

Shanghai, China
Sept. 10, 1945

Dear Dr. Rankin,

Hearty greetings to you and other friends in Richmond. We all rejoice in the coming of peace. We praise the Lord for His gracious care for us through the dark period of war. Conditions are already better although it will take some time for things to go back to their normal state. God has His plan in all things and we trust that all things work together for the benefit of those who love Him.

All phases of God's work went on quite well during the war. Some have gone through trying experiences but through these experiences we gained faith in the Lord. Now a new era is dawning and we hope with the help of God to undertake greater things for Him. We still need your help in the work. We certainly have missed you and we long for renewed fellowship. Hope to hear from you or still better to see you in person very soon.

Miss Elizabeth Hale is well in the camp. She has been out some already and in a few days we hope that she will be able to move out. We were indeed very glad to see her again.

We mourn over the death of dear Miss Kelly. What she has done in the Shanghai North Gate Baptist Church gives us great inspiration.

Before writing to them personally please give our hearty greetings to the Bryans, the Williams, the Tiptons, the Wares, the Johnsons, the McDaniels, the McMillans, the Hamletts, the Jacksons, the Olives, the Stamps, the Wileys, the Westbrooks, the Carvers, the Snuggs, the Hipps, the Harris, the Fielders, the Koons, the Lides, the Strothers, the Ricketsons, Miss J. Byrd, Miss Coleman, Miss Pearl Johnson, Miss Marlowe, Miss Groves, Miss Hundley, Miss H. F. Sallee, Mrs. A. J. Sallee, Miss J. Ward, Miss Alexander, Miss McCullough, Miss Watson, Miss Lawton, Miss Franks, Miss Wells, Miss Jeffers, Miss Demarest, Miss Miller, Miss Teal, Miss Tilford, the Pierces, the Brittaines and other friends in the States. May we have the pleasure of welcoming you all back to China and to your work soon.

With best wishes and love,

Yours sincerely,

Wu Chi-chung

Charlie Chi

Y. C. Ching

Howson Lee

University of Shanghai
209 Yuen Ming Yuen Road
Shanghai, China
Sept. 11, 1945

Dear Dr. Rankin,

Hearty greetings to you and other friends in Richmond. We all rejoice in the universal peace after these years of chaos and anxiety. We praise the Lord for His gracious care for us through this dark period. Some of us have undergone trying experiences through which we who trust God in all things have gained faith and spiritual comfort in spite of material losses.

As soon as the Japanese got into Shanghai at the beginning of war, they got busy confiscating "enemy" property. Our True Light Building was taken over by them in spite of our efforts to save it. They took the whole building (CLS Building not included) except the 2nd floor which was being used by the University of Shanghai, (was taken away, too, later on) Mr. Y. C. Ching's office on the 7th floor and the bookstore downstairs. Both your and Dr. Williams' offices on the 6th floor were taken. Last winter they took down all the radiators in the building together with the boiler. The radiators were moved away immediately while the boiler was left in the open yard back of the building. Now we are trying to move it back to the basement although some parts are missing. The safety vault in your office was stolen, but the one near the stairway of the 7th floor is still there. Since their surrender the Japanese have practically vacated the building. As soon as they all leave, we will take charge of the building and keep it in a fairly working order. When we do that we will make necessary records of things damaged or missing without committing ourselves in any official way. During the Japanese occupation of the building, all workers of the Publication Society were dismissed except Pastor Ching, the executive secretary and Mr. Ting in the bookstore. We had to borrow some money for their

[351.1e]

expenses. The Executive Board met several times recently but no definite plans have yet been made before we hear from you. We hope to hear from you real soon or still better to see you in person.

Most of our Baptist work in Shanghai is still running though on a limited scale. Ming Jung Boys' School was discontinued and Mr. Feng has his own school. Yates Academy and Wei Ling Girls' School also were discontinued and their principals went to Soochow to work. Schung Tek Cantonese Girls' School, Ching Teh Girls' School (North Gate) and Grace School are still going on. Eliza Yates for which I still serve as the chairman of the Board of Directors is in fair condition. None of these schools except Ching Teh at the North Gate is able to use its former premise. The Baptist Compound was and still is occupied by the Japanese soldiers till this day. All churches are going on as usual.

In regard to our fellow workers let me mention a word or two about them: besides Kaifeng where I have kept constant correspondence with Pastor Han, Pastor Chow and Peter Lee, I have no definite word from either Shantung or Canton. However, I have heard that they were quite well. The Central China Mission is better staffed than others. Pastor Wang is still in Yangchow, Pastor Chang in Chinkiang, Pastor Shung in Soochow and Pastor Liu in Kwun Shan. Wu Chi Chung is fairly well working as the executive secretary of the Kiangsu Baptist Convention. Charlie Chi, pastor of Grace Church, has a large congregation. C. K. Djang is busy in Park Hotel and teaching some in Hukiang and also St. John's University. Y. K. Djang is assistant pastor of North Shanghai Baptist Church. Miss Elizabeth Hale remains in the camp straight through the war. When I saw her the other day, she looked well. Miss Ruth Bugbee is another one of the brave girls. Praise the Lord for His love and protection for them all.

Not long after the Japanese took Shanghai, the University of Shanghai was discontinued, and the Alumni Association opened Hukiang University in its place with Dr. C. C. Chen as its president. I remained as principal of the middle school besides teaching in the university. Now, since the coming of peace, this Hukiang University naturally has to give way for the University of Shanghai. The local Board in charge of the University of Shanghai were divided in opinion as to how the school should be re-opened since they cannot represent the whole constituency. Some favored to have an Ad interim Committee to take charge of the University while others favored re-opening the school status quo. After some lengthy discussion, a compromise was made that T. K. Van takes charge of the affairs temporarily till the meeting of the full Board. T. K. Van came to the office last week. He is getting a new group of people in the administration: the dean, the treasurer, the business manager, and the middle school principal.

Quite a few things happened in my household since you left Shanghai. My mother died two and half years ago and a few weeks later my wife passed away. I am now married to Miss Marian Bih, a returned student and a Christian worker. My son, Sheridan, is still in the States. Both of my daughters are married. Now at home, I still have two boys, age sixteen and fourteen, and a baby daughter ten months old.

With best wishes from all of us.

Sincerely yours,

Howson Lee

NOTE: The above letters from Shanghai were received in Richmond on October 5, 1945. A cablegram has been received from Chungking, October 5, announcing that Dr. Strother and Dr. Hipps were leaving for Shanghai. Miss Tilford is still in Chungking.

M. T. Rankin
Foreign Mission Board, S. B. C.
Richmond, Va.

October 5, 1945