

209 Yuen Ming Yuen Road  
Shanghai, China  
April 29, 1946

*Styptomine*

Dear Ola:

What a long time it has been since I heard from you. To be exact, I believe, the last letter I had from you was more than a year ago from California. I remember your asking me to give your regards to your favorite "profs" in Teacher's College, Columbia. I am sorry to report on this point, however, that finally I did not meet any of those you named. Life flew up in my face while I was in New York at such a rate that really many things I planned to do while in that great metropolis remained to the end undone. ~~In~~ Just the same, I feel I had a very profitable and enjoyable five months of study in Columbia and in New York at large. I am very thankful indeed to have had that opportunity. You certainly have been getting all "larned up" haven't you with Columbia, Language School, etc? I am sure you have enjoyed it all.

Where shall I begin to tell you about China and Shanghai? How thrilled I am to be here, and how longingly you co-workers still in the U.S.A. must be looking this way! I sailed from Houston on February 7, and arrived at "466" late in the afternoon of March 12--33 days enroute including the four days sitting out beyond the harbor entrance in the Anchorage, waiting for our boat to get docking space in Shanghai. Lydia and Rose and Mr. Jackson sailed from Texas before I did, but because of less favorable winds, a smaller boat, and an eight days' wait out at the anchorage, I beat them into Shanghai. Loading and unloading of personal baggage and freight on the Lykes' freighters has been several sorts of headaches for all concerned. The passengers who came on transports have seemed to come through with fewer baggage problems, but even with far fewer traveling comforts enroute--so? I guess problems about even up-maybe?

It is really unbelievably the same at 466 Rue Lafayette, and at 209 Yuen



Ming Yuen Road, Rooms 707-710. Many of us Shanghaianders have even found a ~~in~~ lot of our worldly goods we'd "kissed good-bye", and these help in adding naturalness to our surroundings. Then our old gardner, Keng Ling never left his post at the gate, and both garden and flowers and lawn are strangely and familiarly beautiful. How thankful we are for even the externals of the former days. How thankful we are too for our good and sufficient food cooked by our former fine efficient cook, Ah Yung. As days are added to days, however, both at home, on the streets, in the work and among the workers, we find scars and even the open sores of war. But God has been merciful, and the witnesses materially and humanly speaking of his lovingkindnesses and tender mercies are legion. Much gold in our churches has been refined in the furnace of affliction. Inflation has caused simply staggering economic problems for everybody. Prices are absolutely fantastic.

Mrs. Ling and Mrs. Ma are still on the job, and through these past years have stood by in a very gratifying manner. Last Wednesday the Soo-Seng-Sih W.M.U. had its first annual meeting since 1942. It was a wonderful meeting in attendance and spirit. All the sisters seemed just bubbling over in their happiness of fellowship and reunion. Their subscription goal was \$1,000,000 CNC and in less than one half hour, they subscribed approximately \$600,000 of this amount and had a joyful noisy time doing it. They will reach their goal, I am sure. Mrs. Y.K. Tsang was elected and accepted the work as Soo-Seng-Sih Secretary. Mrs. Ling and I are co-C.B.W.M.U. secretaries. Mrs. Ling will not have it otherwise yet. Dorothy Wong of Soochow is the Soo-Seng<sup>3</sup>Sih chairman and makes a good one. The brethren of the Kiangsu Baptist Convention are very anxious for the organization of the, or a Kiangsu Convention W.M.U. At the annual meeting of the Convention in October next, I suspect the matter will be undertaken in some way.

At the C.B.P.S., Pastor Ching and Mr. Ting are still carrying on as they have even when the enemy occupied our premises. Pastor Ching kept his office, and the Baptist Bookstore carried on at the same old stand. Little new material was published, but their holding on makes starting up easier ~~of course~~







*This letter was written April 29, 1946*

The China Baptist Seminary (and I wish I could say the W.M.U. Training School) was discussed at this meeting. The goal approved was a China Baptist Seminary of higher grade for both men and women. I am quite puzzled as to what position the women should take in the matter:

- (1) Have an independent W.M.U. Training School? What of added expense of faculty, equipment, buildings?
- (2) Accept dean-of-women-ship in co-educational seminary, who likely would have mainly women's dormitory duties, and perhaps minor subjects to teach depending on the qualifications of the dean chosen? Note situation in Ft. Worth and New Orleans.
- (3) Nominal W.M.U. Training school as in Kaifeng, which was not very acceptable to the Seminary men and very difficult for the Training school principal as you know?

The place for the seminary both permanent and temporary is up for discussion. Also the faculty personnel seems very uncertain. The Chinese have the same idea as in the beginning of wanting the first president a Chinese. And just here, I feel impressed to say to you as a friend, for you not to come back too sure that you will be on the seminary faculty. I would want you to say the same thing to me under like conditions. I am not unmindful of how both your preparation of heart and mind and soul has been in and on this kind of work. At the same time, I know you want only His will and glory whether you are in or out. When I know, however, that there is both missionary and Chinese opinion that you are not the one for the place, I feel you ought to know it too. The Lord has given me no special revelation on the matter; and He may want you in the place, despite this adverse opinion that I have heard expressed. I am simply suggesting that you prayerfully await the decisions of the trustees on the question. You remember you were nominated by C.B.W.M.U. Now with the proposed new plans C.B.W.M.U. may not be asked for nominations. Thus you see the whole matter is really up in the air as far as I can see. As far as I know nobody else has been suggest-



ed. All in all the trustees seem to ~~be~~ be getting off for a slow start; and I do not know of any plan in the near future for going into the matter. A committee on temporary place has suggested the Baptist Compound Training School Building; but it will have to be practically rebuilt, and how this repairing and setting up of the faculty and getting of students (some are quite hopeful on this point) will have to speed up if the school opens this fall. I have heard no hint as to whether the F.M.B. will have major say, or trustees in China, on the faculty line-up. Originally I seem to remember that the ~~FMBM~~ asked or expected major initiative on this point. Do you recall?

I am sure the whole matter will give you heartache and concern. Please forgive me if I have overstepped the bounds of my business. Never fear but what there is a place and a big work for you with your abilities somewhere in these waiting harvest fields out here. The Lord will make known His will and way to you in His own time I am sure.

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And now before I get this letter off to you, yours of April 8 to Mrs. Ling and me has arrived. I believe I have more than answered your questions about the Seminary and the work and workers. I have shown this letter to Dr Williams and Lucy; and am sending a copy to Dr. Rankin and Dr. Cauthen. How I do pray that our Lord will overrule if I have made a mistake in this frank telling you of conditions; and that you may speedily seek and find assurance as to His will and place for your work for Him.

How sorry I am to know about the serious illness of your sister. It is nice you have been able to be with her and your family through this time of anxiety.

Lovingly in Him,

Mary Alice