

October 2, 1940.

Dear Family:

I see it is time to tear another page off of the calendar and start another letter on its journey to the U. S. A.

First news is that I have acquired a housemate. It seemed expedient to do so, since my electric light bill was more than I paid altogether for living two years ago. To have someone to divide it with me, ought to help. Her name is Blanche Search. She is teaching at the Bible School, but really belongs at Nanchang to which place she is not able to return because of the war and her somewhat uncertain health. I think we will enjoy living together. We meet only at meal times since our work leads us in different places.

Second news is not so good, that I may lose my good cook. The house next door which has been occupied by a German refugee doctor has been rented to the French Consul, and since my cook is living in the servant's quarters of that house, he will either have to go to work for the new occupants or move out. He is none too anxious to do either. However I seen my duty and done it noble, as they say, and asked the newcomers if they wished to hire him, and they have said "perhaps." The German family has not yet found another house to move into, so things are as they have been and will be so for a few weeks. I wish the status quo could continue until after October 22nd which is conference but I suppose the change will come just about that time. The cook is as independent as a hog on ice and says he will try them for a month and if he does not like them, will come back to me. Since they will pay him seventy or eight where I pay him only thirty, you can see how I rate.

I certainly don't like the recent foreign policies of the U.S.A. All last year, I kept my suitcase packed so that I could leave on a short notice, but now I am wondering if I should not return to that custom. And my goodness, I've got my winter coal all bought, so it seems to me that I ought to be let use that up before getting out. The local newspapers which are of course controlled by a certain country as the Chinese say have it that all Americans will be out of China in a month. So be prepared for the worst. By the time you get this, I may be going somewhere. Only goodness, I do hope not. Just when I'm getting a little bit easier with my Chinese.

Last week Friday and Saturday there was a special meeting under the auspices of a special committee called the National Christian Home's Committee. Each church sent delegates and is suppose to put on a Christian homes program of some sort. One day we learned to cook. Because of the high price of rice, the Chinese in this part of the country are being forced to eat more flour products, and since they donot know how to cook them, they are having to learn from the Northern Chinese who live largely on flour made things. So that day we learned to make some common flour things. I got my hand in it too, just to see if it was difficult and found that it was not. We are going to invite for our church some northern women to teach the women in our church how to make some of their steamed bread and other things. The northerners say that they can eat wheat for a hundred days and not have the same thing twice. The people here only know how to make three or four different kinds. I shall buy materials for them and at our midweek meeting have a cooking class. It will have to be October 17th in case you are interested.

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.

The pastor asked me to be responsible for the primary school students and for the classes for the woman 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 of 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 ~~synagogue~~ 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.