

Chengchow, Honan, China.  
November 5, 1941.

My dear friends,

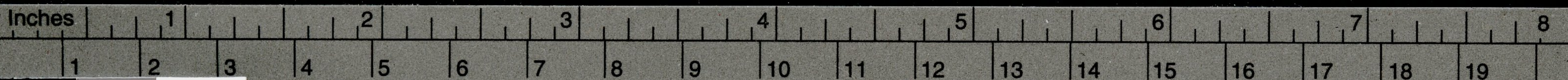
Just a month ago yesterday the Japanese army entered Chengchow. They gave us as much a surprise by leaving on October 31 as they did by entering. Their arrival and departure was carried out peacefully and in order. The Chinese army entered during the night of 31. This was done also quietly. How we thank God for His care for His own during these times! For war is an awful thing.

As I have sent only one home letter this month which was by the courtesy of Japanese officials will go back to the first of the month. On October first the air raid signal sounded at 5:30 and the all clear came at night. There were seven or eight raids on Chengchow during the day and we were by the dug-outs or in them the most of the day. Grateful were we that no bombs fell on our compound. The Episcopal Mission compound was hit, but no one was hurt. On the second there was heavy cannon firing in the north and much bombing at the Yellow River which is about fifteen miles from us. By afternoon we heard that the Japanese had crossed the river. Bible School students, for school had opened on the thirtieth, as well as many others were not long in leaving. On the third about ten o'clock we saw smoke rising from buildings which had been set on fire here in Chengchow and heard others being blown up which we knew meant that Chengchow had surrendered. Firing ceased. The Japanese entered about ten the next day.

Mr. Terry, of the Christian Literature Society, who has been living on the hospital compound for several months while he worked at the job of getting Bibles to free China, was a great help to Miss Stribling and me. You perhaps remember that she and I are the only Baptist missionaries in Chengchow at present. Mr. Terry made many trips to see officials and helped in many ways. He left on the thirteenth to continue his work in free China.

One of the bright spots of the past month has been to see the Lord work in the heart of Christians as well as unbelievers. Classes and meetings twice a day have kept folks busy and happy. Christians have realized coldness and have been refreshed. One young woman who has heard the Gospel for months but rejected Christ came under conviction, and wept out her sins in confession to Christ. To think that she did not believe God cut her deeply. In her testimony she said in substance, "I did not believe. I persecuted Mrs. Ch'ang and Mrs. Ch'en when they exhorted me. Now I know He is the true God for He has saved me." Pray that she may be a light for the Lord.

A young man, a merchant who began coming to the church just before occupation was in to talk yesterday. He says that he now knows





that he is saved and wants to come to Bible School to learn the Word that he may go back to his home to tell the Gospel to his people, for he realizes that is the important thing.

and  
None of the outstations of this field were occupied during the month there were workers in two sections of mountain area giving the Gospel. At the time of the Mi Hsien meeting there were so many raids they decided to have their meeting in the mountains away from the city. At the time set for Hsing Yang and Ssu Shui meetings the people had fled but we trust that yet they may have their 'big meetings' as they call them for they mean much in the life of the church.

The suffering which faces multitudes this winter one does not like to think about. Many who fled during occupation have come back to find stores and homes bare, even doors and windows in many cases have been taken. Many will need food and clothing this winter. At a recent meeting of the International Relief Committee the treasurer reported \$3.50 in hand. However, as soon as communication with the outside world is established we trust funds will come. We are grateful for Baptist Relief funds which came sometime ago. With part of this we have bought wheat which is being given to the needy.

It has been over a month since we have seen a paper. We have felt this month like a frog in a well so far as knowing what is going on in the world. Today we hear that letters are being received at the postoffice so trust that we shall also be receiving mail soon.

