

Miss Nellie Smith.
South China
Nellie Smith

1927-8

Limchow Fu Station

ANNUAL LETTER

August 1927

Please post your Annual Letters (dealing with the year ending June 30) not later than August 31.

We depend on the Annual Letter to give such an account of the individual missionary's work, and such a general view of the Mission and of the conditions in which the work is carried on, as shall supply the information needed for the Society's "Story of the Year," the General Review, the official historical record, and for articles and paragraphs in our magazines and in the Church press.

When any of the work referred to in the course of your letter is new please state the fact plainly, and in the case of a new station or out-station indicate where it is situated.

All native names should be written in English capital letters. Please state if any part of your letter is not for publication.

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Progress & Activities In November of last year the Annual meeting of the "Native Church Council" was held at LIMCHOW Station, we missionaries were there only by invitation. Rev. Lai-Kei Chong proved to be an ideal Chairman, we all realized he had come in our midst in the power of the Holy Spirit, he is a man with initiative & one in whom we have every confidence though prone to make mistakes, even as we do, yet thank God "mistakes" are over-ruled by God, & become stepping stones towards reaching higher ideals, & a safeguard against future errors. At this meeting three important "matters" were determined upon: (1) That a "Convention for the deepening of the Spiritual life" be held in different Centres (2) Weekly house-to-house Prayer-meetings (3) A Summer-School be held annually either in LIMCHOW or PAKHOI. Since our recall to ~~leave~~ ^{from} LIMCHOW at the end of January 1927, we have received the encouraging "news" to say that all three are functioning. No. 1 A Convention has been held in three Centres viz KOTAK, PAKHOI, & LIMCHOW, with encouraging results: (a) that regular contributions be given to a "fund" by Church members, whereby aged & poor members be assisted (b) a Two-by-Two Band was formed in order to ensure that regular visitations be made to the homes of Christians & Enquirers No. 2 The Weekly Prayer-meetings are being held in three Centres & quite a number of Homes in each, have readily offered to hold them. No. 3. We have already had proof of the Spiritual & practical help the Summer-School, held in LIMCHOW last year has been to some. I will repeat one instance, when itinerating in the "Outstations" in Oct. of last year, at MO-LEI we had all day meetings, which would have been somewhat of a strain, had it not been for the help given by a youth, who volunteered to assist with the meetings, whilst we had time to rest awhile. After the day's work was over, he told us, that had it not been for the help he had received at the Summer-School he would not have had either the courage or the confidence, to stand up before his own people & witness for Jesus Christ, this being the very first time he had done so.

Itineration In May of this year the Rev. Lai Kwei-Chong visited all the "Outstations" viz. SHEK HONG, SHEUNG LOK, MOLEI, LING SHAAN, & NANNING, celebrating Holy Communion in each Centre & Baptisms in two. He reports good meetings all the way, the Anti-Xtian Movement becoming less & less, which news inspires one with hope for a speedy return to LIMCHOW. MOLEI & NANNING are in need of Chinese workers. An offer has already come from a village near MOLEI, a Christian family is willing to have a part of their home altered for a "catechist" or "Bible-teacher". Let this offer, if one is sent, ~~not~~ to carry on work there.

Evangelistic effort. Before leaving LIMCHOW, we had completed the plans for the New Year work, & through the generous support of many friends in the Home-lands were able to appoint two (2) Bible-women to two Stations which had been without, & thus have the joy & satisfaction of training, although we are absent, a faithful work of training & preaching & teaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus is going on in all Stations with the exception of MOLEI. Please write with us in praying to the Lord of the Harvest that He will speedily send forth His labourers to that needy part of His field.

Baptisms Before our departure, in the beginning of the year there were seven (7) baptisms in LIMCHOW, within nine (9) others ready for the "preparation class", which class is now in obedience owing to our speedy departure, & which we hope to return to in September O.V. In May of this year (6) Six were baptized in LING SHAAN & one (1) in SHEUNG LOK, this last one being an interesting case. I had the joy of helping to explain the Catechism to him. One day his wife was suddenly possessed with an evil spirit. He struggled, shrieked & framed, his husband laboured for with sticks, calling for pity for the many "dieties" whom they worshipped, all to no effect. In his extremity he recalled a "talk" he had had with the Catechist about a wonderful powerful yet loving God. Off he started with a heavy heart, & a doubtful mind, but thought he would try the experiment. After a long talk about the worth only Saviour of the true & only true God, they began in prayer, pleading for forgiveness & sign & proof, he returned home with a new born hope & a comforted heart. He found his wife fully restored. This increased what little faith he had had, & fully surrendered himself through baptism to His Saviour & Lord. Please uphold him, (S.A.M. Shuk in his name) in prayer & also pray for his wife that she too may be willing to leave the false for the true.

Education Six (6) Small Primary Schools throughout the LIM-PAK district had been resumed, until close of Term; with a total of 276 pupils, although numbers have decreased considerably through the Anti-Xtian & Anti-British work, for we have much to thank God for, for not only have the Teachers stood out faithfully against all Bolshevik propaganda, & harshly withstood all means of "intimidation" used by their agitation, but have been faithful in the teaching of the Scriptures.

Women's School. Just a number of women had requested to enter & we had hoped for a big school. Our sudden departure necessitated the closing down of the school until our return. Please pray for this part of the work, it is

so important, for from it we glean the future "workers" for the District. Enquires Class In spite of the Anti-Xtian Movement being at its height five (5) women from this class had decided for Christ, we hope to have the joy of preparing them for baptism on our return. One of the women has a son & daughter ^{having} Xtian education, the boy preparing to become a future worker in the Limchow, we are praying that the same future be ahead of the girl. They are both very keen in their studies. Learn this class they enter the "women's school".

Training Class for Bible-women. Two (2) women from this class entered into full work at the beginning of this year, they were appointed to two (2) "Outstations", & Pastor Rev. Lai Kwei-Chong reports that they are doing a faithful work. Please pray for them. Recently I received a letter from one of them pleading for me to adopt a little "loving baby-girl" belonging to her daughter-in-law who is very poor. My reply was "There are three Bible-women in the District who are supporting little picked-up babies, & now that you are engaged in our Master's work it will be good & well-pleasing to Him if you follow this good example. Will you pray with us that she may be ready to make this sacrifice for His Saviour, by taking charge of this little one. There is a prospect of two (2) other women starting in this class immediately on our return. Much prayer is needed both for those who teach & those who learn, that all may be kept humble & filled with the Holy Spirit's wisdom & power.

Medical The one (1) & only trained Chinese-worker for the LIMCHOW district, though carrying on his good work in greatly handicapped circumstances, owing to lack of "Medical Recognition", he has recently had entrance into his Home of "official" in each instance a "precious Son" was born which would add to his importance, & afford splendid opportunity to bear witness for his Lord. They are ever remember our sacred duty of faithfully upholding, these our fellow Xtian Sisters, by prayer, as we expect them to faithfully witness for Him. It is not only a terrible blow to PAKHOI, that the Hospital has practically been closed since September of last year, but to the whole district. Mr. Watson weekly visits to LIMCHOW, a help beyond words, he was truly a God-sent to us & to the district. No one, only those who have had the experience, can imagine what the anxiety of a complicated "midwifery" or other case can be to one who has had "very little, if any" medical training, & what a relief it would call upon a Dr. for help or advice. Now the whole District within an Area of 150 Miles, is without "medical help" of any kind, apart from the above mentioned worker, who has had but one (1) year training. Not long before our departure, we were faced with a complicated "midwifery" case, a matter of life & death, following the birth of a child. Our worker came to us in great distress, the case seemed hopelessly beyond her, we felt no dilemma to, but sent her back to the Case, encouraged with the promise that we would pray very especially for her, & must have the rest to God. We met together in the supper room, & simply reminded our Lord of His precious promises to help in times of need & extremity, & He did not fail us. New work. The need for a "girls' school" in Ling-Shaan had long been felt, one was started at the beginning of this year, although numbers are small at present, we hope for greater things in the new Term.

Report from "HONGKONG CITY" and DISTRICT.

Re a Movement of the Spirit of God. Recently one was approached by a "Bible woman" on this wise "I have been working here for quite a time now & am most discouraged, the people's hearts are hardened, they are unwilling to attend meetings, & even spare time to listen to the Gospel", I think it would be good for me to have a removal. But why? was my answer! for where ever you go there will be the same difficulty, the warfare with Satan has never been easy. Souls are always hard to win! I fear the trouble lies with us! As we pray for them as we ought, let us give more time to pray for them, & lead the rest to God. It was not so long before we met again, & by the look of joy in her face, one was prepared for the good news. "Truly it is wonderful" she began. The people have changed being more willing to listen, some asking for teaching, amongst these a family of six (6) three of the children already attending on school, & there is no sign of "idol-worship" in their little home. There is every hope of this family coming into His fold. May we ever be faithful in our prayers for these. Loving ones & thus have the joy of leading them to Him. Another instance of the working of the Holy Spirit was as follows.

Baptisms amongst the 34 who were baptized on the Sunday after Trinity Sunday, was a family of 8, Mr. Lee the head of the family gave the following testimony "I was a gambler, an Opium Smoker & thought nothing of throwing stones at Preachers of the Gospel" & during their meeting. Suddenly my heart changed, the Holy Spirit entered my feet, my hands, my head, I felt wholly possessed by Him the craving for Opium, left me like this, he clapped his hands together now may we desire in to kill out to my people what the Lord has done for me. These newly-baptized ones need much upholding in prayer. Satan is very busy seeking to snatch them away from their newly-found Saviour. One woman whilst preparing for baptism was sore tried in the following way; She gained her livelihood by rearing poultry, one evening her room was broken into by thieves, who stole all her fowls & ducks; her loss was great & she was very sad, but her conduct was concerned in, & we feared baptism would be altogether out of the question, needless to say, one way the burden of my prayer at each preparation class, from which she kept away. One meeting we had the joy of seeing her there, & very humbly & earnestly she confessed her wrong. Sought forgiveness, & when asked should she again meet with just such another loss, how would she behave, her answer was "I will walk to the heavenly Father to pity, help, & forgive me". She was amongst these baptized ones, her name is Anna, with our prayers supporting her, she will be enabled to follow in the footsteps of that Holy Saint.

Educational work In connection with Victoria Home & Orphanage there are 13 Schools throughout the Colony of Hong Kong & NEW TERRITORY with a total of over 1200 children. Each School is in charge of a Christian Teacher. Daily Biblical instruction is given, & the aim of those in charge is to give a monthly Examination, including a thorough one at the end of the term. Many hundreds of Homes are open to us through the children which afford untold opportunities for Christian propaganda. please write in prayer that wisdom & strength be given to buy up these opportunities. Form one of the outside Schools, three of the oldest girls was amongst those who were baptized recently. The Teachers in charge of these schools need prayerful support, theirs is a big responsibility.