

Hwei Wen School, Nanking, Aug. 13, 1946

Dear Clara & Ruth:

I got Clara's letter a day or two ago. It reminded me that it was time for me to write a nother letter home.

I finally got the clothes distributed and sent out except for one bunch which will go this morning. Miss Chao, one of our Bible women helped me manage it. She is leaving us to be married to an Episcopalian minister and so I told her that anything she wanted for herself she could choose first. So she picked out quite a few things which she liked. The shoes were not a great success because even Clara's were too big but she took a pair of Clara's and said that she would stuff paper in the toes. I think she was quite pleased with what she got.

All the baby clothes we gave to the Shen, the man who visited us in Spirit Lake. His wife is expecting a baby in a month or two now. Otherwise there are no babies among the preachers. That is, I mean the kind of babies that wear ba by clothes. As to the big kind, I have my own opinion and can only say that preachers will be preachers. The rest of the things we more or less indiscriminately distributed. The families that had big girls we gave more of the girls' dresses to, and those with boys, more boy's clothes but we just guessed at sizes. Each preacher's family got a box or more full of clothes, such as those you sent out. I have four coats saved for four little preachers' daughters who are coming into the high school here this autumn from the country.

Fortunately there is a trend now toward foreign style clothes among the younger generation. One of the preacher's wives told me that her big girl was much delighted because there were some skirts in the box she got. It seems that skirts and blouses are quite the thing among high school girls. The latest style Chinese dresses all have a set in sleeve, although otherwise they follow the Chinese pattern. So it is possible that they can use a lot of things as they are for the kids. To the Chinese the things looked nice and everyone was delighted.

One blue print sheer dress looked to me like Clara and so I appropriated it for my own use. I need a dress up dress. I imagine she discarded it because it faded a little in washing but I don't think it looks too bad. Anyhow it is just the type of dress that I need. Another dress I gave to Marie.

We are both of us very short of summer dresses. I know you think I brought a lot, but in weather such as we have been having the last three weeks, there are only certain types that are comfortable and I find that my outfit boils down to two dresses. It has to be a cotton, not so thin that one must wear something under it, nor so closely woven that the air won't circulate through it. Also not fit too tightly. I thought I had a lot of wash dresses, but through this very hot spell, there seem to be only two that are much use. One is a seersucker, and I wash it out every night and put it on the next day as soon as it is dry. The truth of the matter was that cotton dresses then when I left were so hard to buy that I really didn't have any choice. I have four or five which are heavier and or which for some reason I can't wear now.

We have a chance to get a lot of UNNRA canned goods for the cost of transportation, estimated at U.S.\$1 per case. They are listed as luxury goods and so some of them are being distributed among schools, hospitals and missionaries on condition that we don't sell them. There is soap, candy, canned meat several kinds, peas, corn, asparagus, and several kinds of canned fruit and fruit juices, butter, margarine, coffee, sugar, shoe soles, camp cots. They may be in large size tins such as the army used. The various missions are cooperating on the distribution, so that there will most likely be a large consignment of stuff for Nanking, several carloads or truckloads. We ordered a lot for/a our Chinese workers, but it was a gamble knowing whether they would want them enough to be willing to pay the transportation on them as they are mostly things they would not ordinarily buy. I asked Tracey if he would be willing to buy half of all that the Chinese didn't take which we ordered, and I will buy the

balance but there will be other missionaries coming this fall so that probably there will be no difficulty getting rid of things at that price. However we went over the list and cut off some things that we would not want to have to eat ten cases of. We buy the stuff sight and unseen, as they come. There is supposed to be about 10 per cent spoilage. There may also be some losses in transit. But those are things that one has to pay for in addition to the regular price.

I just turned the last lot of things over to the big fat D.S. and he looked at the box and said, "So many things." He wanted to know where it was from and I said from my home church, and he said to give him an address and he would write a letter of thanks. He doesn't write English very much but he has some children that do as his oldest son is a university graduate and his two daughters in university.

I think I am going to send my letters ordinary mail hereafter, except on special occasions. That would be when I didn't get around to write for a long time and wanted to make up for lost time.

As to the rest of the three hundred seventy-six packages which are still to come, don't worry that I can use them. I just can widen my circle a little. I wish I had three or four more nice coats for three more preachers' daughters who are coming in from a distant place. Their father is a sort of Chinese John Wesley. He had a good place here in the Conference in the Chinkiang church, but he didn't like to work under the Japanese so he asked to be sent into free China. We had no place actually open, but he went into southern Anhwei with his wife and six children and reopened work that had been closed for years, made it self supporting. His church was mostly refugees from occupied China and when peace came, most of his most dependable members returned to Shanghai and other places. So we are temporarily giving him a little subsidy which he is using to educate his children. His oldest boy is here already to enter the university and he has three daughters of middle school age. I am having the boy help me with my accounts and we will help the girls.

This preacher, named Pastor Ling, ranges all over a wide territory. He wanted a bicycle and so we are working on that. I think I have the money for it. Someone gave him an old one but we need new tires and a new seat and various other things. I guess it has wheels and a frame. Albert Steward gave \$35 for the bicycle and the Chinkiang folks are also going to help. He has his church members trained so that there is a great deal of lay participation and thus he can take care of six or eight churches. He is a very interesting man. If we had a lot more like him, our work would make faster progress. As far as that goes, if America had a few like him, things would move along faster. His kind just doesn't come along more than once every two or three hundred years.

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Our stock as missionaries has gone up quite a lot now that the ambassador is a missionary. He spoke yesterday in a joint meeting of all the churches in Nanking to observe the first anniversary of the coming of peace. I didn't go as it was very hot and I was tired and the thought of sweating out another meeting was more than I could take. He is the son of a missionary. He is an old man, nearly seventy I believe. We all went to a reception given for him at the Embassy on Saturday, at which I also saw General of the Army Marshall as the papers call him. It used to be that the missionary community made up the most of the crowd at such affairs but we sort of stood around and watched the others drink champagne and beer as we sipped our pineapple juice. With all the embassies here, of course their staffs count up to quite a mob, and there are quite a lot of military men of various sorts here now in an advisory relation to the gov't. So there were many uniforms covered with campaign ribbons and medals of various sort. I wore the blue print dress which I got out of the box and felt quite well dressed. Marshall is certainly a homely guy. I didn't talk to him as you doubtless have already guessed. I talked to the vice consul.

We have had a long stretch of hot weather. Usually this time of year a typhoon appears on the Pacific somewhere and while it rarely strikes here, it nevertheless makes a difference in temperature. There are heavy

rains which however often do heavy damage to the rice crop which is about ready to be harvested this time of year. So perhaps the good Lord is considering the welfare of the hungry rather than the needs of those suffering from prickly heat. I am going to borrow a cot and try sleeping on the porch. It is not screened so that I will have to use a mosquito net but even at that it may be better than inside. It cools off faster. In the middle of the night, it cools off a little but I always wake up in the morning with perspiration rolling down my face. We are luckier than a lot of people in that our bathtub survived the war. It seems that about the first thing the Japanese did when they occupied a house was to remove the bathtub. This house was occupied only a short time by them so that it is still here. It helps a lot to be able to get into a tub of cold water two or three times a day.

I am considering cutting off my hair. I have the back divided into two parts and braided in two braids and the braids pinned up on the sides. I can't say that I care so much for the way it looks, but it feels a lot better and since I can feel it but can't see it, so I consider my own feelings first. I hope that the others will think that while ugly it is very stylish. I wondered about having it short in the back and more or less as I have it in the front. I don't like the effect I get in the back anyhow.

Jennie sent me a nice box of things, a rag rug, and some table cloths and towels, and other linens. Also two nice pair of curtains.

Let me know what you want me to send you. Cotton cloth is about three dollars a yard here. That is just ordinary printed cloth. Some of the prints are very pretty. The cost of making a dress would probably be fifteen dollars. I haven't dared to ask. Dry cleaning costs about 2.50 a garment. I think most things are washed at that. Frances Culley had a dress shrunk so much she couldn't wear it in Shanghai at the cleaners. Of course in another six months, your prices may be up to that level too. Only if you see any nice cotton dresses, size 18, buy me two or three. I will be glad to pay for them.

I went to church yesterday and afternoon to the English service and heard Dr. Searl Bates speak on the Christian church in Japan. He was taken to Tokio last month by the army to testify at the war crimes trial as he was in Nanking in the winter of 1937 when the Japs took the city. It was a very interesting report. He said that the Japanese Christians were almost pathetically eager for some contact with the outside world again, even with the country of the atomic bomb. The food situation was so bad that he said many of his Japanese friends had lost thirty or forty pounds which is a lot for a short person to lose and he said that any foreigner going in there had to plan to bring all his food with him, that is more or less living off the U.S. Army occupation forces.

I got weighed in Shanghai and find that I have lost the ten pounds which I gained in America. I always do that and when I get down to normal weight, I stay there until I get back to America. Don't tell Putt or else he won't want to let me drink all the milk I want the next time I descend upon you. I have started drinking a glass a Klim between meals. A friend of mine gave me a five pound tin of it. Judy refuses to drink Klim so they have decided to buy fresh milk for her. There is something about this damp climate, I mean damp climate which makes a typewriter ribbon fade out in such a short time. I just turned this one over.

I will give the D. S. an envelope addressed to the W. S. C. S. care of Mrs. Gravatt and if he writes a letter, she may get it direct. I will try to write a letter which you can send off to the others soon. I am still very busy as I have some financial reports to make out and through this very hot weather don't get a lot of work done. I try to do just what I can't get out of doing. I try to make Monday my day off when I wash my hair and clothes and do such things as write to my family. Hoping you are the same, lovingly, Jessie