

40 Hwang Li Hsiang, Nanking, March 19, 1941

Dear Family:

This is my papa's birthday and how better could I celebrate it than by writing a letter to my family! I hope the boat scheduled for the 22nd will be a little delayed as per usual or else this letter may come to on a later boat.

I'm glad to report that I am back on normal diet although I am still eating toothpowder for medicine. I had to go back a second time to the doctor, as I think the first toothpowder he gave me for medicine was no good. He put a tube down through my nose and fed me a cracker like a parrot and pumped out my stomach, just to prove to me that there was nothing the matter with it. Or at least that was the conclusion he came to or said he came to. I decided that perhaps it was all nerves after all, since that is all that ever seems to be the matter with me and so I have been taking it easy or as easy as I can. I stayed in bed two days as a starter and have been going a little light on work. I've cut down my language study and am not being just too conscientious about other things. It is the heck not to be able to eat. I got so I dreamed of hamburgers, with onion and all the fixings too. However, to make a short story long and before you begin to interrupt with the tale of your symptoms, I shall say that I am much improved although I still am far from normally, (physically I mean. Mentally no worse than usual or at least no too much).

have

We were arranged for revival meetings in April, four days at each church. I find that in making plans I stepped on the toes of the District Supt. in not consulting him. I didn't realize that it was necessary. Now he is feeling hurt since our activity is a sort of reproach for his not having done it himself before. He claims to have been trying to arrange some meetings for two years, but Pastor Chu and I just decided that we needed to have them and invited the man we wanted. I interviewed him while I was in Shanghai. He is a young Baptist preacher, and his church is upstairs over a dance hall and movie theater, but he said he had a room full every Sunday. However I hope we have fixed things up by having a committee meeting to go over the plans we had made.

Saturday afternoon I had a sort of double-header on. The choir and Epworth League decided to cooperate and have a party, mostly to boost the choir, and they asked to have it here. They were supposed to come at four thirty and so someone suggested that we have this meeting with the D.S. from three-thirty to four-thirty. Well, the old fellow didn't get here until four and they palavered until about five thirty. Fortunately it was a nice warm days and the party adjourned to the lawn. The kids began to arrive about four and when they got here there were about forty-five of them. As I had planned for only forty- of them, I had quite a number more than I had food for. Blanche finally came to the rescue and we cut the pieces of cake in two and fed the old folks first inside hoping that they would not see that the kids got a few more things than they did. Then we invited the kids in, and they ate and had some speeches and some more games.

I am preparing a candle lighting service for the Woman's meeting just before Easter. The only trouble is that it is to be held in the broad day light which spoils the effect. I have an English copy which is mostly in the words of the Bible with hymns interspersed, so that the translation was merely a matter of hunting up the corresponding passage in the Chinese Bible. I've done a lot of work on it and I think it is about ready. I think it is going to be rather nice as a sort of something different for them.

On Monday, I decided that I needed to do something a little different, (occupational therapy they call it in some places) and so I decided that it was time to do something about my clothes. I'd been hollering a lot about not having any new clothes, so I decided to see what I could do with my old ones. The most obvious thing was to wash them all, which I did, and they do look a lot better. Also darned and ripped up an old skirt and will make it over. I gave the coat to the tailor to turn, but the skirt I'll do myself just for something to do. The trouble is that I get them started and never get around to finishing.

We have had an interesting thing happen at the church. There is a Mrs. Wang who comes very faithfully who has several little children, one a baby about a year old who makes so much noise that she has to stay in the back part of the church all the time. Well, she had a neighbor, the wife of a postman who she said, had been sick for "half a year", and they were getting worried that it was affecting her mind. So Mrs. Wang persuaded this family to let the sick woman come to church, that if she would believe on Jesus, that she would be healed.

So one Thursday a couple of weeks ago, this green-coated postman came with his wife and told us all about her. We hardly knew what to do with her. Mrs. Yeh said that she was possessed of a devil. The poor thing looked like death, so weak and pale. I did not dare to excite the woman for while she was quiet enough, it was obvious that she was not normal. After Church, Mrs. Wang took her in charge again, and promised to teach her a song and a prayer which is always taught to beginners. I wondered if the woman would come again, if she would survive all the excitement, but the next Thursday there she was again. Mrs. Wang brought her up to me, and I tried to persuade her to go to the hospital for an examination, hoping to find out if she is really mentally deranged, but I tried to say a few words to encourage her. I told her that we had prayed for her at our workers' meeting on Friday and also at the missionary prayer meeting. She really did look better. Sunday she was at church again. Again noticeably improved over what she had been the last time I saw her.

Friday afternoon, was the Mother's club. I invited Miss Yuan, a public health nurse from the hospital to speak on sanitation in the home. I wish I could have her to work among the homes of the church as a public health nurse. They also elected officers, Mrs. Wang Ming-teh, president. I'm having a committee meeting on Thursday to plan the year's or next few months program. The past six months ^{of work} have been a little over their heads, it seems to me. I don't think they have gotten a lot out of it, and I hope we can plan something a little nearer to their actual problems. However it is not easy to be practical like that.

I went over to Hwei Wen yesterday to get some English material. Dr. and Mrs. Ho were very glad to see me, and Mrs. Ho took me around the house and showed me that everything was just as it was when Miss Golisch was there. She also made me go out into the garden and look at the flowers. The yard did look very nice. They seemed very happy and so did the servants. It is the first time that I had gone over since Lulu went away and I almost dreaded to go for fear I would run into some hard problems, so I was quite delighted to find them so happy.

Love
Jesus