

the school for church
Review class 12/8/39

I have been concentrating on the church work these past two weeks. I have things pretty well organized now, I feel and hope that we can really get to doing something soon. I was delayed by the fact that we were going to use students from the Bible School (Joy's School) to help us. The pastor complicated things a lot by deciding to put something on for the students of the school that afternoon too.

Usually school was dismissed on Wednesday afternoon and we had the place to ourselves for the women's work. At two o'clock there were classes and at three a service. But the Bible School wanted us to change our day to Thursday, since that was the day they had a greed on for practice work for their students. There seemed no reason why we should not do so, and so we made the change last week from Wednesday to Thursday.

Bay

The pastor asked me to be responsible for the primary school students and for the classes for the women and girls. Fortunately I was able to get four helpers from the Bible School. We have thus two classes for junior high school girls, one for fifth and sixth grade boys and one for fifth and sixth grade girls, one for the half day school students (girls) and then a number for women. These are divided according to their religious attainment, old members, new members, and illiterates. The last group is divided up into four or five groups and are learning to read. They are my special problem and I hope to see them make a little progress this year. They are also newcomers into the church for the most part.

We found on Thursday when we started to put our plans into operation that there were some students in the fifth and sixth grades who were too big to be put into the regular classes which we have had with these students. I put the girls who were fewer in number with the high school groups, but the boys were too many and the pastor asked me to get a special teacher for them. He had no idea of whom to ask, but I finally got a teacher from the Bible School. I seem to be drawing pretty heavily on them this year, having got a housemate, a man teacher and four student teachers from them in one week. I'm trying to screw up courage to ask if they can give me a man to teach themen's Sunday School class which the pastor is now teaching. I don't think he should have to do that when he is also pre aching.

We also have what we call "Homes" classes, really neighborhood classes, and the past week I have been attending them in a sort of opening of school exercise. We bought a little tea for them and had a little program. It ran into three weeks before I got to all five of them because of the Mid-autumn festival and some other things which conflicted. There are between ten and fifteen in each class. I think they have a good time and they are learning to read a little slowly it seems to me. If we could put some really good teachers in them, they could be made quite worth while. The only group that had gotten past the first two books was the one which had a Bible School graduate in charge of it. Some of them are still in the first book. The Bible woman, Mrs. Yeh attends them all and keeps them going pretty much. She goes out and rounds up the students. If someone is not there she goes and finds out why, and if there is no good reason, she makes them come.

My three English classes rather suffered from neglect last week since these other activities came at the same time. They are rearranging the schedule so that I hope to get to them a little more regularly.

I also have an English class with the teachers which I have not yet started. It will meet on Monday and Wednesday and will begin next week. It will meet at fourthirty in the afternoon. I'm considering having another on Tuesday afternoon for outsiders, that is young people who are not in school. I know of three or four that are possibilities and after a thing gets started there are always more who come.

The Half day school started with less than twenty students and now it has thirty-seven. Alice Tzo, the girl in charge of it, is very pleased about it. Whenever we come across a girl or young woman who is not in school or who has never learned to read, we urge her to come to this school. They, Mrs. Yeh and Miss Tzo, spend two mornings a week calling on church members and doubtless she has gotten a few as a result of that. Last week in visiting these home s classes I found a couple who said they would come. My idea is that we have a definite duty toward the church people on the matter of education. We ought to see that their children are not only in school but in a Christian school.

I started my medical class again today. They are boys who work in the clinics which are held in the various churches of the city. The one in our ~~main~~ church is especially for diseases of the eyes and according to their report, they treat more than a hundred a day, about three thousand a month. Their charges are very low as they are using these boys of little training. But they learn to treat certain specific things which are very common, e. g. trachoma. Dr. Li, the doctor in charge, is doing a really constructive piece of work. He has chosen some of the boys whom he considered especially promising and put them in school part day. There are two of them in my junior III class. Several of the others which I taught last year are also in school this term.

Conference comes in two weeks. Two weeks after this one, that is. Bishop Ward will be our bishop. There are some activities which must be carried out before that.

1939?

Prices are dreadfully high here now due partly to the exploitation of the conquerors and partly to interference with the influx of food supplies by the Guerrillas. Rice, the staple of diet here is nearly double its usual price, and many other things are three or four times. Charcoal has increased in a year from \$2 to 16 for a load. Many other things have increased in proportion, such as oils. One can't help but wonder how these poor people who live so near the existence level manage when they bump up against a situation like this. The worst problem they have is fuel which is terribly high. It is not for warmth for few of them would expect that, but for cooking.

Coal is \$158 a ton. Before the war it was about \$28 and last summer when we laid in our supply, it was between seventy and eighty. We bought only about half our normal amount and are being very economical with it. Whether we can buy any more at any price at all is a question. I have a padded coat which I wear all the time except when I am actually teaching and it is the finest thing, so warm and comfortable but it gives me a figure like the side of a barn. It is made of brocaded satin and lined with soft Chinese silk, and padded with silk wadding so that it is very light. I have also invested in a Chinese lined coat, very cheap it was, but it will do for the colder weather. The thermometer hovers around 60 degrees these days so you can see it is not very cold, but before the winter is over, it will get down below freezing for several weeks. Then we will have to have more fire.

Thank you for your picture. You look as young as ever which is (to put it ungrammatically) the result of having a good disposition. You should have been a foreign missionary but I fear it is too late for that now.

I had a nice long letter from Murlin not long ago. I had such a good time with her when I saw her in Minneapolis last year. It seemed to me that I never laughed so much in such a short time.

I hope that your courses turn out to be all that you hoped for and that you pass the examinations with credit to everyone (as I'm sure you will) and find the kind of job that you want next year. Do write when you have time. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Lovingly, Jessie