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Union Theological College, Chengtu, West Chin

May 1st., 1942.

*ack*  
*7/27/42*

Dr. B.A.Garside,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York,

Dear Dr. Garside,

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of our last meeting of our Board of Management. We have not written very frequently to you recently as we are not assured that our letters will reach you. However, we will send this, one hoping that it will get through.

You will see by the minutes that we have our financial difficulties. We are glad that Nanking Seminary is able to help us at this time and you will see by item # 173 what our requests are. The money asked for student assistance is to be applied to students who come from areas which have recently been taken over by the Japanese and who are now cut off from their former supporters. Most of these students would be in Nanking Seminary under normal conditions, so this request is quite in order.

We are already planning for the graduation exercises which are to take place at the end of June. The Governor of the province, General Chang Chuin and his wife, both of whom are earnest Christians have agreed to come and speak on that occasion, providing that other duties do not interfere. We have eight students in this years graduating class.

We have not yet seen a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Governors. Letters containing them are probably delayed en route.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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Union Theological College, Chengtu, West China

May 1st, 1942

Dr. H.A. Gervais,  
180 Fifth Avenue,  
New York

Dear Mr. Gervais,

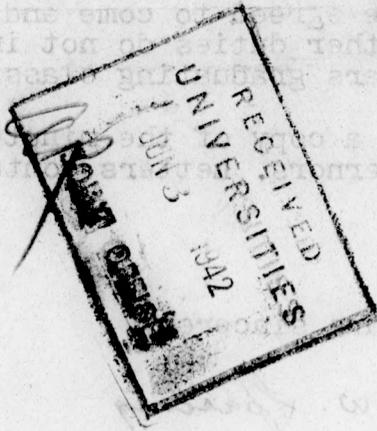
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You will see by the minutes that we have our financial difficulties. We are glad that Hankin Seminary is able to help us at this time and you will see by item 13 that our requests are. The money asked for student assistance is to be applied to students who come from areas which have recently been taken over by the Japanese and who are now cut off from their former supporters. Most of these students would be in Hankin Seminary under normal conditions so this request is quite in order.

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We have not yet seen a copy of the last meeting of the Board of Management. They are probably delayed en route.

With kind regards,



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WEST CHINA UNION THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
華西協合神學院

May 21st., 42.  
CHENG TU SZECHWAN

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

*ack 8/12/42*

Dear Mr. Evans,

Your letter of Dec. 1st., sent to the university, reached us a few days ago. We were very glad to hear of the special meeting held to discuss the Theological College. This manifests a new interest on the part of the Board of Governors in our college and we believe that it augurs well for the future. We have long felt the need of having a committee at home taking real responsibility for the College and we are hoping that the Board of Governors can assume this.

In this letter I will try to answer some of the queries which you raise in your letter and comment on some of the minutes of the meeting of the Board.

G-1630. It is gratifying to us to know that a thorough discussion was held concerning the work of the College and that the recommendations as presented by our Board of Management were presented and examined. Our college has grown much more rapidly than we had anticipated when it was opened and this is most satisfying, but it has also increased our needs very rapidly. This, along with the inflation of currency has made our position quite embarrassing. We are glad to see by item # G-1632 that the Board of Governors will probably render real assistance in the future.

G-1633,34. Our Treasurer, Rev. E. Hibbard has written to you answering your questions. I have a copy of the letter before me and I agree with his explanations and comments. I might add that when this statement was presented to our Board of Management, explanations were given of the items which were questioned and now in his letter the Treasurer forwards these explanations to you. Probably the statement will be presented in a clearer form at our next annual meeting and more explanations will be sent to you with this years statement and budget.

G-1636. I am sure you will agree that the request for the doubling of our budget was not an unreasonable one. Prices in West China are now more than twenty times what they were when our budget was prepared and the money granted to us is in national currency. If our grants were in gold currency our situation would be greatly relieved. It may be, if prices continue to rise, that our requests will have to be increased again. You may be sure that we are as careful in our spending as it is possible to be and that further economy could be effected only by the curtailing of our work. We are very grateful for the hearty response of the Mission Boards to this request. In almost every case has the grant of the Boards been doubled over that which was given last year. We are also grateful for some small private gifts which have come to the field. Most of these have been used in assisting needy students. Quite a number of students receive only sufficient assistance

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from their supporters to cover their board and books. To such we seek to give working scholarships which will enable them to have a small amount of money for clothing and incidental expenses.

G-1638. The action of the Board of Governors as indicated in this minute is satisfactory. After the Board of Governors has assumed the new relationship to our college, funds can then be sent directly from the Board to our Treasurer on the field rather than through the university treasurer.

G-1640. At present there seems to be no indication of any new Boards opening up work in West China. There were rumors a year or so ago of such a possibility but just now it would be very difficult to make such changes. However, it may be that there will be some such changes contemplated after the war and if so we would agree with the Board of Governors that they should cooperate with the university and the Theological College. I am sure that our College would greatly welcome such cooperation and assistance and would greatly deprecate the opening of another college by any new Mission Boards that might begin work here. The spirit of union has always prevailed in West China and we hope it will continue to do so.

I might add a paragraph or so concerning our college and its present status. We are very happy in our new buildings. We now have our two permanent dormitories, one for men and one for women. They are very suitable and everyone comments on their fine appearance. At the present time only the two upper stories of the buildings are used as dormitories while the two lower stories give accomodation for classrooms, offices, library and dining room. Our old buildings are still used as a boys dormitory ~~and~~ since the one storey in the new building is not large enough to accomodate all. Building prices have risen so enormously that twice the amount of gold currency would not now erect these buildings. Our treasurer has explained this and our debt, in his letter.

We are approaching the close of our fifth year of work. We have eight students to graduate from our Senior Course, three of whom are women. Our graduation exercises will be held on June 21st and 22nd. The Sunday service will be held in the Baptist church in the city and the closing exercises on Monday at the College. The Governor of the province, General Chang Chuin and Madame Chang, both of whom are enthusiastic Christians, have agreed to attend our graduation exercises and to speak to our gathering.

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*  
President.

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work. We have eight students to graduate from our latter course  
this of the year. Our graduation exercises will be held on  
June 21st and the Sunday service will be held in the chapel  
on Monday at the same time. The evening exercises on Monday at the  
College. The Governor of the province, General Chang Kai-shek and  
other dignitaries of whom we entertain high regard, have agreed  
to attend our graduation exercises and to speak for our country.

Yours sincerely,  
*W. H. ...*

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Union Theological College  
Chengtú, West China  
August 19, 1942

Mr. C. A. Evans  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Evans:

At the graduation exercises of our college held last June, our speakers were Governor Chang Chuin and his wife. They are both ardent Christians and we were anxious to have them speak to our students. I am enclosing a copy of their addresses. I think you will agree that it is quite encouraging to our work and especially to young preachers to know that the highest authority in the province has such an attitude to the church and its work.

I wonder if it would be possible for some one in your office to make some copies of this address and send one to each of the participating Boards. I would like each one to have a copy but to send from here would be most expensive. We will appreciate it very much if this can be done. These addresses should be good publicity material for Mission propaganda in the churches.

Our prospects for an enrollment at least equal to last year are good. This institution is much needed by the churches of China today, and we are very fortunate in having it in operation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Geo. W. Sparling

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Address delivered by Chang Chuin, Governor of Sze Chwan, at the  
Graduation Exercises of the Union Theological College, June 22, 1942

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Your invitation to attend your graduation exercises today, not only gives me an opportunity to congratulate you and to address you all, but it also makes me feel very happy and highly honored. You are followers and will then go out into the world to be ministers of the Christian Church. Since you have been students of the Christian message for years, I will not speak so much of the teachings of Christianity but rather how a Christian should face the present situation in China and adapt himself to it.

The Church and the State really have the same aim which is the bringing in of a better Society and the welfare of the people. Human beings have tendencies both to good and to evil and from ancient times we have had teachers and law givers making rules and regulations to foster the good and to deter the evil.

To prevent evil, generally speaking, we have three methods. The first is the method of law which is entirely the prerogative of the State. The second is the force of public opinion which emanates from both the state and the common moral ideals of man and the third is conscience which is the result of moral and religious teaching.

The sense of sin is so varied and so intense that law is insufficient to eradicate it, but we depend largely upon moral and religious teaching. There are three main reasons why this is true; first, the law can prevent sins which are open but is powerless to deal with hidden sin. Again, many things are really immoral though not contrary to the law of the state and are therefore outside of the scope of the states laws. And thirdly, the law in its effect is mainly negative and while it may succeed in preventing wrong it provides no incentive to positive good in mens lives. Religion not only deals with visible but also with invisible sin and not only restrains people from breaking the law but also from sin against the spirit, and not only deters men from positive sin but is also an incentive to the good life. The purpose of religion is to eradicate sin and to purify the secret places of the heart and to dispel darkness. Therefore religion is the force we need to deal fundamentally with the problem of sin.

Again, there are many fundamental differences between religion and the state. Religion is universal and for all people while the state is national and exists mainly for the welfare of its own people. The religious man will give his life to save the world while the nationalist will sacrifice only for his own nation.

Accordingly, the vision and interests of the state must be expanded and the only hope for this is the Christian Religion. In the modern world, science, economics, government, etc. are rapidly developing but the oppression of the strong nations over the weak ones and the struggle for power among the nations are increasing in proportion. This human tragedy has been very evident during recent years. These things, science, economics, government, etc. are not wrong in themselves but are wrong in their abuse and the only way to make sure of a better world is to purify the heart. This is the work of the church and only by its help will the state be enabled to meet its objective of a better world.

From the above, we learn two things; first is that the aim of the church and state is one, namely a better world and the welfare of the people, and secondly that while the methods of the church and state vary, they should be complementary and helpful. From the above observations, I would like to make two suggestions.

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The first is that since the work of the church is the improvement of the society in which it is planted, and the welfare of the people within its area of influence, its ministers must be thoroughly acquainted with the history of that society and with the culture of its people as it has developed through the centuries. They should also be thoroughly conversant with local needs and conditions and this knowledge will be the basis of their effort and work. You are all Chinese students and expect to work in Chinese society and if you are to know the best way to approach the people and present your message you should be well acquainted with Chinese history and thought. In reference to this point, I would recommend a book which I have recently read entitled "God in Chinese History" by Wang Tze Sin. In this book Mr. Wang suggests that the Christian Church should understand Chinese society and the teachings of the Chinese Philosophers of the past. This would make it easier to teach and lead the people. For example, ministers should utilize the basic beliefs of the people such as their belief in one God, variously styled T'ien and Shang Ti.

Moreover the Christian church and its ministers should know the present needs of the people and should apply their message to all parts of society. Already the Christian church has secured a place in Chinese society and when you its ministers preach do not forget Chinese history and culture and always keep clear in your minds present needs. Use the past as a background and starting from there teach the message of a new and saving gospel. If you do this you will accomplish much for Christ.

In the second place while the church and state have their similarities, they are at the same time different and must be kept separate and distinct. A union of the two would result in the destruction of religious freedom. In the Middle Ages in Europe, Church and State were united and the result was persecution and religious wars with sin rampant in both church and state. On the other hand, they should not be antagonistic or arranged in mutual opposition. If they are, the results will be tragic. For example, at the end of the Ts'ing dynasty in China they were enemies and the result was the Boxer uprising of 1900. This was the result of unnecessary suspicion, fear and ignorance of the others viewpoint. What a tragedy.

For these reasons I suggest that Church and State should not be combined and yet should not be mutually exclusive. The best solution is to have them existing side by side and complementary in their effort and work. Both church and state will benefit from such an arrangement.

You young people are now graduating and will go out into Chinese society. I hope you will be close observers of the Chinese government and its needs. By all means use your religion to help the state to develop in the proper way and thus you will be true to your Mission and to the teachings of Jesus. This is not only essential in China today but also quite possible as China is a democracy. From the standpoint of the church you are ministers of the Gospel while from the standpoint of the state you are Chinese citizens. My exhortation to you is that you shall in your preaching and in your work always manifest the spirit of Christ, and in this way you will most effectively assist the state. I thoroughly believe that these two should be mutually helpful and in promoting this attitude you will accomplish your great Mission and help to realize your ideal for the nations and for the whole world.

Your work is extremely important but you will face many difficulties. Your work is not only to help the Christians but also to convince the non-Christians and those who are in open opposition to Christ. My dear friends, for this task you

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must have the spirit of Jesus in your heart, looking upon all in compassion and pursuing sinners with the gospel of love, continuing in your task day and night and working with all your energy as did your Master. Go down into the depths, throw yourselves into the dangerous places without fear or hate, but with one passion the winning of souls. This will surely require great wisdom, unfaltering faith, great patience and an unselfish, sacrificial spirit. Jesus said "Behold I send you forth as sheep among wolves, be ye therefore wise as serpents and as harmless as doves". Remember these words of our Lord Jesus Christ through all experiences.

---

Address by Madame Chang Chuin, Theological College, June 22, 1942

Some months ago I was invited to speak in your college but since I did not at that time feel that I had a particular message, I did not come. When I received the invitation to come and speak today I agreed to come feeling that I would like to speak to the graduates who are leaving. Since the Governor has spoken at some length, I will be brief and will direct my message mainly to the girl graduates. Shortly after the coming of your invitation the Governor became ill, and we were afraid that we would be prevented from coming here today. We wanted to come and congratulate you all.

I remember that some years ago in the Baptist Church in Shanghai the pastor died, and we found it difficult to get a new pastor. After some time we succeeded and secured a man who was a very hard worker, working day and night and not sparing himself in his efforts to serve the church. That pastor inspired me very much as I watched his effort to carry on the work which the Lord had given him to do. In our prayer meetings we prayed continually for him and from that time I have continually prayed that from among my own children and from among our young people the Lord would choose those whom He would have to enter the Ministry and carry on His work. I am very happy to be with you this morning knowing that to be in this work is your own desire and the Lord's will.

Just this morning I read Genesis XLI 1-7, the account of Pharoah's dream. From this story we learn the lesson of absolute humility. We must not be satisfied with our present knowledge nor the present status of our Christian life. We must with St. Paul "Press on to Perfection". As the Chinese proverb says: "Heaven is always just and true and the real gentleman must cultivate self-reliance". Dear Friends, we must look ahead and press on with courage, faith and love. May I quote words from S. D. Gordon as follows: "Every day and every hour we must be with God".

Again we congratulate you and may happy success be yours always.

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Union Theological College, Chengtu, West Chi  
July 15th., 42.

Mr. C . A . Evans,  
Secretary of the Board of Governors,  
New York,

*ack  
7/19/42*

Dear Mr. Evans,

I am enclosing a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of our Board. From this you can gather some idea of our financial problems.

Enclosed also is a report which I read to that Board meeting.

Our prospects for a good enrolment this autumn are good. Already we have a number of applications. The Church is realizing its need of trained workers.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling.*

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Union Theological College, Chicago, West Chi  
July 15th., 42.

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
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Dear Mr. Evans,

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meeting of our Board. From this you can gather some idea of our  
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Our prospects for a good enrollment this autumn  
Already we have a number of applications. The church is  
realizing its need of trained workers.  
With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Geo. W. Harding.



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VIA CHINA CLIPPER

October 1, 1942

Rev. George W. Sparling  
West China Union Theological College  
Chengtou, Szechuan, China

Dear Dr. Sparling:

Mr. Evans has asked me to acknowledge your letter of July 15, enclosing the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Management held on June 30, 1942, and the interesting report of the President submitted at that time. These will be presented to the Board of Governors at their annual meeting which is scheduled for some time in November.

We are following the developments in West China with the most intense interest and are grateful for every message which gives us facts about the situation.

With very kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, October 7th., 42.

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Secretary of the Board of Governors,  
New York,

Dear Mr. Evans,

We are grateful to you and to the Board for the gifts of money which have already been sent for our College through the university treasurer. I have not yet received the full list of these but no doubt will soon.

The financial situation is becoming very serious here in China and especially here in West China. The Chinese seem to have started bidding against one another to see who can outdo the other in raising the price of commodities. Where the end will be, no one can foresee. The index of cost of living is now nearly fifty. That is, the cost of all commodities used by a teacher in living is now fifty times what it was in 1937. The exchange from gold to Chinese currency is about six times what it was at that time which leaves living nearly eight times as costly in gold currency as it was in 1937.

You will remember that we requested the Missions to double their contribution a year ago and this they did so that the aggregate gifts of the Missions are about nine times what they were in 1937. But our college has expanded in its needs in addition to the high costs so that the gifts of the Missions to-day are only about one fifth or less of what our needs really are,

With these facts before you, we hope that the Board will continue to seek enlarged assistance for our college. Many of our students are now out off from their supporting churches and are depending upon our scholarship funds for their fees etc. We have been seeking assistance from Chinese friends and already have received \$5000 in cash for assistance to students and have several more thousands of dollars promised. The support of one student now is \$2000 per year.

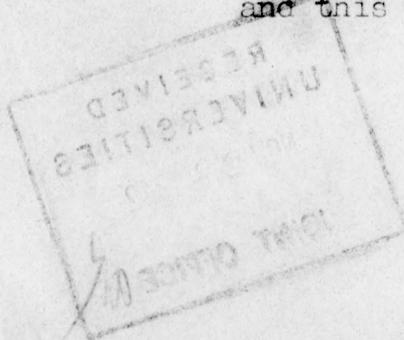
The universities are considering a radical change in the scale of salaries for their teachers and since we are following their scale I am waiting for their decision before calling the next meeting of our Board of Directors. When it meets, we will consider our financial situation in greater detail. In the meantime we are looking to you for enlarged assistance.

Our enrolment will surpass that of last year. We now have sixty-five students with a few who are delayed in travel still to arrive. We have one or two new teachers from East China and this gives us a real good staff.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*



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Union Theological College, Chungking,  
West China, October 7th., 42.

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With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*W. M. Evans*

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*See - West China University folder*  
West China Union Theological College,  
Chengt'u, SzeChwan, October 16th., 42.

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Secretary of the Board of Governors,  
New York,

*ack  
10/13/42  
CWC*

Dear Mr. Evans,

I am enclosing a short report of the enrollment in our College for the present term. It is very encouraging that in spite of depressing economic conditions we have as many students as last year. Quite a number are entirely cut off from their supporting churches and are dependent upon us for scholarships to make it possible for them to continue their work. We are grateful to the Board for the sums which have been sent to us for that purpose. Nanking Seminary is helping some with this expense and already we have received seven thousand dollars from Chinese friends here in SzeChwan. We anticipate that our needs will increase very rapidly during the ensuing year so we will need all the financial assistance that can be obtained from these several sources.

We are also able to give the students a very satisfactory course of study, also due to the fact that we have quite a number of teachers from other parts of China who are giving us part time work. Without them we would be short-handed.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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West China Union Theological College,  
Chengtu, Szechwan, October 18th., 42.

*10/18/42  
C. J. C.*

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Secretary of the Board of Governors,  
New York,

Dear Mr. Evans,

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Yours sincerely,  
*W. S. Spurling*

RECEIVED  
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Dec 11 1942  
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Union Theological College, Chengtu  
West China, Nov. 19th, 1942

Mr. Charles H. Corbett  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China  
150 Fifth Ave, New York.

Dear Mr. Corbett:

Your letter states that you were asked by Mr. Evans to write acknowledging minutes, etc. I am accordingly addressing this letter, which is really for the Board of Governors of the College, to you and asking you to see that these minutes come before the Board and its members, if not present.

The Budget enclosed represents our minimum requirements as far as we can estimate them at the present time. We are living in very uncertain days in China and the continued changes in the economic situation here makes it very unsatisfactory and difficult trying to plan for the future. We feel that we know only the present, but at the same time we have to plan for the days ahead. Quite a number of our supporting Missions are finding it very difficult to finance their own work on the field. This is true of all of them, though some are facing greater difficulties than others. We are asking that they all double their appropriation of last year. Some are hopeful and think that their Mission can do this but others hold out very little hope.

We are therefore relying upon the Board of Governors and hope that they will have real success in their efforts to secure funds outside of the grants by the various Boards. Kindly draw the special attention of the Board to item #190 of these minutes. We have received the amounts from the Board which were sent through the Treasurer of the University. We are very grateful for these as they have enabled us to close the financial year, June 30th without a deficit. We are looking for larger gifts during the coming year.

Besides these gifts for annual maintenance we hope that endowments can be raised. We have mentioned in item # 163 objects for which we think endowments should be raised as soon as possible. Our College is growing and is rapidly passing the limit that can be supported by the Mission out of their regular budget and we are looking for even greater responsibilities and opportunities after the present war.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

(signed) George W. Sparling

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Union Theological College, Changtu  
West China, December 23rd, 1942

Mr. C. A, Evans,  
University Board of Governors  
New York.

Dear Mr. Evans:

We are becoming alarmed about our budget for the next year or two. Money is rapidly losing its value here but our teachers have to be given a living wage and we want to keep our work going. The index of the cost of living for the past month was 52 which means that it costs 52 times as much to live as it did five years ago.

You will have received the estimated budget as passed by our Board of Directors. In this we have requested the supporting Missions to make their grant double that of what it was last year. We can hardly expect them to do more than this as their own needs have greatly increased also. We are grateful for the grants that the Board of Governors succeeded in securing for us this past year for without them we would be without funds today.

I am writing to request that the Board of Governors continue to solicit funds on our behalf trusting that they will quite materially surpass those of last year. We have just found it necessary to advance the salaries of our teachers so that at present almost all of our budget is needed to pay those salaries. This leaves nothing for servants wages, current expenses, library, etc. We are also hoping to be able to engage another teacher after the summer holidays which will again greatly increase our needs.

Our budget as presented by the last meeting of our Board is for \$100,000 N.C. This we hope to secure from the participating Boards and Nanking Seminary. Would it be possible for the Board of Governors, from other sources, to secure a similar amount which would mean about \$5,000 gold. If this could be done we believe that we might be able to keep within our budget and make the advance which the opportunities of the present situation demand.

We are very much gratified by the way that our college had developed during the past three years and we are anxious that we should be able, in a measure, to keep pace with the opportunities. I am sure that the Home Church will be sympathetic with our appeal.

This evening we are having our Christmas dinner and concert in the College.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

(signed) George W. Sparling.

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VIA CHINA CLIPPER

December 28, 1942

Rev. George W. Sparling  
West China Union Theological College  
Chengtou, Szechuan, China

Dear Dr. Sparling:

Herewith a copy of the minutes of the session devoted to the Union Theological College during the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of West China Union University. The actions taken do not appear to me to need comment.

Unfortunately your letters of October 7th and 16th to Mr. Evans had not yet arrived so that it was not possible at that time to present your appeal for additional funds. These letters will be copied, however, and sent to the participating Mission Boards, together with your report on the opening of the Theological College to see whether they can increase their appropriations.

Though your statement on the financial situation in West China was not available for the Board of Governors, Dr. Joseph Beech, in his report, described the rising cost of living in considerable detail, so that it received careful attention. It is giving us all a great deal of concern because our dollars buy less and less in China, and simply make more serious the competition for the limited amount of commodities available in that country. We see no real solution except through a revision of the rate of exchange, or the recapture of Burma, thus breaking Japan's blockade of China, and allowing the importation of commodities from abroad to put an end to hoarding. But we have no means of knowing whether either of these things will eventuate in the near future. In the meanwhile we shall do the best we can in your behalf.

We are very glad to learn of the good start you have made in the autumn term and the fine spirit that permeates your institution. We share your conviction that "this Christian Vision, this Christian Life and this Christian Power is the Hope of China as it is of the whole world".

With very kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

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THE TRAINING OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT IN CHINA

by Dr. George W. Sparling, West China Union Theological College

It is an axiomatic statement that the Christian Movement must have Chinese leadership if it is to endure in China. The Movement was begun by Christian leaders from other lands and for many years it was entirely dependent upon them. Missionaries came as emissaries of the Christian church in the West to institute the Christian Movement in China which would ultimately become indigenous. During the past generation there were but few signs of Chinese leadership, especially in West China, but the need for it was early recognized by those who had begun the Movement.

Again, it was recognized clearly that if the Christian Movement is to become really rooted in China, it must have relationship to all walks of life. Education is the basis of the culture of any land and the basis of Christian culture will be Christian Education. For some twenty years Christian work was carried on, in Szechwan, largely as a preaching exercise, but it was soon found necessary and possible for the Movement to use other means and to enter other spheres. Some thirty years ago, it was decided that, besides preaching the Gospel, it was necessary to seek to Christianize education and medicine in China or, in other words, to educate young leaders who with a Christian viewpoint and a Christian experience would go out and impress these professions with Christian ideals and spirit. For this purpose our Union university was established and classes were admitted where young men and women were trained to become leaders in the church, in education and in medicine.

For a generation of university life the ideal of Christian service has been held before students, expecting that those who would leave these halls of education to go out and organize and teach schools would do so because of an urge to enlighten and uplift the young people of their generation. Young men and women would prepare themselves to be physicians and surgeons with only one purpose, and that is to relieve the suffering of those who come to them as patients. And all through the training, emphasis has been laid upon efficient preparation. Efficiency is a Christian achievement and our institution has always insisted upon careful preparation for successful service. To-day, hundreds of graduates have left the university, who during the years of their undergraduate work were studying in a Christian atmosphere of service and devotion and who to-day are seeking to reproduce this spirit in their own work. How far they are successful it is difficult to say for we have no way of measuring but we have every reason to believe that, because of their vision and devotion, the Christian Movement is receiving new life and new impetus in China and is rapidly becoming a Chinese Christian Movement.

In many towns there are Christian hospitals where the motivating spirit is service and devotion and no one can estimate the effect that this may have in recommending the Christian message to the Chinese people and in making the practice of medicine a Christian enterprise. And many schools have been established by our Christian graduates where pupils are taught the Christian message of love and service.

We hear on all sides to-day that the Christian church is welcomed by the Chinese community and we believe that is so, largely because of the expression given to Christian truth in the words and lives of graduates of Christian schools, colleges and universities. As one Chinese thinker said "We recognize a difference between a graduate of your Christian institutions and a graduate of other schools. Your students have a spirit of service which has not possessed the majority of those

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who come from other colleges". They have caught a vision of their own land permeated by this spirit of service and from them it is being gradually passed on to the large masses of Chinese people.

Besides this, we have the work of preparing special leaders for the Christian church, those who will spend their lives in the work which will be carried on by the church and in dispensing the word of life in sacrament and service. For the preparation of these leaders a Theological College has been established which is associated with the university. Students of the college take their academic work in Arts subjects in the university. They mingle freely with the students of the university and are one with them in the religious and social life.

The special institution needed to lead the Christian Movement and to give the inspiration necessary to make it a success and to realize its purpose is the Church, and to establish this church has been one of the chief aims of the Christian enterprise. In this work also, at the beginning, leadership rested with the representatives of the church who came from abroad but again it was deeply felt and known that if the enterprise was to be a success and become really Chinese, it would only be by the use and training of Chinese leadership. For this purpose special classes in the message and work of the church are given in the Theological College.

The opportunities which will face the Christian church in China after the close of the present war cannot be estimated. Everywhere the call is for reconstruction and new life, a call which is entirely in harmony with the program of the church which exists to give new life and to create a new society. It is to be expected that from many sides the program and methods of the church will be severely criticised. Many will say that it is too dilatory and quicker methods are demanded than that which stresses moral progress as a means to economic improvement. But there are many enterprises which the church can sponsor such as the relieving of distress, education of the masses, co-operatives and public hygiene. These will be welcomed by the Chinese people but will be a success only as they are carried on by Chinese trained leaders.

China is a land of ancient culture with its own social customs and organization and the church must adapt itself and its methods to this environment. When the church begins its work in a community it is usually regarded with some suspicion especially if its advocates come from other lands. The most effective way to offset this attitude and to drive out these doubts is to send into the community well trained young people, men and women who because of their intelligence are able to present the message of the church in a way which will not conflict with the social and cultural ideas of the community. For this purpose, in the training of this Chinese leadership emphasis must be laid on the study of Chinese culture, Chinese history and Chinese religions, for the Christian message comes to a land, not to destroy its original culture, but to fulfill.

Therefore the success of the Christian Movement in China depends upon the Chinese leadership provided by our Christian institutions. But with a capable and well trained group of leaders this movement will rapidly become a Chinese one and this is the road to success. Already the initiative in church enterprises has passed into Chinese hands and the future is assured.

G.W. Sparling

who come from other colleges". They have caught a vision of their own and permeated by this spirit of service and from them it is being gradually passed on to the large masses of Chinese people.

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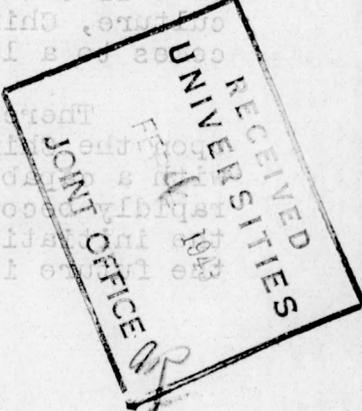
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Therefore the success of the Christian Movement in China depends upon the Chinese leadership provided by our Christian institutions. But a capable and well trained group of leaders this movement will definitely become a Chinese one and this is the road to success. Already initiative in church enterprises has passed into Chinese hands and the future is assured.

G. W. Sparling



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Theological College, Chengtu, West China,  
March 2nd., 43.

Mr. Charles H. Corbett,  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Your letter enclosing the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the College arrived a few days ago. Thank you for them.

The minutes of the meeting do not give very much information as to what we may expect along the line of finances for the ensuing year. There is a reference to the question as to what the supporting Mission Boards are doing and we are glad to see that some of them are preparing to double their grant of last year. As I have said in previous letters this will not at all meet our need. The budget of our needs which we sent some months ago was the very minimum required to carry on existing work provided that there were no unforeseen needs and provided that all Missions met the request. Two of the Boards, those from England, find that they cannot make a very large grant, one of them gave very little last year. Besides this we find that all expenses are mounting very rapidly.

During the past year and a half, the cost of living has risen steadily at the rate of ten per cent each month and is continuing to do so. Our expenses are now thirty to forty per cent more now than they were when our budget was passed and by the time another half year has passed they will probably have increased another fifty or sixty per cent. The index of the cost of living now as compared with 1937 is ~~now~~ over sixty which means that food stuffs cost sixty times as much as they did at that time. Practically every dollar of our budget is now needed for wages and salaries and it will not be sufficient for them in another few months.

I must say that I am alarmed at our prospects and feel that we must continue to apply to you for assistance. It is no longer sufficient to depend on the supporting Mission Boards as the strain on them is already extreme. Our universities are able to apply to the Chinese government for aid and to the United China Relief fund but we have no such help as we are entirely a church institution. The church in China may do a little to assist but what they can do is a small item.

Again we have had referred to us a man who is well qualified to become a teacher in our college and would be ready for appointment after next summer holidays. We have only two full time <sup>Chinese</sup> teachers on our faculty and we realize the need of strengthening that group when the right men are ~~available~~ available. Mr. Fang to whom I refer is a B.A. with a B.D. degree from Yenching School of Religion and has specialized in Church History. We would like to invite him to our staff but at present we have not the funds to do so. Would it be possible to give us any assurance which would warrant our inviting such a man to our staff. We are facing very difficult times in China financially but at the same time we are facing wonderful opportunities in church work and especially in the training of church leaders.

We would again refer you to item # 163 of the minutes of our Board of Management. I would also like to reiterate the request of my former letter that the Board of Governors would seek to raise for the present year, gold \$5000.

Again thanking you for your interest in our work,  
Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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Theological College, Chengde, West China,  
March 2nd., 43.

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Mr. Charles H. Corbett,  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Your letter enclosing the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the College arrived a few days ago. Thank you for them.

The minutes of the meeting do not give very much information as to what we may expect along the line of finances for the ensuing year. There is a reference to the question as to what the supporting Mission Boards are doing and we are glad to see that some of them are preparing to double their grant of last year. As I have said in previous letters this will not at all meet our need. The budget of our needs which we sent some months ago was the very minimum required to carry on existing work provided that there were no unforeseen needs and provided that all Missions met the request. Two of the Boards, those from England, find that they cannot make a very large grant, one of them gave very little last year. Besides this we find that all expenses are mounting very rapidly.

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Again we have had referred to us a man who is well qualified to become a teacher in our college and would be ready for appointment after next summer holidays. We have only two full time teachers on our faculty and we realize the need of strengthening that group when the right men are available. Mr. Yang to whom I refer is a B.A. with a B.D. degree from Yenching School of Religion and has specialized in Church History. We would like to invite him to our staff but at present we have not the funds to do so. Would it be possible to give us any assurance which would warrant our inviting such a man to our staff. We are facing very difficult times in China financially but at the same time we are facing wonderful opportunities in church work and especially in the training of church leaders.

We would again refer you to item # 163 of the minutes of our Board of Management. I would also like to reiterate the request of my former letter that the Board of Governors would seek to raise for the present year, gold \$2000.

Again thanking you for your interest in our work,  
Yours sincerely,

*W. S. Spring*

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VIA CLIPPER MAIL

*File*

March 20, 1943

Rev. George W. Sparling,  
West China Union Theological College,  
Chengtou, CHINA.

Dear Mr. Sparling:

We have recently purchased for this office an inexpensive photostat machine which makes facsimile copies of documents more cheaply than they can be typed by hand. The first document we put through this process was the printed minutes of the meeting of the Board of Management of the West China Union Theological College on November 2, 1942. Photostat copies have been sent to the Canadian and American Mission Boards, which cooperate in your institution, with a covering letter calling attention to the request for additional funds. This is the second time we have brought the matter to the attention of the Boards.

We have also sent out as a release to 240 of the leading religious papers of America, your article entitled "The Training of Leadership for the Christian Movement in China." This has already been printed in several publications and we expect it to be published by many more. This will help to stimulate interest in your work. Please keep sending us material and we will use it according to the opportunities available.

I wonder if you who live in West China realize how little news America gets from China at present. Formerly the great mass of material reaching us came from what is now occupied China. This suddenly stopped after Pearl Harbor. What we now receive is just a little trickle from Free China. Now is the chance for West China to get attention, so please urge your colleagues to write, especially those who have something with "human interest." Postage is expensive, but it seems to me it should be regarded as an investment which may bring large returns. America is more interested in China than at any time in the past, but just when information is most desired, scarcely any is coming through because so few people in West China realize that now is your golden opportunity to be heard.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

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Union Theological College, Chongtu, West China  
April 23rd.. 43.

Mr. C. Corbett,  
Secretary of the Board of Governors,  
Of The Theological College,  
New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

I do not like writing so frequently to the Board of Governors concerning finances but our case is very rapidly becoming a desperate one. Our budget will not carry us with the new scale of salaries necessary to make it possible for our teachers to live and with all other expenses mounting as they are doing.

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the meeting of our Board of Management held on April the 8th. I wish to call the attention of the Board to item #202 of the minutes. We have made a budget which would meet our needs at present if there were no further rise in prices but there is no guarantee that there will not be, on the contrary it is almost certain that they will continue to mount. In the meantime exchange from gold to chinese currency remains fixed and the latest word from the finance minister is that it will remain unchanged.

This item requests the Board of Governors to seek to raise gold \$5000 outside of that contributed by the participating Mission Boards as they have other very urgent calls for their funds here on the field. We have no suggestions as to how the Board should go about raising this amount except that our needs should be made known to interested friends. With millions of dollars being given by foreign countries to relieve distress in China could some of it be diverted in our direction. You will know more about the feasibility of this than we do here. Mission institutions are rapidly becoming centres of need. We can only present our needs and our requests and hope that relief may come.

On account of the postage rates, I am sending only one copy of our minutes to you. Perhaps they could be manifolded in your office.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Geo. W. Sparling.

*minutes of April 8*

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Union Theological College, West China

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Secretary of the Board of  
Of The Theological College,  
New York,

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office.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*W. S. ...*

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File  
Union Theological College, Chengtu, West China  
April 30th., 1943.

Mr. Charles H. Corbett,  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges,  
New York,

CORBETT

REC'D 6/25/43

ANS'D 9/23/43

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Your letter of March 20th reached me a few days ago. We are glad to hear of the new method of manifolding our letters and reports and getting them before representative people. We must do our best to keep you supplied with material. I am enclosing an article which I have written with this object in view and will be glad if you will make use of it.

One of the great difficulties in writing letters and articles at this time is to keep them free from the problem of finance. Living is now away beyond all bounds of reason and our budget is gradually fading into insignificance. Unless some relief comes our days are numbered and the college with other work will have to be closed. I have written you two or three times recently in this strain so probably you are doing something to help us out of our predicament. All Mission work is in the same condition so there is no use of applying to Mission Boards who are having more than they can do to finance their own work. Are there any relief funds from which help could be secured. We hear of America giving large sums for "relief" in China. There is probably no place where this relief is more urgently needed than in Mission work. One of two courses lies before us, either we must secure this relief or work must be closed and missionaries must leave China. Living, in national currency is now eighty times as high as it was four years ago and missionary salaries in national currency are about ten times as much as they were at that time. This same ratio holds for all budgets and finances.

However, I did not expect when I began this letter to raise this question but it is difficult not to talk about it as it has reached a very serious stage.

We will be very glad if you can make use of this article in any way. With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*



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Union Theological College, Chengtu, West China  
April 30th., 1943.

CORBETT

RECD 4/24/43  
MSD 4/24/43

Mr. Charles H. Corbett,  
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges,  
New York,

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Your letter of March 20th reached me a few days ago. We are glad to hear of the new method of manifesting our letters and reports and getting them before representative people. We must do our best to keep you supplied with material. I am enclosing an article which I have written with this object in view and will be glad if you will make use of it.

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We will be very glad if you can make use of this article in any way. With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Lee W. Spiering*

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Union Theological College, Chengtu, <sup>File</sup>  
West China, June 24th., 43.

CORBETT

REC'D 8/11/43

ANS'D 9/13/43

Mr. C. H. Corbett,  
Board of Governors,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Our Graduation exercises are over for another year and I would like in this letter to give a little report concerning them.

The Baccalaureate Service was held in the Methodist Church in the city. We have adopted the custom of holding these annual services in the city churches in rotation. Five of the Missions are participating in the college and we like to take advantage of every opportunity of making real connections with their church work and this is one way. We always invite one representative from each church to have a share in the service. Rev. Chu Chi Ch'ang of the Church of Christ in China preached the sermon. Rev. B.C.T'ang of the Methodist church led in prayer, Mr. S.H.Fong of the Friends Service Council read the Psalm, Rev. Graham Liu of the Church Missionary Society read the lesson and Rev. Fu Chin Peh of the Baptist church led in a special prayer for the graduates. Mr. Chu's sermon was on the subject "What shall we Preach". His main point was that we should preach Christ and what His Coming means to the world.

The Commencement Exercises were held on the College on Monday morning June 21st opening at nine o'clock. The Speaker for the occasion was President Y.P.MeI of Yenching university and his subject was "The Place of the Spiritual in the New World Order". Such a subject is very timely and very popular at the present time in China. He outlined the situation as it is in the world to-day and forces that are at work both destructive and constructive. The only sure basis for a sound world order after the war is the spiritual and the teachings of Christianity are the true expression of that spiritual element, so absolutely essential for a new world.

This year we had nineteen graduates, eleven of whom are graduates of the senior course and eight of the junior course. Those of the senior course receive a diploma which is really equivalent in standing to university graduation. They were graduates of the senior Middle School before they entered the college and have had four years of training since that time. Of these eleven, three are women. The eight graduates of the Junior Course have been with us two years.

General Odlum, the newly appointed Minister from Canada to China was with us and was introduced to the audience at the close of the graduation ceremony. He mentioned his surprise and pleasure at seeing women graduates from a Theological College. He believed it augured well for the future of the church in China.

When the ceremony was over a reception was held in our home for the graduates, to which all the guests of the day were invited. The majority of the graduates are returning to work with their own church though one or two who have come from long distances would like to continue to study for another year. On account of the great need and opportunity of the church at the present time we are recommending that they return to their work hoping for an opportunity for further study a few years hence when times are more normal.

I am enclosing a copy of the picture taken of our graduates and most of our teachers. You will notice that altogether we have five women in the group.

These students will be faced with the greatest opportunity that the church in China has yet had. The place of the church in the new China which is emerging will depend largely upon the work that such leaders do in the next decade. We pray that they may have wisdom and strength for the task.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Geo. W. Spaulding.

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Dear Mr. Corbett,  
Mr. C. H. Corbett  
Board of Governors  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York,  
New York

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AUG 11 1943  
JOINT OFFICE

AND  
REC'D 8/11/43  
CORBETT

Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, June 24th., 43.

Yours sincerely,

With kind regards,

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JOINT OFFICE

THE WEST CHINA UNION THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

6-25-43

Its Past, Present and Future

One of the most important problems connected with the building up of a church is that of training of leaders and this has been very apparent in China ever since Mission work was begun in that land. In West China this has always been in the forefront of Mission policy and at the beginning of the work there this training consisted largely of Bible Study, usually in short term Bible Classes. Later, a Bible School was opened which enlarged the course of study to include kindred subjects such as Church History, Sociology, Philosophy, etc. In 1910 the West China Union University was opened and the work of training men for the ministry was carried on in affiliation with it, so that the students took some of their courses in the university and some in the Bible School. About the year 1930 it was decided that the Bible School was no longer needed and the candidates for such training registered in the university and took their special Biblical subjects in the College of Religion which was part of the university, and thus on graduation the student received a B.A. degree from the university and a diploma from the College of Religion. This plan was followed for some years until the registration of the university with the Central Government when serious restrictions were placed on the teaching of religion in a government institution.

In the year 1934-35 Dean Weigle of Yale Divinity School visited China in order to make a study of Theological Education in this land and to make recommendations for its future. A conference was held in West China where the local situation was explored and this was followed by a general conference in Kuling where the whole question of theological education in China was discussed. The result of these conferences as far as West China was concerned was a decision to open a Theological College in Chengtu. It was decided that the requirement for entrance into the regular course in this college should be graduation from a Senior Middle School. This college, in its management should be independent of the university but carried on in proximity to it in order that the facilities of the university should be available. Accordingly, a site was chosen near the university and the students now enter classes there as desired by the college. The college opened with its first class of four students in the autumn of 1937.

It will be noticed that the opening of the college coincides very closely with the opening of the war between China and Japan and this has had its effect on the college in many ways both to its advantage and to its disadvantage. One of the results of the war and the occupying of large areas of China by the Japanese has been the closing of other Theological Colleges so that many students who under normal conditions would have entered a college in East China have come to this college. During the past year just half of the enrolment of sixty-five students have come from West China and the other half from twelve different provinces. Not only has the student body been increased by these war conditions but our Staff has also been greatly enlarged by the coming of several teachers of the Nanking Theological Seminary. These teachers together with those of the West China College staff constitute a very efficient and satisfactory teaching staff, and our students are benefitting greatly by the broad experience of teachers from various parts of China.

The main disadvantage caused by the war has been the very high cost of living which has made it very difficult to meet the demands of the college with our limited budget. Subsidies for teachers and employees are many times greater than their original, basic salaries and all equipment and furnishings for the

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6-25-43

West China Union Theological College  
Its Past, Present and Future

college are extremely expensive. If prices continue to rise and relief cannot be found it will be impossible to continue the work of the college during the coming year.

The College buildings when completed will consist of two dormitories, one for men and one for women, a chapel, a library, and an administration building. Of these buildings, the two dormitories have been erected and it is hoped that the other buildings will be erected soon after the war closes. Besides these buildings four teachers residences have already been built and these will accommodate five families. During the erection of these buildings prices of materials and labor have increased many times, as can be seen from the final costs of the two dormitories. One dormitory was completed in the summer of 1940 at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars Chinese currency. The second dormitory, which is of exactly the same size and general plan, was finished in the summer of 1941 and cost one hundred and fifty thousand dollars Chinese currency. The same building if erected in 1943 would have cost over half a million dollars. It is for this reason that it is necessary to discontinue building until prices return to a more normal level. But the chapel is very much needed and should be erected at the earliest possible date.

The College is a Union institution and all the churches of the province who have a settled pastorate and are seeking to give their candidates for the ministry a college training are participating in and supporting the work of the college. These are the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Friends Service Council, The Sheng Kung Hwei and the Church of Christ in China. Besides these, there are also students from the China Inland Mission and one from the Salvation Army. The College thus stands for cooperation and will be one of the effective forces for church union in West China. The churches participating in the college do not lose their identity while at work there but are free to express themselves in their own way. While all students that are registered must follow the prescribed course, each church is free to give whatever special teaching or training that it desires, to its own students. Classes are held by denominational teachers for the students of their denomination in which are taught the special doctrines and polity of the separate churches. This may be the form that church union will follow in West China in the days which are to come. Instead of seeking a common polity and fixed teachings of the united church, there may be opportunities for each group within the church to follow its own traditional teaching and organization.

The College in its training, besides the academic subjects which are prescribed, strongly emphasizes the spiritual preparation of the individual for his work. In every possible way there is kept before the student the importance of the work of the ministry and no pains are spared to seek to foster in him a strong desire to preach the Gospel. The atmosphere of the college is consecration and devotion. If on graduation a student has only knowledge his future ministry will be barren and fruitless, and if he has only zeal his work will be impractical and of little value. But if with his knowledge of the Bible and kindred subjects there is linked a burning enthusiasm for the church and its work of salvation he will be a strong power wherever his work may lie.

Students leaving our college at the present time are faced with a wonderful opportunity. Never was the church better understood in China than it is at the present time and with prejudices gone and suspicions eliminated the work that lies before the church constitutes a challenge to the best young minds of China.

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West China Union Theological College  
Its Past, Present and Future

With basic reforms and fundamental reorganization taking place in the country, the door is open wide for the church's message and upon the graduates of this college devolves the responsibility of giving to this country and its people the power which alone will make it possible to build upon the rock a structure which will endure all storms and which will stand firm against all forces of evil and which will endure unto the end.

The College will become the college of the Church in West China. It was established by the Missions but in future years it will be supported and conducted by the Church of West China. This year arrangements are being made for a Theological Sunday in all of the churches of the province when the work of the college will be the subject of prayer and consideration and in this way the church will gradually become acquainted with the college and will be interested in its work and will realize its importance in the building up of the young church in this land. Already some support for the college has been obtained locally and this year the alumni of the college are undertaking to raise ten thousand dollars towards its budget. Thus it will soon cease to be entirely a Mission-supported institution but will become church-centred and will belong to the Chinese Church.

When conditions are more normal it is expected also that the College will be able to do other forms of work and to make other contributions towards its progress, besides the training of its ministry. Short term classes conducted for a period of from six to nine weeks will be opened for laymen of all denominations. Here representatives from various churches will exchange ideas and experiences and all will thus receive a broader idea of the church and its work throughout the world. A circulating library for the church of the province could be conducted in conjunction with the college library. Teachers of the college will be available for church conferences held at stated places throughout the province. These and other teachers will visit schools on invitation, to hold spiritual conferences, and to place before them the opportunities for church work, especially in the Christian ministry. Summer schools and church conferences will be held in the college as desired by the churches. Thus, as the church grows and the college develops their relation one to the other will become more and more intimate and there will be an ever expanding opportunity for mutual assistance.

Thus the College seeks to keep clearly before it and its students the work of the church for which it is preparing leaders. The work of the church, the bringing of salvation or new life to the individual and ultimately to the whole world is a challenge which will call forth the greatest effort of which man is capable. There is no department of human life which is outside the scope of the church and its influence. Those preparing for this work need to keep before them clearly and constantly the vision of a redeemed humanity and a redeemed world, the New Heaven and the New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. The world is God's world and the initiative for its redemption has come from God Who sent His only begotten Son into the world and now He sends out others to continue the work. "Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should bring forth much fruit and that your fruit should remain." Such a vision the college seeks to keep before its students, hoping that all their work and study will help to prepare them for the joyous opportunities and the heavy responsibilities which will devolve upon them.

(Received from Rev. George W. Sparling  
June 25, 1943)

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FOREIGN SERVICES  
AT STANDARD RATES

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THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED "VIA MACKAY RADIO"

SADNYK498N (EIGHT) 42 VIA MRT=CHENGTUCHINA 26 1550=  
DLT CHARLES CORBETT 1943 JUN 26 PM 6 01  
150 FIFTH AVE (NEWYORK)=

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THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FACING SERIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION/NEED  
EXTRA GOLD TEN THOUSAND/REQUEST GOVERNORS RAISE MINIMUM FIVE  
THOUSAND/SUGGEST ASK NANKING SEMINARY FOUNDERS MAKE  
EMERGENCY GRANT MATCHING GOVERNORS GRANT/PRICE JONES ENDORSE/  
CABLE REPLY=

GEORGE SPARLING.=

= 150 NANKING.=

*James*  
*Mr*

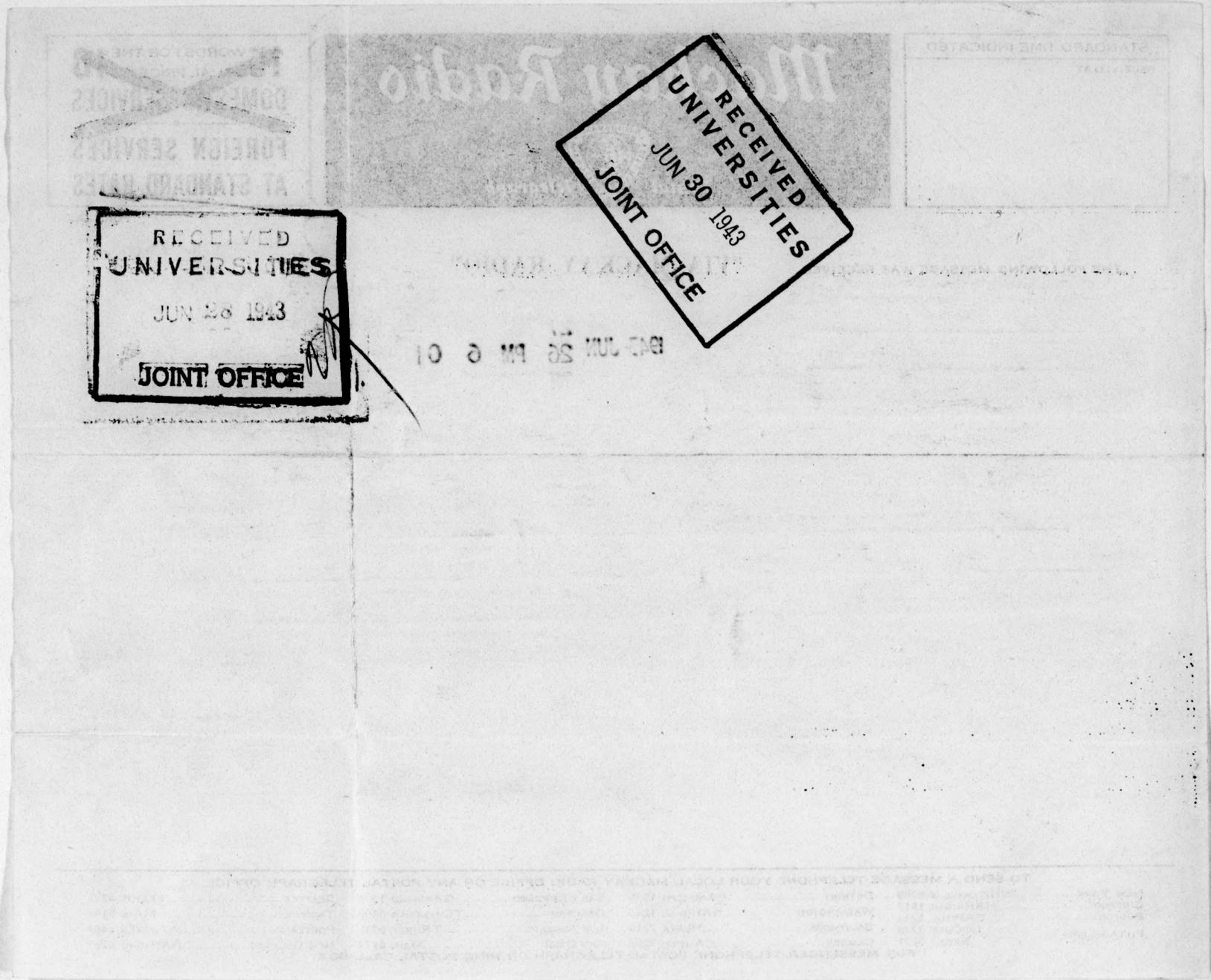
TO SEND A MESSAGE TELEPHONE YOUR LOCAL MACKAY RADIO OFFICE OR ANY POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

NEW YORK ..... WHITEHALL 4-6780	DETROIT ..... RANDOLPH 1555	SAN FRANCISCO ..... GARFIELD 1303	SEATTLE ..... ELLIOT 4212
CHICAGO ..... HARRISON 1515	WASHINGTON ..... NATIONAL 1246	OAKLAND ..... TEMPLEBAR 3360	TACOMA ..... MAIN 6101
BOSTON ..... CAPITOL 1234	BALTIMORE ..... PLAZA 7210	LOS ANGELES ..... TRINITY 0731	PORTLAND ..... ATWATER 6484
PHILADELPHIA ..... LOCUST 3740	CAMDEN ..... CAMDEN 3296	SAN DIEGO ..... MAIN 4177	NEW ORLEANS ..... RAYMOND 9237
..... BROAD 5221			

FOR MESSENGER TELEPHONE POSTAL TELEGRAPH OR RING POSTAL CALL BOX

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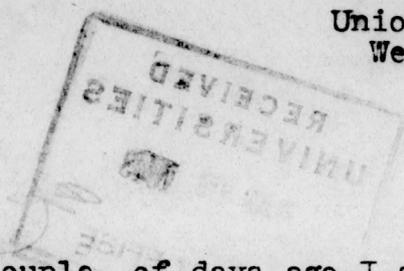


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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, June 29th., 43.

Mr. C.H. Corbett,  
Board of Governors,  
New York,



File  
ackm 7/13/43

Dear Mr. Corbett,

A couple of days ago I sent you the following cable;  
" Theological College facing serious financial situation need extra gold ten thousand request governors raise minimum five thousand suggest asking Nanking Seminary Founders make emergency grant matching Governors grant Price Jones endorse cable reply".

You will readily understand this request. The meeting of our Board of Management in April last, requested the Board of Governors to raise gold five thousand which is necessary to keep our college going. We are appealing to the Missions for increased aid but they are in difficulties also. One or two will be able to give us a little grant but the response will not be general. The amount requested in April no longer meets our needs as prices here continue to soar, so we are asking you to approach Nanking Seminary for an equal amount. This latter was on the suggestion of Dr. Frank Price and Mr. F.P. Jones who will also cable to their Founders. If we are restricted to the amount that the Missions are now giving we would have to close our college, hence we make this appeal. We need a reply by cable as to whether it will be possible for you to meet this request for we need to make our plans for the autumn term

Just to give one index as to how prices are rising. Rice six years ago was less than \$2 per bushel, Last year at this time it went as high as \$150 per bushel. To-day on the street it is \$400 per bushel. Other commodities are in proportion. Such a comparison of prices will quickly show you why our budget must be increased.

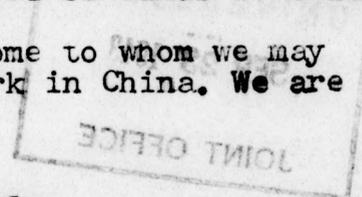
On June 25th, we held another meeting of our Board of Management. Our chief item was the financial one. I am enclosing a typed copy of the minutes, all except the financial statement which I will send as soon as it is off the Press. Items 212, 213, 214, 215, will show you the steps we decided to take to get financial relief. We believe that the money will be found for us but how we do not know. If the church at home realized that it would be necessary to close this College for need of funds we believe that a response would come.

We are grateful that we <sup>have</sup> a Board at home to whom we may appeal for only thus is it possible to carry on such work in China. We are hoping to get a favorable reply by cable.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Geo. W. Spaulding



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*file*  
*Union Theological College*

Union Theological College, Chungking,  
West China, June 23rd., 43.

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UNIVERSITIES  
JOINT OFFICE

Mr. C.H. Corbett,  
Board of Governors,  
New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

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JOINT OFFICE

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hoping to get a favorable reply by cable.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*W. W. Jones*

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, July 12th., 43.

*File  
Acknow.  
9/23/43*

Mr. Charles Corbett,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Enclosed is a printed copy of ~~the~~ minutes of the last meeting of our Board of Management. I have already sent you a type-written copy but these contain the financial statement as well.

In harmony with item number 214 we sent you a cable some time ago. We are waiting for a reply. Prices here are mounting at a terrific rate. Rice is now over \$500 per ~~tee~~ (bushel) and flour is \$1000 for a fifty pound bag. The exchange from gold to national currency remains fixed so that we stand to lose with every rise.

The request as contained in 213 has been sent out to the Missions and already two have sent in additional grants but the amounts that the Missions on the field can give are very limited owing to their own needs. If we are to carry on we will need the gold \$10,000 and even that may not be sufficient for very long. We are sorry to have to make such an urgent appeal but we believe the work is worth carrying on but this cannot be done without funds.

Just now our College is having its summer holidays. All of the students have succeeded in getting work some ~~where~~ which is very essential at a time when living is so high.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

*Minutes of June 25<sup>th</sup>*

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*Handwritten notes:*  
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copy

Union Theological College, Chungking,  
West China, July 12th., 43.

Mr. Charles Corbett,  
180 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Enclosed is a printed copy of the minutes of the last meeting of our Board of Management. I have already sent you a type-written copy but these contain the financial statement as well. In harmony with item number 214 we sent you a cable some time ago. We are waiting for a reply. Prices here are mounting at terrific rate. Rice is now over \$500 per ton (wholesale) and flour is \$1000 for a fifty pound bag. The exchange from gold to national currency remains fixed so that we stand to lose with every rise. The request as contained in 218 has been sent out to the Missions and already two have sent in additional grants but the amount that the Missions on the field can give are very limited owing to their own needs. If we are to carry on we will need the gold \$10,000 and even that may not be sufficient for very long. We are sorry to have to make such an urgent appeal but we believe the work is worth carrying on but this cannot be done without funds. Just now our College is having its summer recess. All of the students have succeeded in getting work some of which is very essential at a time when living is so high. With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
*[Signature]*

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August 12, 1943

Rev. George W. Sparling  
West China Union Theological College  
Chengtou, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Mr. Sparling:

On July 22nd I cabled you that the Nanking Theological Board of Trustees appropriated \$5,000.00 American to match a like amount to be secured elsewhere. That means that the West China Board of Governors is supposed to secure \$5,000.00 from other sources which I cannot see at the present time, unless it is coming from the Cooperating Mission Boards. Right at the present moment even that is rather futile as no meetings of any of the Mission Boards will be held until late in September. However, a letter is being addressed to the various representative groups on the West China Board so that they may have it before them for study and consideration.

We all feel deeply for you in this emergency as we realize the value of the work that is being carried on by the Theological School, but at the present moment we seem helpless to immediately aid in this very drastic situation.

Incidentally you have received some considerable amounts which largely came to hand through the Methodist Board. This ran up to more than \$1300.00 last year, which, of course, in such an emergency is not much.

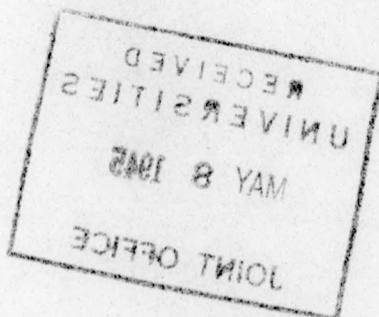
Very sincerely yours,



C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper  
c.c. via next Clipper



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August 12, 1943

Rev. George W. Sparling  
West China Union Theological College  
Chongqing, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Mr. Sparling:

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Very sincerely yours,



C. A. EVANS

CAB/B

Via China Clipper  
S.S. via next Clipper

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, August 12th., 43.

Mr. Carl Evans,  
Board of Governors,  
New York, U.S.A.

*file*  
*9/30/43*

Dear Mr. Evans,

We have received your cablegram as follows,  
" Nanking Theological appropriates 5000 American to match like  
amount to be secured elsewhere stop cannot implement campaign  
until Fall".

We were very glad to receive this word for we  
need this assistance if we are to carry on during the coming  
year. Prices and therefore expenses continue to amount without  
any relief and so our needs continue to expand. We will hope  
that the campaign will be successful and not too long delayed  
for our expenses are always heavy at the time of opening. We  
must keep expenses to a minimum in order to keep going at all.

Our enrolment will not be as large this year  
as last probably due to the expenses connected with each student  
sent to college. We will probably have about fifty students.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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Union Theological College, Chungking,  
West China, August 12th., 48.

Mr. Carl Evans,  
Board of Governors,  
New York, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Evans,

We have received your cablegram as follows,  
"Hanking Theological appropriates 5000 American to match like  
amount to be secured elsewhere stop cannot implement campaign  
until Fall".

We were very glad to receive this word for we  
need this assistance if we are to carry on during the coming  
year. Prices and therefore expenses continue to amount without  
any relief and so our needs continue to expand. We will hope  
that the campaign will be successful and not too long delayed  
our expenses are always heavy at the time of opening. We  
must keep expenses to a minimum in order to keep going at all.  
Our enrollment will not be as large this year  
as last probably due to the expenses connected with each student  
sent to college. We will probably have about fifty students.  
With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*W. W. [Signature]*

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*Evans*  
*10/1/48*

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File

September 23, 1943

Rev. George W. Sparling,  
West China Union Theological College,  
Chengt'u, Szechwan, Free China.

Dear Dr. Sparling:

You have been very good in writing to me and I gratefully acknowledge the receipt of your letters of April 28, April 30, June 12, June 24 and June 29, as well as the minutes of the Board of Management for April 8 and June 25, and your article on the development of the West China Union Theological College. These two sets of minutes and the article have been mimeographed and sent to the members of the Board of Governors.

Your account of the graduating exercises was very interesting and we appreciated the picture of the graduating class. It was fine that General Odlum, the newly appointed Minister from Canada, could be present and get a first hand picture of what you are doing.

Mr. Evans has telegraphed and written to you about the result of your radiogram to me. As the Nanking Board of Founders was just about to meet and as they had a surplus, it was a simple matter to get them to take favorable action agreeing to match any sum raised by the West China Board of Governors up to \$5000. But as Mr. Evans said in his telegram, we cannot implement a campaign until the Governors meet. We wish we were able to give you immediate assurance in regard to the outcome, but we are only the agents of the Governors from whom all decisions must come. The Governors are scheduled to meet in Toronto on November 4 and 5.

It is true as you pointed out in one of your letters that large sums are being given for relief in China, but the funds of United China Relief are not available for the support of evangelistic work and theological education, it being felt both by U.C.R. and the Mission Boards that these phases of the Christian enterprise should be supported by the churches themselves and not by the general public. As the Associated Boards has given its promotional staff to United China Relief, as well as its lists of prospects, it is not easy to launch a campaign. I sincerely hope, however, that the Board of Governors will find a way to handle the problem.

It would be a great help to any promotional efforts on behalf of the Theological College if we could have a more complete budget. The one printed in the minutes of the Board of Management of April 8 does not include the contributions in western personnel made by various participating groups. We find an increasing demand here for a complete picture of each of the institutions connected with this office. Donors have a greater sense of confidence when they know all the sources of income. It helps them to realize that it is not a precarious venture, but one that has some substantial underpinning. We should like also a list of the teachers on the faculty with a few facts about each, and we could use brief sketches of some of the students.

Very sincerely yours,

CHC:D

Charles H. Corbett

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, October 5th., 43.

Mr. C. H. Corbett,  
Board of Governors,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York,

CORBETT

REC'D 12/1/43

REC'D 2/7/43

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Our College opened for the year on Wednesday September 15th. Our enrolment is not quite as large as last year, probably due to the extreme cost of supporting students in such a college with prices as high as they are in China now. I think we should congratulate ourselves that we are able to keep the college going at all with conditions as abnormal as they have become. Missions are finding it very difficult to support their present workers and are not able to make many offers or promises to new recruits so that there is a scarcity of volunteers for the ministry and for church work in general. No doubt this condition is temporary and some day when conditions return to normal, matters will be different.

In our own college, as distinct from the Nanking Theological Seminary who are offering the B.D. course for graduates from a university, we have enrolled thirty-seven students. They have thirteen, bringing the full number to fifty. Of our thirty-seven students twelve come from the province of Szechwan. Many other provinces are represented, seven come from Hunan, six from Hopei, two from Honan, two from Han Hsi and one from several others. Fifteen of the students are from The Church of Christ in China, eight from the Sheng Kung Hwei (Anglican), five Methodists three Baptists, two from The China Inland Mission, two from the Memmonite Church, one Salvation Army and one from the Evangelical Church. In all, sixteen are girl students and twenty one are boys.

There is a good spirit in our college though, of course, everyone feels that they are passing through a special time and experience and are looking forward to better times after the war. Last Friday we held a retreat for our Faculty and students and the main topic of discussion was, "The Church after the War". We hear a great deal about the New China that will emerge after the war and the question for us always is, what place will the church have in that New China. It is probably true that the Church in China and its work will no longer be dominated by missionaries but the Chinese members of the church will assume the main responsibility. This is what we are all hoping for. However, one of our students was insistent on asking the question, "Where is the Chinese church that is capable of assuming this work?" He did not see how the weak churches of this land can do very much. But there were others who claimed that when the challenge came there would be those who would be ready to accept it.

It was very easy to see the bearing of all of this on the work of our college. Continually in our retreat the statement was made that success would depend almost entirely on securing the right kind of leadership for this church. All of us feel that this is an extremely important time in the church's history in this land. If the church is alive and prepared, its contribution to the New China will be immense, if it is weak and inert the opportunity may pass without many results. If our college can send out young men and women with vision and ability the next ten years will see great progress in the church in this land.

Of course, whether candidates arise for work such as our college represents, depends, in the last analysis, on the condition of the church and the Christian life of this land. If the church feels the need of the men and are ready to appeal for them

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and to give them fair prospects for support, there will be a response to the appeal. This is what the Missions are no longer able to do and probably it is no longer their duty to do it, but the church must do it or there will be no church. These are the ideas that are running through the minds of our young Chinese and no doubt we will see these ideas being realized in the next decade.

The telegram which we received from you last summer stated that the Board of Governors would begin a campaign on behalf of our finances, this autumn. I wonder how that campaign is progressing. We are indeed very glad that the Board and Nanking Seminary are undertaking to raise funds for us. Without this we would not be able to continue after this term. The grants from the Missions and other aid that we receive would not be sufficient for more than half of the year so, if no other assistance were forthcoming we could not open next term. We trust that the campaign will meet with success and that we will receive the gold \$10,000

We will hope that the result of the canvassing will be the discovery of certain persons who will be prepared to give annual support to the college. The Missions say that they cannot assume any more of our support and we can easily understand this when we see how they are forced to dismiss workers from their own churches. Thus we will continue to look for help from the Board of Governors and we are very grateful that this effort has begun. We will hope that some of the money can be here by Christmas time so that we will not have to discontinue or borrow money to keep going.

We are all wondering whether prices will continue to rise during the coming months. The ~~average~~ average price of commodities is now about 140 times what it was five years ago. Probably there is no reason why it should not keep on rising though some think that a favorable turn in the war or a drive on Burmah with the prospect of opening the Burmah road might cause the price level to steady up. We can only wait and see.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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and to give them fair prospects for support there will be a response to the appeal. This is what the Missions are no longer able to do and probably it is no longer their duty to do it, but the church must do it or there will be no church. These are the ideas that are running through the minds of our young Chinese and no doubt we will see these ideas being realized in the next decade. The telegram which we received from you last summer stated that the Board of Governors would begin a campaign on behalf of our finances, this autumn. I wonder how that campaign is progressing. We are indeed very glad that the Board and Nanking Seminary are undertaking to raise funds for us. Without this we could not be able to continue after this term. The grants from the Missions and other aid that we receive would not be sufficient for more than half of the year so, if no other assistance were forthcoming we could not open next term. We trust that the campaign will meet with success and that we will receive the gold \$10,000. We will hope that the result of the canvassing will be the discovery of certain persons who will be prepared to give annual support to the college. The Missions say that they cannot assume any more of our support and we can easily understand this when we see how they are forced to dismiss workers from their own churches. Thus we will continue to look for help from the Board of Governors and we are very grateful that this effort has begun. We will hope that some of the money can be here by Christmas time so that we will not have to discontinue or borrow money to keep going.

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With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,  
*W. W. Alford*

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RECEIVED  
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 DEC 1 1943  
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291-1-459

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STANDARD TIME INDICATED  
 RECEIVED AT 10th ST.  
 N Y CITY  
 WAtkins 9-1648  
 WAtkins 9-1649  
 TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS  
 TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

# Postal Telegraph

The New York  
 Commercial Cable



All America Cable  
 Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-  
 GRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE  
 INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE  
 OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE.  
 SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICE SELECTED  
 ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S TARIFFS  
 ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON FILE WITH  
 REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

Form 16

RADNYJ454 (EIGHT) 24 WIRELESS=PZNY CHENGTU VIA MACKAY 29 2145.  
 = LC CHARLES CORBETT WEST CHINA UNIVERSITY=  
 :150 FIFTH AVE NYC.=

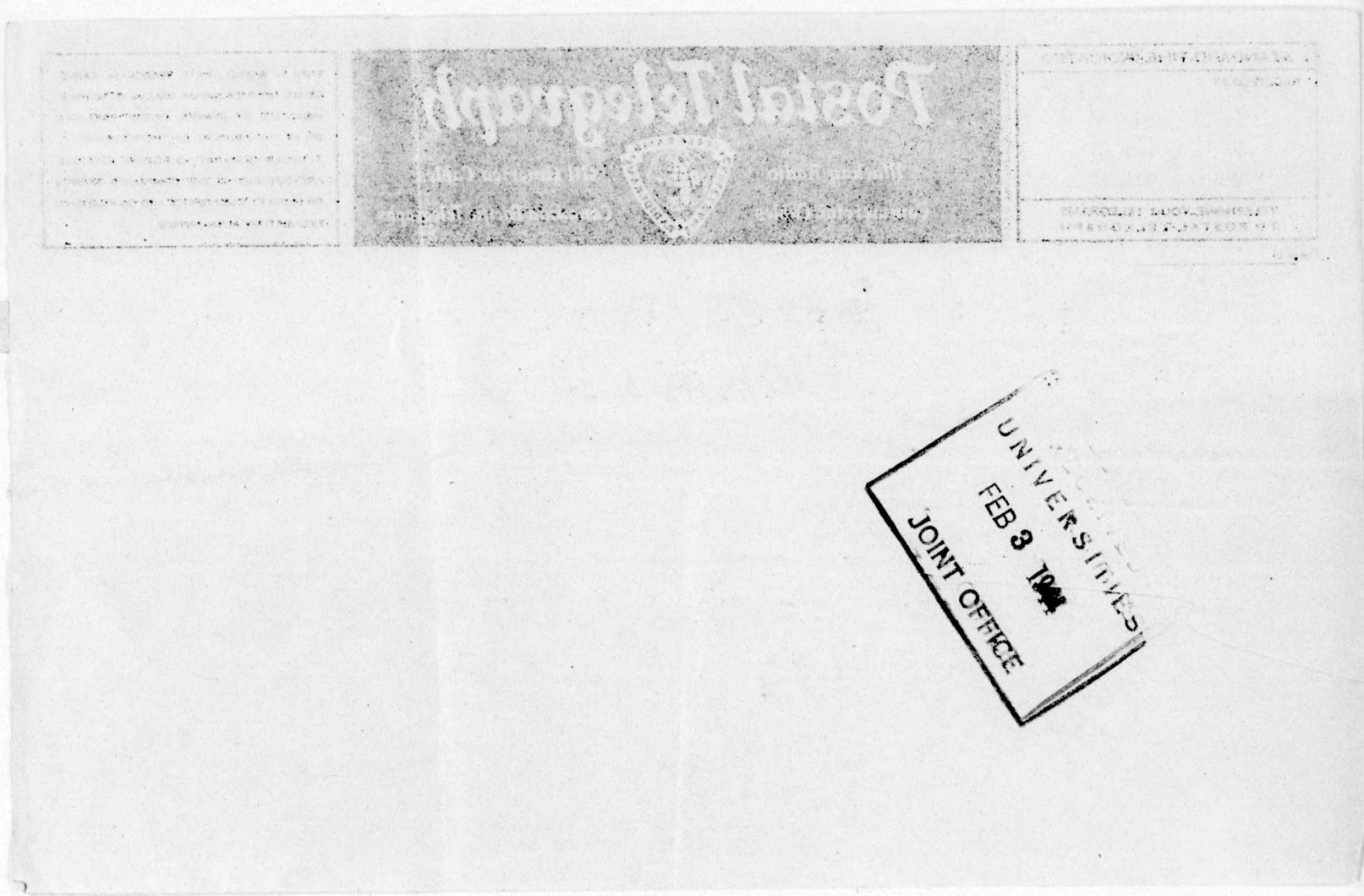
OCT 29 PM 3 39

BOARD GOVERNORS GREETINGS COLLEGE FINANCES ALMOST EXHAUSTED  
 NEED ASSISTANCE CONTINUE NEW TERM=  
 GEORGE SPERALING.

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*Refer to Brown file @*

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, October 30th., 43.

Rev. C.H. Corbett,  
150 Fifth Ave, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Your letter of Sept 23rd came to hand a few days ago. In it you tell of the meeting of the Board of Governors in Toronto, Nov 4th and 5th. In view of this I cabled you last night in hopes that it would reach you in time for the meeting. It read "Board Governors Greetings\$ finances almost exhausted need assistance continue next term". With all grants made here on the field for the full academic year we will not have sufficient funds to pay our way to the end of this term. Accordingly we do hope that the Board can send us at least the gold \$10,000.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of our budget at present. With prices changing as they are it is not easy to make a budget which means anything three months hence. This gives our actual needs now. You will see here an estimate, as you suggested, covering missionary salaries as contributed by Missions. If there are any other questions in reference to the budget we will try to answer them.

Enclosed also is a short account of our teachers. Some time I will try to give you a short write up of some students. Just now we are seriously considering how we will staff our college on the departure of Nanking Seminary from Chengtu which may be in two or three years, though all depends upon the duration of the war. It is difficult to secure qualified Chinese teachers in West China so we will need to increase the missionary personnel. You will hear more about this later

We trust that you will have a good meeting in Toronto and that the campaign will be successful.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

CORBETT  
REC'D 12/30/43  
MSD 2/7/43

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Union Theological College, Chongking,  
West China, October 30th, 43.

Rev. C.H. Corbett,  
150 Fifth Ave, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Your letter of Sept 23rd came to hand a few days ago. In  
it you tell of the meeting of the Board of Governors in Toronto, Nov 4th  
and 5th. In view of this I cabled you last night in hopes that it would  
reach you in time for the meeting. It read "Board Governors Greetings  
finances almost exhausted need assistance continue next term". With all  
grants made here on the field for the full academic year we will not have  
sufficient funds to pay our way to the end of this term. Accordingly we  
do hope that the Board can send us at least the gold \$10,000.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of our budget at present.  
With prices changing as they are it is not easy to make a budget which  
means anything three months hence. This gives our actual needs now. You  
will see here an estimate, as you suggested, covering missionary salaries  
as contributed by Missions. If there are any other questions in reference  
to the budget we will try to answer them.

Enclosed also is a short account of our situation. Some  
time I will try to give you a short write up of some of our work. Just now  
we are seriously considering how we will staff our college in the de-  
parture of Wankang Seminary from Chongking which may be in two or three  
years, though all depends upon the duration of the war. It is difficult  
to secure qualified Chinese teachers in West China so we will need to  
increase the missionary personnel. You will hear more about this later.

We trust that you will have a good meeting in Toronto  
and that the campaign will be successful.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

RECEIVED  
DEC 20 1943

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, Nov. 11th., 43.

Rev. Charles Corbett,  
University Committee,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

We are now considering how our college can be staffed after the war and the visiting Nanking Seminary teachers have departed. Also the standard of work that we will need to carry on. I have been considering this question and will present it to our Board of Management when it meets in about a months time. What action they will take will appear in our minutes which will reach you in due time. In the meantime I am sending you herewith a copy of a short statement that I have prepared which will be the basis for the presentation of the case. I feel quite strongly that we, in conjunction with the churches, must raise the standard of the work that is done to train church leaders.

We are anxiously waiting word as to the result of the meeting of the Board of Governors in Toronto. The finances of our college are practically used up and we need help from the Board.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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Rev. Charles Corbett,  
University Committee,  
180 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Corbett,

We are now considering how our college  
after the war and the visiting Wabking Seminary teachers have departed.  
Also the standard of work that we will need to carry on. I have been  
considering this question and will present it to our Board of Management  
when it meets in about a month's time. What action they will take will  
appear in our minutes which will reach you in due time. In the meantime  
I am sending you herewith a copy of a short statement that I have pre-  
pared which will be the basis for the presentation of the case. I feel  
quite strongly that we, in conjunction with the churches, must raise the  
standard of the work that is done to train church leaders.  
We are anxiously waiting word as to the result of the  
meeting of the Board of Governors in Toronto. The finances of our  
college are practically used up and we need help from the Board.  
With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,  
*Rev. W. B. Spurgeon*

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JOINT OFFICE

UNIVERSITY  
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# Mackay Radio

CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE  
MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE

FULL RATE	DEFERRED	
CDE RATE	NIGHT LETTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
URGENT	SHIP RADIO	



## RADIOGRAM

CHARGE ACCOUNT  
NUMBER

CASH NO.

TOLLS

CHECK

TIME FILED

(STANDARD TIME)

Send the following message "VIA MACKAY RADIO," subject to the rules, regulations and rates of Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company set forth in its tariffs and on file with regulatory authorities.

(VIA MACKAY RADIO)

NOVEMBER 24, 1943

GEORGE SPARLING

CHENGTU (CHINA)

GOVERNORS ACKNOWLEDGE CABLE RECIPROCATATE GREETINGS STOP ALLOCATING 5000 AMERICAN  
COOPERATING MISSIONS QUOTA BASIS TO MEET LIKE APPROPRIATION WANKING THEOLOGICAL  
HOPING ACCEPTANCE.

CARL EVANS

ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA, 150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

DCC-8 NY

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE ON THE GREEN-TOP BLANK. FILE THROUGH POSTAL TELEGRAPH BY MESSENGER. TELEPHONE OR  
POSTAL TELEGRAPH PRINTER. BE SURE TO SPECIFY "VIA MACKAY RADIO". IF DESIRED MESSAGES MAY BE TELEPHONED  
DIRECT TO MACKAY RADIO BY CALLING WHITEHALL 4-6780.

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# Mackay Radio

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## RADIOGRAM

CLASS OF SERVICE	
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DAY	NIGHT

Send the following message via Mackay Radio, subject to the rules, regulations and rates of Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, set forth in its tariff and on its rate regulator applications.

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
JUL 19 1944  
JOINT OFFICE

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE ON THE GREEN-ROSE FLAME TYLE THROUGH POSTAL TELEGRAPH BY MEMBERS OF POSTAL TELEGRAPH WRITE. BE SURE TO SPECIFY VIA MACKAY RADIO. IN SPECIAL MESSAGES MAY BE TELEPHONED DIRECT TO MACKAY RADIO BY CALLING WHITOMILL 4-0782.

2914579

0978

# Mackay Radio

BOARD TIME INDICATED

RECEIVED AT

MC 205



## RADIOGRAM

FOREIGN SERVICES  
AT  
STANDARD RATES

The following Message was received "VIA MACKAY RADIO,"

ITT-I

HB120/LW

*CP* CHENGTU 17 11 1435

LC CARL EVANS

150 FIFTHAVE NYK

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FUNDS EXHAUSTED URGENTLY REQUIRE TWO THOUSAND  
GOLD

GEORGE SPARLING

*file*  
ACT1253

*MS*

PASS *PA*

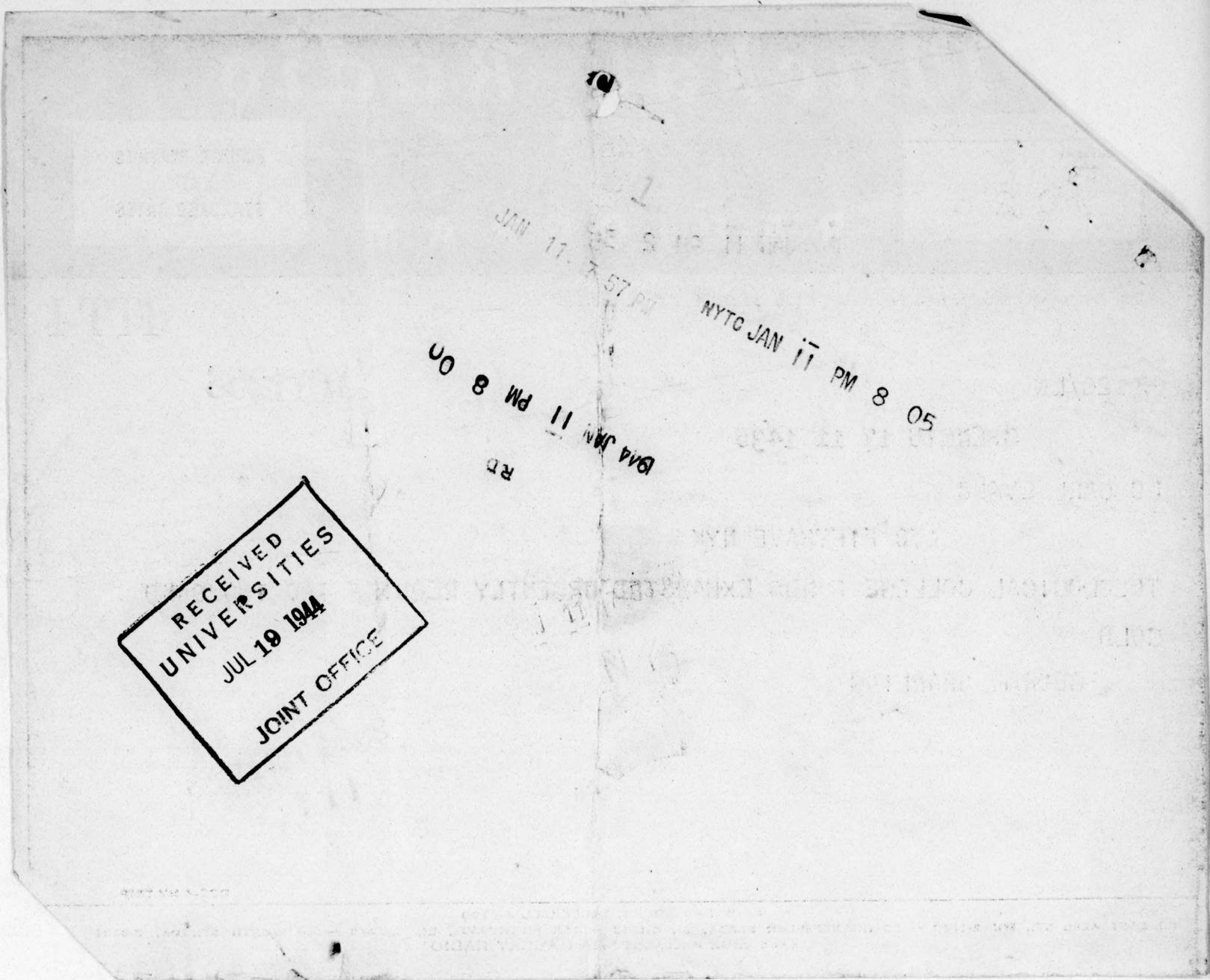
2994 JAN 11  
ITT

DCC-4 NY TRIP

67 BROAD STREET, WHITEHALL 4-6780  
60 EAST 42ND ST., MU 2-1183 - 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, CI. 6-1515 - 256 FIFTH AVE., LE. 2-7278 - 40 WORTH ST., BA. 7-8181  
MARK YOUR MESSAGES "VIA MACKAY RADIO"

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Union Theological College,  
Chengtu, West China, Nov. 26th., 43

Mr. Carl Evans,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

*file*

Dear Mr. Evans,

At the meeting of the Board of Management of our College held last Tuesday it was decided to cable again to you asking whether some money was available for our work. The committee to frame the telegram had it ready and was about to send it this morning when your cable of the 24th inst. arrived. We were very glad to get it as we had not heard since the meeting of the Board of Governors. Our funds are practically all used and we are waiting for assistance.

Some suggested that we send a different cable asking that some money be sent at the earliest possible moment as we are becoming embarrassed lest we do not have money to pay salaries in January. Instead of cabling, I am sending this letter to ask that some funds be sent as soon as any are available.

We are sorry to be so insistent in our requests but prices have reached such a fantastic height that ordinary amounts do not meet the need. The average cost of articles of livelihood are now one hundred and sixty times what they were six years ago. We will be very glad if you will cable us some funds as soon as you can.

The minutes of the meeting of our Board of Management are being printed and I will write again to you enclosing a copy as soon as they are ready.

We are grateful to the Board of Governors and to you for your effort on our behalf. This college should certainly be kept open to help meet the great opportunities that face it and will face it in the years after the war.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Spurling*

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Union Theological College,  
Chungking, West China, Nov. 28th., 43

Mr. Carl Swaine,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York,

Dear Mr. Swaine,

At the meeting of the Board of Management of our College held last Tuesday it was decided to cable again to you asking whether some money was available for our work. The committee to frame the telegram had it ready and was about to send it this morning when your cable of the 24th inst. arrived. We were very glad to get it as we had not heard since the meeting of the Board of Governors. Our funds are practically all used and we are waiting for assistance. Some suggested that we send a different cable asking that some money be sent at the earliest possible moment as we are becoming embarrassed lest we do not have money to pay salaries in January. Instead of cabling, I am sending this letter to ask that some funds be sent as soon as any are available.

We are sorry to be so insistent in our requests but prices have reached such a fantastic height that ordinary amounts do not meet the need. The average cost of articles of livelihood are now one hundred and sixty times what they were six years ago. We will be very glad if you will cable us some funds as soon as you can.

The minutes of the meeting of our Board of Management are being printed and I will write again to you enclosing a copy as soon as they are ready.

We are grateful to the Board of Governors and to you for your effort on our behalf. This college should certainly be kept open to help meet the great opportunities that face it and will face it in the years after the war.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Lee M. Spang*

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
JAN 12 1944

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Union Theological College  
Chengtu, West China, Dec. 9th, 1943.

Mr. C. A. Evans  
Board of Governors, New York,

Dear Mr. Evans,

Herewith a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of our Board of Management. We will be glad if you will have this duplicated and sent to the members of the Board as it is very difficult to communicate with them from here. I will comment on some of the minutes.

219. The Board considered the financial situation of our college and decided to cable again to you to ask if anything had been done at the annual meeting to meet our need. The cable was prepared and I was about to send it to the office when yours arrived telling that the Board had made a division of the amount among the supporting Mission Boards and that you were hoping for acceptance. We will anxiously wait for results as we will be very much in need after the first of the year.

219 b. We have requested Dr. Price to represent us while in America. It might be that he could raise some special funds to help us through this most abnormal period. It will be a real victory if we can keep our college open during the war period and it would be too bad to have to close when we are meeting such a need.

222. The work that is being done here for university graduates is under the Nanking Seminary. We are looking forward to the future when Nanking leaves. We believe that we will still need work of this grade in our college. The standard of education is rising very rapidly in China and the church should seek to keep pace with it. We have referred this question to the annual meetings for consideration.

221. The budget speaks for itself. These estimates are based on the scale of actual expenditures during the past six months. There is no hope that these expenditures will be less for some time but a danger that they may be higher. It is very unsatisfactory making a budget now as prices change so quickly. In order to show what some Missions are doing we have added the salaries of Missionary teachers and part time teachers.

The item for scholarships is necessary due to the presence of students with us who have been cut off from their supporting churches in occupied China. Students are also doing work for us such as registrar, secretary, library, etc. For this they are paid only a small amount and thus the college is saved the necessity of engaging assistants from outside.

The other items do not need explanation. In regard to item 224, I might add that my furlough is due and it is necessary to secure some one for the Presidency and also some one to teach my subjects.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Geo. W. Sparling

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, January 25th., 44.

Mr. Carl Evans,  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York,

Dear Mr. Evans,

A couple of weeks ago I sent you the following cable,  
" Theological College money exhausted urgently require two thousand  
gold". I have been waiting for a reply and since none has come wonder  
if the cable arrived.

We are very much in need of money for our college. Just  
now the college has borrowed money to keep going and has done this in  
the expectation that money would come from America. We have had no  
letters since the meeting of the Board in November and so we are com-  
pletely in the dark in regard to our future. We cannot continue the  
work of the college without the help for which we have asked.

Your cable sent after the meeting of the Board stated  
that the five thousand dollars had been allotted to the Mission Boards  
and you were hoping for acceptance. We are wondering what the result  
of this was.

We are sorry to trouble you but we are in a very bad  
situation due to the fixed exchange and for which there seems to be no  
hope of redress.

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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APR 13 1944  
OFFICE

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Union Theological College, Chongking,  
West China, January 25th., 44.

Mr. Carl Evans,  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York

Dear Mr. Evans,

"Theological College money exhausted urgently require two thousand gold". I have been waiting for a reply and since none has come wonder if the cable arrived.

We are very much in need of money for our college. Just now the college has borrowed money to keep going and has done this in the expectation that money would come from America. We have had no letters since the meeting of the Board in November and so we are completely in the dark in regard to our future. We cannot continue the work of the college without the help for which we have asked.

Your cable sent after the meeting of the Board stated that the five thousand dollars had been allotted to the Mission Board and you were hoping for acceptance. We are wondering what the result of this was.

We are sorry to trouble you but we are in a very bad situation due to the fixed exchange and for which there seems to be no hope of redress.

Yours sincerely,

*Lee A. Spalding*

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February 7, 1944

Dr. George W. Sparling  
Union Theological College  
West China Union University  
Chengtou, Szechwan, China.

Dear Dr. Sparling:

We have mimeographed and circulated among the members of the Board of Governors of West China Union University the notes on the faculty of the Theological College and the budget for the year 1943-1944. We are grateful to you for these documents which you sent with the covering letter of October 30.

You have probably read in the Minutes that the Board noted that your article "The West China Union Theological College, Its Past, Present and Future" had been circulated, and that the Board instructed the secretary to convey appreciation for this splendid statement. I am sure they will similarly appreciate these new documents which we have circulated.

Your inclusion of the salaries of the missionaries in your budget is of great help to us, not only in regard to your own institution but also in regard to other parts of the University where salaries of Westerners are still counted at the pre-war figure of NC \$4,000 per person per year. As far as the bookkeeping in Chengtu is concerned it does not matter much at what rate the missionary's salary is calculated because the same figure is used on both sides of the ledger; but when, for example, it is necessary to present the budget of the College of Medicine and Dentistry to the United China Relief as I had to do last week, it makes a great deal of difference in the total picture as to whether missionaries' salaries are counted at NC \$4,000 or at NC \$80,000 as you do in your budget. If we use the lower figure, UCR seems to be paying 45.5% of the budget, where as actually it is only about 28%.

As the Mission Boards send their money to you direct we do not know how well they are responding to the additional allocations made to them at the Toronto meeting of the Board of Governors. We are to have an Executive Committee meeting here on February 16 and hope to get some word by that time as to how things are going. Dr. Kilborn is expecting to be present at this meeting.

We rejoice with you that the exchange grant has been raised so that you are now getting NC \$40 instead of NC \$30 for US \$1. I hope this will help you get safely through the academic year.

With very kind regards

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

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March 2, 1944

Rev. George W. Sparling  
Union Theological College  
Chengtou, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Mr. Sparling:

Just a brief acknowledgment of your letter of December 9th enclosing minutes of the meeting of the Board of Management of the Theological College of November 23rd. These minutes will be presented at the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held on March 23rd.

We have received several cables regarding the financial situation of the Theological College and the Boards have been written to regarding further participation.

The Nanking Theological Founders voted \$5,000 provided a like amount was received from other sources. As there is no treasurer in the United States for the Theological College, there is no actual way of keeping track of this or accepting responsibility as the field has requested that all payments be paid directly to the field.

We note that the minutes include the budget for 1944 and this likewise will be presented to the Board meeting on the 23rd.

There is no question but that the work of the College is one of the most important ventures in China. It has grown rapidly and effectively, and we wish we were in a position to help more efficiently.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper  
c.c. via next Clipper

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Union Theological College, Chengtu,  
West China, May 12th., 44.

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Associated Boards,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York,

*ack  
7/12/44*

Dear Mr. Evans,

Your letter of March 2nd has come to hand. You speak of a meeting of the Executive of the Board of Governors on March 23rd. We will await the minutes of that meeting.

We have heard that the Mission Boards have responded favorably to our request for extra funds as allotted by the last meeting of the Board of Governors but do not know to what extent funds have been secured.

The Church Missionary Society has appropriated £300 which, I believe has been sent to the field. No other Boards have forwarded any funds here. We hope that the full \$5000 can be raised so that we may get the benefit of the other \$5000 from Nanking Seminary. We are much in need of the help as prices continue to soar.

There is some talk of an adjustment of exchange from gold to national currency and we are wanting to wait until this is adjusted before using the gold currency. It will probably be fixed soon.

We expect to leave on furlough soon after the close of the present term on June 19th. It will take some time to make the necessary preparations but we hope to leave early in July.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*



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Union Theological College, Chungking,  
West China, May 19th, 44.

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
Associated Boards,  
180 Fifth Avenue,  
New York,

Dear Mr. Evans,

Your letter of March 2nd has come to hand. You speak of a meeting of the Executive of the Board of Governors on March 23rd. We will await the minutes of that meeting.

We have heard that the Mission Boards have responded favorably to our request for extra funds as allotted by the last meeting of the Board of Governors but do not know to what extent funds have been secured.

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There is some talk of an adjustment of exchange from gold to national currency and we are wanting to wait until this is adjusted before using the gold currency. It will probably be fixed soon.

We expect to leave on furlough soon after the close of the present term on June 15th. It will take some time to make the necessary preparations but we hope to leave early in July.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*W. S. Spurling*

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for Report enclosed See -  
West China Union College folder

Union Theological College, Chengtu  
May 27th., 1944.

Dear Mr Evans,

Enclosed is a short report of our college as I gave it to  
the meeting of our Board of Management this week.

I have received your letter reporting the meeting of the  
Executive when Dr. Price gave his report. We are glad that he was present  
to represent us there. We are glad to hear that gold \$2300 have been raised  
and hope for more as it is much needed with prices soaring.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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Theological College, Chengtu, West Chin.  
June 13th., 1944.

Dear Mr. Evans,

Enclosed is a copy of the last minutes of our Board of Management. I think everything is clear. Our budget is rising but only in figures as this does not represent any more work or any greater force of workers than did our budget when it was less than one per cent of this. It is the currency that is at fault.

We expect to leave for furlough early in July and may see you in New York after a few months.

We will be glad if you will send a copy of these minutes to the members of the Board.

Our graduation exercises will be held on Monday June 19th. We have twenty-two students to graduate six of them belonging to Nanking Seminary.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Geo. W. Sparling*

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Theological College, Chengtu, West China  
June 13th., 1944.

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With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

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July 18, 1944

Rev. George W. Sparling  
Union Theological College  
West China Union University  
Chongtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Re: Theological College

Dear Mr. Sparling:

Subsequent to the exchange of cables last fall communications were sent to the cooperating mission boards and subsequently enough money was raised to claim the full \$5,000 appropriated by the Nanking Theological Seminary Foundation.

In a recent communication you indicated that no funds appropriated by the Mission Boards have been received. I would suggest that you get in touch with the treasurer of each organization on the field cooperating with the college and ascertain if there have not been received designated funds for the Theological College. There was some complaint, in days past, regarding the delay in remitting funds which came to our office. None of this, however, was because of action here in the United States or lack of action, but due probably to the over-worked treasurers in China.

At the present time there is no one in America designated as treasurer for the Theological College and thus you are losing the direct contact available if such an officer existed. As the matter stands now, it is up to each Board to make remittances directly to their mission treasurer in China, and I am thinking you are worse off than before.

We have just received a letter dated May 27th with enclosure giving a report on the Theological College as of May 20. This will be sent to the members of the Board of Governors.

Most sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via China Clipper  
c.c. via next Clipper

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