

## ANNUAL LETTER

### Limchow Station 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 the letter is please state 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 Please state if any part of your letter is not for publication.*

Kowloon. One had hoped to return to Limchow in September of 1927 but the L.G.B invited me to hold on at Victoria Home until Miss Hollis returned from furlough. For many reasons one was thankful for the delay as it afforded me the opportunity of seeing the happy consummation of the twelve months work of put in there. In answers to a special request (in spite of having only just returned from England) Bishop Duppuay came out in early January 1928 to hold the Confirmation Service when twenty-five (25) candidates were present.

Confirmation & Baptism. And just before in December 1927 a second baptismal service was held, which made a total of fifty-seven (57) baptism 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 are willing to be taught, there is no one to follow up with the men, we have the same experience in Limchow with the sad result, a one-sided development of the work.

Missions. During a series of meetings held in Hong Kong in October 1927 (a Mr Wong Tsoi was the Evangelist) some 200 people responded to the closing appeals "to give up their lives to the true God, and give their hearts to Jesus", amongst them were eighteen scholars from the schools connected with Victoria Home, six of whom are now baptised, the remaining however holding back for fear of suppering 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 oh so few. The welcome received from the Chinese friends there left no room for doubt that we foreigners were wanted.

The situation. In May of 1928 martial law was proclaimed, owing to "communistic" troubles, secret meetings were causing unrest among the people, its influence affected the Government Middle-School, some 300 students, Country students against the city, the former having communistic sympathies, revolvers were produced, but before anything of a very serious

nature resulted, the military arrived on the scene and 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 subjected to much annoyance and insult, now all that is a thing of the past, & we are greeted on every hand in the same friendly way as of old. One had scarcely settled with work before 'students' both boys & girls clamoured for English. One could not refrain from smiling, for was it not obeying literally our Saviour's teaching "If they smite thee 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 schools' for which we are responsible have during the past term gone quietly forward so 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.

Evangelists. The Country district to within thirty miles of Limchow is safe for itineration, beyond that 'brigands' are still busy, 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 such the Country. This made us feel very sad, for already plans had been made to visit the Christians in those distant stations, where they are so cut off from outside help & for months have been left without any opportunity of taking part in the Holy Communion Services. Truly we need to continue in earnest application & prayers for the peace of China. As far as we are able to visit in the Country district 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, and 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 Towns or scattered villages, whilst others belong to Limchow but all 'Seekers' after the truth and have come at the invitation of the Bible-women as they quietly & faithfully go in and out amongst the people, teaching and ministering with them, and sowing the seed beside all waters. One woman has left the School this Term and entered the Pakhoi Hospital where she is to learn "Nursing" & "Midwifery" thus fit her to supply a great need in the outlying districts miles away from any hospital. We have one worker already doing a very valuable work who has had just such a training, not only does one help in the work of the dispensary, but taking outside cases in the homes of the sick and poor, which gives her splendid opportunities for witnessing for Him when one serves and teaching the people the value of the precious souls of 'baby-girls'.

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

Church Organisation. 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 Church of each Mission.

Need. We are of undivided opinion that the time is ready in this "Lim-Pak" district for some big Evangelical effort to be made. For the past two or more years, there has been the steady giving-up & destruction of idols and a loss of faith in Priest-nun, witch-doctors and other false "leaders and teachers" and souls are truly hungering for the "Truth" which alone is in "Christ-Jesus". So far nothing has been done in the way of an Evangelical Campaign in this district. We cannot help but feel envious for the sake of the dear people with whom and amongst whom we work as we see and 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 to materially these Sacred Ambitions of our hearts, which if realised, can do nothing less than make for Blessing?

Jottings of individual experience. No (1) "Taai Koo" wished for baptism, her husband (heathen) showed his approval by sending to us her "household deity" the "Goddess of Mercy", later he himself come forward as a Catechumen, 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 baptised, we have been in the Class much longer than she, and only allowed to be Catechumens. "Luk-Sham" made answer as follows: "For many years I have heard the Gospel & so far have not been baptised, 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 and serve Him!" It was a good answer & with which we are pleased she chose her own baptismal name "Mary". No (3) Paal-Sham whilst in the class heard that her son had been taken prisoner with a party of Communists, as he was on the promises 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 Bible-woman to escort her to continue to trust the Heavenly Father. She sent word back today Do not fear that I will offend the "True God" but pray for us. The following day when she returned, it was wonderful to see her resignation & quiet continuance in her studies. One 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 after special request came, that we should thank the Heavenly Father who truly pities us and hears and answers prayer. The following Sunday she together with her husband and 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" and "life" to these restless hungering Souls.

Nellie Smith