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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
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Soochow
Corres.

Sheretz, D.L. 1937-1944
Wasson, A.W. 1935-1936
Williams, M.O. 1933

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Shervetz, D.L.

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D. L. SHERERTZ
SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY
SOOCHOW, KIANGSU, CHINA

May 24th, 1937

Dear Folks, Friends, and All Interested in "Me and mine",

At the rate I've been going the past six months and seem likely to be going for the next six months, I fear I would never get any personal letters written; hence my resorting once more to this "Me and Mine" sheet.

It was indeed a happy month together last Christmas when the big boys came home for their winter vacation. They had left us for Kuling in less than a week after arriving from America, and how happy we were to have them back. Fortunately we all kept remarkably well while they were here.

It is a cause for deep thankfulness that I can report dear Grandma Park in what for her is good health. She teaches Walter Lambuth two hours a day, and two little Chinese boys a half hour each, so you can imagine she keeps busy. On Good Friday she had one of the deepest joys of her life, the pleasure of mailing out to her friends the Memoirs of her dear husband. To get them printed was one of the deepest desires of her life, and now they are where she wishes them, in the hands and hearts of his friends.

Rita has enjoyed remarkably good health, and without looking for work she manages to keep plenty busy. Besides the constant duties with the children and in running the home, she has greatly enjoyed her Missionary Society Circle, and had the pleasure of attending a number of the sessions of the Twentieth Anniversary of the China Conference W. M. S. which met here in Soochow around Easter. The biggest event ahead of Rita is her trip to Kuling the middle of June to see her biggest boy graduate from Kuling American School! She will leave him up on Kuling for the summer and bring Paul back home with her.

The year has been a rich one for Hector. He has enjoyed his school life and I think learned a good deal. One course in Chinese Culture and Civilization has interested him very much, and in connection with it he has made two trips, one to the pottery district, Ching Teh Ching, and the other to Nanchang, the capital of Kiangsi. His Scouting has been full of thrills - and real work for him. He became a Life Scout recently and hopes to qualify as an Eagle Scout by fall. He has kept decidedly busy, being a Councilor in his small school, president of his class, president of the Young People's Society, with considerable responsibility for the school Echo and annual, and just now is working on his valedictory speech. He plans to work on Kuling this summer and come home in September to do a year's work in courses given in English here in our University before starting off to America for college. Judging by his letters he remains the same lovable boy, bubbling over with fun, and responsive to the best that life brings to his notice. Of course, you must read these lines with a sack full of salt at hand, for you don't fail to see that it's his fond Dad who is giving him this writeup.

0556

However, this is one Dad in whose eyes and heart each of his children is an ever unfolding wonder, and maybe that makes me so much interested in all the children of all my friends.....Paul has also had a good year, especially good in health, and satisfactory in grades and development along a number of lines. He has grown a lot, added some merit badges in his Scouting, and played in the school orchestra, taking violin lessons this spring. His latest thrills come from his camera he got in Chicago, and he has learned a lot during the year about picture taking, having helped to get a Camera Club started. The School accepted a number of his pictures and paid him for them, thus helping to meet the expenses of his hobby. While in Soochow this summer he plans to take pictures of some of the beautiful Soochow gardens. He's getting the bug of color photography, but he'll have to wait a long while before he can get into that. He loves the mountains and all the fun he and his friends have up there.

Olive is growing taller rapidly, and Dad thinks prettier and sweeter all the time. She has been enthusiastic about her studies and her music this year, and added a lot of joy to the home by her keen interest in drawing, painting and making beautiful things—Valentines, May Baskets, Easter Bunnies (for a party she gave Margarita and her friends), knitting, and the like. She has entered heartily into the work of her Sunday School class. She's mighty nice to have around, and we have decided that we must have her near us for this coming year. She enters Shanghai American School in September for eighth grade work. She wants to do her high school work on Kuling, however.

Bus (Walter Lambuth) weighs ninety pounds as compared with fifty-four two years ago. He is practically free from asthma, and has had a wonderful year of real living this past year. He reads everything he picks up that interests him, is absorbed in electricity, is making a good start studying the piano, and is growing up in heart and mind rapidly. He joined the Church on Easter Sunday. He adds a lot of fun and joy to the family circle. He loves to sing, and finds family prayers especially interesting, often asking if we have time to 'sing No. so and so,' the song frequently proving one that has attracted him by its words.

Margarita is still our "Sugar Pie" and in spite of being quite big is called "Baby." She has kept well, and enjoyed her home and little friends, the campus, the maple tree, the students' swings and ladders, her Grandma, the cats, silkworms, Sunday School, the flowers, and many interesting things that happen on the campus, such as our recent Science Exhibition, (a miniature World Fair).

Lamar is kept going around and around, and I only hope the several things I try to do are of some real help in the total scheme of things. My general health is better than it was for several years, and I only wish I could be more equal to my many opportunities. My blessings have been and are beyond my power to describe or render adequate thanks for.

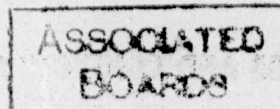
Sincerely,

Lamar

0557



SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY
SOOCHOW, KIANGSU, CHINA



May 29th, 1937

Dear Friend of Soochow University:

On behalf of our Publicity Committee I am sending you news of the University. Your name appears on our mailing list due to your active interest in the ongoing of the Cause of Christian Missions, and/or your personal interest in the lives and work of individuals connected with our institution. Constructive criticisms and suggestions as to how to make these pages of more interest to you and of more value to the Cause will be welcomed.

FEAR GIVES WAY TO COURAGE

Uncertainty, fear, and perturbation filled the atmosphere when my last news sheets started to you, due to the strained international situation. Certain hope, absence of fear, and the orderly pushing forward of a constructive program fill the air we breathe in this "unhappy" (for the Chinese) month of May. Of course, we cannot *know* the future, but there is abroad a feeling of determination to accomplish everything that we believe we can accomplish, with God's help, in making a stronger, happier China which can take her proper place among the members of the family of nations.

We passed our crisis on Christmas Day, when to anxiously awaiting ears came over the radio the electrifying news of the release of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Never have we Westerners seen our Chinese friends so wrought up over any national leader as they were over him and his welfare - from the receipt of the first news of his being detained in captivity in Sian. Such earnest prayers as those which went up in the special services held on the campus! And so it was all over China in Christian circles, we have since learned. And what went on in the General's heart and mind has since been given out to the world, first in Chinese and then in English. Where in a world seething with war preparations, pessimism, and fatalism can we find more wonderful evidence of the work of the indwelling Spirit of our Lord and Savior than in General Chiang's experiences as told on Good Friday to the members of the Central Conference of Eastern Asia of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in session in Nanking. The people of China undoubtedly have in the General a leader whom they believe will, with God's guidance, lead them out of their present difficulties, and to him they gladly give their heart's love and loyalty. How promising for the future it is that he has been trying for these past ten years to be an earnest, sincere follower of Jesus. And the part played in his life and in the life of the Chinese people today by his Christian wife is cause for the deepest rejoicing to those who look for the coming of God's Kingdom upon earth.

"UNHAPPY" MAY

A word of explanation as to why May is so "unhappy" to our Chinese friends is not out of place. "Mother's Day" this year fell on May 9th, but the committee planning the service at St. John's Church decided to postpone it one week, in order not to give any offense to non-Christians, who would not understand why flowers were being worn and special services held in the church beautifully decorated on a day when Chinese patriots feel like wearing heavy mourning, the anniversary of China's accepting Japan's Twenty-One Demands. It may interest friends abroad to know some of the items in a list of the "unhappy" anniversaries for our Chinese friends that come in the month of May. Here are some (translated at my request by a Chinese friend):

- May 3rd— Tsinan Incident in Shantung. Japanese attack on the Chinese Revolutionary Army resulted in the slaughter of Mr. Tsai, Chinese Commissioner in Shantung, and the death of many others.
- May 4th— Anniversary of the beginning of the nation-wide students' Movement, which grew out of the students' agitation, dissatisfaction over the "Shantung decision" of the Peace Conference in Paris. (1919)
- May 5th— Signing of the Peace agreement with Japan over the "Shanghai War." (1932)
- May 9th— After receiving an ultimatum from Japan on the 7th the Chinese Government complied with the Twenty-One Demands. (1915)
- May 30th— Anniversary of the "Shanghai Tragedy," when the English police force shot to death a number of Chinese students and common people. (1925)
- May 31st— Signing of T'ang Ku agreement terminating the Japanese invasion of North China (1932).

Thus May with all her flowers in this "*Middle Flowery Kingdom*" proves to be a very "unhappy" month! And yet the thing that heartens all friends of China is that out of these humiliations she has somehow gained strength to face her problems and work undauntedly towards solving them.

0558

"GOINGS AND COMINGS" ON SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS

In part realizing how busy you friends abroad keep, I shall bring this letter to a close by some comments on the "goings and comings" on our campus during the past six months.

President Yang started for America to help in the Bishops' Crusade in the first week of December, and got back to the campus on April 1st. Few of you there can realize what a difficult thing it was for him to step out of his office teeming with the responsibilities which rest upon the president of a government-registered institution with over a thousand students and teachers, at a time when any day might have brought a declaration of war between Japan and China. The disconcerting news of General Chiang's detention followed his ship as it made its way *away* from China to America. However, his going, his experiences while there, shared with us through letters, and his reports after his return, have heartened us Christian workers, Westerners and Chinese, in a most wonderful way. We feel, somehow, we have had a part in the Bishops' Crusade, *through him*, and that the inspirations he received from personal contacts with the bishops, pastors, men and women leaders, and the rank and file of the church members there in America, have become our inspirations also, and that from now on our work will be done increasingly in the spirit of oneness in aim and effort at bringing Christ's Kingdom into the hearts and daily lives of all God's children we can reach. The good news of the paying off of the debt of the Board of Missions - good as it is - would cheer us little, were it without the other news President Yang brought back to us, that of the constant emphasis on the spiritual revival and the widespread, ready response throughout the bounds of the church at home. In a meeting of the faculty Christian fellowship Dr. Yang laid especial stress on this phase, and it was with pleasure that we could share with him several bits of information as to trends and activities during his absence which promise much for the future of the Christian work in our midst, notably the launching of the "Y" organizations in both the Middle School and college, connecting up with the revived national Student work.

Other "goings" from our midst include the leaving on furlough as Miss Rolfe Whitlow and Miss Angie Lusinger in late January, and Miss Lelia Tuttle and Lucy Dyson (headed for college work at Oberlin) in June. "Comings" include the Nances on their return from furlough, Mrs. May Douglass Barker, mother of Miss Rosa May Butler, the Mangets (who leave Elizabeth and husband, Rev. J. P. Minter, and infant son, Fred Manget, as permanent residents of Soochow), and Dr. and Mrs. Frank S. Hickman, of Duke University. Mrs. Barker arrived just in time to hear her daughter and our own Miss Eva Huang delight the Soochow community with a program of piano and vocal solos of the highest order - on the occasion of our annual May Musicale.

DR. AND MRS. FRANK S. HICKMAN

Dr. and Mrs. Hickman arrived in Soochow on February 24th and left us yesterday. After some weeks in Japan they will make their way back through Siberia and Europe to America. Few people have ever come into our midst and made such a significant contribution in such a short time. Dr. Hickman, besides giving two courses in the college, has preached twice at our fortnightly English services and given four informal lectures to all who cared to attend, both Westerners and Chinese, on the general theme - "THE OLD FAITH IN A NEW THOUGHT WORLD," considering, in order, "Conversations About God," "What Think Ye of Christ - Whose Son Is He?" "A New Man in Christ Jesus," and "Does Prayer Change Things?" These messages have proved of great help to the many who have heard them. Dr. Hickman spoke to our Soochow District Conference, and in many informal gatherings has shared with us all many things from his rich experience in the ministry and classroom in America. We wish we could keep them longer; we are grateful for their coming; and hope they will come to us again.

STUDENTS LEAVE FOR MILITARY TRAINING

Other goings from our midst include ninety-six middle (high) school students for three months of required military training at Chinkiang, the provincial capital. They left on the first of May. On June 1st around a hundred college freshmen leave us for two months of intensive training.

THANKSGIVING

Let me close this letter with a note of thanksgiving. Rather, I would like to say that THANKSGIVING seems to have come to be the theme of our lives in the months that have passed since I last wrote, - thanksgiving for God's deliverance of the China we love from the constant threat of war during last fall, thanksgiving for the Christian leader He has raised up for this people, thanksgiving for the Bishops' Crusade and the part we have been privileged to have in it, and most of all, thanksgiving for our Living Lord of Life and Love who is leading His followers on in His eternal conquest.

Soochow University Publicity Committee

per D. L. Sherertz

0559

"Home", 514 Jackson Street, Durham, N. C., Dec. 18, 1943

Dear Friend of "Me and Mine",

How I wish I might have the privilege of sitting just in front of you while saying these things right out of my heart! That you might see as well as hear the THANKFULNESS that fills me to overflowing. That you might - along with me and thousands of others - sense the tremendous reality contained in the last few words of Acts 10:38, where Peter looking back over the miraculous life of Jesus says with utter conviction, '...for God was with Him'. That you might really know what stands out in my mind and heart - NOT the inconveniences, unhappy moments, and even what might be called sufferings - BUT the miracles wrought by God's unfailing grace, the way He has kept every one of His promises to me, how for me He has met every need. (Do you recall the farewell card I sent you twenty-six years ago with Philippians 4:19 on it? - "And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.")

I believe firmly that such an opportunity will come, but for the present the Board's doctor has ordered me to "rest" for three months (meaning specifically, not to speak in public, get into any full-time work, or visit beyond the inner circle), so I shall have to content myself with a brief news letter. It will have to be sketchy, but the details can be put in later on.

After much thought and earnest prayer, and with my dear Rita's brave blessing, I turned my face back to the work so very truly my 'mission' since 1918. Arriving in Shanghai on April 8, 1941 - five months and five days after leaving there with the frail grandmother, the wife, and the three younger children - I did all I could to take up my work where I had left off. My teaching continued right up to Pearl Harbor - and for another seven months - much the same as it had been for all the years, with the significant difference that all the students seemed very much more determined to make better use of their time, and the fellow teachers seemed sustained by a zeal and a spiritual strength which was in inverse ratio to the thin gruel and limited diet on which they were forced to live. I was asked to take over from Mrs. Idabelle Lewis Main the editorship of The China Christian Advocate, she returning to the States. The brief time I had in that work proved a blessing to me. A month spent on Mokanshan made possible a new start on the work of relief in that terribly burnt-over section. Pearl Harbor kept certain moneys contributed by the American Advisory Committee (for the Red Cross) from reaching some of the neediest families ever brought to my attention during China's tribulation. There on Mokanshan I awaited the telegram which would direct me to FREE CHINA, to work in one of the Christian Universities there OR to return to Shanghai. Since the personnel committee could not agree, two of my seniors in the work through the years urged me to return to Shanghai where Soochow University had 1950 students in its several departments - Arts, Sciences, Law, and Middle School (Junior and Senior), -- with ONLY ONE missionary under the Board of Missions on hand to help. Of course I returned to Shanghai, and kept right at my work until in June, 1942 we graduated 66 from the Senior High School, and around 40 from the Junior High School. During the year I had certain contacts with the college students, even after the University had officially wound up its existence in Occupied China. And during all my time in Shanghai I had the most wonderful fellowship with the teachers who had come to be real brothers and sisters to me. Any problems I may have had seemed so small and inconsequential compared to theirs, that I felt as never before in my life that I was indeed something approaching my ideals of being a 'missionary'. In certain ways and at certain times I was able to be of some timely help to them, chiefly in the matter of helping them to keep up their own morale. They seemed to love me with a

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0561

And then the sad, sad day came - when conditions completely beyond my control said that no longer could I teach my Sunday School class, nor could I work alongside the comrades of nearly twenty-five years in the school. There was an interval of thirty-three days during which I was held as a "prisoner" although I have not yet learned of any charge brought against me. There followed three months of comparative freedom of movement before the internment, which covered seven months and four days. During the three months' period I was privileged to help in a worthy work of great potential usefulness to the China of the future. It had to do with the determined efforts of Christian workers to make further frontal attacks on illiteracy throughout China. My small part had to do with the recording of sounds in the symbols of the International Phonetic Association (a hobby of mine growing out of my use of phonetics in my teaching of English to Junior and Senior High School boys and girls). Believe it or not, I did my work behind closed doors that flew the Swastika flag. (Details at some later, safer time.)

The nearness of the Christmas Season brings to my mind the marvelous activity of Community Church there in Shanghai just a year ago. On Bible Sunday the collection for the spread of the Bible was the largest ever received for any cause in that church, I was told. The Fellowship Dinner of the International Friendship Group was one of the most successful get-togethers ever held in the church. The fact that the Chinese congregation of Moore Memorial Church met in the Community Church for two months seemed to bring Christians closer together. There was a glow of reality and added meaningfulness in Church School classes, Sunday and week-day services. A group from the church sang carols to the pre-internees at SAS.

Internment camp experiences varied greatly in the different camps. My one - Pootung Civil Assembly Center - was located in the buildings of the British American Tobacco Company in Pootung, across the Whangpoo River from the Bund, Shanghai. There 1088 men - over 600 British, over 400 American, and around 30 Dutch lived together for around seven months, doing their own work, cooking their own food, conquering their own fears and sorrows. Religious services - Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish - were held regularly. A sports field was made from untold thousands of broken bricks and a full program of sports carried on. Men singly and in groups made gardens. Teachers - professional and non-professional-volunteers conducted around 150 classes. 30 men studied art and gave an exhibit. Shakespeare's plays were given; concerts, lectures, entertainments were held. ---- And then on September 19th many of us started for our homes in America. ---- And here one of them is greeting his kin and friends after a 33-months' absence.

May God's blessings continue with us all.

As ever,

Lamar
(D. L. Sherertz)

0562

File

January 4, 1945.

Prof. D. L. Sherertz
514 Jackson Street
Durham, North Carolina.

Dear Professor Sherertz:

A copy of your mimeographed letter has come to this office and I have found it very interesting. I trust you will send us copies of any future letters that you may circulate. We are anxious to keep informed about Soochow University developments.

I note your interest in the International Phonetic Association. We have been urged by various persons to take an interest in basic English, and it has been suggested that we should arrange for Dr. I. Richards who is now at Harvard to address a meeting of the Associated Boards sometime in the future. I wonder if you have any ideas about the value of basic English in our schools in China; if so, I should be glad if you will share them with us. There is so much propaganda behind the movement for basic English that it is difficult to get an objective valuation of its importance.

We hope that you will get a good rest before you undertake any important work. Whenever you happen to be in New York City I trust you will drop in at the office of the Associated Boards.

With very kind regards

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

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514 Jackson Street

Durham, N. C.

January 26, 1944

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Dear Mr. Corbett,

Your letter of January 4 assuring me of your continuing interest in Soochow University came promptly, and was appreciated. Certain it is that our School's ongoing has been made possible by the hearty, generous co-operation of the group there in your office.

You ask if I have 'any ideas about the value of Basic English in our schools in China.' I do, decidedly, and in time shall be glad to share them with you. I fear the general trend of them will be a 'minority report' against the wisdom of substituting the work of their group for the present program evolved in our peculiar bi-lingual situation there in China. .. It may prove that I am merely one more conservative, and hence I do not wish to be quoted in this matter, nor discuss it in writing. So, if and when I can drop in your office, I shall be glad to answer such questions as you may see fit to ask, and point out my experiences to date with Basic.

There should be quite a group of persons from China whose time has been given largely to English in the beginning period, now in or near New York City. Certainly a critical evaluation of Basic and sharing of ideas would be in order.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,
D. C. Sharitz

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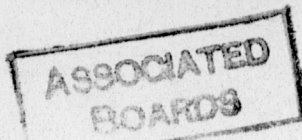
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Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY
DOCTORS' BUILDING

Nashville, Tennessee

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A. W. WASSON, SECRETARY



March 30, 1935

cc'd 4/6

Dr. B. A. Garside,
Executive Secretary,
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Garside:

On account of the long distance we frequently find it impracticable for anyone from the Board rooms here in Nashville to attend the meeting of the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China held in New York.

At present Mr. M. O. Williams, professor in Soochow University, is taking some work at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Dr. Y. C. Yang, President of Soochow University, has suggested that it would be well for Prof. Williams to be invited to attend meetings of the Committee which occur while he is in New York. I heartily approve of this suggestion.

I trust hereafter when you send me notices of the meetings, you will also write Prof. Williams. His address is - 323 McGiffert Hall, 99 Claremont Avenue, N. Y. Prof. Williams will be in New York until January, 1936.

Sincerely,

A. W. Wasson
A. W. Wasson
Foreign Secretary

W:B

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Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

W. O. LEAHY, Secretary
1000 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

FORWARDING
GENERAL INVESTIGATION
A. W. WARRON, Secretary

April 2, 1935

Dear Mr. Leahy:
Enclosed herewith for the Department of Higher Education are two copies of the report of the Board of Christian Colleges in China, Inc., for the year 1934-1935. The report is available for reference in the Department of Higher Education, New York, N. Y.

Very truly yours,
W. O. Leahy, Secretary

Enclosed herewith for the Department of Higher Education are two copies of the report of the Board of Christian Colleges in China, Inc., for the year 1934-1935. The report is available for reference in the Department of Higher Education, New York, N. Y.

I trust that you will find the report of interest. You will also wish to see the report of the Board of Christian Colleges in China, Inc., for the year 1933-1934. The report is available for reference in the Department of Higher Education, New York, N. Y.

W. O. Leahy, Secretary

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

April 6, 1935

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Dr. A. W. Wasson
Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Doctors Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Wasson:

Thank you for your letter of March 30th suggesting that we call on Professor M. O. Williams to represent Soochow University at meetings of our Associated Boards and of its various committees.

We will be very happy indeed to follow out these suggestions for we have always regretted that Soochow has been without definite representation at so many of our meetings. Professor Williams has been present at some of our gatherings during recent months, and it has already occurred to me that it would be a fine thing if he could be present at all of our meetings as a definite representative of Soochow.

I am today writing Professor Williams, notifying him of some of the meetings we will be holding during the next few months and asking him to plan to attend whenever he can arrange to do so.

Is there any possibility that you yourself can come to New York for the Annual Meetings of our Associated Boards on May 14th and 15th? We always are happy when Miss Mackinnon is able to come up from Nashville for the Ginning and Associated Boards meetings. But we would be glad to have you with us also if you can arrange to come.

Very cordially yours.

B A GARSIDE

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

June 18, 1935

Dr. A. W. Nasson
Board of Foreign Missions
Methodist Episcopal Board South
Doctors' Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Nasson:

I am very sorry that we did not have the privilege of seeing you at the Annual Meeting of our Associated Boards last month. I had hoped to have an opportunity at that time to talk over with you various Soochow matters. We were glad to have Miss MacKinnon with us but I am afraid that the very brief talks I had with her dealt with Ginling and Nanking affairs and that we did not have an opportunity to discuss Soochow matters.

When the 1934-35 promotional budget of the Associated Boards was worked out during the autumn of last year, it was agreed that the Boards of Trustees of each of the participating colleges should be asked to underwrite pro rata shares of a part of the budget, and that we would try to meet the balance through the application of undesignated gifts. It was hoped that we might possibly be able to secure an adequate amount of undesignated gifts during the year to cover the entire promotional budget though we all realized that this would be extremely difficult in the first year of our promotional work not only because of the unusually severe economic crisis but also because nearly all of our united promotional efforts were necessarily devoted to the establishment of new contacts and the winning of new friends who were not already giving to one or more of the individual colleges.

Necessarily, our expenditures during this first year of active promotional work have been quite heavy. And since much of our efforts during the earlier months of the year had to be given to planning and organization, actual contributions did not begin to come in until the year was well under way. While the amount of undesignated gifts applicable to this year's budget has been increasing steadily during recent months, it now seems obvious that the total of such gifts this year will not be enough to meet our entire budget and that we will therefore have to ask each of the participating Boards of Trustees to make available the amounts they were requested to underwrite.

The amount Soochow has been asked to underwrite in the 1934-35

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June 18, 1935

budget is \$430.21. This is a figure worked out by the sub-committee on Promotional Personnel and Budget in accordance with the instructions of the Associated Boards. Since there have been some changes in our channels of communication during recent months, and I have not received such recent information as to the activities of your group responsible for the home base administration of Soochow, I do not know whether any definite action has yet been taken on this request for a share in these promotional expenses. I hope, however, that if final action has not yet been taken it will be possible for you to secure such action in the fairly near future.

We would be grateful if at the same time your group would also consider the request of the Associated Boards for a similar underwriting of a substantially smaller share in the promotional budget for 1935-36. The figure tentatively agreed upon as Soochow's share for 1935-36 has been set at \$326.09, though this is subject to minor adjustments by the committee appointed to make a careful study of these apportionments. In order to avoid indefinite delays in securing action from the participating Boards, we have requested each of the Boards to take action on these figures as tentatively proposed, giving authorization to the proper officer or other members of each group to make minor adjustments in these figures later if necessary.

I believe you have received the minutes of the various meetings held during the past year at which all these matters have been discussed and decisions have been reached, so you will be familiar with the why and wherefore of these requests. Miss MacKinnon can furnish first-hand information as to our discussions at the last Annual Meeting.

We must secure a meeting of our Executive Committee within the next ten days to reach some important decisions as to our plans and programs for the coming year. We would greatly appreciate it if we could have some word from you by the first of next week, so that we could report to the Executive Committee accordingly.

With sincere regrets that it is necessary to deal with these matters by long range correspondence and in the hope that we may have the privilege of meeting you in the very near future, I am

Very cordially yours

B A GARSIDE

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

June 18, 1935

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Dr. A. W. Nasson
Board of Foreign Missions
Methodist Episcopal Board South,
Doctors' Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Nasson:

I am very sorry that we did not have the privilege of seeing you at the annual Meeting of our Associated Boards last month. I had hoped to have an opportunity at that time to talk over with you various Soochow matters. We were glad to have Miss Mackinnon with us but I am afraid that the very brief talks I had with her dealt with Ginning and Nanking affairs and that we did not have an opportunity to discuss Soochow matters.

When the 1934-35 promotional budget of the Associated Boards was worked out during the autumn of last year, it was agreed that the Boards of Trustees of each of the participating colleges should be asked to underwrite pro rata shares of a part of the budget, and that we would try to meet the balance through the application of undesignated gifts. It was hoped that we might possibly be able to secure an adequate amount of undesignated gifts during the year to cover the entire promotional budget though we all realized that this would be extremely difficult in the first year of our promotional work not only because of the unusually severe economic crisis but also because nearly all of our united promotional efforts were necessarily devoted to the establishment of new contacts and the winning of new friends who were not already giving to one or more of the individual colleges.

Necessarily, our expenditures during this first year of active promotional work have been quite heavy. And since much of our efforts during the earlier months of the year had to be given to planning and organization, actual contributions did not begin to come in until the year was well under way. While the amount of undesignated gifts applicable to this year's budget has been increasing steadily during recent months, it now seems obvious that the total of such gifts this year will not be enough to meet our entire budget and that we will therefore have to ask each of the participating Boards of Trustees to make available the amounts they were requested to underwrite.

The amount Soochow has been asked to underwrite in the 1934-35

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June 18, 1935

budget is \$430.21. This is a figure worked out by the sub-committee on Promotional Personnel and Budget in accordance with the instructions of the Associated Boards. Since there have been some changes in our channels of communication during recent months, and I have not received much recent information as to the activities of your group responsible for the home base administration of Soochow, I do not know whether any definite action has yet been taken on this request for a share in these promotional expenses. I hope, however, that if final action has not yet been taken it will be possible for you to secure such action in the fairly near future.

We would be grateful if at the same time your group would also consider the request of the Associated Boards for a similar underwriting of a substantially smaller share in the promotional budget for 1935-36. The figure tentatively agreed upon as Soochow's share for 1935-36 has been set at \$326.09, though this is subject to minor adjustments by the committee appointed to make a careful study of these apportionments. In order to avoid indefinite delays in securing action from the participating Boards, we have requested each of the Boards to take action on these figures as tentatively proposed, giving authorization to the proper officer or other members of each group to make minor adjustments in these figures later if necessary.

I believe you have received the minutes of the various meetings held during the past year at which all these matters have been discussed and decisions have been reached, so you will be familiar with the why and wherefore of these requests. Miss Mackinnon can furnish first-hand information as to our discussions at the last Annual Meeting.

We must secure a meeting of our Executive Committee within the next ten days to reach some important decisions as to our plans and programs for the coming year. We would greatly appreciate it if we could have some word from you by the first of next week, so that we could report to the Executive Committee accordingly.

With sincere regrets that it is necessary to deal with these matters by long range correspondence and in the hope that we may have the privilege of meeting you in the very near future, I am

Very cordially yours

B A GARSIDE

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

August 12, 1935

Dr. A. W. Wasson
Board of Foreign Missions, Methodist Church South
Doctors' Building
Nashville, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Wasson:

We constantly have inquiries for the catalogs of each of the universities and colleges participating in the Associated Boards.

We do not have a supply of Soochow catalogs, and would be very grateful if you could assist us in obtaining such a supply. We need between forty and fifty catalogs each year to meet the requests which come to us from interested individuals and organizations whose good will is worth cultivating. We recognize the handicap all of our colleges have in preparing adequate informational material in English, since their major publications are usually issued in Chinese. But on the other hand, the dissemination of information within our North American constituency is too important a matter to be overlooked.

Very cordially yours,

B A CARSIDE

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Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY
DOCTORS' BUILDING

Nashville, Tennessee

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A. W. WASSON, SECRETARY



August 27, 1935

Dr. B. A. Garside, Executive Secretary,
Associated Boards or Christian Colleges
in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Garside:

I have before me your letter of August 12th
which awaited me upon my return to my office after a
two weeks' absence.

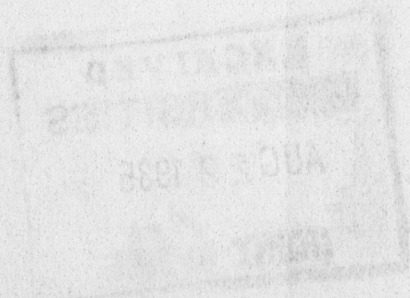
I have forwarded to Soochow University your re-
quest for a supply of catalogues. I trust they will be
received in due time.

Sincerely,

A. W. Wasson

A. W. Wasson
Foreign Secretary

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Board of Trustees
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. O. CRAW, Secretary

Trustees Building

Foreign Missions
General Work
A. H. WASSON, Secretary

August 27, 1935

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Rev. A. G. ...
Associated Board of Christian Colleges
in the ...

150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. ...

I have before me your letter of August 15th
which invited me to attend to the ...
the ...

I am pleased to ...
...
... in the ...

Sincerely,

A. W. Wasson

A. H. WASSON
Secretary

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ASSOCIATED
Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY
DOCTORS' BUILDING

Nashville, Tennessee

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A. W. WASSON, SECRETARY

September 10, 1935

ack 12/3/35

Dr. B. A. Garside, Executive Secretary,
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Garside:

As a new secretary I have found some difficulty in gaining an understanding of the obligation of my Board to the promotional budget of the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China.

As you know, Dr. Y C. Yang, President of Soochow University, had planned to come to the United States this summer. I intended to talk the matter over with him while he was in the States. However, he got as far as Hawaii and then returned to China on account of the death of his mother.

The matter is still not clear in my mind. In your letter of June 18th you state that Soochow University was asked to underwrite the promotional budget to the amount of \$430.21 for 1934-35 and for 1935-36 to the amount of \$326.09. Unfortunately this request came to me too late for consideration at the annual meeting of our Board, which made the appropriations for the year 1936. There is, therefore, nothing in our budget for this purpose. I have taken the matter up with Soochow University. In the meantime, you will please hold for Soochow's part of the promotional budget the amounts designated for Soochow University received from the promotional efforts of the Associated Boards.

Sincerely,

A. W. Wasson
A. W. Wasson
Foreign Secretary

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September 10, 1935

Handwritten notes:
Sept 10/35

Mr. E. A. Carls, Executive Secretary,
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Carls:

As a new secretary, I have found some difficulty in getting
an understanding of the obligation of my Board to the national
board of the associated boards for Christian Colleges in China.

I have read the report of the Board for the year 1934-35 and
had planned to come to the United States this summer. I intended to
talk the matter over with him while he was in the States. However,
he got as far as Hawaii and then returned to China on account of the
death of his mother.

The matter is still not clear in my mind. Is your letter of
the 10th of June to the Board of the United States University and
the national board for the amount of \$250.00 for 1934-35 and
1935-36 to the amount of \$250.00. Unfortunately the report was
not late for consideration at the annual meeting of our board, which
was the 15th of June for the year 1935. There is a possibility
in our budget for this purpose. I have taken the matter up with
University. In the meantime, you will please hold for Boston's part
of the national board the amount designated for Boston University
received from the national board of the associated boards.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature:
E. A. Carls
Executive Secretary

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

December 3, 1935

Dr. A. W. Wasson
Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Doctors' Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Wasson:

I have repeatedly delayed acknowledgment of your letter of September 10th because I hoped that we would have an opportunity to see you here in New York. Sorry I missed you at the Weigle conference in Newark.

We are all very keenly disappointed that President Yang has not been able to come to America as he had planned. Is there any possibility that he may decide to come a little later this year, or early next year? There are many points at which his presence would be of great assistance, not only to the interests of Soochow University but also to the advancement of our educational program in East China and throughout the whole country.

In the last paragraph of your letter you state that the relationship of Soochow University to the Associated Boards is not very clear. I can well appreciate your haziness on the subject, for back of our last letter to you lies more than a decade of discussion and progress along a wide variety of lines. We know that it has been difficult for our friends in Nashville to keep in touch with all that is going on, for your attendance at meetings is necessarily infrequent, and it is never possible to keep fully in touch with progress through minutes and communications alone, even if one has the time and patience to go through such material with great care.

I will therefore take the liberty of summarizing below just what our Associated Boards is trying to do, how it is seeking to serve each of the Colleges, and what assistance it is asking from each of the participating institutions. We would be grateful if you would raise any questions that may occur to you, and give us the benefit of your suggestions and criticisms. We would also appreciate your taking the lead in bringing these matters before the groups responsible for the home base administration and program of Soochow University, and for seeing to it that definite decisions are reached. It is most unsatisfactory for everyone when matters requiring definite decisions are allowed to drift on interminably without any action being taken.

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General Organization of our China Colleges

In general, our Christian universities and colleges in China have developed about as follows:- First, one or more Mission Boards working in a given area in China undertake to develop and support a higher educational institution. Second, the Board or Boards set up a Board of Trustees to which they delegate most or all of their responsibilities for carrying on the work of the institution. This Board of Trustees usually secures legal incorporation and becomes a recognized body responsible for the institution under its charge. Third, the Board of Trustees delegates to the Board of Directors in China, and through the Directors to the administrative officers, such duties and responsibilities as will best facilitate the actual work of the institution.

Under the gradual shifting of authority to the groups in China which has been going on during the past decade, our American Boards of Trustees no longer have direct responsibility for many details of policy and administration. But I believe that in all of our colleges the field still looks to the Trustees to perform two important functions:- (1) To provide the largest possible amount of support for the work of the institution. (2) To have at least a general and advisory influence in determining the policies of the institution.

It is to assist the individual Boards of Trustees to perform these two functions that the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China has come into existence. As you know, the Associated Boards has grown out of the desire of the individual Boards of Trustees that they have the benefits of mutual cooperation, and that they avoid the tremendous waste both in service and in funds which would be inevitable if each Board of Trustees tried to perform its functions independently. Therefore, the Associated Boards tries to represent both the interests of individual institutions and the larger interests of the whole program of Christian higher education in China.

It is perhaps an inevitable characteristic of the initial stage of cooperation that some of our Colleges have gone into this united organization more promptly and more heartily than have others. We are today at a stage where the majority of our China Colleges are participating in the Associated Boards whole-heartedly, a few less active in their participation, and one or two have not as yet formally entered the group.

The functions performed by the Associated Boards may be grouped under three heads:-

(1) Administrative services performed for the individual colleges.

For the last twelve years the Associated Boards (and its predecessor, the China Union Universities) has been taking care of most of the secretarial and financial work of the various Boards of Trustees. We carry on all necessary correspondence, receive, disburse and invest funds, and carry on a variety of administrative functions for the various Boards of Trustees. At present we are doing most or all of this work for Cheeloo, Fukien, Lingnan, Nanking, West China, Yenching, Yenching College for Women and the Princeton-Yenching Foundation. This work is done on actual cost basis and each University pays us from its general funds the net cost of the services it receives.

(2) General administrative services for the entire group of colleges.

In addition to the work we do for the individual institutions, there is a large amount of work done for the group of colleges as a whole. This includes arrangements for meetings of the Associated Boards and its various committees, minutes and correspondence growing out of such meetings, correspondence with the Council of Higher

Dr. Wasson

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Education in Shanghai and the British United Committee in London, correspondence with trustees and authorities of the universities for which we are not performing special administrative services, and receipt and disbursement of funds for the group of colleges as a whole. Each of the eleven universities and colleges participating in the Associated Boards is asked each year to bear its pro rata share of the actual cost of these general services, totalling about \$2,500 per year. We use as a basis of pro rating this cost the amount of annual income each university or college receives from North American sources.

(3) Promotional work for the individual colleges and for the group as a whole. Active promotional work has been carried on by the Associated Boards for a little less than a year, although preceding that time we spent about two years in preparation and planning for our united promotional efforts. The needs of each individual university or college which the Associated Boards seeks to meet have been determined first by special committees of the Associated Boards and then by the group as a whole. We have used as a basis the Correlated Program for Christian Higher Education in China, and have selected within this Program only those needs which are considered to be most urgent and most indispensable to the advancement of a unified program of Christian higher education. We have not included within our list of askings all the recognized needs of any one institution, and in the case of several institutions no items at all have as yet been included in our approved lists. We hope that as soon as our promotional organization has begun to function efficiently the cost of this promotional work can be met from undesignated gifts we receive, and will not have to be a charge on the individual institutions. But for the year 1934-35 and for the year 1935-36, each of the Boards of Trustees have been asked to underwrite a share of the promotional budget. This has been necessary both to provide us with working capital during the course of the year, and also to guard against a deficit if undesignated gifts are not adequate to cover our promotional expenses.

Relation of Soochow Trustees to this United Organization

The relationship of the Soochow group to this united organization has been a somewhat special one. I believe that practically all of the home base responsibilities for Soochow have been discharged by your Southern Methodist Board of Foreign Missions and that the members of the Soochow Board of Trustees have therefore not had an opportunity to develop the same amount of interest and activity as have some of the other boards. Also, nearly all of your members live at a distance from New York where most of the meetings of our Associated Boards are held, so active participation is difficult.

But the Associated Boards is anxious that the participation of our Soochow Trustees be as active as possible. You are represented on all committees as well as the united group itself, and we try to keep you informed of all we are doing and planning. We hope you will attend meetings wherever possible, and that when you cannot be present in person you will send us your comments and recommendations on the matters under discussion.

How the Associated Boards can Assist Soochow

There are some definite ways in which the Associated Boards should be able to advance the interests of Soochow University.

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Dr. Wasson

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First, we are all keenly interested in the advancement of closer cooperation in the Shanghai area. Of the four institutions in the area, Soochow has consistently maintained an attitude of cooperation, and has shown a willingness to make any reasonable adjustment in its program in the interests of a larger unity. Delays have come about almost wholly as the result of a less cooperative attitude on the part of some of the other institutions. Both the Associated Boards here in New York and the Council of Higher Education in Shanghai are doing all in their power to hasten the solution of these problems of cooperation in East China, for until these are solved no one of these four universities will be able to make its largest contribution, or to seek the support to which it is entitled.

Second, the Associated Boards stands ready to help the group of institutions in the Shanghai area secure funds for any objectives which would hasten the realization of effective cooperation. For instance, it has shown a responsive attitude toward a recent proposal from China which would mark an important first step in this direction, and is now awaiting approval by the boards of trustees of the institutions concerned before it can take any more definite action.

Third, the Associated Boards is ready to assist Soochow University with all promotional objectives which have been recognized as in line with the Correlated Program and with the ideal of closer cooperation in East China. The first action ever taken by the Associated Boards endorsing any financial objective of any of the Colleges was that a proving Soochow University's proposed appeal for funds for the School of Comparative Law. We have been planning to assist President Yang in any way we may be able whenever he comes to America. We are always glad to render any other assistance we can within these limits.

Up to the present we have been engaged largely in formulating plans and policies, in creating an organization and getting it into effective operation. We believe that this comparatively non-productive period is now completed, and that in future we can render much more effective service to the China Colleges both individually and as a group.

What Assistance the Associated Boards Needs from the Soochow Trustees

There are equally definite ways in which the Associated Boards needs the assistance of the Soochow Trustees.

First, is your assistance in formulating plans and policies, in carrying on our work. This, as I have mentioned above, involves having the Soochow Trustees attend meetings of the Associated Boards and its various committees when possible, and having them keep in touch with us by correspondence wherever personal attendance is not practicable.

Second, is your assistance in meeting your pro rata share of the expenses essential to carrying on the work of our Associated Boards. The budget of our Associated Boards is divided into two sections, administrative and promotion.

About 90% of our administrative budget is supplied by the Colleges for which we are carrying on secretarial and financial responsibilities, to cover

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the cost of these services to the individual institutions. Approximately 10% is divided equitably among all eleven of the colleges in our Associated Boards as their share of the cost of the general services we render to the entire group without relation to any single institution.

So far as I can discover from our records, the only contribution made either by Soochow University or by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Southern Methodist Church toward these administrative expenses of our united China Colleges group was one payment of \$100 made in 1927 when Soochow University joined our old Permanent Committee for the Coordination and Promotion of Christian Higher Education in China. Between 1927 and the date when the present organization of the Associated Boards was formed in 1932, each of the participating Colleges was asked to make several small contributions to this administrative fund. Soochow's pro rata share was quite small in each case - around fifty dollars on the average, I believe. But though we sent requests to the Southern Methodist Board from time to time no very definite replies were ever received. Sometimes we were informed that these requests had been forwarded to the officers of the University in China, at other times I believe no definite replies were received by our office. For a time we carried these amounts requested from Soochow as accounts receivable; but at the time of our reorganization as the Associated Boards in 1932 these items were dropped from our records and we began with a clean slate.

Each year since 1932 the Associated Boards has asked the Soochow Trustees to bear their modest pro-rata share of these general administrative costs. The amounts requested have been as follows:-

July 1, 1932 - June 30, 1933	\$61.95
July 1, 1933 - June 30, 1934	61.95
July 1, 1934 - June 30, 1935	61.95
July 1, 1935 - June 30, 1936	<u>61.95</u>
	\$247.80

The amounts requested for the first three years, July 1, 1932 to June 30, 1935, totalling \$185.85, are now overdue and are carried on our books as a deficit which creates some difficulty in our current cash situation. The amount requested for 1935-36 is now in process of being expended, so some decision on it at an early date is very desirable.

You will see at once the increasing awkwardness of this situation, and the impossibility of going on indefinitely without some clarification of the matter. In none of the other Colleges in our Associated Boards, with the possible exception of Hangchow, has the matter of meeting the cost of home base administrative expenses been passed on to China for appropriation. It has been the judgment of the Boards of Trustees, and of the Mission Boards behind them, that such an item as this can only be dealt with promptly and intelligently here, and that it is unreasonable to expect field administrative officers to have the detailed information they would need to evaluate either the equity or the necessity of such a request. Indeed, had the other Colleges followed such a procedure, the delays and complexities involved would have made it impossible either to organize or to operate any type of united organization here in North America.

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It seems to us quite essential that some prompt decision should be reached by the American representatives of Soochow as to the policy to be pursued with reference to these requests for support. Had these requests been granted from year to year the amounts would have been quite nominal, but with the passage of time the total mounts up steadily. This is disturbing both to Soochow and to the Associated Boards.

One possible solution of the matter is suggested by an action taken by our Associated Boards some time ago. It was in the form of a request that North American Mission Boards having higher educational work in China but not already contributing to the support of the Associated Boards make modest appropriations toward the work of this united group. At the present time the amounts we are receiving each year from various Mission Boards are as follows:-

American Board	\$ 370.00
Northern Baptist Board	110.70
Northern Presbyterian Board	772.00
Southern Presbyterian	51.00
Northern Methodist	600.00
American Reformed Board	70.20
United Christian Missionary Soc.	175.00
United Church of Canada	64.80
	<hr/>
	\$2,213.80

If the Southern Methodist Board of Foreign Missions would make a direct appropriation of \$61.95 per year toward the budget of the Associated Boards it would not only be granting the formal request just mentioned but would also cover the pro rata share for Soochow, thus eliminating the necessity of delays and consultation with the field. Would this prove a feasible solution of the matter?

In addition to these small, but regular, amounts needed year by year to cover the costs of the general administrative work of the Associated Boards, each of the participating Boards of Trustees has been asked during the last two or three years to underwrite the sums necessary to create and to put into operation the united promotional organization of the China Colleges. Obviously it requires a year or two after such a promotional organization is begun before it can hope to secure enough from new gifts not allocated to individual Colleges which could be utilized to carry such a central promotional budget. For the most important task of such a promotional organization is to keep all present contributors loyal to the Colleges in which they are already interested and to stimulate new gifts for the work in China. This means that most of the support for such a central promotional organization would have to be secured from new sources, which could be developed only gradually, particularly in a time of economic depression such as we have just passed through.

The Associated Boards began to develop its united promotional office late in 1933. During the summer and autumn of 1934 Mr. Sherwood and Mrs. Macmillan were persuaded to join our staff, and took up their active work shortly afterward. This year our united promotional organization has begun to demonstrate its effectiveness and its ability to stimulate giving for

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Dr. Wasson

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the essential needs both of the individual Colleges and of the united group. But in order to develop this organization it was necessary to ask the participating College Boards to underwrite the major portion of the expenses of the organization during the comparatively unproductive first nine months and a substantial part of these expenses during the partially productive second nine months.

Since the situation in the Shanghai area did not make it possible for the Associated Boards to seek immediately for special objectives for Soochow, the amount which the Soochow Trustees were asked to underwrite in these first two years was only about 2% of the total asked from the eleven participating College Boards. The amounts asked of the Soochow Trustees were

July 1, 1933 to June 30, 1934	\$106.57
July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1935	<u>430.21</u>
	\$536.78

These amounts represent an investment which will, we trust, yield substantial returns in future. The expenditures for these two years have already been made, and this sum of \$536.78 now stands on our accounts as a deficit.

For the year 1935-36 our gifts available for this unified budget are increasing steadily, and we hope that by the time the year is over we will have about enough undesignated gifts of this sort to cover all our expenditures. Each of the College Boards was requested, however, to underwrite their share of a portion of this budget which they would pay over in part or in whole if such undesignated gifts do not this year cover all our budget. The underwriting asked of the Soochow Trustees in 1935-36 is \$326.00.

This letter has grown much too long. But I have tried to set forth in rather full detail all the essential facts concerning the development of our Associated Boards, and Soochow's relation to it, during the last decade. I am sorry that some of these financial questions have had to occupy such a prominent place in the discussion. I have every confidence, however, that we have now passed the peak of our very difficult upward struggle, and that from this point on we will steadily gather momentum. But these outstanding amounts which we have been hoping our Soochow group would supply are proving an increasingly heavy handicap to our progress, and we would sincerely welcome your assistance in helping us find solutions which will prove mutually satisfactory.

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:MP

cc to Prof. Mr. Williams, 1/8/35

0586

Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY
DOCTORS' BUILDING

Nashville, Tennessee

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A. W. WASSON, SECRETARY

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

December 11, 1935
ack 12/18

Mr. B. A. Garside, Ex. Secretary,
Associated Boards for
Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garside:

I greatly appreciate the pains you have taken in your letter of December 3rd to explain the relationship of the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China to Soochow University, and to the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

I note that the budget of the Associated Boards is divided into two sections, administrative and promotion. I note further your statement that our pro-rata share of the administrative budget is \$61.95 and that you are carrying on your books a deficit of \$185.85 which is overdue from our Board on this account. I note further that there has been assigned to us as our share of the promotional budget from July 1, 1933 to June 30, 1935 the amount of \$536.78 and that this sum also is carried on your books as a deficit.

On the other hand I am unable to find where my Board has assumed these obligations. Certainly no provision has been made for paying these sums. I am inclined to think that these amounts represent requests which have been made of this Board but which have never been granted. If that is true, they are in no sense debts of this Board. I think they should be written off your books, not as debts which we have repudiated but as requests which we never granted.

I write thus bluntly because I am in hearty sympathy with the purpose of the Associated Boards to promote a united and cooperative dealing with the agencies of higher education in China, and I would like for my Board to have some part in the work. We are not able to accept responsibility for the deficits mentioned above but if my interpretation of these deficits is admitted as correct, we would be glad to have the privilege of contributing \$61.95 to the administrative budget for the current year. Kindly advise me whether this procedure will meet with your approval.

Sincerely yours,

A. W. Wasson

A. W. Wasson
Foreign Secretary

W:B

0587

Cheeloo University (Shantung)
Fukien Christian University
Ginling College
Hangchow Christian College
Hua Chung College

ASSOCIATED BOARDS
FOR
CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

Lingnan University
University of Nanking
Soochow University
West China Union University
Yenching University

150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Diffendorfer
R. E. DIFFENDORFER, *President*
GEORGE G. BARBER, *Vice-Pres.*
JAMES ENDICOTT, *Vice-Pres.*

Cable: ABCHICOL Tel: WATKINS 9-8703

B. A. GARSIDE, *Executive Secretary*
C. A. EVANS, *Asso. Secy., and Asso. Treas.*

FREDERICK OSBORN, *Vice-Pres.*
ELLEN F. PENDLETON, *Vice-Pres.*
E. M. MCBRIER, *Treasurer*

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

over

Dr. A. W. Nasson
Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Doctors' Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Nasson:

Thank you for your good letter of December 11th commenting on the questions raised in my letter of December 3rd.

We are grateful for your interest in our Associated Boards, and for the study you have given to the various problems I discussed with you. It is encouraging to have such a prompt and sympathetic response from our friends in the Southern Board - I have had a feeling at times that some of the letters I have written have resembled talking into a telephone when no one is listening at the other end.

We are grateful for the check for \$61.95 sent by your Southern Methodist Board as its pro rata share of the general administration budget for 1935. This not only cares for this item for Soochow University on this year's budget, but I hope that it represents a step which your Board will agree to repeat from year to year.

We recognize that neither the Southern Methodist Board nor Soochow University has ever assumed any definite responsibility for these contributions toward the administrative expenses of the Associated Boards which we have requested from year to year. It would, of course, have clarified our financial situation and our accounting process if either the Board or the University had given a definite reply to the requests we have made - but that is a point hardly worth further discussion. The proper procedure seems to be to disregard previous years and to begin our "New Deal" as of 1935.

You do not mention specifically the problem of the relation of Soochow to our Associated Boards promotional work, further than to suggest that the amounts we have requested the University to contribute be written off our books. I would greatly appreciate your own judgment on these matters of promotional policy. Obviously, Soochow has not received any substantial benefit from our united promotional work to date, and it is unlikely that our work will begin to show any very concrete benefits for Soochow for at least the immediate future. On the other

0588

Dr. Wasson

-2-

12/18/35

CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

hand, we are engaged in the difficult and expensive process of laying foundations on which we hope we may be able to build a productive promotional program in the future. This foundation can only be laid as each of the participating colleges is willing to bear its equitable share of the work and expenses involved. It would hardly be fair for any one of the Colleges to take the stand that it does not wish to participate in these initial and unproductive stages of the work but that it will come in later when our promotional work has progressed to the point where our budget can be met from undesignated gifts and all amounts received ~~from~~ the individual colleges will be clear gain.

The important question is that of Soochow's proper relationship to the other Colleges in the group and the degree to which we can and should aid your publicity and promotional work. We recognize that the Soochow relationship has several special features, and should therefore be considered on its individual merits. It has always been difficult for us to have any adequate discussion of these matters, since Soochow is so rarely represented at meetings of the various committees here where these topics are discussed, and attempts to deal with such questions by letter have not been very satisfactory. I would welcome your own thoughts and comments - and perhaps next time you are in the neighborhood of New York we may have an opportunity to discuss these matters at further length.

I enclose herewith a check to the order of Soochow University for \$7.50 covering the two following designated gifts we have received during the past year.

Miss Mary P. Lang 1802 Wynchurst Street Pittsburgh, Pa.	\$ 5.00
Rev. S. W. Emory 1414 A Street, N.E. Washington, D.C.	2.50

Each of these donors allocated to Soochow a part of their total gift and gave the balance to other phases of the work. There are one or two small pledges for Soochow still outstanding which we will transmit to you as they are received. We will also send along to you any other designated contributions which may come in from time to time.

With all good wishes for the approaching holiday season, I am

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:MP
Encl.

396.00

0589

with covering
1. Request for budget
2. Renewal of appn.

Soo Chow

jack

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

June 6, 1936

Dr. A. W. Wasson
Doctors Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Wasson:

I enclose herewith the minutes of the meeting of our Associated Boards Executive Committee held on May 27th, and also the docket of the Committee on Finance which is to be held on June 11th.

You will note that in reconstituting the various standing committees of the Associated Boards for the ensuing year, the Executive Committee was handicapped by the fact that as yet no nominations have been received from the Soochow Trustees as to your representatives for next year. The Executive Committee could therefore do nothing more than to request your representatives for the past year to continue to serve until their successors had been nominated. This is not an altogether satisfactory procedure, for at least one vacancy in your representation already exists and perhaps changes in your membership will make other adjustments necessary.

We would be grateful if you could supply us in the fairly near future with nominations for your representatives during the coming year.

In this same connection, we would appreciate a revised list of these members of the Soochow Board of Trustees. We frequently receive indirect information that names on our present list should be removed, and we suspect that there are other changes of which we have not heard.

The docket of the Committee on Finance reminds us that we have had no word from the Soochow Trustees as to your promotional objectives for the coming year. We realize that the whole matter is intimately tied up with the question of cooperation in the Shanghai area. It has been almost a year now since we have received from Shanghai the proposals for a Christian University Center in Shanghai, but as yet none of the Boards of Trustees of the four institutions involved have sent us any word of their attitude and recommendations with regard to this proposal. You will note on pages five and six of the enclosed minutes of the Associated Boards Executive Committee, the Committee's discussion and action on this matter is set forth in some detail. We would welcome a report as to the attitude of the Soochow Trustees, particularly since there is some indication that President Yang may be coming to America this autumn and may be looking to our Associated Boards to assist him in advancing this proposal. Obviously it would be both injudicious and ineffectual for the Associated Boards to attempt to do anything constructive on this proposal until we are sure that it is being heartily supported by the Boards of Trustees of the institutions most directly concerned.

0590

Dr. Hassen

-2-

June 6, 1936

I am enclosing also a letter calling to your attention
some of the other matters dealt with by the Annual Meeting of the Associated
Boards.

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:MP
Encls.

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

June 15, 1936

Dr. A. W. Wasson
Doctors Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Wasson:

We have already sent you a copy of the minutes of the May 27th meeting of our Associated Boards Executive Committee. I believe, however, that we have not officially called to your attention the following action taken at that time:-

E-544
"VOTED that the Executive Committee of the Associated Boards record its interest and gratification at the evidences of interest in seeking a solution of the problems of cooperation in the Shanghai area as indicated by the actions on this subject taken by the Council of Higher Education at its 1935 meeting; and that it request the Boards of Trustees of Hangchow Christian College, St. John's University, University of Shanghai, and Soochow University, to inform the Associated Boards as to their judgment concerning these proposals, and their attitude toward them."

Obviously, it would be almost impossible, as well as quite inadvisable, for the Associated Boards to take any definite action with regard to a proposal involving closer cooperation between the four Christian Colleges in the Shanghai area until the Boards of Trustees of these institutions have expressed themselves as favoring such a development and have invited the Associated Boards to cooperate with them in working for such a development.

We have recently received intimations that President Yang will be coming to America sometime this fall. In that case it is all the more desirable that there be a clear definition of our attitude with regard to this proposal for closer cooperation in East China, since this would probably be a matter of major importance to President Yang's plans for cultivation of increased support here in America.

I believe we have already called to your attention the desirability of having the Soochow Trustees nominate as promptly as possible their representatives on the various standing committees for the coming year. These matters are dealt with on pages two and three of the minutes of the May 27th meeting. The only way in which the Associated Boards can adequately serve these various institutions is to have them adequately represented on all committees.

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG :R

0592

Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY

DOCTORS' BUILDING

Nashville, Tennessee

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A.W. WASSON, SECRETARY

July 8, 1936

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

Dr. B. A. Garside,
Associated Boards for
Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Garside:

Replying to your letter of January 15th I have to say that I have transmitted to the President of Soochow University a copy of the action of the Executive Committee of the Associated Boards concerning the problem of cooperation in the Shanghai area. As soon as a reply is received, I will write you again. I will also obtain for you a revised list of the Board of Trustees of Soochow University.

My inability to attend the meetings of the Associated Boards and to give prompt attention to requests for information, is embarrassing to me. The main difficulty lies in the distance we are from New York and in the fact that we are practically cooperating in name only, with your Committee.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A. W. Wasson

A. W. Wasson
Foreign Secretary

W:B

0593

Board of Trustees
Associated Board for
Christian Colleges in China

W. 2 CROWN...
NEW YORK...

GENERAL WORK
NEW YORK...

July 8, 1936

Dr. B. A. Garfield,
Associated Board for
Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Garfield:

Revising to your letter of January last I have to
say that I have transmitted to the President of Boston University
a copy of the action of the Executive Committee of the Associated
Board concerning the withdrawal of contributions to the Chinese
As soon as a reply is received, I will write you again. I will also
obtain for you a revised list of the Board of Trustees of Boston
University.

My inability to attend the meetings of the Associated
Board and to give prompt attention to requests for information, is
embarrassing to me. The main difficulty lies in the distance we are
from New York and in the fact that we are practically cooperating in
name only, with your Committee.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A. W. Mason
A. W. Mason
Foreign Secretary

RECEIVED
JUL 15 1936
JOINT OFFICE

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

July 18, 1936

ack-in part 7/21/36

Dr. A. W. Wasson,
Doctors' Building,
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Dr. Wasson,

We are now engaged in preparing the Annual Report of the activities of our China Colleges for the year 1935-36.

In connection with this I need as definite figures as I can obtain concerning both enrollment and finances. The information available in our office and supplied by Mr. Cressy is quite adequate for most of the Colleges with the exception of Soochow. Here we came up against almost a complete blank. Not only are our files as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard, but the reports coming from Cressy's office have for several years contained only the sketchiest sort of information about Soochow.

Both because we don't want Soochow's light hidden under a bushel or two of blanks, and also because we are anxious to give a reasonably adequate picture of what the whole group of Colleges are doing, we would be very grateful if you would supply such facts as you can concerning the enrollment and budget of Soochow during 1935-36. To expedite and simply the job, I attach a blank sheet, showing just what I need.

summary For the enrollment I have Cressy's figure of 520 for the total, but would like to divide this into men and women if I can. Also you may have some later figure for the total.

As to finances, we will not have time to get from the field their final reports of what was actually received up to June 30th, and will have to depend on the revised budget estimates to show approximately what was received from Chinese sources. Our receipts from Western sources ought to be reasonably exact.

This report must be finished and in the hands of the printer within a fortnight if we are to have it ready for our promotional work which gets actively under way by Labor Day. So, as the Chinese say - yueh tsao, yueh hao - on this matter of getting the facts together. I'd be grateful if you could send along the information asked for in the attached sheet within a few days. Where exact facts are not available we will have to make the shrewdest guesses we can this year, and resolve to be more exact hereafter.

Very cordially yours,

0595

INFORMATION CONCERNING
SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY
1935-36

1. Enrollment, 1935-36

Number of men

Number of women

Total number 320

2. Income, 1935-36

a. From Western sources (in U. S. dollars)

Mission Board cash appropriations \$

Contributions in staff (at rate of
\$3000 for each married couple,
\$1500 for each single worker) \$

Income from endowment

Grants by Foundations and other
non-Mission Board organizations \$

Gifts from individual donors \$

Other income (please describe) \$

b. From Chinese Sources (In local currency dollars)

Grants by Chinese government 13,347

Contributions from other organizations \$

Gifts by Individuals \$

Interest on balances and investments \$

Rents, sale of products, miscellaneous \$

Tuition and fees \$

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Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY
DOCTORS' BUILDING

Nashville, Tennessee

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A. W. WASSON, SECRETARY

July 21, 1936

ack 7-30-36

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garside:

In the absence of Dr. Wasson who is teaching
Leadership Training Schools in Arkansas and North
Carolina, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of
July 18th.

I note your request for certain information con-
cerning Soochow University and am returning herewith the
blank filled out as far as I am able with the information
at hand. I am making an effort to secure from Dr. W. B.
Nance, Western Adviser of Soochow University who is at home
on furlough, the information you ask with reference to income
from Chinese sources. If I am able to secure this, I shall
send to you at once.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) *Lucy Benedict*
Secretary to Dr. Wasson

Enclosure

0597

International Association of Universities
General Secretariat

July 21, 1936

ASSOCIATED
UNIVERSITIES

Mr. J. A. Garfield,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garfield:

In the absence of Dr. Mason who is teaching
"Leadership Training Schools in America and North
Carolina," I acknowledge receipt of your letter of
July 15th.

I note your request for certain information con-
cerning Boston University and am returning herewith the
check list set out for you and also with the information
at hand. I am making an effort to secure from Dr. A. S.
Hanes, Western Adviser of Boston University who is at home
on tonight, the information you ask with reference to income
from Chinese courses. If I am able to secure this, I shall
send to you at once.

Sincerely,

W. J. ...
Secretary to Dr. Mason

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INFORMATION CONCERNING
SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY
1935-36

1. Enrollment, 1935-36

Number of men	454	
Number of women	114	
Total number	520 568	

2. Income, 1935-36

a. From Western sources (in U. S. dollars)

Mission Board cash appropriations

\$ 2,340.00

Contributions in staff (at rate of
\$3000 for each married couple,
\$1500 for each single worker

{ 2 single missionaries \$1,900
5 married " - 9,351.66

Income from endowment

Grants by Foundations and other
non-Mission Board organizations

\$

Gifts from individual donors

\$

Other income (please describe)

\$

b. From Chinese Sources (In local currency dollars)

Grants by Chinese government

\$ 13,347 (?) 2.

Contributions from other organizations

\$

2.

Gifts by Individuals

\$

2.

Interest on balances and investments

\$

2.

Rents, sale of products, miscellaneous

\$

2.

Tuition and fees

\$

2.

0599

Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY

DOCTORS' BUILDING

Nashville, Tennessee

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A. W. WASSON, SECRETARY

August 4, 1936

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

Mr. B. A. Garside,
Associated Boards for
Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garside:

Replying to your letter of July 30th will say that since Dr. Nance was unable to supply the figures which you requested, he wrote Dr. Y. C. Yang, President of Soochow University, and requested that he send them to us at once.

Regretting the delay in this matter, I am,

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Luena Benedict
Secretary to Dr. Wasson

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AUG 10 1936
NASHVILLE, TENN.

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Board of Trustees
National Student Relocation Council

W. G. GRAM, CHAIRMAN
1000 BULFORD BUILDING

Executive Department

FOREIGN RELATIONS
GENERAL WORK
AL. WASSON, SECRETARY

August 4, 1936

RECORDED
INDEXED

Mr. B. A. Garalde,
Associated Boards for
Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garalde:

Replying to your letter of July 30th, with
reference to your request for copies of
the report of the Board of Trustees, I am
pleased to inform you that the report
has been prepared and is being
sent to you at once.

I am, very respectfully,
Sincerely,
Al. Wasson

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
AUG - 6 1936
JOINT OFFICE

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

August 6, 1936

Mrs. Irma Benedict
Secretary to Dr. Wasson
Doctors' Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Mrs. Benedict:

Thank you for your note of August 4th informing us that Dr. Nance has written President Yang asking him to supply the figures as to the income from Chinese sources of Soochow University during 1935-36.

We held up the material for the Annual Report of the Associated Boards until we reached the deadline which we could not pass if we were to have this material available for use this fall. So the best we could do was to put in the latest approximate figures we could secure for Soochow University and let it go at that. I hope that hereafter we can all bestir ourselves a little more promptly to encourage all the Colleges in China to supply us with such information in regular course, so we will have it available whenever required.

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:MP

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

September 22, 1936

Soochow *Folger*

Dr. A. W. Wasson
Doctors Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Wasson:

We are planning to send out monthly reports this year to members of our Associated Boards showing the progress we are making toward the attainment of our united promotional objectives. I am therefore asking the Treasurers of each of our Boards of Trustees to send us from month to month reports of both the regular income and the new contributions they are receiving. It will be sufficient for our purposes if regular income is reported quarterly, but we should report new contributions to the end of each month.

To the amounts reported by the Treasurers of the individual colleges we will add all contributions received through the Associated Boards. You need not include on your reports, therefore, any of the funds which may be transmitted to you by the Associated Boards, since we have a record of these already. Include only the funds received by your offices direct from mission boards, foundations, college groups and individual donors.

We are enclosing forms for both the new and regular income which we would be grateful to you for filling out and returning to us as of September 30th.

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:MP
Encl.

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

October 15, 1936

Mrs. Irma Benedict
Secretary to Dr. Wasson
Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Doctors' Building
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Mrs. Benedict:

Thank you for your letter of October 3rd giving us information as to income received by the Trustees of Soochow University for the period July 1 to September 30, 1936.

I knew that Dr. Wasson had been planning a trip to the Orient but I thought he was due to return to his office at about this time. If he is to be absent another two or three months, there are one or two matters connected with the Soochow University's participation in our Associated Boards which really ought to be acted upon before he returns.

In the first place, we are very anxious to secure a copy of the budget of Soochow University for the fiscal year 1936-37. I may have mentioned this in previous correspondence. We have now secured detailed budgets from practically all the other Colleges cooperating in our Associated Boards, and a special committee is engaged in studying and comparing the financial organizations and resources of each of the institutions. I am sure that the field authorities at Soochow must send at least one copy of their annual budget to Nashville for your information. If you have only a single copy available if you could lend it to us for a few days we would have copies made and would return the original to you.

At the Annual Meeting of our Associated Boards last spring the various Boards of Trustees were asked to renew during the year 1936-37 the small contributions they made toward the general administrative budget of the Associated Boards. Last year the amount requested of the Soochow Trustees was \$61.95. This amount was received from the Southern Methodist Board on December 18th, 1935. We trust that it will be possible for the Soochow Trustees or the Southern Methodist Board to renew this appropriation during 1936-37. Last year the various Boards of Trustees were asked to underwrite a part of the promotional expenses of the Associated Boards but for the current year no such underwritings are being requested. This \$61.95 covers, therefore, the entire amount the Associated Boards is asking as a contribution from the Soochow Trustees toward this year's expenses.

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Mrs. Benedict

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October 15, 1936

We would be grateful if you would pass this communication along to whichever of Dr. Nasson's colleagues may be carrying on this phase of his work during his absence.

We have been pleased to receive a copy of President Yang's report to the Board of Trustees of Soochow University under date of February 28, 1936. This contains a great deal of interesting and valuable information which we are happy to have available.

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

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Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

W. G. CRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY
DOCTORS' BUILDING

FOREIGN MISSIONS
GENERAL WORK
A. W. WASSON, SECRETARY

Nashville, Tennessee

October
December 18, 1936

Rek 11/12

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

Soochow

Mr. B. A. Garside,
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges
in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Garside:

Replying to your letter of October 15th will say that the figures which appear in the blank which I returned to you on October 3rd, were the total of our appropriation for Soochow University for the fiscal year, 1936, and not for the period, July 1st to September 30th, 1936.

I note your request for a copy of the budget of Soochow University for the fiscal year, 1936-37. I regret to state that we do not have a copy on file. I am, however, writing Dr. Wasson concerning this as also concerning the amount you are requesting of our Board during 1936-37 (\$61.95).

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Anna Benedict
Secretary to Dr. Wasson

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RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY
OCT 21 1935
JOINT

December 15, 1935

Dear Mr. Garrison:
New York City, N. Y.
120 Fifth Avenue
Associated Board for Christian Colleges
in China,
Mr. A. Garrison

Regarding your letter of October 15th will
say that the figures which appear in the blank which I
returned to you on October 2nd, were the total of our
appropriation for Szechow University for the fiscal year, 1935,
and not for the period July 1st to September 30th, 1935.
I note your request for a copy of the budget of Szechow
University for the fiscal year, 1935-37. I regret to state that
we do not have a copy on file. I am, however, writing Dr. Mason
concerning this as also concerning the fact that you are requesting of
our board during 1935-37 (1935-37).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature
Secretary to Dr. Mason

7060

Handwritten markings on the right edge of the page, including a large '2' and several other symbols.

M. O. Williams

1933

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Soochow University

Soochow, China

INDEXED

ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

September 25, 1933.

ack 10/27

*Act
P. Lee
Zhang*

Mr. B. A. Garside, Secretary,
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

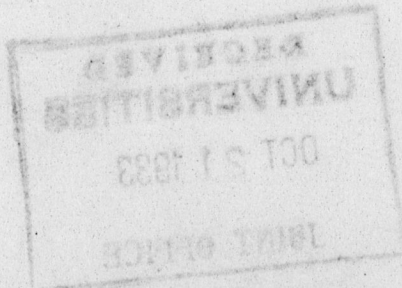
President Yang has referred to me your letter of June 9, requesting information as to our methods of Character development.

I am enclosing a report of our work which I hope will be what you want. I am also attaching a mimeographed outline used at a setting-up conference on September 10 when we tried to map out the main features of the year's program.

I shall be glad to supply further information as you may request it.

Sincerely yours,

M. O. Williams, Jr.



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Stanford University

Stanford, Calif. 94305
October 21, 1933

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New York City

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DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AT SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY

We believe that the most effective approach to developing Christian character in our students is that of trying to make Christian the fundamental relationships and activities through which we touch them. We want them to meet at many times during the round of daily duties influences which point to higher levels of life. Our physical education and athletic work constantly stresses sportsmanship and fair play. One of the great aims of our science departments is to correct the tendency to be satisfied with results which are "wrong not much" by training in accuracy and the discipline of scientific thinking. Our teachers of political science seek to develop in their students a balanced political and nationalistic outlook; sociology says, "Know the people;" psychology teachers stress the significance of personality and seek to point the way to mental health.

The heads of our science departments and most of their teachers are Christians who can be counted on to give religion a sympathetic hearing whenever opportunity offers. Frequently religion emerges in a class discussion as when the teacher of political science spends a period on the contribution of religion to government. The western history classes, the sociology classes, the psychology classes, the literature classes and others offer opportunities for such natural discussions. All Juniors take the course in Ethics, and as the teacher says, "Of course, it is Christian Ethics; I could not teach any other kind." In these and other ways we seek to demonstrate that religion is an integral part of life and not a side issue.

We believe there are other character building influences among which may be mentioned the following: Informal contacts of

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friendship between students and teachers; justice, kindness, and reliability in administrative policies; consideration for the personality of servants as shown in comfortable living quarters, their own basketball team, Christmas social, Sunday School, and night school; the demonstration our teachers give of a wholesome family life in the midst much disorganization and confusion on the subject.

Such activities as have been mentioned we consider to be fundamental in the process of building Christian Character. Yet we are just as firmly convinced that unless supplemented by specialized religious activities their effect will be less than the best we can do.

Elective courses in religion are offered as a regular part of the curriculum. Thirty-five Freshmen are studying "Jesus and Modern Problems." They will probably continue in the spring on the subject, "The Prophets and Modern Problems." Five advanced students are taking "Christianity and Society." Other courses were offered, but were not elected. We are disappointed that more students are not taking these courses and are trying to improve them in every possible way, but feel that here is a problem which we are not meeting with sufficient success. Our complete list of courses, including those which will be offered in the spring is as follows: The Life of Jesus, The Bible as Literature, Comparative Religion, The Christian Family, Religion and the Problems of Youth, Science and Religion, Religion and Life.

"Extra-curriculum" religious activities are carried on primarily by three bodies among whom a very close relationship exists. The Religious Activities Committee of the faculty deals with what we, as teachers, can do in the religious life of the school. The Christian Fellowship combines both teachers and stu-

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dents in its membership. It is regarded, however, as primarily a student organization, and its activities are largely carried on by students. The Sunday School and Church, located very near the campus provide opportunities for study, worship, and inspiration. How these bodies function can best be made clear by a brief report of activities for 1932-33.

The Christian Fellowship sought first to unite all Christians on the basis of its three-fold purpose, namely, fellowship, spiritual development, and loving service. Forty students were thus drawn together, and thirty of them carried on through the year in small groups for intimate fellowship. A weekly Vespers service was conducted, attended by about thirty. A few members engaged in personal work. Service was rendered in the form of conducting a Servants' Night School, supervising the play period in the social hall, promoting a program of health lectures for the University, and providing health examinations for children of a near-by free school. In most of the other activities mentioned below the Fellowship played a conspicuous part. At the close of the year, the inner circle of student leaders reached the conclusion that the most effective work had been done through personal contacts and small groups where fellowship reached a high level.

Another organization led by Christian students is carrying on a school for underprivileged children in a near-by neighborhood. Forty of our students rendered two or more hours of service per week throughout the year.

The Sunday School has a special department for young people with student officers and student-planned worship programs. At present there are six classes for University students offering

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a varied program of study and discussion. The Pastor of the church is a powerful speaker, sent to our community especially for his appeal to the educated classes. Last fall at Student Go-to-Church Sunday 160 representatives of the campus community, including the preparatory school, were present. This occasion will become an annual affair through which we hope to help the student see his relation to the church. The average church attendance, however, is very low and presents another problem for which we are seeking a solution.

A two-day faculty retreat held in October brought us to new levels in our thinking of the function of our University in the development of Christian character. A Christian student-faculty supper given by President Yang brought together 120 Christians for fellowship and inspiration. A one-day Christian student-faculty retreat in April reached its high point in a period of sharing of religious experiences.

Outstanding speakers are always welcomed. Stanley Jones brought a vital interpretation of Christianity that many of our students will long remember. His three addresses were preceded by a publicity and personal invitation campaign in which many of our students participated.

The climax of our efforts was reached during Religious Emphasis Week in April. There were daily addresses by Dr. Z. T. Kaung, daily interview periods, and a daily discussion group. Renewed emphasis was placed on prayer and personal work. Many received new insight and inspiration. Eight University students made Christian decisions and later were received into the church. They were drawn together into a small group and their progress carefully guided.

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For this session we are putting more emphasis on personal work and small groups for prayer and fellowship. We believe that these ways go deep. We are also hoping to have more strong speakers and more times for informal discussion or forums. An experiment is being tried with the Freshmen. Ten discussion or "College-adjustment" groups have been formed with a teacher and an older student advisor. The discussions are to continue for four or six weeks and aim to help the student find his best adjustment as a student.

Another experiment is being projected. We have observed students deriving much help and stimulation from conferences. We plan to bring a conference to the campus and to make it the center of all activity for a two day period. Its theme is to be "Social Reconstruction" and will deal with the needs for and methods of reconstruction. We want to invite men with practical experience to speak and to consult with our students. We want to set up actual projects which can be carried on by our students as an expression both of patriotic and Christian impulses.

The plans for this year were mapped out at an afternoon's retreat of the student and faculty leaders of religious work on the campus. The method of approach is shown by the attached outline which was the basis for our discussion. We were not altogether successful in defining fundamental problems and needs or of relating our activities to them, but I believe progress was made in this direction.

In closing may I quote from a letter which was sent to the Christian members of our staff at the close of the 1932-33 session:

"I do not want to paint the picture more rosy than it really is. There have been disappointments. Many plans have

not carried through with the enthusiasm and success which we had hoped for; we have made very little headway in breaking down the indifference which characterizes most of our students; our activities have for the most part reached only a fraction of our student body; many of those whom we think we are reaching seem to be touched only superficially.

"I think the net result, however, gives reason for encouragement. The task is hard; there is no easy way to develop Christian manhood. Achievement must be made in the face of difficulties. As I look back over the year, I can see things that gladden the heart. I see lives that have been made better, purposes strengthened, and many deeds performed in love."

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

October 27, 1933.

Mr. M. O. Williams, Jr.
Soochow University
Soochow, China

My dear Mr. Williams:

I am very grateful to you for your letter of September 25th, with its attached copy of a very careful statement you have worked out in response to our request for information as to your methods of Character development. As soon as we have received this information from a sufficient number of the colleges, we will lay the material before our Associated Boards' Committee on Christian Character.

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

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