

furlough. There is a C.I. M. couple and a single man here. As the group gets smaller, the fellowship gets closer, so that there are compensations. Unfortunately also as the group gets smaller, those left get busier and busier.

I have not written to some of you since summer, when I took over my new job. I suppose you will be interested to know more about it. I'm enjoying it more than any I ever had, and I've always enjoyed my work. It seems to me that I spend my days doing a multitude of small not very important things, and yet it seems necessary to have a foreign missionary as a sort of clearing house for a lot of little things. I'm constantly in touch with people, and never do the same thing two days in succession. The result is that I find the work very stimulating, too much so perhaps, because I never get tired even though I don't get a chance to stop until dark, and then of course I am tired.

I'm embarrassed to make a list of the schools that I am "principal" of for they are so many. Six I think it is right now. I also have connection with two others. Beside that I have the woman's work in the big city church, and it is quite well developed due to the strenuous work of my predecessor. However everything is so well organized that things run rather smoothly. A beginner always runs into difficulties, especially in the schools, and we had a further complication that not only was I new, but the pastor was also, there was a new Bible Woman and day school supervisor. No body quite knew how to appraise anyone else and it took a few months to get started. But I'm very happy now at the fine spirit of the group. I don't take any credit for it except to say that at least I did not prevent it developing. I said to one of the Bible women, that in the evangelistic group, there were four of us, that that we worked as if we were one person. There is very little conflicting of interest and jealousy and the other things that prevent a church acting as a unit.

I look upon the evangelistic work as my main task and the others as side issues. Each school has a good head and I have only general supervision. But just to look in on each one for a few minutes once a week, takes a surprising lot of time and of course that is not really adequate supervision. I try to lend the force of my authority (whatever it is) toward the smooth running of things within the school. If the head can't get it across without me, somehow when I appear, everyone comes to attention.

I could not resist the temptation to do some teaching. It is my old love. I excuse myself by saying that it gives me an opportunity to get acquainted with the students, and since the school is in the church, I necessarily must have some contact with them. I have each class, of junior middle, once a week in a "conversation" class, but from an educational standpoint, I fear it does not amount to much. If there are conflicts, I let the teaching go, so the result is that I've missed a lot of classes. I enjoy the ones I get to, and the students appreciate a change to hear English spoken by a foreigner. Being students, they are quite philosophical if the teacher fails to appear. They have plenty of other things to do. I also have twice a week, an English class with the teachers, and once a week, a class for some boys who work in the clinic. That makes six hours, but in reality it is not that much for I make no preparation and correct no papers, so the time is just that spent in class.

If I were to begin on economic conditions here, it would be a long story of economic exploitation. Prices are many times normal standards, due to interference with the natural flow of trade. What the Japanese do not embargo, the guerrillas do, so between them the people are suffering a great deal. Prices are steadily rising. It is very interesting that despite the high exchange, (17 or 18 to one) that local products are catching up with the imported. Last year we used almost nothing imported because we could buy local substitutes at a third or fourth the price. Now for example, we are using imported powdered milk instead of fresh milk, because it is nearly the same price and we can adulterate it to suit ourselves. Foreign flour has

been about thirty a sack and last spring, Chinese flour was fourteen. Now Chinese flour is nearly 26. Foreign flour may have gone up a little, but I can see the possibility that before long it will be as economical to use American flour as Chinese.

I've always wondered if the Chinese with their many layers of clothes really did manage to be comfortable in the winter, or if they just endured what they know they must endure. Coal is so expensive now, that I've had a chance to find out, that I can keep really comfortable even with the temperature down around freezing. I have some pants, knitted of heavy yarn which reach to my ankles beside the usual layers of underwear and bloomers. On top of a sweater and blouse, I put a Chinese coat either padded or fur-lined (I have two) and then if I am going on, a heavy coat. I have heavy lined Chinese shoes made of velvet and lined with camelhair cloth and usually have two pair of socks. Of course it has been a mild winter. We have a little fire in the evenings, and sometimes I turn on the electric heater for a while in the morning. My criterion is whether or not my hands get cold. If they do, I get more heat.

I had planned to go to Shanghai with Lulu next Tuesday, but the head of the young people's work was just in to tell me about two retreats he has planned, one in South city in Wesley (my church) and the other in North City. I suggested a date for the one at Wesley early enough so that it would not interfere with my plans, hoping that it would not matter whether I attended the other or not. He however apparently came over especially to urge that I try to come to both. I pleaded my previous plans, but he very unsympathetically suggested that I go later. Each one lasts three afternoons, the first coming on Friday Saturday, and Sunday, the second on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Joy is going on Thursday I hear, and I may take in two days of the second meeting and go with her.

Another interesting thing has been that our enrollment in our schools is holding up very well through the second semester. In the larger primary school which I have, we have turned students away and have as many as the first term. In the Junior High School, there is a little falling off, but nothing very extensive. All this is in face of the fact that in event of war, probably these schools will have to close. I had expected that the enrollment would be at least cut in half. The government in controlled schools are pretty bad, I guess, very much under Japanese influence, with the Japanese language as a required subject which of course does not go too well.

This is not to count as a reply to your letter. I hope to be able to write one later, although if I don't get a chance to do it, this will at least give you a little news about me. Tomorrow afternoon, the Half Day School (an adult woman's school held in afternoons) opens. Thursday we have our regular woman's meeting. Friday the retreat begins, which will keep me busy through the next three days.

Lovingly,

Jessie

P. S. Shanghai. A cable has come from the Board ordering everyone to withdraw (I mean withdraw) temporarily. The powers that be are conferring on the matter as to whether we shall stick out our tongues and tell them to go to grass, or whether we shall obey. None of the other boards have taken such a step so we are feeling pretty low about it.