

Miss V. Smith.

LIMCHOW. Station

ANNUAL LETTER

August 1928

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 Please state if any part of your letter is not for publication.

Smith, Miss V., Limchow.

S. China 6

KOWLOON. One had hoped to return to LIMCHOW in the winter of 1927 but the L.G.B invited me to hold on at "Victoria Home" until Miss Hollis returned from furlough. For many reasons <sup>the opportunity</sup> I was thankful for the delay as it afforded me <sup>an</sup> opportunity to consume of the twelve months work <sup>done</sup> in there. In answer to a special request - (in spite of having only just returned from England) Bishop Kluffray came out in early January 1928 to hold the Confirmation Service when twenty-five (25) Candidates were presented.

Confirmation - And just before in December 1927 a second Baptismal Service was held, which made a total of fifty-seven (57) baptisms for the year. Among this number were two whole families, we were especially thankful to see the men coming forward, for so often when the women come willing to be taught, there is no one to follow up <sup>with</sup> the men, we have the same experience in Limchow with no sad result, a "one-sided" development of the work.

Missions During a series of meetings held in "Hong-Kong" in October 1927, (a "Ho Wong Tsot" was the Evangelist,) some 200 people responded to the closing appeals "to give up their lives to serve the true God, & give their hearts to Jesus", amongst them were eighteen scholars from the schools connected with Victoria Home, six of whom are now baptized, the remaining twelve holding back for fear of suffering persecution. Those of us who know what they can suffer at the hands of their own people are not surprised when some of them hesitate at the thought of confession of Christ through "baptism".

LIMCHOW. In February 1928 One was freed from Victoria-Home to return to work in LIMCHOW. It was not easy to say good-bye to the many newly-found friends of Kowloon nevertheless it was a great joy to enter once again upon Country work, where the signs of the ripening harvest are in evidence but the "Labourers" are so few. The welcome received from the Chinese friends thus left no room for doubt that we "foreigners" were ~~not~~ wanted.

The Situation In May 1928 Martial-law was proclaimed, owing to "Communist" trouble, secret meetings were causing unrest among the people, its influence affected the Government Middle-School of some 300 students, Country students against those of the City, the former having Communist sympathies, revolvers were produced, but before anything very serious nature resulted the military arrived on the scene, soon quelled the trouble, this brought to a sudden standstill "English-Classes" which we had been holding for them. Apart from this, things on a whole have been normal for some time now, whereas the year before last "foreigners" were suspected to much annoyance & insult, now all that is a thing of the past, & we are greeted on every hand in the same friendly way as of old. We had scarcely settled into work, "Hope Students" both boys & girls, clamoured for "English". One could not refrain from smiling, for even if not obeying literally our Saviour's teaching "By which smite with the rod on thy right cheek, turn to them the other also." And we are glad to do it, for He was ready to do it when occasion required, & shall not we His servants do it too?

Education The primary school for which we are responsible has, during the past term, gone quietly forward as far without let or hindrance from the Government. Numbers have kept up fairly well, & over two hundred (200) children were examined in the Scriptures, & the results of the secular part of the Examination were most encouraging, which testify to the good & faithful work done by the Teachers. We thank God that the Bible still holds its rightful place in the schools.

Evangelistic The Country district to within thirty miles of Limchow is safe for itineration, beyond that "brigands" are still being quite recently we were notified by the French Consul that a Roman Catholic Priest had been captured & held for ransom, so were advised not to take long trips into the Country. This made us feel very sad, for already plans had been made to visit the Christians in these distant Stations, where they are so cut off from outside help, & for months had been left without any opportunity of taking part in the Holy Communion Service. Truly we need to continue in earnest supplication & prayer for the "peace of China."

As far as we are able to visit in the Country districts we find the people ready to listen to the Gospel; some even willing to leave their homes for a short season in order to enter the Station Class to hear more, & Gospel Hall meetings are always crowded both inside and outside.

Women's School & Station-Classes. During the past six months there has been a good attendance of women, some walking for miles from "Market-Town" or "scattered villages", whilst others belong to Limchow, but all "seekers" after the "Truth", and have come at the invitation of the "Beth-Workers" as they quietly & faithfully go in & out amongst the people, teaching & ministering unto them, and drawing the seed "from all waters". One woman has left the School this term & entered the "Peking Hospital" where she is to learn "Nursing" & "Midwifery", & thus fit her to supply a great need in the suffering districts. Miles away from any hospital, we have "the Worker" already doing a very valuable work, who has had just such a training, not only does she help in the work of the "dispensary", but takes outside cases in the homes of the "rich" & "poor", which gives her splendid opportunities for witnessing for Him whom she serves & teaching the people the value of the "precious Sonts" of "baby-girts".

Baptisms. From amongst those who have received teaching in the above "Classes" five (5) have been baptized with five of their children, four (4) others are "Catechumens", the "husbands" of two, coming forward with also. Apart from these were several others making a total of fourteen baptisms & eight "Catechumens" within the past six months. There are already others who have expressed their desire for baptism.

Church Organization February, 1928. A "Christian Fellowship-Society" was formed, the aim of which is to assist any member of the Church who is in distress. August, 1928. A "Summer-school" for the deepening of the "spiritual life" was held, conducted solely by Chinese workers.

Fortnightly "prayer-meetings" are held alternately in the homes of the Christians. Monthly "prayer-meetings" are held in conjunction with the German Mission, alternately in the two Churches of each Mission.

Need We are of unshaken opinion that the time is ready in this LIM-PAK district for some big evangelistic effort to be made. For the past two or more years, there has been the steady "giving-up" & "destruction" of idols & a loss of faith in Priest-Tun, Witch-doctors & other false "leaders & teachers", and Sonts are truly

hungering for the "Truth" which alone is in  
"Christ-Jesus". So far nothing has been done  
in the way of an "Evangelistic Campaign" in this  
district. We cannot help but feel envious for  
the sake of the dear people with whom we are amongst  
whom we work as we see & hear "men" & "women"  
full of the "Holy Spirit" being used mightily of  
God in "Hong Kong", Canton & other centres, whilst  
here they are left without. Do help us by your  
prayers for maturing the "sacred ambitions"  
of our hearts, which if realized, can do nothing  
less than make for "eternity".

Gettings of Individual Experiences No(1) "Saai Kow" wished  
for baptism her husband (heathen) showed his  
approval by sending to us her "house-hold-dicty"  
the "Garden of Mercy", later he himself came  
forward as a "Pateckman", now the whole family  
of seven have entered the Church. No(2) "Luk-Sham"  
was in conversation with me re her baptism, when  
several women standing by said "why should she  
be so soon baptized, we have been in the Class much  
longer than she, & only allowed to be "Catechumens".  
"Luk-Sham" made answer as follows: - "For many  
years I have heard the "Gospel" & so far have not  
been baptized, should the "Lord Jesus" suddenly come  
back again, I would have no excuse to make, but  
you would because you are only just-learning to know  
& serve Him!!" It was a good answer & with which we  
were pleased. She chose her own baptismal name "Mary".  
No(3) "Paat-Sham" whilst in the Class heard that her son had  
been taken "prisoner" with a party of "Communists"; as he was on  
the premises at the time the "raid" was made. The next day we  
heard all were shot; she asked to go home for the evening, we  
feared to invoke the "idols", we sent a "Sible Woman" to exhort  
her to continue to trust the "Heavenly Father", she sent word back  
to say do not fear that I will offend the "True God"; but pray  
for us. The following day when she returned, it was wonder-  
ful to see her resignation & quiet continuance in her  
studies. We wondered could they do the same under  
similar circumstances!!! Later news came to say her son  
with several others had not been shot, but still in prison,  
then a week or so later he was released. Eton special re-  
quest came, that we should thank the "Heavenly Father"  
who truly pities us & hears & answers prayer. The following  
Sunday she together with her husband & daughter-in-law  
were received as "Catechumens".

Pray with us that our message is "Jesus only, Jesus the  
Saviour of the whole world, Jesus as King of all."  
life, for nothing less than this can bring "light &  
"life" to these restless hungering souls"

Hellie Smith

no of baptisms  
hope of some campaign