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Two letters from Fr. Leonard Amrhein to Catherine Amrhein, Al, and Tom.

Fr. Leonard Amrhein C.P.

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Catholic Mission,
Huki, Hunan,
July 28, 1946.

Dear Mom - Al - Tom - and everybody at home,
As you may have noticed, I'm still at Huki. My "two weeks" are stretching out a bit. The former pastor was a Franciscan from Chang Sha. He went back to his own district. So now there is no one to fill in but yours truly. There are three old missionaries returning from the States. They should be in Ywanling soon. Probably one of them will be sent here when they arrive.

Believe me, there is a lot to running a mission. And when you have to learn it from experience, it's a lot more to it. However, I am very fortunate to have two sisters here with me. Both are old timers. So when in difficulties, I can always go to them.

By the way, that package arrived. It was in Ywanling over a month ago. One of the sisters from Ywanling came down the other day and brought it along. Thanks a lot for everything. Now I'm going to ask for something else.

One of the sisters here has a very nice handy Chinese - English Dictionary.

It is printed in U. S. A. I like it a lot and I'm going to impose on your charity and ask you to get it and send it to me. It isn't very large so I don't think it will cost much. Here is the title, etc. Hope it won't be too much trouble.

A Concise English Chinese Dictionary,
by
E. M. Chang Ph. B. and Shirley Maxwell.

Published by:

The Marcel Rodd Company,
1656 North Cherokee Avenue,
Hollywood 28, California.

In my first letter home after the war, I enclosed a letter that I started on the famous December 7. Did that letter ever arrive? I don't recall anyone mentioning it.

How is everybody at home? I received a letter from Francis yesterday in which he says everybody was well. But that was three months ago. I hope everybody is well. When you write, tell us how you are going to be three months from the time you write. Then I'll always be up to date. Same for ^{me} you, says you. Just received a letter from Regina - June 26. - Everybody still well. So long and God bless all,
Leonard.

Dear Tom,

August 4, 1946.

Your cable arrived in Yvanbik on the 31, was forwarded to me and arrived yesterday. The news was a shock. But God's Will be done in all things. All we can do is hope and pray for the best. Mom was always strong and healthy and I'm sure she'll put up a good fight - and win. All the Fathers in Yvanbik, Sisters too, and the orphans here are storming heaven in Mom's behalf. I offered Mass for Mom this morning. So have courage everybody. Pray and have confidence in God. And send me news regularly. Air mail is almost as fast as cable. So keep in touch with me that way until all is well.

Where is Mom? In the hospital? I know how well you all will treat her. God bless you. I will add my little by prayer and asking others to pray.

Tell Mom we are all praying
for her and to take courage. Bear all
with patience for the love of Our Lord.

Dear Mom I bless you every
day from China. You will be alright
again. Just take it easy. Make good use
of your rest. You never would take
a vacation. Now God is forcing one
on you. I'm glad it's not your right
hand that is out of commission. When
you are feeling a little better, you will
have lots of time to write me letters.
I'll bet you'll even put Tom to shame.
Don't forget now. I mean it. I'll give
you a little time to feel better. Then
I'm going to be looking for mail from
you

So long Mom. Remember
how we used to say: "A squeeze, a hug,
and a kiss." Lots of them for you from
me.

God bless you Mom.

God bless you Tom and
every at home. Keep smiling. Leonard.