciation, and the letter as soon as it has been signed by Mr. Craig will be sent to Mr. Lyford.

By action "Voted #8" the President's Annual Report was accepted.

If you refer to the size of the faculty and enrollment of students for the year 1947-48, and compare them with the figures given in the Ten-Year Plan, you will notice that we have already completed the fifth year of the Plan, and in September we shall be on the sixth year. But if you should refer to the financial report of the treasurer, you will find that we had for the last year a budget of approximately US\$58,000, which will remain the same for the next year; together with 10 Sheng Kung Huei missionaries, 3 Methodist, 2 London Missionary Society, 1 Reformed Church, and 1 Yale-in-China, with salaries paid by their own boards, which are reckoned for budgeting purposes in China at the rate of US\$1,200 each. Also there are five missionary wives, three of whom are giving practically full time to the work in the university, and two part-time, which I count as one full-time, so that we have altogether four full-time wives. These four added to the salaries of the regular missionary workers make twenty-one; therefore the budget ought to be \$25,200 for the missionaries. Adding this US\$25,200 to the budget of US\$58,000, we have only US\$83,200, which is much less than the budget estimated to be necessary even

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Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 2.

July 28, 1948

for the first year of the Ten-Year Plan, which is US\$115,000. In my report I tried to point out to the Directors that

"the budget is still US\$35,000 short of the estimated expenditure of the First Year of the Plan. One-third of this shortage has been borne by the library and scientific equipment items, which have, however, not felt the effect so seriously, because the rehabilitation funds have made up this shortage for the last two years; but the other two-thirds taken from the salary items has had grave consequences. Chinese members of the teaching and administrative staffs have been inadequately paid."

I know that the United Board may criticize us because we have at present over 500 students, instead of 350, but circumstances since our return to Wuchang have made it almost impossible for us to confine ourselves to an enrollment of 350 students, or even 400. We have been very cautious in increasing our enrollment, and if you compare it with the enrollment in most of the other Christian colleges in China at the present time, you would find that our enrollment is reasonable. You will find action taken by the Board of Directors, "Voted #16" that the enrollment for the next academic year 1948-49 ought to be not more than 600, with not more than 200 new students. The reasons for this action are given in the Minutes, and I hope that the Huachung Committee of the United Board will approve this action.

We are now having entrance examinations. Over 2,000 candidates are taking them in three centers, but we shall have to select from this number of candidates only about 120, i.e., one out of every 17, because we have already had 120 students recommended for admission without examination by the various affiliated Christian middle schools, and of this number experience teaches us that we may expect only about 70%, i.e., 84.

With regard to our faculty, I would like to say that its standard has improved since rehabilitation, not only among the Chinese, but also among the missionary members. Next year we shall have a teaching staff with 19 holding the Ph.D. degree, and about 12 the Masters degree, and the rest only the Bachelor's degree or equivalent. Everything is being done to raise the standards of the students, but when the standards in the middle schools, both Christian and non-Christian, still remain low, it means a great deal of effort in order to raise our own standards.

There were about 190 sophomores during the last year; more than forty of them did not qualify to take the intermediate examinations; of the 147 allowed to take the intermediate examinations, only 113 got clear passes; 23 of them have to take supplementary examinations in September before they will be allowed to enter the junior year. Even if all of these should pass and return to the university next term, we shall have only two-thirds of the last-year's sophomores in the junior class. Elimination is very heavy, and it shows how hard we have been working to maintain our standards.

I would like to call the attention of the Huachung Committee to the Language School. This is not expansion by any means. It is a type of service for the new missionaries, and it has not cost the university any money. Both the capital and the operating funds have been provided by the missions interested in the project, or from fees charged to the students.

I would also call the attention of the Huachung Committee to our Theological work, which we have not called a school or a department because so far every student who takes theological work has to work for his or her degree in one of

Some Library School when it becomes a part of Huachung University again. L.S.



Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 3.

July 28, 1948

the departments recognized by the Ministry of Education in Nanking. The Theological course is made possible by adding another year to the students' work, so as to give the extra time required for about the equivalent of another major. We have been operating on this scheme for three years now, and in another year we shall be able to graduate students who have taken this combined Arts and Theology course.

You will please note also that the Board of Directors has approved the General Plan for the development of the campus. This was done by action "Voted #15". Now that the Board of Directors has begun to function again, the development of the university campus ought to be its function rather than that of the United Board.

I would like to emphasize the significance and the far-reaching consequences of the proposed re-union of the Boone Library School and Huachung University. Please refer to the first half of page four in the official Minutes and study carefully the recommendations on this reunion scheme.

So far we have not been able to get from the Boone Library School any statement with regard to their income and expenditure for the last year. But in the negotiations Mr. Samuel Seng, Director of the Boone Library School, has asked for, and our Committee has agreed to as a recommendation to the United Board, that eventually there should be three departments in the Boone Library School after its reunion with Huachung University. Whether it should be organized as a Library School, or as a department of Library Science under our present Faculty of Education, or whether it should remain as a professional school not of fully university-standard and therefore the students not receiving any university degree, is a question that can be decided only by the Ministry of Education in Nanking, after the reunion scheme has been approved by the United Board. We would like to have it recognized as a school parallel to our present three schools in the university, but that is not likely to receive the sanction of the Ministry of Education. The greatest probability is that the Ministry will approve it as a department either in our present College of Education or College of Arts, with the students taking a full four-year course leading to an Arts or Education degree, as the case may be, with Library Science as their major. At the same time there would be a lower course of two years admitting senior middle school graduates to be trained only as assistant librarians, of whom the country ought to have an increasingly large number, as the library movement is developed.

But the Boone Library School would like to have, besides the Library Course, a course also to train experts in filing and cataloging, and then a third course to train Museum Curators.

It seems to be the desire of Mr. Seng to have three departments, so as to make a full-fledged school in a university. This is the reason why in his proposal he asked for a professor and assistant professor, and lecturer, for each of the three courses, so as to have three departments organized. As a matter of fact, it is not necessary to have three departments even to organize a school in a university, but if the Library School is going to have three types of training, nine full-time teachers will be necessary. Three professors, three assistant professor, and three lecturers will require at our present rate an annual budget of approximately US\$6,000, and then besides there must be at least US\$2,000 a year for books and equipment. Until we are able to get a hold of a statement from Mr. Seng as to their income and expenditures, we are not in a position to say how much the United Board will have to find for the Boone Library School when it becomes a part of Huachung University again. As

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Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 4.

July 28, 1948

soon as that information is available, we shall send it on to you. So our recommendation on the proposed reunion of the Boone Library School in Huachung is only a preliminary one. The reunion cannot be effected anyway inside of the next academic year, but if we want to see it materialize before the fall of 1949, action must be taken during the next year, and the financial part of the program is the most important. Perhaps Dr. John Grant in New York may be able to acquaint the United Board with all the necessary data for the study of the financial situation of the Boone Library School.

John Coe is closing his books for the year, and yesterday he told me that probably we should be able to balance our budget without any deficit. You will recall that it is not the habit of Huachung to have any deficit, and we have been working very hard to keep out of the red.

The proposed budget for the year 1948-49 has been very carefully studied because at the Directors' meeting I tried to give as much information as I could from the communications from New York, which you will note on page 2 of the official Minutes. The amount of money that we expect the United Board to find to balance our budget for the next year is not any more than our expected deficit during the last year, and I hope the United Board will be able to find it again for Huachung.

The attention of the cooperating missions ought to be called to action "Voted #17" which raises the question whether the men's hostels should be run on a denominational basis, as they have been run since 1929, or whether they should be run as interdenominational hostels. It is more a matter for the cooperating missions than for the United Board to consider.

Action "Voted #21" was taken because in a situation like this we ought to have some provision to meet any special emergency, which in my opinion is not likely to happen with the recent developments in the war situation.

The Directors took no action when <sup>9</sup>they raised the question of my successor. I raised the question with no idea of leaving my post while I am still considered useful. But there is the danger of a college president remaining in office too long with consequent loss to the university. I have definitely declined the offer from St. John's not only because of the difficult situation there, but because also I believe that a man of my age does not have the vigor to undertake any new work. For more than twenty years I have had a share in shaping the policy of Huachung, and we need new ideas in order to carry the work to another stage of development.

The action that we expect as soon as possible from the United Board or its Committee is the approval of our budget for the next year ~~with~~ <sup>and</sup> whatever expressions of opinion there may be in the United Board in regard to the proposed reunion of Huachung and the Boone Library School.

You may have been hearing about the danger of flood in the Wuhan cities, but we have had fine weather for more than three weeks, and the danger of flood is decreasing everyday. As a matter of fact, the water in the river is beginning to subside.

Some very strategic points along the Han River have been recaptured by the Nationalist troops, and when the Nationalist troops have recaptured Siangrang and Fancheng on the Han River, the situation in Hupeh will become more stabilized. Prices are not rising as quickly during the last week as previously, and there are prospects that the price level may remain where it is with the incoming of American goods.

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Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 5.

July 28, 1948

The Board of Directors has approved our treasurer's scheme with regard to the payment of subsidies to the members of our teaching and administrative staff. If that scheme can be fully carried out, with the financial support of the United Board, we may hope to have a satisfied staff.

I am not planning to go away from Wuchang until the latter part of August, when I shall have to lecture at a training conference in Kuling for the YMCA and the YWCA. But I shall be away for at most ten days. It is necessary to have some of the senior administrative people here on the spot in order to keep away the troops which are passing through Wuchang all the time. So far none of our buildings have been occupied, but every other school in Wuchang and Hankow have had troops in their buildings.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

*Francis C. W. Wei*

President

Encs.  
FCMW/MRC

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Grace Church  
802 Broadway  
New York 3, N.Y.  
July 29, 1948

Dear Francis:

I have just read your letter to Earl Fowler, dated July 6th, containing your report of the Commencement, and the information of the organization of the Board of Directors.

I am writing immediately to tell you of my great happiness that you have elected to stay with Huachung rather than assume the presidency of St. John's University. Your long and wonderful record of thirty-eight years in the university as student, teacher, acting president and then president is a wonderful story of service to a high cause in a most difficult time. I had heard indirectly of the desire on the part of St. John's to have you become president. I can understand your feeling of irritation over the fact that the people in Shanghai have an idea that St. John's is a superior institution. I presume it is because they were first on the scene, and the younger institution is therefore not equal to the older. However, we are very gratified that you take the position at Huachung as a very important service to render China in a strategic center. Huachung has the confidence of the United Board as well as the Huachung Committee and the National Council.

You have evidently secured some good men for the Board of Directors. I met Dr. Wang Shih-chieh, in fact I called upon him when he was in New York. Dr. Shu is an old acquaintance and Dr. K. C. Wu, Mayor of Shanghai, is known to my wife and to me by his fine reputation. I hope they will be able to give the time for this service.

My wife and I expect to go to Europe on the 6th of August, to remain away until Sept. 21st. We are going primarily for the International Missionary Council and to the first assembly of the World Council of Churches.

I was exceedingly sorry to hear of the illness of Professor Shih Sheng Ho, which prevented his coming to America on a United Board Scholarship. I was very pleased to see in the Huachung news-letter that he was better. I have not yet carefully scanned the proposed budget which was included in your letter, but I have doubts about my ability to interpret it even when I do make a more careful study. However, with you and Gee drawing it up I have no anxiety about it.

I had quite a scare over the row of teachers houses in the ground plans, and I am much relieved to see in your post-script that they are double houses and not block houses, and therefore will have light and air on three sides.

With my affectionate regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Francis C.M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, China

Arthur M. Sherman

0004

*Huachung  
Univ  
Review*

August 3, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, China

My dear Dr. Wei:

I recently received a call from Dean William J. Chase, of St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University, here in New York City, about his designating the Sunday offering of St. Paul's chapel to a mission institution. I suggested the Huachung Book Fund. We have now received a check in the amount of \$75.00 which I am asking the Finance Department to credit to the Huachung Book Fund.

It would be nice if you could drop a line to Dean Chase also.

Very best wishes and kind regards.

Very cordially yours,

J. Earl Fowler

JEF:chh

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

AUG 24 1948

J. EARL FOWLER

校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
BOONE COLLEGE  
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE  
HUPING COLLEGE  
WESLEY COLLEGE  
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

August 16, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
Church Missions House  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York City 10, U.S.A.

Dear Earl:

I received your letter of August 3, informing me of the US\$75 as a gift from St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University, and I am writing in the same mail to Dean Chase, thanking him for this gift.

Richard Bien and family arrived back from Shanghai night before last, and they have gone to their old house, just across the street from the old Miller house in the little compound started about fourteen years ago. The house was one of Bergamini's prize constructions. At the time he assured me that it was protected well from white ants, but the floor was so badly infested with white ants that we have had to rip it up entirely, do the foundation with a mixture of lime and DDT, and put in a new floor.

Richard and Elsie look very well. Richard told me that he had put on over forty pounds in America, but he is starting to lose some of it. Po-wen, their boy, fourteen years old, is as tall as I am. They all seem to be happy to be back in their old habitat.

I think I have written to you that Mr. Shih Shen-ho, who was awarded the United Board Fellowship to go to America when Mr. Fu Mao-chi decided to go to England instead, died on July 25. The ~~funeral~~<sup>address</sup> paid the funeral expenses, which cost at the time about US\$75. His wife and children left for Hunan ten days ago to go back to Mrs. Shih's parents.

Stephen Tsang came back from Kuling on August 11, and yesterday his two eldest daughters were married in the chapel of St. Lois School, which has been used since our return to the Wuhan cities as the pro-cathedral. It was a very joyous wedding with Leighton Yang and Benjamin Yen officiating. Those of us who went to it from the compound here had particularly the pleasure of meeting so many old friends. Stephen Tsang looked a little bit thin, but he was very well dressed in a western suit.

You probably have heard that the Consecration service for our new Bishop will be held in the Church of the Holy Nativity on September 15, which will be the second day for our registration, but some of us will manage to be at the service.

The entrance examinations are all over now, and some of the faculty members are busy reading their 2,000 papers in every subject. We have already 120 recommended students, and if 75% of them should come, there would be 85 or 90 of them. Then we will select about 110 to 120 from the 2,000 candidates to make up the 200 freshmen for this year.

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August 16, 1948

Troops have not entered our compound here yet, or any of our college houses outside. We had a little bit of a tilt with the military authorities just about two weeks ago. The contractor building the five double houses on the new land was getting the foundation dug, and the military came along and said that they were going to build some pill boxes in that neighborhood, and they wanted to stop the contractor from putting in the foundation. We went to headquarters, and the day after that the soldiers came and pulled out their own stakes. Our own construction is now under way, but it will probably be the end of September before the first <sup>two</sup> double houses will be completed, and the other three will probably not be ready until the end of October. This will mean our men students will be crowded for two months before the congestion can be relieved with the moving of four families out of Po-yu Hostel.

Han Yeh-Sen, the contractor who is building the double houses, is to do also the extension of the Yen Hostel, but he is so busy with the houses at present that Yen Hostel is not yet started. The girls will not be able to use the extension until probably after Christmas. We are putting up another room next to the old Music studio, and it is being done by one of our old builders who does some of our jobs for us from time to time. The Practice School is going to have an extension also, but John Coe has not signed the contract yet for that because the contractor is trying to hold to his own terms. This latter is a new contractor from Hankow, and the job is going to cost about US\$4,400.

From Richard Bien I learned more about the alarming news you people in New York used to get concerning our situation here. You must have thought that I wrote to you during the last year over-optimistically about the situation, but I think so far facts have justified my faith. Again, I would not predict about the future, but the Chinese government is not going to collapse. No government has ever collapsed in China until it has been displaced by another government, which the Communists would not be able to put up. We do not know whether the newspaper reports on the military situation are to be trusted, but during the last week or so the government is claiming small victories along the Han River and west of it.

Prices are again rising. The silver dollar is now worth almost NC\$7,000,000, which is near the exchange for the US dollar in the open market. This is a very queer situation, and it is due to the persistent rumors of change in the currency. Day before yesterday the silver dollar was only NC\$4,800,000. Yesterday it was NC\$6,200,000, and today NC\$6,800,000, and so it goes. Practically all prices in the market in this center are based on the silver dollar.

We are still in the midst of a hot spell. The thermometer on the Coes' porch, as well as on my sleeping porch, has kept around 90 degrees F. much of the time. The ladies will be back from Hongkong in another week, and so also will Mr. Kemp from Kuling, but most of our colleagues in Kuling will come during the early part of September. I am going to Kuling towards the end of this month in order to give a series of lectures on the "Relevance of Christianity to Modern Needs," at the Training Conference of the YWCA and the YMCA. I shall be back before September 10 so as to attend the first meeting of the General Faculty. Our registration will be on September 14 and 15 for old students and September 17 and 18 for the new ones. All lectures will be in full swing by September 20.

We have not fixed our fees yet for the coming term. It is still too early, especially when the value of money is changing so very rapidly. The Christian middle schools in the Wuhan center will fix their fees at the end of this month, and when they have fixed theirs, we shall follow suit.

With affectionate regards to you and all the good people in the New York office

Yours as ever,

*Francis*

FCMW/MRC

0007

私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

AUG 30 1948

J. EARL FOWLER

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
BOONE COLLEGE  
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE  
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WESLEY COLLEGE  
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

August 23, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler, Assoc. Secretary  
Huachung Committee  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Earl:

I am sending you a copy of my letter to the Rev. Samuel N. McCain, Jr. of Kansas City, Mo., which is self-explanatory. It is just for your information.

While I am writing, I wish to say that it has taken us sometime to get all the administrative reports and the Minutes of the Board of Directors ready to be sent to the various missions in China, as well as sending the remainder of the reports to you to complete your file of reports to the Huachung Committee. Please note particularly the recommendations concerning the cooperation of the Boone Library School with Huachung. In a previous letter to you I had already written in full, giving my comments. The proposals require careful study, particularly from the financial point of view.

Our summer vacation is drawing near to its end, and I have been on the campus for almost two months ever since Commencement. It is my plan to go to Kuling not later than next Sunday in order to be at the Training Conference of the National Christian Council, the YMCA, and the YWCA, to give a series of seven lectures and to get back before September 10 in time for the opening of the new term. Registration of the old students will be on September 14 and 15, and of the new students on September 18. All lectures will begin on September 20.

The entrance examinations committee has been busy getting the papers marked, and the results tabulated. All the successful candidates will be announced probably tomorrow, and the plan is to have about 110 to 120 candidates qualified for admission, and possibly 50 or 60 on the waiting list, if there should be any vacancy in the proposed freshman class of 200. You will notice that last year we had fewer new students than the year before, and this year we are going to have fewer than last year. Perhaps for the next two years we shall not exceed the size of the freshman class for this coming term.

John Coe and I have been successful so far in keeping the troops away from our buildings. Several times they threatened to come in. I always go to the telephone in order to get in touch with the authorities, and John Coe as an American sees the officers at the Front gate to bow them off. That seems to be the best workable combination.

The danger of flood is definitely off. The river has been subsiding for more than half a month. As far as the Civil War is concerned, the Central China Region becomes more secure with National troops claiming every week more victories. We do not know how the victories have been won, but more-and-more places have been reoccupied by the government. The Han River is practically clear except for small bands of local bandits up around Laoheoko near the Hubei-Honan Border.

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August 23, 1948

During the last week two exciting things have happened. The Vice-minister of Education came to visit our cities a week ago and announced the plan of the government to clear all the educational institutions of Communist Fifth-Columnists. At first they told me that there were a few such students in Huachung. I felt pretty sure that was a mistake. For a whole week they have been carrying on their investigation, and all the time I felt a little bit nervous whether some of our students might be involved. Last night there was another dinner at the Provincial Governor's, and I had it from the Governor himself that after careful investigation they suspected only one of our students, and that student is now away, so I feel confident that there will be no arrest among our students. You must have read in the newspapers that over 240 students have been arrested in the universities and colleges of Peiping, and about 128 in Nanking. I have not heard of any arrests yet in the Wuhan cities, but they may have done it quietly, or they are going to do it very soon.

About 11:20 PM on Thursday, the 19th, we had an emergency notice from the Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank in Hankow that we could take good care of our safety box in that bank. John Coe woke me up about 11:30 PM, and when he assured me there was nothing in our safety box, I told him to go to bed and sleep well. We did not know what was going to happen, but the next day we read in the newspaper that the new currency was coming out on that day. All the banks were closed on the 20th and 21st, and naturally also on Sunday, the 22nd. We are given to understand that the new notes will be issued by the banks today. They have taken the week-end to change all the accounts from the old currency into the new currency. Our payday is the 25th, which is day after tomorrow. It is quite a problem as to how we are going to manage the business. John Coe has gone over to Hankow to find out from Mr. Newton Ts'uei, manager of the Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank there, as to the mechanism of the matter. Mr. Ts'uei, as you may remember, is one of our Boone graduates and a member of the Board of Directors. He is always very helpful for things like this.

We have decided to pay part of our salary and subsidies for August at the same figure as July, and then get the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors to authorize some modifications of the government scheme, which will be within our budget limits. We are not going to leave too big a margin each month and then pay a bonus from time to time. But we shall follow the action of the last meeting of the Board of Directors to pay practically up to the budget figure for salaries each month, leaving only enough each month to meet possible fluctuations in the rate of exchange. Now the rate is fixed, that contingency is not likely-- at least for perhaps three months to come. You must have learned by this time that the unit of the new currency is fixed at US25¢, and every two new dollars is equivalent to one old silver dollar, and two silver dollars reckoned as one US dollar. The new dollar is exchangeable at the bank for NC\$3,000,000.

During the last two days prices have been jumping because the government wants to fix all prices as they were on August 19. We are confident that the change of currency will eventually stabilize prices for awhile; and if they should manage the new issue properly and watch the reserve funds, the new currency may work as well as the old national currency from 1935 to about one year after the outbreak of war in China. We shall keep you and Mr. Lyford constantly informed of the change in the financial situation, and our policy is always to keep within our budget limits.

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Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 3.

August 23, 1948

Many of the missionary families will be back from Kuling around September 1. Miss Cox and Dr. Weidenhammer came back from Hongkong day before yesterday. Miss Sheets will be returning also from Hongkong with Miss Wolff towards the end of this week. Mr. Kemp is expected back today from Kuling. Constantine and Tregear are due here on the 27th, and so our community is beginning to gather once more. For three or four days the weather has been pleasantly cool, although the temperature in the shade remains at about 82 or 83F in the daytime, which is quite tolerable.

Frank Hutchins of Berea has given my younger daughter Catherine a tuition-board-and-lodging scholarship to go to Berea for a year. She will not be able to do any postgraduate work there, but she will take some courses in English, French, and Music, with the hope that she might be able to get a fellowship to do some postgraduate work in some other university after the coming year. I have to find her passage to America, and that as you know is not very easy for me, but I am glad to do it for this child. She failed to reach Shanghai in order to catch the sailing of August 18, but Mr. Gilson has booked her on the boat sailing from Shanghai on September 22. She may be able to get an earlier sailing, i.e., on September 7, if there should be any vacancy. She is now in Shanghai, staying with the family of one of my cousins there. I am giving you all these details because I told her to give your name and address as one of the references at the Immigration Office when she lands in San Francisco.

With every good wish and affectionate regards,

Yours as ever,

*Fowler*

FCMW/MRC

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September 27, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, China

My dear Francis:

I am terribly ashamed for not having acknowledged any of your letters since July. As you know I was on my vacation during August and since returning, I have been so completely swamped that it has been impossible to catch up with the correspondence. There have been three Japanese bishops to take care of, along with a few Chinese bishops and many of our overseas bishops passing through New York after having attended the Lambeth Conference. Most of my time has been taken up with interviews so that it has been impossible to keep up with the correspondence.

Dr. Sherman and Mr. Lyford have also been out of town so there has been no opportunity to talk with the other leaders so vitally interested in Huachung. Dr. Sherman just returned this past week from his trip to Europe where he and Mrs. Sherman attended the first assembly of the World Council of Churches. Mr. Lyford is due back at Englewood the end of this week. I hope that he has regained his health and strength after a very fine summer in the mountains.

I greatly enjoyed your report, along with the reports from the deans and heads of the departments. We will take up all of the details mentioned in the minutes of the Board of Directors just as soon as Dr. Sherman can call a meeting of the United Board for Christian Colleges in China. It is very gratifying that you had such a successful year during '47-'48, when so many of the other universities in China had difficulties. You deserve a great deal of commendation for keeping the student and faculty morale so high. It is also a source of great satisfaction that the academic standing is improving and approaching the pre-war level. This is a real achievement

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Dr. Francis C. M. Wei

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September 27, 1948

when the students are not being too well prepared in the middle schools.

I am mighty sorry to hear that Mr. Shih Shen-ho died on July 25th. I presume that you notified the United Board so that the fellowship that had been made available to him could be used by somebody else. I will get in touch with Dr. Mc Mullen just to check on this.

We are all very happy that your judgment has been so good in predicting the political situation. I am glad that Dr. Bien told you of the reports that we had here in the U. S. so that you will realize that we were not entirely at fault in being so cautious. We are also very happy that the water finally went down and that you were spared floods that were anticipated during the Summer.

I am mighty glad that the Government investigation found no students of Huachung who were actively connected with Communism. I do not understand how you can so effectively screen your students as to eliminate all those who are too liberal. Your success along this line is a big help in controlling the students and keeping their morale so high. You are mighty fortunate in having Mr. Newton Ts'uei, an old Boone alumnus, as manager of your bank, and so helpful in keeping you posted. He must have been very useful during the past few weeks when you were changing from the old National currency to the new gold yuan. We haven't had too much information regarding how the new currency is working out. One recent rumor indicated that the Black Market has already started to function. I hope that the Government can avoid a rapid spiral in the depreciation of the new currency. Still, I do not see how they can control the situation when such a large percentage of the National income goes to the military and non-productive use.

I am mighty glad to hear that your youngest daughter Catherine is coming to this country. I will be looking forward with pleasure to hearing from her and of course if any references are needed for the immigration authorities, I will take care of this matter. I hope the shipping strike on our West Coast does not interfere with her sailing for this country. I hope that she succeeded in getting a cancellation for the sailing on September 7th as there will be fewer and fewer boats leaving from now on until the shipping strike is over. There are some freighters leaving from the East Coast but nothing leaving from the West Coast.

Just as soon as I have a chance to see Dr. Sherman, I will take up the matter of a meeting of the Huachung Committee just as soon as possible and write you in detail regarding the matters

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Dr. Francis C. M. Wej

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September 27, 1948

the matters referred to in your letter and the minutes of  
the Board of Directors.

Very best wishes and kind regards.

Affectionately yours,

J. Earl Fowler

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
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校長 章卓民

PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

October 5, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
The National Council  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

My dear Earl:

Your letter of September 27 was received on Sunday, October 3. It made very good time.

I quite understand how during the summer you could not attend very well to your correspondence, especially when you had so many Overseas visitors to take care of.

I am glad you liked my Annual Report and all the reports from the deans and heads of the departments, and that you have received the Minutes of the Board of Directors, together with a memorandum on the proposed reunion of the Boone Library School with Huachung. You may have read Mr. Samuel Seng's letter to Dr. Shaw, printed in Dr. Shaw's report to the United Board. It was a long letter, and certainly he had a mouthful to say. It is not quite fair for him to accuse us of not being sincere in our negotiations on the reunion of his school with Huachung. I am surprised that after so many years' association with our work here, he still fails to understand how things are done in the university.

None of us in Huachung is allowed to do any work outside, with or without remuneration, except with specific permission of the Senate. Miss Cox has never taught in Wuhan University. She taught a few hours during the last year in St. Hilda's School, but that was a part of the understanding when she joined the Huachung faculty, and it received the sanction of Bishop Gilman. Mr. Constantine and Dr. Taai gave two lectures a week during the last year in the Central China Union Theological Seminary without extra remuneration, and that arrangement was sanctioned by the Senate. Neither Mr. Mark Tseng, the Librarian, nor Mrs. Tseng Sen-tsz (née Miss Chen Sung, not Mark Cheng's wife), Assistant Librarian, was willing to teach part-time in the Boone Library School, and therefore we did not ask the Senate for permission for them to teach in the Boone Library School, and Mr. Seng did not understand that.

The new term is under way with an enrollment of 572 students, which is only 35 more than the enrollment a year ago. In this term we have only 176 new students. Of this number 96 are from Christian middle schools, and 80 from other schools. About one-half of the new students are Christians, and that will make the Christian percentage of all the students just about one-half too.

I have asked Mr. Whitney to send to my son John in New Haven US\$180. Please refund Mr. Whitney him for that amount and charge it to my account.

Walter Allen and family arrived here on September 28. They are very cheerful and happy to be back, and so are we to have them back here. Mrs. Allen finds

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Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 2.

October 5, 1948

it not easy to move about, but she is doing her very best to take her proper share in teaching and in the community life.

Bishop Gilman is going to Shanghai in a few days to find a boat there to go back to America. The longshoremen's strike has held up practically all the boats on the Pacific.

Dr. Hu Shih and Dr. Li Chih are visiting Wuchang, and I hope to have them at the Faculty Tea this afternoon. They may speak briefly to our students. They are here by invitation of the Provincial Government and the three universities, to give lectures in Wuchang and in Hankow.

With every good wish,

Yours affectionately,

*Francis*

FCMW/MRC

P.S. Re enrolment this term you will remember that the Board of Directors voted on June 28, 1948 (~~IX~~ in the minutes) that the total enrolment this term should not exceed 600 and that the maximum new students should be 200. We have not exceeded either number.

*F.C.M.W.*

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
BOONE COLLEGE  
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE  
HUPING COLLEGE  
WESLEY COLLEGE  
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

校長 章卓民

PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

October 7, 1948

Rev. Arthur M. Sherman, S.T.D.  
242 East 19th St.  
New York 3, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Sherman:

I have not written to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated July 29, received early in August, because you said that you were going to Europe on the 6th August to remain away until September 21. I hope you and Mrs. Sherman had a good time in Amsterdam, and in other parts of Europe, at the International Missionary Council and the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches. I ought to have been at the Amsterdam meeting myself, both as a charter member of the World Council and a member of the Study Department, but circumstances did not warrant my leaving China at that particular time, so I failed to attend, although I had been urged several times by people both in England and in China to go.

In your letter of July 29, you refer to the illness of Mr. Shih Shen-ho. You may have heard by this time that he passed away on July 25, and his family has already returned to Mrs. Shih's home in Hunan.

The Board of Directors was formally reorganized at the meeting of June 28. The Minutes have been sent to Earl Fowler, and so was my Annual Report together with all the reports of the deans and of the various officers of the University.

You may be interested to know that our enrollment this term is 573, which is 36 more than that of a year ago. By action of the Board of Directors, meeting on June 28, our enrollment this term is not to exceed 600, and the freshman class not to exceed 200. Of the 573 students this term, only 177 are freshmen, 97 of whom have come from Christian middle schools. About one-half of the total number of students are Christians, with the same ratio in the freshman class. 195 of our students are women, and that is 34% of the total enrollment. All the hostels are filled. We are waiting for the other half of Po Yu Hostel to be vacated by the faculty families when the new residences on the land outside the old city wall are ready for occupancy about the middle of November. The five double houses are well built, and members of the faculty who have looked them over like them very much. The Housing Committee of the Senate has a scheme to let members of the faculty and staff choose their houses when they are ready.

As to standards, the freshmen are about the same as last year, but in general behaviour they seem to be much better because most of them have had their training in Christian middle schools.

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Committee <sup>held</sup> meeting/in September are being sent to Mr. Fowler. The main business at that meeting was the Directors' decision on the payment of our salaries to faculty and staff members. With the new currency our financial questions are much simplified.

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Rev. Arthur M. Sherman, S.T.D. -- 2.

October 7, 1948

Our new scale of payment enables the senior professors to get about one-half of their pre-war salary, and the lower rank people at a higher rate, whereas the lowest salaried people are getting about what they used to get before the war. This is a very encouraging feature, and as far as I can figure it out, it will not exceed the salary items of the budget by very much.

We have just received a note from the Ministry of Education that the grant by the Ministry for Huachung this term is GY\$2,300., which is considerably less than we had expected, but the government is facing serious financial problems with the issue of the new currency and with the Civil War still going on, so we ought to be satisfied with whatever grant we may have from the Ministry of Education. You will remember that the rate of exchange is US\$1. to GY\$4, minus a small transaction fee charged by the bank. We actually get about GY\$3.95 for every US\$1. If this currency should remain stabilized, it would be a great boon to the country.

The Rev. Noel B. Slater of the China Christian Universities Association in London is now in China, and he will come to Huachung on October 30 and speak on Founders Day November 1st. He will stay here for a whole week. Dr. Reginald Wheeler of the Yale-in-China Assoc. in New Haven will visit us October 27-29 inclusively. I do not know when Bishop Bentley will be here. We are going to have a number of distinguished guests visit us this month and the next. We have just had a brief visit from Dr. Hu Shih, who was accompanied by Dr. Li Chih, the eminent Chinese anthropologist with a Ph.D. from Harvard, now the Director of the Central Museum in Peiping. Dr. Carson Tsang, a leader of the Chinese Social Democrats party is going to visit Wuchang early next week. He is an old friend of ours. I saw him in Kuling last month and had many opportunities to talk things over with him about the political situation.

The National Assembly of the Church of Christ in China is going to be held in Soochow, October 18-28. I have been invited to give two lectures on "The Fundamentals" of the Christian Faith," and so I am flying to Shanghai on October 18 and going to Soochow from Shanghai by train. I expect to be away from the University only for five days - at most a week. Founders Day will be on November 1, and this will be the Twenty-fourth Anniversary. We must prepare to celebrate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary next year.

Bishop Gilman is still here. He was booked to sail from Shanghai on October 8, but the strike has interfered with all sailings on the Pacific. He may be going to Shanghai next week to see whether he could find some kind of transportation back to America.

Bishop Tsang is taking hold of things very well. He has, however, many problems, but everybody in the diocese is doing his or her best to help him in a very difficult situation.

With affectionate regards to you and Mrs. Sherman, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*Francis C. M. Wei*

FCMW/MRC

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October 19, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

My dear Francis:

Many thanks for your letter of October fifth with the Boone Library School suggestions enclosed. I would judge from the context of the enclosure that one page was omitted. I have the front page with items No. 1 and 9 and then a small strip of paper with one paragraph attached. It seems to me there should be a continuation of Item 9 and probably several more items. On the small strip of paper, in addition to the one sheet, there is a note continuing No. 11 but there is no sheet giving the context of Items No. 10 or 11. Could it be possible that one sheet was omitted in the enclosure?

We are having the minutes of the first meeting of the Board of Directors and your Annual Report mimeographed and will send copies of these to all of the Huachung Committee before our meeting on October 28th. I have a copy of the United Board Annual Report but I am very sorry to say I have not had a chance to read it yet so I have not had a chance to read Mr. Samuel Seng's letter to Dr. Shaw. I will try to do this at an early date.

I will get in touch with Mr. Whitney regarding U. S. \$180.00 which you have requested to send to John. I called him on the phone just now but he isn't in.

I am glad the Walter Allen family has arrived safely and hope that Mrs. Allen's difficulty is not going to prove too inconvenient for her to carry on her work.

With very best wishes and kind regards.

Very cordially yours,

J. Earl Fowler  
Associate Secretary

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
BOONE COLLEGE  
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YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT  
FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C., L.L.D., H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH,

Dr. William P. Fenn  
Assoc. Executive Secretary  
United Board for Christian Colleges in China  
169 Yuen Ming Yuen Road  
Shanghai (6)

*Copy for Mr. Fowler  
Associate Secretary  
Huachung Committee*

Dear Dr. Fenn:

I received some days ago your circular letter of September 29 to the presidents of the Christian colleges in China, asking for information which is desired by Miss Natalie Hankemeyer, China Correspondent of the Religious News Service. I am sorry that owing <sup>to</sup> my various occupations, and particularly to my trip to Soochow to lecture at the General Assembly of the Church of Christ in China during the last week, I have not been able to supply you the information earlier than this.

Now I am answering your questions in the order of the questionnaire, dated September 29, 1948.

ENROLLMENT 573. A year ago we had 537. The increase is only 36.

MEN AND WOMEN STUDENTS. The number of women students this year is 195 out of the total enrollment of 573. It is, therefore, approximately one-third.

TREND OF STUDENT INTERESTS. According to the enrollment by schools and departments, the general trend is towards greater interest in professional training. Our largest department is Economics-Commerce with 160. Next is Education with 72 in "Education" and 39 in "Teachers Training. Then comes English, with 78, and that is probably not for its cultural value, but for its practical use. The most popular courses among women students are Education and Music. We have, however, a goodly enrollment in Chinese Literature for both men and women students, and that is for cultural purposes. Pure Science is not so popular as before the war, but its importance remains as ever.

WAR-TIME HANDICAPS. Our war-time handicaps are still serious. Repairs of the buildings are uncompleted. We need more teaching equipment both in the library and in the science laboratories. We may say that in our rehabilitation of the library we have been making good progress, but there are still serious gaps in our library collection and in our science equipment. Because of our heavy losses during the war, over 90% of our books and 70% of our science equipment were lost and not recovered.

TEACHING STAFF. Too few teachers in proportion to the size of the classes, particularly in Philosophy, the Social Sciences, and English. Logic, Ethics, and Introduction to Philosophy are required by the government, and the President is the only one to teach these courses in addition to his administrative duties. The Logic class is over 160 this term, and so also the course in Introduction to Philosophy, and next term the Ethics class will be even larger. Last spring it was over 180. The class in Sociology taught by Dean John C. F. Le was 120 last term, and his class in General Psychology is always more than 100.

October 26, 1948

This year we have only one of our faculty abroad, and that is Mr. Donald Wang of the Department of English Literature. We have to omit many electives in English, in the Social Sciences, and second and third-year foreign languages because of inadequate staff. We are providing all the courses required by the government with, however, large classes.

As to additions to the staff this year, we have none. All new appointments are replacements.

NEW COURSES. None this year. There is only a reshuffling of courses to meet government requirements or to suit our present staff.

TUITION. For this term our tuition is on the basis of the Gold Yuen currency. Before the opening of the term we reckoned that it ought to be about 300 catties (or 400 lb.) of rice, but with the sudden increase of prices, we actually get less in terms of the new currency.

For aiding needy students we have about 120 scholarships, costing the university approximately US\$1800. a year. Scholarships are divided into three classes and are awarded to applicants according to their records of the previous two term and according to their financial needs. The first-class scholarship is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the fees paid to the University (not including Board and Lodging); second-class, just the fees; third-class,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the fees.

HEALTH OF STUDENTS. This is our third year after returning to Wuchang, and there has been a steady improvement of the health of students, according to the report of our college physicians on the physical examinations. So far very few of our students are cut off from their families. Those who were originally from the Communist-occupied areas have their families now in the government-controlled regions. We have not been receiving any supplementary food from the National Student Relief Committee or any other source. We had a little bit from the Student Relief Committee through the local YMCA, but that has stopped.

RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL. Professor David F. Anderson, chairman of our Chapel Committee, has submitted the following report, which is being quoted in toto:

- 1) "What religious activities do the students have?"
  - a) Regular morning chapel services five days a week and an hour's service on Sunday evenings.
  - b) Fellowship group meetings every Friday night - about fifteen such groups are meeting this term in teachers' homes.
  - c) Communion services organized by the Fellowships - Episcopal every Sunday, Church of Christ in China and Methodist combined once a month.
  - d) Evening prayers in the women's hostel twice a week, London Mission Hostel once a week.
  - e) Service activities:- 1) Chapel Choir, 2) Illiteracy classes, 3) Sunday Schools for faculty children and for outside children, 4) St. Thomas Society, 5) Assisting at Baby Clinic for mothers and babies.
  - f) Classes for non-Christian students in English and Chinese.
- 2) "What religious activities are student-led?"

Students participate in the planning of all religious activities, and take the lead in organizing the work of the Fellowships, the hostel prayers, and service activities.

October 26, 1948

- 3) "Is there a trend among non-Christian students to become Christian?"  
This trend begun during the war is still strongly marked. Christianity is in danger of being popular. The political and economic situation engenders an attitude of pessimism and even despair, which causes students to feel acutely their own lack of faith and spiritual dynamic, and so makes them ready to consider what Christianity has to offer. Thirty-nine students were baptised in the course of the last academic year, and a number of students have already come forward asking for instruction this year.
- 4) "What extra-curricular religious activities are faculty-led?"  
The faculty conduct the chapel services, and act as advisors in Fellowship groups which may mean either opening a discussion or taking part in one where a student has given the initial talk. Hostel prayers are largely conducted by the students themselves.
- 5) "Do you have a chaplain or a faculty advisory committee on student religious activities?"  
We expect all Christians on the Faculty to take an active share in religious work rather than to depend largely on one chaplain. The organization of the chapel services is in the hands of a committee of whom three-quarters are students, the remainder teachers. Fellowship groups elect a student committee and faculty members are called in as advisors as required.

With the best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F.C.M.W.

FCMW/MRC

P.S. We have this term 269 Christian students, just over 47% of the total enrolment. By church affiliation they are

Episcopal	86
Church of Christ in China	67
Methodist	54
Lutheran	22
Evangelical	10
Baptist	7
Swedish	2
C. I. M.	2
Roman Catholic	2
"Christian"	17
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	269

This will probably increase to 50% of the total enrolment by the end of the term. Every term there are a number of baptisms.

F.C.M.W.

COMMENTS ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PROGRESS OF THE TEN-YEAR PLAN  
FOR HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

October 26, 1948

Shortly after the opening of the new term in September, I felt that it would be necessary at this juncture for a Committee to study the development of the Ten-Year Plan, which was drafted and approved by a joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and the University Senate while we were still in Hsiehow before the end of the war. The report was submitted to the Board of Founders, which acted concurrently during the war as the Board of Directors, and it received the tentative approval of that Board. Later the administration of Huachung University was given permission to start the Ten-Year Plan only in the autumn of 1946 when the institution moved back to Wuehang from Hsiehow. Counting from that time, this is the third year of the Ten-Year Plan, and therefore towards the end of the first period of that Plan.

The Committee consisted of Dean Leonard Constantine, Chairman; Dean P'u Huang of the College of Education, several times acting president during my absence; Dean Richard Bien of the College of Science, who acted for me in 1945-46; Dean John C. F. Le of the College of Arts; <sup>Professor David F. Anderson, former Secretary of the Executive Committee,</sup> and Professor John L. Coe, treasurer of the University. The report submitted by this committee has been approved by the Senate, and it is now being mimeographed for people interested in our work. I am, therefore, sending out this report for the information of the Huachung Committee of the cooperating missions and of others who are interested in our work here.

As President, I would like to make a few comments which do not affect the report as a whole.

First, in the first paragraph of the report it is stated that "in fact students are no longer able to take a degree in Commerce." This is because so few of our faculty members in the department of Economics-Commerce under the faculty of Arts are able to teach effectively the courses required by the department of Commerce. They are all interested in subjects in the department of Economics. Our department of Economics-Commerce is a combined department with two sections: one emphasizing Economics; and the other Commerce. Because of the shortage of teachers for the commercial subjects, students are no longer able to take a degree in Commerce, not because of government regulations, but because of our actual situation in the University.

This, however, should not interfere with our plan to develop the department of Economics-Commerce into a School of Commerce. Speaking in the United States and in Great Britain during my last visit in those countries 1945-46, I tried to make clear that we should develop our department of Economics-Commerce into a College of Commerce, it would not mean that we would have just a Commercial School. Our interest would continue to be in the teaching of Economics, which is such an important subject in China and in our relation to other countries, as well as in the whole world. Even at the present time the department of Economics-Commerce, with practically all the students taking their degree in Economics, is the largest department in the whole university. The enrollment for this year is 160. This shows the general trend of the interest of the students.

Secondly, it has been our desire to develop Philosophy and Psychology into a major department, which means that we ought to have sufficient courses for a student to take a degree in that department under the faculty of Arts. So far we have been able to give only elective courses in Psychology, and Logic and Ethics, and Introduction to Philosophy as required by the government. Dean John C. F. Le is professor of Psychology, and Professor Edith Wai-king Tsai has been teaching Educational Psychology. But I am the

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Comments on the Report of the Committee to Study the Progress of the Ten-Year Plan --2.

only person who has been teaching all the Philosophy courses, in addition to my administrative duties. It is almost imperative that a teacher of Philosophy should be found not only to release me from the teaching of the required courses, which I always enjoy in spite of my heavy administrative duties, but a younger person ought to be secured to take the courses over, which I cannot teach for many more years. Furthermore, I have other interests even than teaching, such as History of Religions, other Theological courses, and Advanced Philosophy.

With the Theological course functioning with four classes now, we ought to have a good Philosophy major course, which could be combined with Theology, according to our present plan of combining the Theological course with one of the other major courses in the University. Philosophy ought to be the most natural one, if there should be adequate preparation for the study of Theology. This would be more necessary if and when there should be students who would like to finish the four-year college course first before starting their studies in Theology. Philosophy and Religion are like subjects for university study. There have been very few graduates from the Christian colleges in China who are prepared to teach Philosophy. In many of the Christian colleges today there is no one to teach Philosophy, and that is deplorable. We ought at least to do our share in preparing a few students to teach that subject.

Thirdly, towards the end of the report when it refers to the importance of securing around US\$125,000 at the present prices for the Preter Memorial Building, it ought to be pointed out as a supplement to the report that "the rest of the other gifts from Mrs. Preter and Miss Johnston" are being rapidly used up or allocated for other buildings in the general plan. Therefore, if we should have to put up a building to cost about US\$125,000, US\$95,000 would have to be found to supplement the original gift of US\$30,000 for the Preter Memorial Building. How we are going to find this US\$95,000 required is a question which the Huachung Committee and the Board of Directors ought to decide, and certainly the attention of Mrs. Preter and Miss Johnston ought to be called to it.

Aside from these few comments, the report in my opinion is a good one, representing the present situation in Huachung University as all of us see it, and we hope that all our supporters and friends will give it due attention.

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Francis C. M. Wei, President

HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
Wuchang, China

October 26, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler, Associate Secretary  
The National Council, Overseas Department  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N. Y., U.S.S.

Dear Earl:

I flew to Shanghai on Tuesday, the 19th, and went to Soochow the next morning to give two lectures to the General Assembly of the Church of Christ in China held there, and on Thursday, the 21st, I took the train back to Shanghai, and on Saturday I flew back to Wuchang just before the bad weather started in our area. Now it has been blowing for two or three days. The temperature dropped yesterday from 78F to 48F practically. You can realize how we feel the change.

Shortly after my return on the 23rd, I received on October 25 your letter of October 19. I am glad you had already had my letter of October 5, with a sheet on the Boone Library School. I am afraid I left out the second sheet because I was putting in the enclosures in a hurry. Herewith are two copies of the second sheet. Please send one to Mr. Lyford, because when I sent a copy of my letter to him, I emitted also that sheet, which you will notice is a very long one.

I am afraid this letter will not reach you before the Huachung Committee meeting on October 28. However, you have had the Minutes of the first meeting of the Board of Directors and my Annual Report, which you are getting mimeographed for members of the Huachung Committee.

I suppose you are worrying again for us on account of the situation in China. Economically, it is just confused. The new currency is supposed to be two for every silver dollar, 200 for every ounce of gold metal, and four for every US dollar. The government tried very hard to stabilize this currency by fixing the prices, but prices refused to be fixed. Prices cannot be fixed in a country like China because no one knows where the goods are, and when the people do not have complete confidence in the new currency, they will not sell at the fixed price. Consequently, with the exception of a large quantity of goods in the godowns, the commodities do not come into the market from the countryside. Such staple articles of food as rice, vegetable oil, eggs, wheat, and the flour stay in the farmers' houses and are not being offered for sale. The result is a terrible scarcity of food, which has forced the prices up. At one time, according to reports I have received, the silver dollar was worth as much as GY\$12., but yesterday it dropped to GY\$3.60. This is because the government is very severe with any people caught in dealing with silver dollars.

In the meantime, however prices have already gone up according to the new value of the silver dollar, and while the silver dollar has now dropped, prices stay high. In terms of GY dollars, or in terms of American currency, prices are about three times those at the end of August, when prices were fixed in the GY currency. My conjecture is that pretty soon the government will have to do something about it. Otherwise, importation and exportation will not be possible. Probably there will be some kind of plan similar to

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the former certificate rate, but this will not come through for some weeks. The time lag may be long or short.

When I was in Soochow just over day and less than two days in Shanghai, the market conditions in those cities were terrible. People could not buy because of the shortage of goods. Stores were open but empty. Every morning I saw long queues waiting to get into rice, grocery, and tobacco stores to get the daily ration. Since the government was not ready with ration cards, you can imagine the confusion. But in the homes of my friends and relatives there was still plenty of food; and when the Boone and Huachung Alumni entertained me in restaurants both in Soochow and in Shanghai, we ate as plentifully as before. Upon my return to Wuchang on the 23rd, I met the mayor of Wuchang at the airfield, and he told me that the situation in this city was improving. It is improving, except that prices are still high. Most of the daily commodities are available at high prices.

People in Shanghai are more nervous than we are in Wuchang. I had only a short time to talk with Mr. Gilson and Bishop Roberts at 152 Minghang Road. Most of the time we discussed church problems and the problems concerning St. John's and the Central Theological School. In our conversation, however, they did not show any sign of nervousness about the general political situation. We were, of course, nonplussed concerning the economic and market situation.

From what I have been able to gather about the military situation, the government troops are shortening their lines of defense, and are concentrating on the border of Hupeh and Honan on the railway, evacuating from Chengchow, where is the juncture of the Lunghai Railway, and from Kaifeng north of the point of concentration of the government troops. It is a strategical move, according to people who know better than I do. There are, of course, rumors about the possibility of a change in government. They have all been denied by Hollington Tong in his public pronouncements as Minister of Information, but I think there must be a fire where there is so much smoke.

Bishop Tsang is going to Shanghai to confer with the bishops of the other two American dioceses, largely about financial matters. I hope to see him before he leaves on the 28th and ask him to consult the other bishops about our missionaries. My own feeling is that if there should be any imminent danger, our missionaries would have received warning from the American and British consuls in Hankow. No warning has yet come. Some months ago when Mr. Bacon was the American Consul General in Hankow, I was consulting him about possible evacuation of missionaries. He assured me that there would be adequate air transportation facilities in that eventuality, for Americans at least. I suppose the same thing still holds at this time.

As to the control of foreign currencies, I have asked two representative members of our faculty to secure from the American and British consular authorities information with regard to the sending of American and British checks out of China. It would be wise for our missionary members of the faculty to have a written statement from their respective consuls in order to cover such cases. Of course, in times like these we use exclusively the GY currency in our dealings, and all our money exchange is through the government channels.

Some few people, of course, began to talk about moving the college again, but this is a physical impossibility. According to people who went through similar political changes in Tsinan and other places, educational and church people may not have very rough handling from the military. We would stand on Christian principles whatever comes. As long as we are allowed to operate without compromising on religious and Christian principles, we

J. Earl Fowler,

would carry on. Otherwise we will take what comes. Personally I don't feel nervous, and most of our people in Huachung are very steady. With the depreciation of the GY currency, however, we have to face financial restrictions again, but we are accustomed to them, hoping that the economic situation may improve.

I shall keep you constantly informed of developments by writing to you weekly.

I had a very pleasant experience in lecturing to the General Assembly of the Church of Christ in China, which corresponds to the General Convention of our Church in the United States. It is very unusual for them to have invited an episcopalian to give the two most important lectures on the fundamental of the Christian Faith at their General Assembly. The chairman of the meeting which I addressed was Professor Chou, who is professor of Systematic Theology at the Nanking Theological Seminary. In his concluding remarks he seemed to be pleased, and before I left the platform he asked for my manuscript, which will be published, possibly in a small pamphlet, in Chinese. I hope no heresy will be found in my two lectures, because I have been appointed by Bishop Tsang to the Board of Examining Chaplains, which of course insists upon strict orthodoxy. My whole attempt in the lectures was to present the Christian Faith in terms of Chinese cultural background, and I hope this may be the beginning of my "Chinese Christian Theology" which I have been wanting to work out whenever time permitted.

With every good wish to you and your family and all my friends in New York,

Yours affectionally,

Francis

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Development of Faculties.

No progress whatever has been made towards developing a School of Commerce. In fact students are no longer able to take a degree in Commerce.

No progress has been made in the development of Sociology, Philosophy, or Mathematics.

The Music Department has been strengthened, but is not yet ready to be a major department. The expected support from the Evangelical and Reformed Church has not been forthcoming.

The School of Education has been divided into two departments—Administration and Teacher Training. The Practice School has been revived, but is only developing slowly owing to lack of funds and buildings, and is already inadequate for the growing needs of the School of Education.

The Theological Course is functioning with probably the best library facilities of any department in the university, but with less than the minimum staff envisaged in the Ten-Year Plan.

Relation of Size of Faculty to Enrollment.

The Ten-Year Plan envisaged an enrollment of 300 students in the first four years, and a teaching staff of 53 with the rank of lecturer or above. Now we have approximately 570 students and a staff of 49 full-time teachers, plus 7 part-time, say the equivalent of 53 full-time teachers. But the Ten-Year Plan envisaged 63 teachers for an enrollment of 500 in the second five years, and 72 when the enrollment reaches 800. Therefore, we have the Faculty for 300 students according to the first four years, but the enrollment has reached the fifth or sixth years of the Plan. An almost impossible burden is being placed on the Chinese and English Departments which have to teach the general required courses in addition to the work with their own Majors.

Administration.

According to the Ten-Year Plan there should be 10 full-time administrators in the first period, then 14 and then 16. The figure for the first period has been reached, but many of those classed under administration are doing purely clerical work and are incapable of any responsibility.

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FINANCIAL FINDINGS IN REFERENCE TO THE TEN-YEAR PLAN

1. The Ten-Year Plan contemplated a budget as follows:

	Instruction		Administration		Research	Total
	Salari.	Equip.	Salari	Mainten.	Fellowships	
<u>1st Period</u> 1st-3rd yr. 300 stud- ents	63,000.	20,000.	12,000.	12,000.	8,000.	115,000.
<u>2nd Period</u> 4th-9th yr. 500-800 students	75,000.	20,000.	16,800.	15,000.	10,000.	136,800.
<u>3rd Period</u> 10th yr. on 300 stud- ents	86,000.	20,000.	19,200.	15,000.	10,000.	150,200.
<u>Actual Budget</u> for Current Year	51,500.	6,350.	11,200.	10,600.		79,650.

All of the above amounts are in US\$.

In the expenditure for the current year, the equivalent of 20 foreign salaries is carried at its replacement value of US\$1,200 each, as used in the original plan.

No allowance is made for the fact that Mr. Fu is studying abroad on a British Council Fellowship, nor Mr. Ying Chung-fu on a Huachung Fellowship.

The figures given above for the current year are for expenditure as recommended by the Board of Directors at their June meeting. This may entail a deficit of about US\$10,000. to be made up by the United Board and the C.C.U.A. in Great Britain. It was stressed at the meeting that the expenditure figures given above are the absolute minimum.

2. Thus it appears we are financially behind the goal of the first period by US\$36,000. Several things may account in part for this.

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(Report on the Progress of the Ten-Year Plan -- 2.)

The plan for the expansion of the Music Department under the sponsorship of the Reformed Church Mission has not taken place, and at one time it was hoped for a sum from US\$8,000. to US\$10,000. for this.

The Government Grant, which amounted to US\$9,000. before the war, will be around US\$1,000. for the current year.

The grants from such bodies as the China Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, etc., which brought in several thousand dollars before the war, are out now.

The grant from Yale-in-China, which amounted to US\$12,000. before the war, declined to US\$5,000. during the war. This year Yale-in-China ~~provides one~~ foreign staff member and US\$1,250. towards a fellowship abroad.

The amount of money necessary for the Theological course, estimated at US\$7,500 for the first period in addition to the regular budget, has not been raised, except as the faculty members are on mission appointments.

The income from Tuition this year will be about US\$5,000. short of what had been estimated in the Ten-Year Plan as fees coming in from 600 students.

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FURTHER THERE IS THE PROBLEM OF PHYSICAL PLANT WHICH IS BECOMING MORE-AND-MORE ACUTE.

During the last two years progress has been made toward housing the faculty and staff. If the staff should remain at somewhere near the present level, our housing is about sufficient with the completion of the houses now under construction. If the staff were to be increased to the size contemplated in the second phase of the plan, more housing would be needed. From our experience of the past few months, housing would cost from US\$4,000. to US\$5,000. per housing unit.

Money has been generously given for the Library, and construction of it should be undertaken as soon as conditions warrant.

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It was in the winter of 1934 that the initial gift of US\$30,000. was made for the Procter Memorial Building. The gift was the starting point from whence other gifts came, which led to the purchase of the land outside the old City Wall and the plan for a new Huachung. At the time the gift was made, it was expected that the enrollment would be held to around 300 students. The gift made at that time would have provided an adequate arts and administration building, considering the size of the contemplated enrollment and prices at that time. But with the enrollment contemplated in the Ten-Year Plan and with increased prices, such a building, Arts and Administration, would cost more. Therefore, it is suggested that the Procter Memorial Building be designed to cover more adequately these requirements; such a building would cost around US\$125,000. at the present time. Plans should be drawn and the building started as soon as practicable, in order to carry out the intent of the donors. The additional funds could, if necessary, be covered by using the rest of the other gifts from Mrs. Procter and Miss Johnston, which were for the proposed Yellow Stork Tower, and land, and buildings. The tower could be part of the building. Or further funds for the Memorial may be solicited.

With the construction of these two buildings, the old buildings thereby vacated, together with the Middle School Buildings, could be remodeled to care for the other academic needs of Huachung. In the long run, US\$50,000. to US\$100,000. would be needed for this remodeling.

At the present time, student accommodation is crowded, and most of the students are sleeping in double deckers. If and when a return to pre-war conditions is made, more room will be needed.

For the women, there should be an early solution to the kitchen and bathroom problems. In order to accommodate under pre-war conditions a total of 200-240 women students (i.e. 1/3 to 2/5 of an enrollment of 600 students), more accommodations to house about 150 women students will have to be built or taken over. The present old and new Yen Hostels should not be called upon to house more than 100 women students. To solve this problem adequately would cost between US\$100,000. and US\$150,000.

(Report on the Progress of the Ten-Year Plan -- 3.)

The men's hostels, even with the release of the other half of Poyu for hostel purposes, are crowded with double deckers. There is also the problem of the temporary hostel erected in 1946 at a cost of over US\$10,000. In the long run this temporary hostel may well go to the Practice School. To allow for a return to prewar conditions and to release the temporary hostel would require the erection of hostels to accommodate about 250 men students. This would allow for a total of 400-425 men students. The cost of such would be from US\$200,000 to US\$250,000.

Also some funds should be available for putting the outside land (about 40 acres) into shape, which might run to US\$5,000-10,000.

The program outlined above would be adequate for 600 students.

The estimated cost of the above would be from US\$480,000. to US\$635,000 plus 145,000. In sight at present are 145,000. and US\$275,000. We would have to raise, therefore, between US\$205,000. and US\$360,000. to meet the building needs we have in mind.

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
Wuchang, China

Wai - Nov. 4  
College, [ ]  
Station

November 4, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler, Associate Secretary  
Church Missions House  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York, 10, N. Y., U.S.A.

Dear Earl:

I have promised to write you every week as far as possible. My last letter to you for the Huachung Committee was dated October 26, 1948. Since then I have been kept pretty busy by the visits of Dr. W. Reginald Wheeler, Executive Secretary of the Yale-in-China Association in New Haven, and the Rev. Noel B. Slater, secretary of the China Christian Universities Association in London, who are both visiting China. Dr. Wheeler arrived on October 27 and left only on Tuesday, November 2; while Mr. Slater arrived on Saturday, October 30, and is still with us, leaving by air for Chengtu on Saturday, November 6. They have been looking around and inspecting the library, laboratories, attending dinner and luncheon parties, and both of them addressed the meeting to celebrate the Founders Day on November 1, which is also our Annual Matriculation Day.

We had a fine day on November 1. In the morning, the students had athletic games, and men and women students joined together for their lunch on the lawn in front of the Administration Building, and had a very jolly time.

The ceremony was at three o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Slater made the main speech, but Dr. Wheeler also spoke. They were both impressed by the quality of our work here and praised very highly the good spirit of the faculty and students. The ceremony came to an end at quarter past four, and tea was served to the guests and alumni.

The alumni had their Annual Meeting at quarter to five and continued till six o'clock when they had their dinner, and then they all went to the students' show in Stokes Hall from seven till ten. The students showed a wonderful spirit, and the show was most enjoyable, -thus ended the day!

On Tuesday evening I invited representatives of each mission and their wives to meet Mr. Slater at an official dinner. This was to give Mr. Slater an opportunity to ask any of us questions concerning the work here. I had a similar dinner for Dr. Wheeler on Thursday, the 28th, in my home.

Dr. Wheeler spent a considerable time in writing letters back to America and to other people, but Mr. Slater was busy in seeing everything in the University, and this morning he sent to me the following notes, which may be of interest to you and the Huachung Committee, as well as to the missions concerned:

"HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY-IMPRESSIONS-NOEL B. SLATER

(From Note 6 on, this is only by way of suggestions and questions)

- "1) The University reflects the very fine spirit of its President.
- "2) Conscientiousness on the part of staff and high standards aimed at and maintained. (Note elimination of poor students after two years.)
- "3) Contact with thirty-two Christian middle schools excellent. (Conferences and constant help.)

0914

November 4, 1948

"4) Practical Training for teaching through Practice School a special feature.

"5) Relationship between President and Faculty and between Faculty and Students excellent.

"6) Christian emphasis on the part of staff clearly seen.

"Twenty-one Christian groups full of encouragement. But in view of the 47% Christian students, how far the emphasis on Religious Work is reflected in the life of the students is difficult to estimate. (as per attendance at Prayers and Sunday Evening Service)

"7) Equipment in laboratories poor.

"8) More attention to outward impression would be of advantage;

"(a. University Entrance)

"(b. University lacks its own entrance)

"(c. Paths--especially main paths)

"9) For buildings which will remain part of permanent plan, greater attention to repair, paint work for purposes of preservation, as well as for appearance, seems to be called for.

"10) No department seems to have its own building--could not some method be worked out which would give some kind of a 'home' to each main department?

"11) Organized athletics would appear to be weak.

"12) Present Lay-out. A bit like Topsy - 'I just grewed.'

"13) Careful work by a Publicity Committee will help funds.

"14) Students and right understanding of their political responsibilities."

You will see that his Note 1) is just complimentary, and Notes 2) through 6) are good. As to Note 7), the equipment for our laboratory is poor in comparison particularly with the government universities and with some of our stronger Christian universities in China, but he has seen only those in Shanghai, Nanking, and Peiping (Yenching). Those Christian universities did not lose so heavily during the war as Huachung did. Our equipment is just enough for instruction with very little for any kind of research, and even for instruction we need more duplicate sets for some of the experiments.

Note 8) refers to the main entrance, which is still shared with Boone Middle School. When the new buildings are put up, the entrance will be shifted, but it is hardly possible to do so at the present time, especially when Boone Middle School is still sharing the campus with us. The paths, especially the main paths, do not have a good appearance because to improve them will require quite a bit of money, and we do not have time or money enough to attend to it as yet, as it will cost quite a bit of funds. This is also the answer to his Note 9). The repairs so far have been for practical purposes, and even those repairs are not yet completed. Note 10) is much to the point, but until the new buildings are put up, no department can have its own "home." It should be pointed out that since 1911 there has never been a university academic building erected, and before 1911 there were only four or five departments so-called in Boone University with a total enrollment of about 50-60 students.

My comment on his Note 11) is that we have enough organized athletics, but the present physical director is not the best man, so he has not been able to make a great deal of use of the field outside. As to his Note 12), the present lay-out may seem a bit topsy-turvy, but we cannot really finish the job until we have appointed a competent architect, who will give considerable time to the details. That is why from the beginning of this term I have been urging the Senate to give this matter more attention. It is quite apparent that Mr. Bergamini cannot remain our official architect, since ~~his~~ he is much too occupied in the Philippines and cannot even take a brief visit to Wuchang.

November 4, 1948

Mr. May last winter spent only a few days here, but a few days would not do an important job, as is required for the general lay-out. However, the s sketched lay-out would perhaps be approved by any architect appointed.

His Note 13) with regard to publicity is much to the point. We need a publicity Secretary because the Chinese Alumni Bulletin is already keeping our alumni on the faculty busy, and the Weekly English Newsletter keeps the English Department busy enough. His last note with regard to the political consciensness of our students is correct. Our students are busy with their studies, and therefore do not take much interest in political activities, but from the Wall Papers (on the Bulletin Boards) they are interested just the same.

Mr. Slater is leaving for Chengtu on Saturday by air and I am going to have another conference with him tomorrow before he goes.

With regard to the general political situation, I must say that the morale among the government people is not encouraging. The National troops seem to be concentrating to hold three points: around Peiping in North China; around Hsueh north of Nanking in East China; and around Sinyang on the Border of Hupeh-Honan in Central China. There seem to be enough troops around Ichang to prevent the Communist troops from crossing the Yangtze River, which would be really the decisive point in the Civil War. It is the opinion of many people, in which I would concur, that the Communists have not enough personnel to administer the area they have already occupied; and if they should expand still further, their own organization would collapse in very short time. So political wisdom would require them to consolidate before further expansion, and in the meantime the Nationalists may be able to pick up a little bit and attack, especially if there should be more effective military aid from outside. My own conviction is that the Nanking Government still has a fighting chance.

The most significant point is that since May 1 the Communists have changed their policy and are very reasonable in dealing with the common people, particularly those engaged in non-military occupations. I was talking with a District Magistrate last night, who had come out from Honan after the Communists had occupied his district. He told me that the Communists would not pursue their policy of confiscating land unless the peasants should by popular vote ask for it, and according to this man I was talking with last night, most of the peasants did not ask for it because of the deeply traditional moral idea that such confiscation of land according to the Communist policy would not be right. This man also told me that since May 1 the Communists have made it part of their policy to protect particularly aliens in the areas under their control. A great deal, however, depends upon whether the Communists in China are closely linked with Moscow or not. If they are, whatever they do will be the first stage of their program, and it will change to a more Marxist form later; but if they are not closely linked with Moscow, everything in China would change in quality by contact with other elements in the country and by adaptation to the Chinese environment. How long this transition period would be, no one could predict. As far as we are concerned in Huachung, we are prepared for the worst, but determined to maintain our Christian principles whatever comes.

People in China have been very much concerned about the Presidential election in the United States. Those who know world affairs will know that whether the republicans or the democrats win, the American foreign policies will remain practically about the same. Truman has definitely gone in, and perhaps in response to public opinion in America, he may make the American aid to China more effective and more speedy, which may save the situation yet.

We are in the midst of our mid-term examinations. Students are busy. They

Mr. J. Earl Fowler, Associate Secretary -- 4. November 4, 1948

are particularly happy because both the men and women students have enough rice for the term, while other schools such as Wuhan, Chungwa, and others in this center have found it very difficult to get enough rice for the students and faculty.

At the beginning of September the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors decided to pay 250%, or a little bit more, to all the faculty and staff, as called for by the new government plan. This salary scheme seemed at the time very satisfactory, because a full professor with a top salary during the first week of September would be able to buy about 18 tan (piculs) of rice, but now prices have gone up so much (seven times the government fixed price of early September) that the same professor would be able to buy only about 2½ piculs of rice each month, and that would not be enough to keep even a medium-sized family alive. The government has been considering a new economic plan with ceiling prices cancelled, but it is not likely that the prices will come down quickly. Unless the rate of exchange should become more reasonable, our missionaries, as well as the Chinese members of the faculty and staff, will find it impossible to meet the market situation.

Dr. MacMullen has just written that the United Board is allocating to us US\$6,250 to go with the money that may come from Slater's organization in London, and with other gifts within sight we are meeting our budget, as prepared by the Board of Directors for the Huachung Committee last summer. This means that we shall have no deficit or a small one, but we must be prepared to dig into our reserve funds, if necessary, for the relief of our faculty in case the prices remain high and exchange continues at the present rate. As I have written to Mr. Lyford before this, our Reserve has been kept mainly to meet an emergency just like this.

Of course, some people may argue that the real emergency is to move the university, if the Communists should approach nearer to Wuhan, but practically all the people on the faculty are of the opinion that in that eventuality there is no place to move to. It is not like the Japanese invasion, which still left a vast hinterland in the west and southwest. The Communists' attack would be everywhere all over China. If they should succeed in crossing the Yangtze River and closing up on Wuhan, we would simply have to stay put and meet whatever comes. Then there is the question of meeting such an emergency, but by that time it may not be possible for foreign funds to come to us. This is a most difficult situation to anticipate, but unless you people in New York should have more wisdom, I would not know what else to say.

Please do not get the impression that I am pessimistic. I have been trying only to be realistic, and I am not yet depondent, still less despairing. We take a step at a time, trusting that we are in God's hands, and whatever we do is for His Greater Cause.

With every good wish to you, your family, and members of the Huachung Committee, and other friends,

Yours affectionately,

Francis

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY, WUCHANG, HUPEH.

[4]

October 29, 1948.

Fall Term 1948-1949

	<u>Man</u>	<u>Woman</u>	<u>Total</u>
Seniors.....	34	13	47
Juniors.....	81	58	139
Sophomores.....	120	75	195
Freshmen.....	142	49	191
<u>Total:</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>572</u>

Christian Middle School.....	261	45.6%
Non-Christian Middle School.....	311	
<u>Total:</u>	<u>572</u>	

Christian Students.....	269	47.3%
Non-Christian Students.....	303	
<u>Total:</u>	<u>572</u>	

Geographical Distribution

Anhwei.....	12
Fukien.....	5
Chekiang.....	16
Hopeh.....	1
Honan.....	3
Hunan.....	199
Hupei.....	180
Kiangsi.....	28
Kiangsu.....	28
Kwangsi.....	2
Kwangtung.....	57
Kweichow.....	1
Shansi.....	2
Shantung.....	1
Sinkiang.....	1
Szechuan.....	11
Yunnan.....	25
<u>Total:</u>	<u>572</u>

} 379

<u>MAJOR</u>	<u>SENIORS</u>	<u>JUNIORS</u>	<u>SOPHOMORES</u>	<u>FRESHMEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A Chinese	4	9	9	21	43	
English	6	17	28	27	78	
Economics	13	45	65	37	160	
History	4	9	12	18	43	
	<u>27</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>324</u>	..... 324
Biology	2	6	9	12	29	
Chemistry	6	8	20	19	53	
Physics	4	9	14	28	55	
	<u>12</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>137</u>	..... 137
Education	8	27	17	20	72	
Teachers training	9	9	21	9	39	
	<u>8</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>111</u>	..... 111
					<u>Total:</u>	<u>572</u>

G. T. Doe, Assist. Registrar

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
BOONE COLLEGE  
GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE  
HUPING COLLEGE  
WESLEY COLLEGE  
YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

校長 韋卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

November 9, 1948

Mr J. Earl Fowler  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Earl:

I presume you have already received my letter sent on Friday of last week, November 5. I am now writing my letter for this week, as I have a bit more time just at the moment.

There is not much to report after the busy time of last week. The morale of the students and faculty is splendid. Everything is going on as usual. Prices, however, are soaring. When the new currency came out on August 21, rice was around GY\$20. a "tan." By the middle of September it started to jump, and now that the ceiling price is off, the market is running amok. Day before yesterday I ordered a tan of rice at GY\$120, and yesterday the store refused to deliver because it had already gone beyond GY\$200. Some people are quoting GY\$260. You can realize what it means with my salary, for instance, which is the top salary. I can buy less than 1½ tan of rice, whereas in my last letter I said it was 2½. Unless something happens, the prices will go up still further. This is not because there is any shortage of goods. It is only because people are losing more-and-more confidence in the new currency and refuse to sell. When one goes through the street, as I did yesterday, one finds the stores full of commodities of all kinds.

Whatever happens I do not believe the period would be long with any serious shortage of foodstuff. Our situation is different from that in Shanghai. Shanghai and Nanking together have a population of about 6,000,000, and on the railway between Nanking and Shanghai there are at least two or three cities which approach the population of Hankow itself, certainly greater than the population of Wuchang. The total population of the Wuhan Center is at present less than 1,000,000. From Wuchang the next city south of us is Changsha, which is only about 150,000. Then you have to go on all the way to Canton before you find a city with a population of more than 1,000,000. Hunan is a rice-producing district. The crop has not been good, but it is enough to meet the demand in this part of the country. Hupeh also produces rice, although it is not enough for the whole province, especially after the flood and the devastation of the countryside.

Going down the river the first city is Kiukiang, which has a population at present of only 50,000, and Kiangsi is a rice district. Further down from Kiukiang you reach the Wuhu District, which always has rice to send to other parts of the country.

There have been many rumors, but they are rumors which do not scare us. It looks as if there should be any political change in our part of the country, it would be bloodless. Some of the rumors printed in the local Mosquito press "

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Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 2.

November 9, 1948

are most amusing, but I do not believe that they are entirely groundless.

What we can do for our own community is to try to store up more foodstuff, but it is difficult to do anything of the kind because the US dollar is still at the government rate of about GY3.95 to US\$1., whereas it should be at least GY\$24. If we should change through the bank any American dollar, we would ~~lose~~ at least 7/8 of it at the present moment. So yesterday when the faculty met, I explained to them the money situation, and asked them to make their money go as far as possible until the exchange rate is readjusted.

There are, of course, two possibilities which I have been thinking about, in case the situation should come to the worst. First, there may be for a short while a severe shortage of foodstuff; and if we should have a good store for our own people, we ought to be able to tide over that period. Then, there is the further question of whether money could come in to us from outside China. Our opinion is that the "government" would still need foreign trade, whatever may be its foreign policy at the time, and it would be hurting it more if it should cut off foreign communications from abroad. But we are watching the situation with the greatest care and shall do the best we can according to our judgment.

I would reiterate the necessity of getting some relief funds ready for our faculty and for some of the students. I cannot state the amount, because it is difficult to anticipate the exact situation. The Huachung Committee has in reserve a sum of money; I should think in a crisis like this we ought to be prepared to use one-third of it. Again, I would say that it would be simply impossible to move the university again, because there is no place to move to. The signs of the times are that it would not be necessary to move.

All this may be just pure conjecture, but I am writing to you even just our feelings from time to time. The Christian attitude in a world like this is that God still reigns, and whatever comes it will be fulfilling His purpose; the only thing we can do is just submit and praise His name. In the meanwhile we are planning still for the development of Huachung by carrying out the Ten-Year Plan.

With every good wish to you and all our friends in America, I am,

Yours affectionately,

*Francis*

ECMW/MRC

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NOTICE

Change of Name

Effective July 1, 1947

UNITED BOARD  
for  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGES  
IN CHINA

takes over all activities and responsibilities of the Associated Boards.

Please change your records accordingly.

Associated Boards  
for  
Christian Colleges in China

中國基督教大學  
聯合董事會

150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

November 12, 1948

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATED BOARDS

PRESIDENT  
HENRY P. VAN DUSEN  
VICE PRESIDENTS  
JESSE H. ARNUP  
ARTHUR V. DAVIS  
MRS. DOUGLAS HORTON  
SALLIE LOU MACKINNON  
LLOYD S. RULAND  
TREASURER  
E. M. MCBRIER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
ROBERT J. McMULLEN  
ASSOCIATE SECY.-TREAS.  
C. A. EVANS  
SECRETARIES  
CHARLES H. CORBETT  
MRS. W. FLUMER MILLS

Mr. J. Earl Fowler,  
281 Fourth Avenue,  
New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Fowler:

Herewith I am returning to you the letters which you so kindly shared with me at the Hua Chung Committee meeting the other day. It is exceedingly helpful to get this information from our China secretaries. I very much appreciate your cooperation.

I have drafted a letter to be sent to the various Mission Boards. It has been given to Ruland for his O.K. and he has left town with it. I hope he will be able to let us send it out on Monday. In the mean time we are hoping for the best.

I do not know when your group is planning to send us its check. I hope it is under way for we are not too flushed with cash and may need all we have at any time. Please see that the wheels are still grinding.

We get a good deal of news from China, all of it disturbing. One of our Cheeloo members in Hangchow writes that they had provided fully for the staff left in Tsinan with commodities to be used or sold or bartered. These were evidently stolen by soldiers and the people left in want. They are appealing for help which we are trying to send through to them via Tsingtao. We are anxiously awaiting the result of this experiment with a view to how much aid and how it can be given to those now behind the iron curtain.

Again thanking you for your very much appreciated cooperation and with warmest personal regards, I am,

Yours cordially,

Robert J. McMullen  
Executive Secretary

RJM:D  
Encl.

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
BOONE COLLEGE  
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YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

校長 韋卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHU MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.  
November 16, 1948

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Earl:

This is my letter for this week. Since I wrote a week ago, a great deal of water has flowed under the bridge. On Tuesday, November 9, the American Consul General in Hankow sent out his first notice of warning to all the American citizens in this area, including our people. I was informed of it the next day, November 10. Bishop Tsang has sent word from Shanghai to Deaconess Clark, his English secretary, that three families, viz., the Wards, the Starratts, and the Walter Allens, should get ready to evacuate, but that they should not do anything before the Bishop's return except to talk to me about it. They consulted me separately, and all the advice I could give them was to wait for the Bishop's return, according to his order, and get ready to leave if the Bishop should issue a categorical order, but the Bishop has not yet returned. Presumably he has found it difficult to get passage from Nanking in times like these. The news is that he is due either tonight or tomorrow morning. Those families simply have to take his order, but the situation in Hankow is much better than in Shanghai or Nanking. I believe that the Bishop will talk to the American Consul in Hankow himself and consult his Council of Advice before he would issue any definite order to the families concerned.

On Friday, the 12th, Constantine came to see me and reported that on Thursday, the 11th, the acting British Consul called together all the British subjects in the Wuhan cities and told them about the situation in a much milder tone than even the very mild notice from the American Consulate about evacuation. The British Consul's advice was that if any British subject should be planning to leave China or go to a different part of the country within six months, it might be good for him to leave now. All the rest who have work to do may stay put with their families.

On Sunday, November 14, Paul Ward and his wife asked me to go to their house and talk over the situation. I reiterated my position that I would not give any definite advice as to leave or not to leave, but from all information I have been able to gather there was as yet no immediate danger to the Wuhan center. It was the opinion, and it is still the opinion of people who are better informed than I am in official, as well as in some military circles that even if the National troops should fail to hold Hsuehchow, there would not be very much fighting in Central China. If the National troops should be able to hold Hsuehchow, Central China would remain quiet. In either case the fighting would not spread immediately to our part of the country.

As I told the Wards on Sunday, as long as the Communists are not able to cross the Yangtze River, there is no danger that the Canton-Hankow Railway will be cut; and as long as that railway holds out, there is a good exit to Canton, and then to Hongkong, when it becomes necessary. Furthermore, the Civil Air Transport (C.A.T.), NOT the C.A.T.C., has transferred its headquarters from Shanghai to Canton. The prospects are that it will run a regular air route with frequent planes between Hankow and Canton. That would mean additional facilities for evacuation when that becomes necessary.

As to the question of foodstuff, there is plenty of foodstuff in the market, but prices are still high. With the modified currency regulations promulgated in Nanking on November 11, prices are dropping somewhat. At the middle of last week till Friday, the 12th, rice was as high as GY\$400 a tan, but yesterday it dropped to GY\$280 a tan, which is a

0922

November 16, 1948

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30% drop. But the price is still not normal because rice always goes with the silver dollar. The Black Market value of the silver dollar yesterday was only GY\$18, whereas the official rate is GY\$10. The price of rice ought to be Silver \$10, or GY\$180, but it was GY\$280 yesterday, and therefore its price was still due to some other factors, which to my mind are obscure although the war has a great deal to do with the situation. My advice to everybody, staying or not, is to store up at least three-months' foodstuff, because if any family should leave, the food could be bought by those who stay. If we should have a three-months' supply stored, and replenish it from time to time as it is being used, we would not have to face the danger of shortage of food. It is much better to keep food than to keep money.

Yesterday morning Paul Ward went with Arthur Allen to see the American Consul General in Hankow, and Paul Ward came back to tell me that the Consul General agrees with me in every point, and he had reached his conclusion independently. So yesterday the three families got together and decided to wait at least until the Bishop's return, with the hope that Bishop Tsang will not order them out at once, as the situation would not warrant it yet. Their idea is that if they should go at all, they would take their families to Hongkong and the men come back to continue work here themselves. That would be their plan until circumstances became much worse. The morale among the faculty and students remains excellent, and nobody really wants to leave the work here when there is still a chance of continuing the work. I have not advised anybody to stay, and I have not advised anybody to leave. Particularly those missionaries who have small children ought to reach a decision on their own. No matter what we do there is an element of uncertainty, and everyone has to accept the risk for himself or herself. *Since I dictated this letter, the news about Hankow seems much worse.*

Notice came to the three families mentioned that there was a special coach arranged for the British subjects by their consul to go from Wuchang to Canton, and our people refused to take the opportunity of going on that coach for reasons stated above.

With the change of the exchange rate from GY\$4-to-one, to GY\$20-to-US\$1, we have decided to pay our people five times their salary for September. This is a great relief to our people, although they are getting less than one-half the value they received two months ago. The salary increase is five times in terms of GY, but rice is fourteen times that of early September. You can see the difference.

The students have enough rice for the balance of the term, and they are having pretty decent food in both the men's and women's diningrooms. We have to begin to think about the winter vacation, which will be almost a month, <sup>and</sup> how to get rice for the students when the second term reopens in February will be a very serious problem. Many provincial schools are contemplating early closing because they have not been able to buy rice or because they have not had the money to buy rice with. Wuhan University has been on strike several times for the same reason, and I should not be surprised at all that by the beginning of January everyone of the schools here except the Christian middle schools and our college will be closed. We collected boarding fees at the beginning of the term and required the students to buy enough foodstuff for the whole term.

As to the faculty members, most of them are getting enough rice to last for at least a month, and with the increased pay they are going to store up more for the future. I am urging everyone to put as much money as possible into rice, oil, and fuel, because at least after the Chinese New Year those things will go up tremendously if they should be available in the market. I believe they will be available, but prices will be prohibitive.

Of course, you may ask what we are going to do if we are the only people who have rice to eat with starvation all around us, but that is not going to be the case. How they are going to solve these serious problems I do not know. Perhaps there will be a riot, or

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Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 3

November 16, 1948

perhaps there may be a change in the general situation. Rice will come down, I believe, slowly, within the next couple of weeks, and then will go up again. We cannot solve the problem for the whole population, but at least we see what we can do for our own community. At the same time we are carrying on as best we can, as we see only one step at a time.

With every good wish, I remain,

Yours affectionately,

*Francis*

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November 16, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

My dear Francis:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters of October twenty-sixth and October twenty-fourth, and also the copy of your document addressed to Dr. William P. Fenn. I greatly appreciate your intention to keep me as well informed as possible with a weekly letter. It is impossible for me to comment in detail on your very interesting and helpful letters. You probably realize that I am carrying the whole Overseas Department load for some time so I am terribly interested in everything you can tell me but so busy that I cannot reply in detail.

I appreciate your having sent me two copies of the part of the suggestions about the Boone Library School that were missing from your enclosures. I have sent one on to Mr. Lyford and will attach the other to my copy so it will be complete. As soon as your letter of October twenty-sixth arrived I had copies made and sent copies to Mr. Lyford and Dr. Sherman. I have not seen or heard from them since but, undoubtedly, they will be looking me up in the near future.

Even though your letter of November fourth was marked confidential I am going to have copies made for Dr. Sherman and Mr. Lyford. I do not find anything in it which should not be passed on to them.

I am deeply in sympathy and agree with you that there is no place for the University to move to and you should carry on in Wuchang as long as it is possible to maintain at least a nominal Christian character and operate under Christian principle. If this is impossible it may be necessary to close down for a while.

I think it would be a very good idea for you to canvass the foreign missionary personnel on your faculty and see whether in case of an emergency some of them would be willing to carry on. It would be well to know in advance how many, by their own free will and choice,

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November 16, 1948

would be willing to stay on under the Communist regime. There are eight American families still living and teaching on the campus of Cheeloo in Tsinan, according to reports received in this country. They have been very favorably treated, guaranteed food and urged to continue their teaching and also their work in the hospitals. I am mentioning this to you regarding the University. The National Council will meet from December seventh to ninth and I will take up the advisability with the Overseas Department Committee at that time, of writing to our Bishops in China and getting them to take up this idea with all of our missionaries. It may be advisable to have wives and children evacuated before any emergency arises. Other mission boards have given their missionaries the option of deciding for themselves whether they evacuate or not. If the situation gets to a critical stage it may be necessary to open up a finance office in some part of China not effected by the Communists. This is merely an idea and I have not explored it as yet. I believe it is being considered by Mr. Gilson and possibly Arthur Allen and the Bishops.

I was greatly interested in your report on the progress of the Ten Year Plan. While this is very important just at present, with the political situation what it is, it is no time to consider any advance and building campaign that will necessitate greatly increased capital investments in China.

You will be glad to know that I was successful in getting \$65,000. from the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, designated for the China Colleges. This money will be sent to Dr. McMullen in the near future if it has not already been sent. Of this money, \$20,000, will be designated for Huachung. This will be in addition to any regular appropriation or what you might get from the United Board from other sources. I do not believe you can count on a great deal in addition to this from them although there ought to be some money from other sources during the next year. The United Services to China campaign was unsuccessful so I do not know how much they will get from that. They are planning on launching their own campaign for one-half a million dollars. About half of this is to come from mission boards. I am afraid the other mission boards are not going to be as generous as we have been. I got my request in early and had very little opposition so that I made this announcement to the United Board that I had succeeded in getting this and they are using this information as a lever on the other boards. No doubt, there will be considerable coming from them but it will probably be the middle of next year (spring) before they know what money will be available.

You probably will have received a copy of the minutes of the Huachung Committee of the United Board for Christian Colleges meeting held on October twenty-eighth before this letter arrives. It will not be necessary for me to comment on these minutes as they are quite clear. I spoke very frankly and as forcefully as possible when we were discussing the Boone Library School problem. Even though I enjoy a reputation of considerable confidence by the members of the

0926

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei

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November 16, 1948

United Board, I cannot sway the opinion of others where there seems to be strong grounds for some other course of action. Inasmuch as you will need about \$10,000 additional financial support which will have to come through the United Board for the Library School, they will have to be in favor of wherever it is located. I insisted on Dr. Sherman and myself being invited to the meeting when they make an objective study as to the best location for a Library School for the Christian institutions in China. Be assured that I will do everything I possibly can to keep the institution connected with Huachung. To be realistic, you must be prepared for considerable opposition. I think all of the items in the minutes of the first meeting of the Board of Directors in China were taken up at our meeting. We all hope it will be possible for you to change your fiscal year to coincide with that of the United Board for Christian Colleges in China. All of the other Universities and their fiscal year on June 30th instead of July thirty-first.

With very best wishes and kind regards to all.

Affectionately yours,

J. Earl Fowler  
Associate Secretary

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November 19, 1948

Dr. Francis C. M. Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, China

My dear Francis:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 9th. I greatly appreciate your weekly letters. Your clear thinking and optimistic point of view is always encouraging. I have your letters copied immediately as soon as they arrive and pass them around to the executive officers as well as to Mr. Lyford and Dr. Sherman. I also send copies to Dr. Mc Mullen so as to keep him as well informed as possible.

The financial situation gives us even more worry, if that is possible, than the political situation. With the exchange situation the way it is at the present moment, we are very reluctant to send any large amount of money to China. It probably would not be worth anything when you needed it the most. I am sure if you get in a jam and need money you can negotiate a loan and we can meet it from the reserves or other resources when we are able to send the money to you. I personally feel rather optimistic and hope that nothing will happen to cut off communications or means of transferring money to you. I am glad you are keeping us so well informed. If you have the opportunity, please suggest to Bishop Tsang that he do likewise.

With very best wishes and kind regards to all.

Affectionately yours,

J. Earl Fowler  
Associate Secretary

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
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校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT  
FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

November 23, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
2 81 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Earl:

I hope you have already received my letter of last week.

Your letter of November 16 was received on November 21, making very good time. I was glad to know that my letters got to you promptly. Whenever I mark a letter "Confidential," I mean for the Huachung Committee and other friends of Huachung, but not to be quoted in public or quoted for any other purpose.

The American Consul General in Hankow has already issued a second warning for American citizens to evacuate from the Wuhan Center, particularly for those with children. From here only Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt are taking their families to Hongkong, and they have found accommodations in the Church Guest House. It will be rather crowded there, but it is always difficult to find accommodations in Hongkong. The two families left yesterday evening with considerable baggage, but Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt are expecting to get back for their teaching inside of about ten days. It is a bit indefinite whether Walter Allen will take his wife and child to Hongkong. If Mrs. Walter Allen should have to go with the baby, either Walter or Mrs. Arthur Allen would have to accompany them because of Mrs. Walter Allen's physical condition. Neither Walter nor Mrs. Allen Sr. want to leave if they can help it. Walter has been waiting for their passport to come from Shanghai, but it has not come yet.

It was the decision of the Council of Advice that mothers with small children ought to leave, and the university authorities leave it entirely to the choice and free will of the individual members of the faculty. So far I have not heard of any British members of the faculty planning to leave. Mrs. Gray will most probably go to Hongkong also with her three children; and if she does, Mr. Gray may have to go with her and return, as Paul Ward and Al Starratt are doing. It is quite problematic whether Dr. Van Sant will send his wife and daughter to Canton. He has been exploring possibilities of accommodations at Lingnan University where they have friends. Both he and Francis Gray cannot send their families away anyway at the present time because their children have not returned from the Kuling School, which closed on the 18th, but transportation from Kiukiang is none too easy.

The morale of the students remains good. So far only three students have left, one a girl to go back with her family two weeks ago to Chungking, and two boys left yesterday for Hongkong by order of their fathers who are in Singapore. All the three students were unwilling to leave themselves. On the other hand there are a few students who have been enquiring whether in case they should not return after the winter vacation, they might be permitted to go to a government or private university in Canton and count the work there towards their degree in Huachung. Aside from Lingnan we would hesitate

0929

November 23, 1948

very much to recognize the work in any college or university in that area, but the Senate will have to take action. As far as the Civil War is concerned, you may get more information than we do here. At any rate, whatever I write now will be different when you receive the letter. It is still the belief of the people in this center that there may not be fighting in Central China. As to what the new regime may be remains to be seen. I was talking with one of our graduates this morning, and I told him that it would not be possible for us to move because there was no place to move to; we would carry on as long as we were allowed to operate the University as a Christian institution without any compromise on principles. None of the Chinese faculty, and very few of the western members of the faculty, are thinking of leaving Wuchang at all until they are forced to by circumstances. We keep our ear to the ground and decide what to do when we are actually confronted with a concrete situation.

At the present moment I have been urging our students, both men and women, to buy rice not only for this term for which they have practically enough, but also for the winter vacation and for the next term. It is quite possible that after the Chinese New Year the price of rice will shoot up again. Of course, it is difficult for many of the poor students to find the money at the present moment to store up rice. However, the Senate may approve my proposal to advance the equivalent of about US\$10 to every scholarship student for buying rice, which is to be used only during the second term, and in the meantime it will be stored in one of the college buildings for safekeeping. This, of course, involves a certain amount of risk, but it is a risk that we ought to accept. Just at the present moment the price of rice is more reasonable than it has been for the last six weeks, and it may drop even a little bit more, but it will never be normal until the situation is clarified.

Your letter of November 16 brought the good news about the eight American families still living and teaching on the campus of Cheloo in Tsinan. This news is confirmed by reports received from Shanghai where people have been in touch with the western workers of Cheloo remaining in Tsinan.

Your letter also brought the good news that you were able to get US\$65,000 from the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief designated for the China Colleges, and that US\$20,000 will be designated for Huachung. This will be more than enough to cover our deficit in the budget, but in a situation like this we must have an emergency fund, the size of which cannot be predicted, but US\$20,000 is a great help. Please convey our thanks to the Presiding Bishop and to those who were instrumental in appropriating this special grant for the Christian colleges, and particularly for us here.

I have not received the Minutes of the Huachung Committee of the United Board for Christian Colleges for China, meeting on October 28. I hope they will come in the next mail.

I quite understand that the problem of the Boone Library School will not be solved so easily. The school has not been doing very well because of the shortage of staff and also the shortage of funds. With the present situation it is, of course, of very little use to talk about any cooperation or amalgamation, but we ought to take every step necessary, so that when the situation warrants the reunion, we may be able to put it through without losing any more time.

Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 3.

November 23, 1948

As to my forecast of the situation, it is about the same as in my previous letters. I was talking with a group of men students during the last week, and they say that very few of the students would leave the University so long as the President is still here. I assured them that I had no place to go, and I had no intention of leaving. There is no question of the loyalty of the whole of the faculty and of all the students. In spite of the very disturbing circumstances, you do not see a single ripple on the surface of our calm and peaceful life.

With every good wish to you, your family, and friends at 281 and all over America, I am,

Yours affectionately,

*Francis*

FCMW/MRC

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA

November 30, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., USA

Dear Earl:

I received on November 26 your letter of November 19, and I was glad to know that my weekly letters had reached you in good time.

The financial situation, as far as we are concerned, is improved. Shortly after I had written you the letter for last week, we were able to do exchange with the Bank of China at that time at the rate of GY\$21-to-US\$1. According to the information we have received, the exchange rate has gone up in our favor. There are three rates at the present moment: first, the official rate of GY\$19.75-to-US\$1.; then there is the rate announced from day to day by the Central Bank, and it has been for two to three days at GY\$28.-to-US\$1.; then thirdly there is the rate for remittances by Overseas Chinese to China -- GY\$32.-to-US\$1. There is a cross rate of about 14%. The bank in Hankow and Wuchang have told me that for missionary remittances we may be exempted from the cross rate, but John Coe has not verified it yet by an actual transaction. He is hoping to do so very shortly.

Commodities in our part of the country, particularly in the Wuhan cities, are still priced in terms of the silver dollar, which has been for the last week around GY\$17-to-Silver \$1. According to our experience, the US dollar ought to be about 60% higher than the silver dollar, and therefore we ought to get about GY\$28.-to-US\$1; and if the rate should be higher in our favor, the American dollar would be really at a premium, which is what we have been trying to get.

This new exchange rate has helped both the faculty members in Huachung, either in drawing their salaries from the Treasurer's office, or from the Missions. Our problem now is in the prices, which are still high, but with the higher exchange rate we are much better off, although we do not get the money value as we did at the end of August. At that time a can of rice was just over US\$5., and now it is between US\$8-9. It is not likely prices will drop further until the situation should change very radically. But even with the present price level, our people are able to carry on without excessive hardship.

As far as the general situation is concerned, the fighting in the Hsueh sector is still uncertain. News that has reached us is conflicting. There are ever so many rumors, which we have to discount considerably. When we listen to the radio, we have to be sure what station we are hearing. When we put all the news together, we may form our own opinions about the real situation. People in Nanking according to some reports are panicky, but according to others they are calm. That is true in almost every situation. You have more war news and more reliable news in New York than perhaps we can get here, and so it is not necessary for me to go into details

Last Saturday, the 27th, Dr. P'u Huang and I went to Hankow to attend the monthly lunch of the principals of the Christian middle schools. We

0932

November 30, 1948

discussed the situation, and it was the general opinion that if the worst should come to the worst, we would have to carry on as far as we could, because we could not move any of the institutions; and we would carry on as far as we could only on the condition we would not compromise on Christian principles. From all that we have heard, there would be at least a period of tolerance, and during that period we may have to make up our minds as to what to do next. Again I say, and say boldly that when the worst comes to the worst, it may not be so bad for us in the Wuhan center.

We are expecting Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt to return from Hongkong very shortly. I am interested to know what they will feel about the situation after their visit in Hongkong. Hongkong is certainly a hotbed of rumors. In the November 26 issue of "The North China Daily News", which I happened to read in Hankow on the same day, there is an item of news with the headline, "Anti-foreign Feeling High in Hankow." Sir John Kinlock, manager of Butterfield & Swires in Hankow, showed me that paper and said how ridiculous it was, because nobody had ever heard of any anti-foreign feeling in the city. Neither had I heard anything about it. Some of the British people want to write to "The North China Daily News" to contradict it, because the news came from Hongkong. You may hear rumors of similar nature, and so unless you get it checked up, please do not believe it.

Aside from the Ward and Starratt families, the western members of our faculty and staff have made no plans for leaving China.

We have just got some relief flour from the government at half of the market price. Every member of the faculty and staff is entitled to half a bag, and every student to one-fifth of a bag. The flour came last night, and it turns out to be very good flour -- quite worth the money. We pay half price.

Yesterday afternoon I attended a meeting called by Bishop Tsang to consider the new financial arrangements for the diocese. This new arrangement is the result of the meeting of the Bishops in Shanghai. The main thing is that the rice subsidy in terms of rice is cancelled, and every worker paid by the mission receives the monthly salary according to the rate of exchange, so as to keep the budget within its financial limits. I have been put on practically all the committees by Bishop Tsang, and so I have to go to Hankow more often just to attend meetings called by the Bishop. I do not particularly like it, but in times like these with a new Bishop I ought to do everything possible to help.

Deaconess Clark is Bishop Tsang's personal secretary. If you should want more news from the Bishop's office, the best thing would be for you to drop a line to her, as well as to write to the Bishop himself.

It is very strange that people in Changsha are more nervous than we are here. The last report is that practically all the Americans are leaving Changsha, including Wallie Tyng and his wife.

Real winter weather has already set in, and I started my stove day before yesterday. The students and faculty are still very happy, and work is going on as usual.

All the new deeds for pieces of land, including that of the Chekiang Guild acquired since the end of the war in 1945, have now been registered with the government. As transfer tax, we pay only about GY\$6,600. altogether, which

Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 3.

November 30, 1948

John Coe considers to be extremely low. There was a chance for me to go to the Provincial Government and get that tax remitted, but our judgment was that it would be better to pay the tax than to get the government to remit it, and perhaps get us into trouble later. As soon as the deeds come back from the government office, we shall send them to you for safe keeping, keeping only the photographs here in the office. For the title deeds which are lost, we are going to have only certificates from the Land Bureau of the government, and that will establish our title. So long as we do not propose to sell our land, it is not necessary to get the title deeds replaced, which would be a very expensive business. If the Huachung Committee should have a different idea about this matter, please let me know as soon as possible.

With every good wish to you, your family, members of the Huachung Committee, and other friends.

Yours affectionately,

FRANCIS

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
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TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

CO-OPERATING UNITS  
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校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

December 7, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Earl:

This is my letter for this week, and I presume that you have received my previous letters in good time.

There is very little to report on developments during the last week since I wrote you a week ago. Alfred Starratt and Paul Ward returned from Hongkong on Wednesday, the 1st, after only nine-days' absence from Wuchang. They reported that their families were well satisfied in the Guest House in Hongkong through the good offices of Dr. Harth. The Guest House, of course, is very crowded, but each family has a room by itself.

We are paying our faculty and staff according to the rate of exchange, and as this is the best we can do, everybody feels happy and satisfied. The servants too are also getting their wages increased from month to month, approximately according to the rate of exchange. In times like these one of the essentials is to keep the servants well contented.

I received on Sunday evening a letter from Dr. McMullen, asking for information for the Fifty Friends of Christian Colleges in China to meet on December 17. I have just dictated a letter, which will go direct to Dr. McMullen in his office. A copy is enclosed herewith, and a copy is going to Dr. William P. Fehn in Shanghai at his request. I am sending a copy of this letter, as well as a copy of my letter, to Dr. McMullen, to Mr. Slater, and to Mr. Rattenbury for the London Missionary Society, the Methodist Missionary Society, and the China Christian Universities Association in London.

I wrote to Thayer Addison last week, and I said that if he should want to keep in touch with the developments here in Huachung, he might write to you and ask for a copy of my weekly letter to you. I presume that you are sending my weekly letter also to the Yale-in-China office in New Haven and to Dr. Ehlmann of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Philadelphia. I do not know who is in charge of the office of the Evangelical and United Brethren Mission. He may want also to have a copy of my weekly letter.

It was very unfortunate that all the Americans in Changsha except Dwight Rugh and Miss David left more than a week ago. They seemed to be very panicky. Now the Yali Union Middle School is very much upset because they have lost all their English teachers. Dr. P'u Huang, chairman of their Board of Directors, left last night to go to Changsha to attend an emergency meeting of the Directors today. He will be back in Wuchang tomorrow morning. I am sorry that there is no way of our helping the school in Changsha, but Dr. Huang will convey to the Yali teachers our sympathy and our concern over their welfare.

With best wishes,  
ENC.

Yours affectionately,

*Francis*

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

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YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT  
FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

December 7, 1948

Dr. Robert J. McMullen, Executive Secretary  
United Board for Christian Colleges in China  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York 11, N.Y., U.S.A.

[ Copy for the  
National Council &  
the Huachung Board ]  
of the United Board

My dear Dr. McMullen:

I received Sunday evening, December 5, your letter of November 26, 1948.

Before I answer your letter, let me just say how glad I am to know that in spite of all the difficulties and the discouraging news you get from China, more than one-half of the US\$500,000 you are trying to raise at the present time is already assured. I share your hope that it will be ultimately secured. Certainly it is a very marvellous testimonial under the present conditions.

You have raised some very difficult questions. Some of them can be answered offhand, as far as Huachung is concerned, but others require a prophet, and I am not one. But I will answer your questions in the order they are raised in your letter.

(1) The threat of Communism has not changed the attitude of the faculty towards the Christian purpose, content, and method of our educational work here. We are determined to carry on under any circumstances, so long as we do not have to compromise any definitely Christian, religious, and educational purposes in our University here. All my colleagues, both missionary and Chinese, share this conviction.

(2) The psychological atmosphere on our campus. Everybody says that the students are absurdly calm, and the faculty well-balanced in their judgment. It is difficult to report what the attitude of our Directors is because the Board as a whole has not met since June. As far as the whole campus is concerned, I may say that we are calm, determined, but watchful. We are prepared to accept what comes and do our best, standing however firmly on our Christian principles.

(3) So far only one woman student and two men students have left. The woman student left more than a month ago, and she went back to Chungking because her whole family left Hankow. The two men students who have left are Overseas Chinese from Singapore. They were very reluctant to leave, but they had to go because their fathers in Singapore said to them that either they leave China, or stop their studies entirely.

(4) By action of the Council of Advice of the Bishop of Hankow, two American wives with small babies have gone to Hongkong to wait for further developments in our part of the country. The husbands have already returned to continue with their teaching here after only nine-days' absence, to take their families to Hongkong.

0936

Dr. Robert J. McMullen, Executive Secretary -- 2. December 7, 1948

We have not made any preparation except for this ~~and for providing~~ (for those who will leave before the crisis comes and for those who are determined to remain) ~~two things~~:

- (a) To get enough rice.
- (b) To get silver dollars to tide over possibly a transition period of two months.

More than this it is difficult to decide what to do except quietly to get some of the younger members of the Chinese faculty and some students organized to patrol the campus and protect some of the buildings in case there should be any local commotion.

Now as to the second part of my statement dealing with the plans for the future:

(1) I have already said enough in the first part of this statement as to definite plans, because no plans can be really very definite.

(2) Whatever plans we have made are not based upon any understanding reached with any group of people outside of our community. It is hardly proper or wise to do so.

(3) Until the crisis comes, we do not know how to adjust our work to a new regime.

- (a) We would carry on our religious work as far as we are permitted, but if it is not permitted, we can still do it quietly, as we planned to do in 1926-27.
- (b) It was our policy in 1926-27 that we would continue our educational work only when we had the right to appoint our own faculty and choose our own students.
- (c) This part of your question is already answered in the previous paragraph.

(4) In case our program had to be discontinued and the institution closed for a period when Christian education could not be carried on any further, then

- (a) We would make plans to protect the buildings and equipment the best we could under the circumstances confronting us. There is very little use to make preparations now because we do not know what the situation will be.
- (b) Faculty. It is our idea to divide the faculty into three groups:
  - (1) The key people, who are only about one-quarter of the Chinese members of the faculty and staff whom we would want to maintain as long as there is the least bit of hope to revive the work after the closing by giving them whatever salaries and subsidies are possible.
  - (2) The second group which we would wish to have a lien on by paying them subsidies for at least two years. This would be another quarter of the Chinese members of the faculty and staff.
  - (3) The rest, about 40%-50%, mainly clerks and assistants, for whom we would meet only our contract obligations, and most of them have only one-year appointments until the end of next July.

(c) As to students. In the eventuality of our having to discontinue our work and close the institution, most of the students would probably be gone anyway, some to discontinue their studies, and others to transfer to other institutions in the safer parts of the country. Perhaps only a few may stay with us as long as possible, and we will carry on our teaching in a sort of guerrilla fashion.

0937

Mr. Robert J. McMullen, Executive Secretary — 3. December 7, 1948

After I have said all this, I want to reiterate our conviction, shared by a large number of our faculty, both missionary and Chinese, that if the worst should come to the worst, conditions in Central China may not be as bad as in North China or in East China, but he is a bold man who dares to prophesy more than threemonths ahead.

Since the beginning of November I have been writing every week to Earl Fowler a longish letter reporting on our conditions from week to week. It may help you to understand this letter if you should refer to the other letters I have sent to Earl Fowler for the Huachung Committee of the United Board. I have been very free in the expressions of my opinion during the last six or seven weeks, but the time may come when I shall have to restrain myself more-and-more.

You understand that all my weekly letters to Earl Fowler for the Huachung Committee, and particularly this statement, are entirely confidential, not to be quoted outside of the Huachung Committee and of the mission groups, and certainly not for publication.

I share the faith of all our friends meeting on December 17 in New York that we are in God's Hands, and as long as we are with God we have nothing to fear. There is more than one way of bearing our Christian Witness, and the Holy Spirit will direct our hearts and minds when the time comes. Let us all keep our ear to the ground in watching the general situation, but more important than that is to keep ourselves in tune with God's Will. These are difficult days, but they are great days. All is for God's Glory and the extension of His Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

President

FCM/MRC

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
Wuchang, China

December 14, 1948

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Earl:

This last week has been very uneventful, although it is full of anxieties. Just to give you an idea of how I spend my time, besides my duties in the office and my teaching, I spent a week ago Monday afternoon attending a faculty meeting, at which the faculty decided not to give permission to our own students to study in another institution as refugee students, but if anyone should wish to transfer to another college or university, we would give him or her a certificate of transfer as in usual times.

On last Tuesday there was a meeting of the Theological staff in the afternoon in the Starratt house, and we discussed mostly the Theological Bulletin in Chinese that we want to get out a first issue about the beginning of next year. On Wednesday the Theological staff met with all the Theological students, as they do every other week, to discuss some of the practical religious problems.\* Friday evening is the time when we have a large number of discussion groups in the different faculty houses. Because my time is so uncertain, I cannot have a group of my own, but recently different groups have been drafting me to answer questions. Last Friday I went to Richard Bien's house and discussed with his group the question of "What is Christian Faith," and whether religion is entirely subjective.

Saturday afternoon we had the monthly meeting with the principals of the Christian middle schools in the Wuhan Center. The thing that concerned the meeting most was whether schools should continue until the latter part of January or close earlier than usual. The general principle adopted was to carry on until January 15-20, unless there should be a government order to close earlier. So far we have received no such order yet.

Sunday I was free in the afternoon, and so I went to Hankow and called on some friends,-- incidentally to pick up some more news which we could not get otherwise. As a whole, the situation seems to be about the same. You may get the details in the American papers.

On Monday, yesterday, I went to a luncheon given by the Secretary-in-Chief of General Peh Tsung-hsi. The question was raised whether the colleges and universities in this center should not close before January 1. Wuhan University and Huachung University were not agreeable to such a suggestion, whereas the provincial colleges welcomed the idea of closing earlier because of shortage of food and funds. I had to leave the meeting early, after I had said what I wanted to say, leaving Dr. Shen Lai-ch'ieo of the Economics Department to take down the main points made by the other speakers. The upshot of the meeting was that the military headquarters would not accept any responsibility of having to take care of the students in this center if they did not get enough food; and if any teacher or

0939

December 14, 1948

student should be very apprehensive of the future, such people ought to leave the center earlier, while transportation remains normal. I came back to report that to the Senate meeting at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. Among other things, the Senate decided that we should carry on according to schedule, unless there should be an order from the Ministry of Education in Nanking or from the military headquarters to do otherwise. So far no order has been received, which means that we are free to do whatever we want at our own risk, and that means we simply carry out the action of the Senate meeting yesterday to have term examinations around January 10, and bring the term to a close on January 20.

I understand that Bishop Tsang called a meeting of the mission yesterday in his office. People simply expressed opinions, although no general decision was reached. However, everybody is anxious to stay, while watching the situation, but people with family responsibilities may go if the situation should become much worse.

The price of rice is going up because silver is going up everyday. We are fortunate in having gotten enough rice to meet an emergency when the price was still reasonable, and we are making other provisions as well, in case of any disturbance locally, which we do not expect at the present time. The morale remains good, and all phases of the work are normal.

I would like to report that through Mr. Slater's good offices, Paton & Baldwins Co. have established a chair in Huachung, now occupied by Dr. Richard Bien, with all the salary and rent paid by the company. A letter was just received Sunday evening from the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. in Shanghai that they are willing to maintain a chair of Chemistry, to be occupied by Dr. George Bien, paying full salary and rent. These two chairs really mean effective additional income to the University by about US\$2,500. per annum. It is ver remarkable that the British firms are willing to help us out to that extent in times like these.

I have not heard from Dr. McMullen yet about the US\$20,000, which you have been able to secure for Huachung from the Presiding Bishop's Fund. I hope there is no hitch in the matter.

With greetings for Christmas and the New Year, I remain,

Yours affectionately,

FRANCIS

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December 16, 1948

Dr. Francis Wei  
Huachung University  
Wuchang, Hupeh, China

Dear Dr. Wei:

This will acknowledge your weekly letter of December seventh and also all other weekly letters received todate.

We have made copies of these and sent them not only to those at 281 interested in news from China but also to Mr. Lyford, Dr. Sherman, Dr. McMullen, and the Yale-in-China Office.

Mr. Fowler is out of the City for a few days but I have sent on a copy of your December 7th report to him. We look forward to these excellent weekly letters and I am sure you know how grateful Mr. Fowler and all of us here at "281" are for them.

With every good wish for the Holiday Season, in which all in the Overseas Department join me.

Very sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Robert E. Holloway)  
Secretary to Mr. Fowler

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

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CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

December 16, 1948

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford  
54 Dana Place  
Englewood, N.J., U.S.A.

*Received 4 Dec 27*

My dear Mr. Lyford:

My mind naturally turns to you when Christmas is approaching, and I hope you are regaining your strength after some rest.

I have not been writing to you as I used to do in previous months because I do not want to burden you with all the routine matters concerning Huachung. But I trust that Earl Fowler is sending you copies of my weekly letters to him for the Huachung Committee. In his recent letters he says that he is getting my letters duplicated for members of the Committee, and so you must receive them regularly.

As to developments in China from day to day, you will get more and reliable news than we get here, but we are watching the situation all the time with anxiety, but not with paralyzing fear. The Senate has decided to carry on until the time for the term to end, i.e., on January 20. As you may have noted in my weekly letters, only five students so far have left on account of the situation and only two American mothers with small children, viz., Mrs. Paul Ward and Mrs. Alfred Starratt, have gone to Hongkong to stay in the Church Guest House there, waiting for further developments of the situation in China. The husbands have already returned to continue their teaching, and all the other American missionaries, as well as the British and Chinese members of the faculty, are carrying on as usual.

The students are wonderfully calm, in spite of all the disturbing news and all kinds of rumors besides. This morning I heard various things about Peiping and the fighting north of Nanking, but the Central News Agency in Hankow denies it all. I do not know what is true, but we have to wait for the newspapers to inform us.

No matter what happens, we know that we are in God's good hands. It is necessary in times like these for us to keep our ear close to the ground to follow the situation, but as I have often said, it is more important to keep ourselves in tune with God's Will in order to work for His Glory. Please do not worry for us. We know how to take care of ourselves, and danger always seems greater at a distance. We are prepared for almost anything.

With Christmas and New Year Greetings to you and your family, I remain your friend,

*Francis C. M. Wei*

FCMW/MRC

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私立華中大學  
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY  
WUCHANG, CHINA  
TEL. ADDRESS: "WUCHANG 8344"  
電報掛號：武昌八三四四

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校長 章卓民  
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS CHO MIN WEI, PH.D., D.C.L., L.H.D.

CHINA MISSION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

December 21, 1948

DEC 30 1948

J. EARL FOWLER

Mr. J. Earl Fowler  
281 Fourth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S.A.

*Copies  
distributed*

Dear Earl:

We have just had a visit from the new Director of the American Information Service in Hankow, Mr. Harry S. Hudson, who came with Mrs. Jenkins in charge of the American Information Service Library in the Consulate, and Mr. Thomas Chen. They looked over our library and our laboratories in the Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Departments, and were most favorably impressed by what they saw. They thought that we maintained very high standards here. When they learned that we had never had any student strike in Huachung, they were more than surprised. Certainly they are very optimistic about the general situation and seemed to share the opinion of many people that there may not be much trouble in this particular center.

Still we are watching the developments very carefully. Indications are that there may be a settlement of the national affairs very soon. Here on our campus we are busy preparing for Christmas. The festivities will begin this evening with the Sunday School pageant. We have about 200 children in our Sunday School, conducted by our Theological students and other students interested, under the direction of Dr. Edith Wai-king Taai.

On Christmas Eve we are going to have the singing of Handel's "Messiah" under the direction of Professor David Anderson, and Mrs. P. V. Taylor will be at the piano. About 50 people are going to sing.

Then on Christmas day we shall have the regular Christmas services in the Church of the Holy Nativity. Of course, there will be carolling by the students on Christmas Eve.

All classes are going on as usual, and visitors coming from outside would not know that there was fighting in the country and that people were so nervous in other parts of the country, if they just watched our students and talked to our faculty members here.

We have made practically every preparation necessary to meet any emergency, but of course, there may be things for which we cannot make any preparation. So far four more students have gone on account of the situation by order of their parents. Last week after I had mailed my last-week's letter to you, the principals of the Christian middle schools in the Wuhan Center had an emergency meeting and asked Dr. Huang P'u and me to be with them. After lengthy discussion it was decided to carry on all the Christian middle schools, according to schedule, and close for the winter vacation only after the middle of January. Our decision on Monday a week ago had a great deal of influence on the decision of the principals of the Christian middle schools.

0943

Mr. J. Earl Fowler -- 2.

December 21, 1948

I am just getting ready a letter to be sent to all the parents of our own students, saying that we are watching the situation, but everything is going on as usual on the Huachung campus, and that winter vacation will come on January 20; and unless the situation should become much worse, we shall reopen for the second term of February 14.

Bishop Tsang has had several meetings of different committees in the diocese, and while we advise that preparation should be made to meet any emergency, no one should feel stampeded and take a rush action.

As far as the fighting is concerned, you have all the news in the American papers. Prices in our center are steady. The value of the silver dollar is going up slowly everyday, and so is also the exchange rate for the American dollar.

While I am writing, I would like to know whether you have had anything from my son John in Yale. He has not written for over a month, whereas he used to write more frequently than that. He may be busy with his research, which is for his thesis. He has already passed his examinations in French and German, and also his General Examinations in two papers. The only thing now is he has to do for his Ph.D. is present a satisfactory thesis, but still has two terms of residence after this term. As long as he is able to hold his research assistantship, he will be all right financially. Probably he will stay on with his work in New Haven during the Christmas vacation.

We are expecting Bishop Bentley early in the spring, and there are ever so many things about which we would like to talk with him and get his opinion.

John Coe is going to send you all the deeds of the land we hold, in separate parcels, so as to play safe. He may ask you to take photographs of them and send copies back to us. It may be easier to get the photographing done in New York than in Wuchang. For the old title deeds that we lost during the war, we propose not to get new deeds from the government because of the tremendous cost, but just to get registration certificates, which ought to be enough unless we should wish to resell our land.

With greetings for Christmas and the New Year to you, your family, members of the Huachung Committee, and of the different missions cooperating in Huachung, as well as to other friends, I am,

Yours affectionately,

*Francis*

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學 大 中 華 立 私

HUA CHUNG (CENTRAL CHINA) COLLEGE

WUCHANG, CHINA

TEMPORARILY IN HSICHOW

VIA TALI, YUNNAN, CHINA

室 長 校

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CO-OPERATING UNITS

BOONE COLLEGE

GRIFFITH JOHN COLLEGE

HUPING COLLEGE

WESLEY COLLEGE

YALE-IN-CHINA COLLEGE

December 28, 1948.

Mr. James Earl Fowler,  
Associate Secretary, Huachung Committee,  
281 Fourth Avenue,  
New York 10, N.Y., U.S. A.

JAN 10 1949

J. EARL FOWLER

Dear Earl,

I hope you people in New York have had as good a Christmas as we have had here in spite of all the uncertainties in the country and in the world.

The singing of "Mes siah" by the University Choir under the direction of David Anderson on Christmas Eve was simply splendid. Everybody said that it was better than last year, but every year people would make the same remark, and it is true. On Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day there were the Church Services and festivities as usual. The sleet and then the heavy snow gave us a white Christmas, but the weather was not too cold and on Christmas Day the beautiful sunshine made the whole world look wonderful.

Classes resumed on Monday after Christmas. We had holidays only on Friday and Saturday by action of the Senate, and for the New Year we shall have only one and a half holidays on Saturday and Sunday. The term examinations will begin on January 7th and end on the 19th, with the winter vacation beginning on January 20th. It is not certain yet how many of the students will stay in the hostels during the vacation. Perhaps the number will be smaller than last year. If the situation should not become much worse we shall start the second term on February 14th. All the faculty and staff members and families will of course remain, travel being at present so difficult and expensive. I expect to do some reading during the vacation myself. I always look forward to such a period of quiet reading and thinking.

You will get all the news about China from the New York newspapers and perhaps get more reliable news. There are all sorts of rumours and one does not know what to believe until developments confirm some of them. Again I say we must keep our ears to the ground for news, but we must keep ourselves in tune with God's will to do the right thing under any circumstances. God still reigns and we have nothing to fear.

Everybody is well in the university community and we keep very busy and cheerful, hoping for the best though prepared for the worst.

With warm greetings for the season, I remain,

Yours affectionately,

*Francis*

P.S. I enclose a copy of my Sherman & its N.C. report to the Bishop of Hankow. T.C. W.L.

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