

7-23-1934

## Letters from Hazel Todd (1934) (Part 2)

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### Preferred Citation

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Shucheng, Anhwei, China.  
Jan. 3, 1935.

Dear Mother:-

This week I wanted to catch up on letter writing but it does not look like much of a start can be made. Week before last we were preparing for Christmas. Margaret is busy packing, etc to go away to be married this month. And Ruth is still studying for another language examination. We did not have time to help with the church decorations. The young people of the church did it all. And the decorations took a good deal of time. The day before Christmas more than a dozen were working on this. About a hundred children and young people took part on the program Christmas day. It rained for some days before Christmas but even so over three hundred people came. Seven young men came from our out-station the day before. And because it kept on raining five did not leave until Monday of this week. I spent most of the rest of the week teaching them from the first chapter of the gospel according to John. I enjoyed teaching them and I think they liked it too. They had not learned "I own in the Valley with My Saviour I would go" <sup>before</sup> and they sang it over and over. Most of the seven had never heard the gospel until last year. Their singing is mostly a joyful noise and you would not understand them but I

wish you could hear them sing and pray. Some women wanted to come too but could not because of the roads and other reasons. When I came to Shucheng four years ago there was one christian in that out-station. Others had planted there and we sowed some more as well as poured on some water and the Lord has begun to give the increase. Nearly every time I go there some one else seems to begin to take an interest.

As for Christmas for ourselves we did not have so much time. We undid the parcels in the morning. There were a good many more for Margaret than for the other two of us because she is to be married so soon. I had a very nice book from Della, a mottoe from Mrs. Canfield and some things from the other girls. Ruth was busy a good part of the day with the children and young folks. I had the house keeping that day. And also it usually falls to my lot to look after the ushering. I had made the Christmas pudding the week before and angel food cake. In fact there was very little left to do that day except what the cook could do after a fashion. We had the Christmas pudding at noon. In the evening we had chicken with chestnut stuffing, creamed peas and carrots, baked squash, sweet potatoes, then fruit salad and cake for desert. We often celebrate special times by opening a tin of pineapple which costs as much as all the rest of the meal put together.

This week I am supposed to be reckoning accounts. That is a job I do not like. Perhaps I am half way through with it. When Eva Knight was here she used to do it for me. In fact Eva does ever so many things the rest of

us do not want to do. She always looked after the garden too. The gate-keeper is supposed to do a great part of the actual work. Also church members sometimes put in some work at times when they are desperately hard up for some cash. We do have the poor with us.

No doubt you have read about the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Starn of our mission in this province. They had not thought their station was safe so he went back without her after their baby was born in September. They had only been married the October before. Mr. Starn came of a fine missionary family. It is a big family and nearly all of them are missionaries most of them in Africa. He came out two years ago. Mrs. Starn had been out three years. Her parents are missionaries under the Presbyterian board and work in China. Because the official assured them it would be safe Mr. Starn went after Mrs. Starn near the end of November. Then the official failed to let them know when he withdrew the military when communists came to take the place. One wonders why the christians were not alert enough to let them know. I think they would here. But the church here is much larger and better established. There are some details much better not written. At any rate the baby was not harmed in any way and her parents have come after her. An evangelist and his wife had a good deal to do with rescuing her. And Mrs. Starn had done all she could by having her well

wrapped up and with some money pinned to her clothes inside the blankets as well as some clean diapers. Since this has happened in this province all our missionaries south of the river have gone to Wuhw. Margaret had hoped to be married there but now she has to go to Nanking instead. Until something is done about those communists it is considered best for us not to go to out-stations. We are eighty miles north of the river. And perhaps they will not cross it. Margaret and Ruth knew them both and they as well as every one else talk about what splendid young people the Stans were. When I told one of our christian women here about it she burst into tears and said, "This would not have happened if they had not come to preach the gospel to us Chinese."

Mr. and Mrs. Whipple were advised to come here or go to Linan where Mr. and Mrs. Costerus who were here last year work or come here. They went to Linan because it was easier to go there. But it would be nice to have them here with their two little ones. Perhaps they may come here yet if their own station does not become more safe. This place is better than some because there are not so many hills to hide in.

The wife of the young man in Bible school in Changsha has typhoid fever. This is the second case in that family just recently. I have been trying to urge them to get inoculated.

I suppose I must go to see what the servants are doing. They may save our hands and feet but certainly not our heads. We have discharged two women recently one, for taking things. And our cook may have to go for the same reason.

With love to all of you,  
Hazel.

Hazel Todd,  
China Inland Mission,  
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.



Mrs. C. A. Todd  
Strathmore,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

35

Jan. 3, 1935

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Jan 13,  
China's Inland Mission, Shucheng, Anhwei, China

Dear Mother:-

It will be a week tomorrow morning since my two fellow-workers left. I thought surely I would get the annual report off last week. But this house looked like a cyclone had struck it. Monday I wrote four letters and had some callers. One was one of our out-station christians. He had applied for baptism in October. But because his friend was held back because he made playing cards he got mad and would not be baptized either. It seems he was the most stupid of the three from the out-station that time. So the other two agreed on the way here that if he were kept back the other two would not be baptized either. When he went back after being here Christmas time his folks beat him and cast him out of the family because he still persists in being a christian and will not perform heathen rites with them. This has made him all the more determined to be a christian. He said the friend who made the playing cards was going to agree with the deacons not to do it and the other two with him would apply for baptism again soon. Had he been baptized in October he would have met with this trouble then and most likely it would have been too much for him then.

Tuesday I made two calls on women who have plenty of time on their hands. The first is about our oldest

church member counting the number of years since she became one although she is not much older than I am. She has more opportunities than some have of keeping in touch with things. My next call also was on one of the more intelligent of our church members only she has been a member less than a year. Her older sister had just had a scrap with her the last straw being over buying some firewood. Her sister can not reckon accounts and she did it for her. Her sister had made some most horrid remarks to her about her being a christian and also hit her. When I reached there she was unconscious but she soon came to enough to half way realize I was there. She imagined some one had sent for me and that I blamed her for the whole affair. She talked to me about having her name taken off from the church roll. The next day I had another christian woman who was a relative go with me to see her. But even then she was not clear. It was not until Friday when I went there that she really knew what she was talking about. I am certainly glad she is better because she is foster mother of the young man studying in a theological seminary and if she can not look after their business affairs he would have to come home. She is going to move away from the home of her older sister and keep house by herself.

Thursday I went to see the wife of the young man studying at Changcha for the last time. If it were not that I was afraid something would go wrong and her own father and mother would blame me I might have done something for her. She had typhoid about a month. Just



as she was slightly better when her mother-in-law was resting she got her younger sisters-in-law to get some things for her to eat that she should not have had. Thursday she recognized me but could not speak. That evening some of the folks tried to get me to tell about how long she would live. All I would say was that she would live through the night and more than ten to nine she would die. She died very early Saturday morning. I went out to the home nearly two miles out that afternoon and made two calls on the way back.

Sunday morning I went out again to the funeral there had been considerable quarreling between the two families. Her folks claimed they they had not had the doctors they should, that her mother was not sent for in time and the coffin was not good enough. On the whole I think the young man's parents did the best they could. The place is about two miles out and the roads were bad because it was raining. I came back and only had time to change shoes and outside garment before church. I had to play and then teach a Bible class afterwards. The service in the evening is mostly singing and I had to play for that also. The others do that when they are here. We have an Estey folding organ that belongs to the station. Ruth and I together went to the expense of having it repaired in the spring. But while it cost a good deal they made it like a new one. Ruth and Margaret also have an organ

but it is very weak in the joints and its tone is nothing to boast of. But it is very handy to have it. Because often we have two services at once. Also it is nice to have an organ not too good to let the Chinese try to use. In the fall we had it at the out-station for a while.

Within the last week I have had a letter and a postal card from Hunan where I used to work. They still expect me to go back there. It does not look like I can go back there very soon.

The parcel from home came last Monday evening. The sweater is lovely. I am saving it to wear to conference month after next. Thank you for it. I am sorry there was no opportunity to send you any Christmas present. Some way it is not possible for me to do as much for you as the others can. And I was always the one who has tried you the most by slowness and awkwardness as well as stupidity. However I do not believe although the others were more demonstrative in their affection that any of the others ever loved you more sincerely.

With love to all of you,  
Hazel.

Hazel Todd,  
China Inland Mission,  
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.



Jan. 13  
35

Mrs. C. A. Todd  
Strathmore,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

China Inland Mission, Shucheng, Anhwei, China.

Jan. 20, 1935.

Dear Winifred:-

Your last letter did come much faster than usual for I received it last evening. By the way I wrote to Isabelle from our out-station last month. One other letter I wrote from there then went astray. If you speak to her about it she will not think it is strange that I did not answer her letter. It is a nuisance after writing letters to not have them reach their destination. The <sup>lost</sup> letter I refer to was written to the director of the mission about a church problem.

It will be two weeks tomorrow I have been alone. Our provincial superintendent wired for a married couple who have two darling children to come here when he knew about my being alone. They are both graduates of B. D. I met when home on furlough. He used to play the piano for alumni meetings. I had expected him to play for church today. But I had to do it myself because the roads are so bad. They may come tomorrow. There were some educated Chinese present too which does not happen every week. And of course the old country deacon to match my awful playing did not recognize all of the characters in the scripture reading. That does not often happen even though he did learn to read after he was converted when he was grown up.

Tomorrow Margaret Elliott who has worked with me over two years is to be married. Her sister is to keep on working with me. She has mostly work among children and young people. The C. Society is small having less than twenty members. There are about sixty or seventy children in the S. S. My own work is with the adults. I do not know how it will work to have a mixed Bible class. Perhaps we will have to divide again. There are not many who have reached the place where they appreciate really good, solid Bible study. But that is true anywhere.

I am just wondering how the young man studying in Changcha will take the news of the death of his wife. When he was away working several years ago among worldly folks he got engaged to a girl he liked. So far as I know she has never been married. When he came home he found out he was engaged to a most homely and stupid girl. She could work about the house and make her own clothes though. He begged his father to let him out of marrying her but to no avail. He even went so far as to try to persuade her to committ suicide. She died of typhoid week before last. Her own stupidity had something to do with her death. To hear her folks talk you would think the young man had chosen her himself instead of their wishing her on him. His father told me he was thinking of writing to tell him not to grieve too much as the girl was not worthy of him. She was not altogether true to him when he was away. But as to the first girl I doubt if he could marry her

so I do not believe she is a christian. As he now looks forward to doing definite christian work I am sure he will not overlook that.

The young man who started to study in North China Theological Seminary a Presbyterian school, in September may have to quit because of finances. He has gifts and I am sure if he remains steadfast in his purpose a way will be found for him. It is just as easy perhaps more so for these young people to lose their gifts and vision as at home. One of the girls here seemed a couple of years ago to very much want to become a Bible woman but seems now to have lost the desire. I do not altogether understand this. It seems to me a real call becomes clearer and brighter as the years go by. Holding to it though is not what is in us but His own enabling. And to the one whom the Lord is calling there is nothing better to desire for them than a place in His great white harvest field. These young men and women can find so much more than they ever saw do within this "hien" or county. But right from the start the forces working against these young people seems stronger.

But America is doing plenty of playing with fire. I remember the first impression I had of communism was that it was of satanic origin. That was before I reached the twenties. My observations have extended since but never have I been given any reason to think any

different. Unless the Lord comes for His own, <sup>soon</sup> many of us will suffer beyond measure because of it. My hatred of Bolshevism and the way it is run grows. It is not merely having lost my goods. It is the innocent Christians they so dearly love to slaughter that makes one despise the system. But one wonders if it is safe to write these things.

I may have to go to the out-station this week. Some of the things I left there locked up one of the boys has taken out and used. It is eight miles at least and I will have to walk up and back in one day. But while the things may not amount to so much it is worth some effort to teach them not to touch other people's things. On the other hand of course I do not want to be too hard.

This week I gave a worn out night gown to a famine refugee. She made three garments out of it for her children. Where they came from they were living on the bark and roots of trees. Even here they only have turnips and rice husks. Their baby girl is so sweet. I give them bean curd milk for her every day because the mother does not have enough milk. They have been well-to-do as the Chinese reckon. And as soon as wheat harvest comes in May or June need no further help. Yesterday I heard of a family of six who with their last money bought poison to put in their last pint of rice. Before they had a chance to eat it they saw some brigands coming and fled. There were thirteen brigands who partook of the meal. Twelve died.

I know you do not have much time to write but I like to hear from you.

With love,  
Hazel.

Hazel Todd,  
China Inland Mission,  
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.



Miss Winifred Todd,  
1020 Clendenan,  
W. Los Angeles,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

1917 Westwood  
Jan 20  
1935



China Inland Mission, Shucheng, Szechwan, China.

Feb. 3, 1935.

Dear Mother:-

The last letter I wrote was to answer one I received yesterday. It was the strangest letter I ever received. The young man who wrote it is a very earnest christian who looks forward to doing definite christian work and in preparation for it he entered theological seminary in October. For the last year or more he has been corresponding with two different girls. This winter vacation his foster mother insisted on his coming home. And she has laid down the law that either he must become engaged to one of the two girls at once or she will not continue to pay his expenses in school. His letter to me was to ask me my opinion of the two girls. Both are christians and both are in training to become nurses. One has a better background, is a more earnest christian, has more backbone and is better educated than the other. The other is slightly more attractive in appearance. I could not help recommending the one who is more earnest as a christian. Young men at home would not ask the opinion of an old maid. But they have a very much better opportunity to get acquainted with the girls.

Another thing I did yesterday was to go to the country to examine the grandson of one of the deacons. I am afraid the child has pneumonia. Of course there

were callers in between. And I stirred up a couple of cakes.

Ruth Elliott the younger of the two sisters who has been working with me came back a week ago yesterday. The day before she came they gave her the wrong eye medicine and it almost made her blind for a day or two. The day she came home she had a home letter that told of the birth of her second niece. She had to ask me to read it to her. I have met her mother a few times and had met their father so I do know something about her family.

The older sister, Margaret and her husband may be back here from their honeymoon most any day. Margaret will be going to another station very soon. She has worked here with me three years altogether. In June she will be twenty-nine years old. She has graduated from college and B. D. And she has become a senior missionary and one ~~can~~ not become one in less than five years after coming out. Yet she told me once that in all her life she had never staid in a place more than three years at a time. I thought my record was bad enough the longest time in one place being when we were in Dakota.

Next week it will be six years since I came back to China. In one sense of <sup>the</sup> word it becomes a little like home to us. But it is more like a boarding house. Perhaps the heavenly home will be ever so much more precious because of having had so little of home life here. After all we are only pilgrims and strangers on the earth.

Week before last I went to the out-station one day. One of the young men on the list as an engineer had

broken into the room where the things for the church members from here who go up there to take the services are kept and he helped himself. There was some bedding and some rice, lard and salt in the room. I went up and put another lock on the room and instructed the enquirers I met there that day that they were to keep their hands off what was inside. One of them said, "there are not many of us, why can we not have peace among ourselves." These colporteurs who went with me answered before I could that it was because there is a devil. Another enquirer had been gambling. He was very much ashamed to have me find out about it. It may be he was repentant also. The other enquirers seem to be going on alright there. They had the chapel very nicely decorated. I met about a half dozen of the enquirers that day although I could only stay a couple of hours and they did not know I was coming. We had a short prayer meeting together before I returned.

Feb. 4. Today I had a talk with the young man who wrote the letter to me about the two girls. If I had known before how things stand it would not have been necessary to spend so much time over the letter. It seems his foster mother is determined that he ought to have the more attractive looking girl of the two. He loves the one who is a sincere christian. What he wants to do is to stall his mother for time in

which to persuade his mother to let him have the girl he wants. He asked us also to ~~help~~ <sup>help</sup> him in this. The girl he wants is not unattractive at all. He told us and I have good reason to know it is true that the only reason he ever corresponded with the girl his mother wants him to have was because she insisted on it. It seems as though the enemy right at the outset is trying to prevent him from becoming an effective worker by giving him the wrong kind of wife. Anyhow that kind of thing is not going to hinder the young man in Changsha. The stupid girl that was wished on him has died. One would think that might be a lesson to these folks.

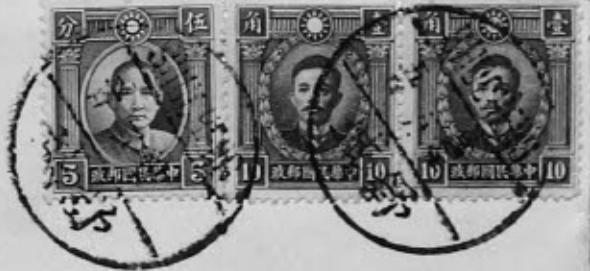
Feb. 5. Yesterday was more or less of a scramble because of it being Chinese New Year time. We had groups of callers all morning. Then about noon we had a meeting. After our noon meal there was a short meeting before a group of the christians mostly young people went out to hold street meetings. The young man on vacation from theological seminary has the most to do with it. Fortunately there is a group of christian young people in this church who are glad to go along. They are out again today. Ruth Elliott went with them. I staid in as some one needs to be here to talk with the groups who come in.

I just received a letter from the young man studying in Changsha. It was in answer to the letter I wrote to him telling him about the death of his wife. He feels it very much. They have a baby about a year and a half old.

In looking at my books today I found that I had sold at least twenty Bibles in the last seven months. Of course some were to replace old ones. But several were for those who never owned a Bible before. With love,

Hagb.

Hazel Todd,  
China Inland Mission,  
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.



Mrs. C. A. Todd,  
Strathmore,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

Feb. 3, 1935

35

Shucheng, Anhwei, China. Feb. 25, 1935

Dear Mother:-

Having been more than usually busy the last two or three weeks I have let too much time go by between letters again. I did write to Isabelle this month though so you could get some news from her.

It is remarkable how many letters must be written and how much one must plan before even a ten days series of Bible classes and annual meetings. Bible classes were supposed to have begun yesterday but none of the outside workers were here. Six of the young men have come from the out-station and we hope at least as many more will come. We have had a telegram from the foreign speaker or rather Bible teacher that he and his wife expect to arrive today. They say at the bus station that there will be a bus from the south today. The Chinese speaker has written that he and two other men hope to come also. It is raining today but very lightly. But there is enough rain so Margaret who was married last month and her husband can not leave going north. They have started from where the road begins at the Yangtze to surface it and have worked this far north. So now it is only the very worst of weather when they do not run buses from the south.

A week ago Saturday I went to the out-station again. We came back on Tuesday because the woman who went with me wanted to come then. I had wanted

to stay over another day. When we have only volunteer workers to go with us we have to take what we can get. Of course some of the volunteer workers are very good and we know what they do is for the Lord not for us. And it is surprising how many christians are willing to go out with us. Monday was a holiday when many from the country come to town. We gave out many tracts and sold some gospels. One woman insisted that we stop at her home. We went in and at least fifteen gathered to hear us. The woman came in the evening and staid about four hours. That evening the four church members with me preached taking turns about the whole evening. The enquirers looked after the crowd. One of them counted them as they came in. He lost track after 250. Some only staid a half hour. Many staid a couple of hours. Of course the place only holds an hundred and twenty. After the service for the out-siders where the Chinese did all the speaking we had evening prayers with the christians which I lead myself. Sixteen staid for that and about four took part. When we began working there less than four years ago there was only one christian in the place. Four wanted to given in their names as being interested that evening. It is a joy to go to that out-station. So many of the young christians are keen and nearly every time we go some more become interested.

Mar. 2. With Bible classes going on this week there has not been much time to write. We are arranging to have another baptismal service tomorrow. There are not to be many this time, only somewhere between three and six.

Even so it takes some time to examine candidates. Yesterday I had to go and hunt up one of them. Now that we have ninety-nine church members I often think of "There were ninety and nine that safely lay, In the shelter of the fold, But one was out on the hills away, Far off from the shepherd's" - Paul in the eleventh chapter of Second Corinthians ends up his list of hardships by saying "Besides all this the care of all the churches." I only have work to do in two and yet there are times that even those are a problem. At times when new ones are taken into the church many are apt to have their feelings hurt and if we are not careful the wrong ones may be received.

Mr. and Mrs. Keller did come for the Bible classes. The attendance has been fine. We are making plans to have it last longer next year, try to get more help and all of us to take part. There is nothing I enjoy more than to do Bible teaching that is not the most simple. It takes such a long time for a church to come to the place where they appreciate it. And we have to guard against their settling down to quarrel over which kind of cake they like best when they should be out to distribute bread. There is only one Christian for each four-thousand people in this "hien." And yet they must be fed before they can bring the message to so many who have not heard.

The Christmas parcel came but not until the seventh of January. The roads were very muddy for a couple of



weeks just then. I do of course like the sweater very much. But I am saving it to wear to conference next month. Of course the money having come before Christmas there were two letters in between. This happens to be all the explanation there is to give.

In spite of all the time in between I do not forget all of the neighbors. Mrs. Rewey must miss Mr. Rewey a great deal. She seemed more to depend on some one else than some do. If one were near there are things <sup>one</sup> might say or write. But being so far away a letter from me would be worse than useless.

You must have enjoyed the meeting when Howard Brown was in Strathmore. I should like to meet Mrs. Pogue and some of the others again.

We finished the Bible classes today. Twenty-two took a written exomination and twenty one took it orally. About thirty-five passed. The average attendance must have been at least sixty. Four have been accepted to enter the church. There may be one or two more. Of the four already accepted two will be the youngest church members and are from christian homes. Two are from heathen homes. There are nine staying on the compound for the Bible classes

With love to all of you,  
Hazel.

Hazel Todd,  
China Inland Mission,  
Shuching, Anhwei, China,



Feb 25

35

Mrs. C. A. Todd,  
Strathmore,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

China Inland Mission, Shucheng, Anhwei.

Mar. 10, 1935.

Dear Mother:-

Last time when I wrote we were having the week of special Bible classes. In a way I dread the days that follow after anything when people from outside are here. To a certain extent these folks put on their best behavior then and afterwards there is a let down. Too much admiration is not good for these folks. This time one church member and an enquirer have been card playing again. The church member is foster mother of the young man in theological seminary. I understand better now why he so persisted in wanting me to promise him that I would go to see her often. Also he wanted me to give her something to do so she would be busy. They are not really poor so she has had some education. And she does more or less have the gift of gab. If she were really earnest as a christian there would be heaps of work she could do. Last time there was the thing to fix up with the Taichen enquirers which was worse. The superintendent has not been around for a year. He probably will come soon. There is usually something after he leaves. There is one prize station in this province which ranks with the best in the mission. In all there are twenty-one stations of our mission. <sup>Anhui.</sup> Shucheng in church attendance ranks second so they say in this province.

At the end of the Bible classes an examination was given. Twenty-three took it in writing and twenty-one who could not write took it orally. Most people did very well. Of course not more than two thirds were willing to take the exam. The church members averaged higher on their marks than the enquirers did.

There were only four baptized. We hope there will be many more next autumn. Some are waiting until the provincial conference. There are a number of enquirers who are being instructed. Some of the church members are very good at this. When a church has a few members the missionary can do most of that work. A church somewhat bigger is somewhat like a big family one has to put the elders on to work taking care of the smaller ones. The work of supervision is apt to be as hard as doing it oneself at first. But that is always a lame excuse. One gets a good opportunity to study human nature in a place of this kind.

Ruth has gone to the out-station this week with three of the christians. The country is more quiet than it has been for some time. It is a joy to go there. I hope I can go next week. We try to have someone sent up there once a week. But next time I go I will see if they can appoint their own leader for church service once a month. They ought to provide their own building after next year.

This evening I have been talking to a woman whose home used to be about fifteen miles from here. It is a place of about five or six thousand people and there is no work being done there. She has a building she is

willing to give us the use of. We can not take advantage of this offer because we lack workers. So far most of the time it has not been safe for me to go. I have sent out a good many tracts and gospels. The colporteur has gone a few times. What we need is more native workers. We have one out-station where a dozen would be too few. Yet one out-station is all we can work well with so few workers. I get impatient with the slow way we sometimes go about our work.

Mar. 12. Today I have made three calls and have had two groups of callers and wrote a letter. It is one of the first warm days in spring that makes one feel lazy. Of course there are a few jobs to do in between. It is time one should put the warmest of the woollens away.

It is feared one of the members of this church who is away in training to be a nurse has T.B. of the intestines. Her folks do not know yet that this may be the diagnosis. Last year she had typhoid and all but died with it. Afterwards she went back to work too soon. She may if she gets well alright become engaged to the young man studying in theological. She is a lovely girl.

There is not much to this to this letter. But at least it is something.

With love to all of you,  
Hazel.

Hazel Todd,  
China Inland Mission,  
Shücheng, Anhwei, China.

Mrs. C. A. Todd,  
Strathmore,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

Mar. 10

35



Shucheng, Anhwei, China. Mar. 25, 1935.

Dear Mother:-

Since my last letter there has been no opportunity to take any trip. Ruth was away for a week at the out-station and she had a very good time. I wanted to go last week too but had found no one to go with me. Some of the folks would like to go who are not much use. But perhaps the right ones can be found to go by day after tomorrow if the weather stays good. There is one woman who has a three year old girl she has to take with her every time she goes. But the people like to listen to her better than to any of the other christians and she likes to go so well. She wishes she could be free to go with us all the time. There are others that wish they had children like her and do not want to use their freedom at all in going out to preach. But the Chinese christians are not the only ones who are never contented. I remember a missionary mother who said one time to me that she wished she had my freedom for doing more work among the women. That kind of thing disappoints me a little. It would be wonderful if we could each learn "in whatsoever state I am" therein to be content.

Mar. 26. I started this letter yesterday while I was drying my hair. I was also doing some sewing on a dress that has to be fixed over before next week. In the forenoon we did very little except to go to see some fellow missionaries off on a bus. It was about three hours

late starting. They came late Sunday afternoon. There is no regular bus service between here and the station where they work about forty-five miles from here. When one does come there may not be another for ten days or more. So one has to go on it when they get the chance. Otherwise one has to go by ricksha and stay over night. And there is no place on the road where it is safe to stay over the night. They have two children a boy, four years old and the baby girl nearly six months old. Mr. Whipple's mother and sister live in Wuhu just now where our provincial conference is to be held next week. They went early to have time to visit. It is well they got away yesterday for we are having a heavy rain today. It may not last long as there is so much thunder and lightning. But buses may not run for a couple of days.

Sunday was more than usually busy. After breakfast one church member came in to give us a rabbit, another wanted something to stop her tooth ache. Some girls come in to pay for a hymn book. One deacon asked about having a wedding in the church that afternoon. Another deacon and his wife came in to discuss with me plans for having their daughter come home from the hospital where she has been in training. She is not strong enough to keep on. She is a sweet christian girl. She has been a real help to more than one other girl. It is suspected that she has T. B. of the intestines.

The half of the church where the women sit was full which means we had about two hundred grown up people here Sunday. This was also more so the Sunday before. That means my being kept busy ushering and



trying to keep people quiet. It is all I can handle although there is one of the women church <sup>members</sup> who works hard helping me. After the church service there is always a meeting for outside women the women church members speak at. I have a Bible class with more mature christians. I never even at home taught anything deeper than what is given in that class. In the afternoon there is the Christian Endeavor meeting. There are only about twenty young people in it. They have good meetings. There is a song services in the evening. Of course nearly every Sunday some one goes to the out-stations. The deacon who was appointed to Sunday had his son go in his place.

The bride who did work here with me has gone to a station about a hundred miles from here. The man who worked there many years was taken captive by communists and it is thought he was murdered because he refused to tell where he put famine relief money he had on hand just before they took him. It is the place I was asked to go to as soon as I returned from furlough. Of course the Reds searched the house thoroughly to find all the money in it. And a young missionary lived there some months. But when they went to the station and her husband came to move a trunk that had been left there they found a sum equal to about a hundred and seventy dollars underneath it. The exchange is different than it was then being about a hundred

dollars then. To think that money has been in the house nearly three years. It is no longer safe in many parts of China for a missionary to handle famine relief money.

It has been more than a year since I have been more than ten or eleven miles from this station. All of the missionaries I have met since then have been those who have come or gone through here. There have been eight of these with and three of their children. More people come through here now than there used to be. There were two other missionaries here also for meetings. When we were first here very few people came. But I do not suppose anyone except Mr. and Mrs. Whipple and their children will be here before summer. Mr. and Mrs. Canfield may come to China on a visit to get in touch with the work again. If so I hope they can come here.

Monday We have a carpenter working here today and painter should have come also. I had wanted to go to the out-station today but it is too wet. But, this letter must close as there are plenty of other things that must be done.

With love,  
Hazel.

Shucheng, Anhwei, China. Apr. 14, 1935.

Dear Mother:-

It has been nearly three weeks since my last letter. Going to conference has taken up some time. Although it was only a couple of hundred miles away it took about two days to go and twenty-eight hours to return. We made better connections coming from there. Even so it is much quicker than when I came here. In all there were thirty-five of us at the conference. Of that number ten of us were from B. I. A snapshot of us was taken. If it turns out well it will be sent to the "King's Business" office. Of course we had a good time at the conference. Mr. Gibb the one who is probably to be the general director of the mission was the main speaker. His messages are always deep and good. They put me in the same room with the two oldest women missionaries in the province both had been in the mission more than thirty years. It is good to meet some older workers one can confer with sometimes. The conference lasted four days but seeing it is held only once in three years it was far too short. There should have been time for more prayer and more time to get acquainted.

Unfortunately my fellow-worker Ruth Elliott had to see a doctor. She has I think gone to Shanghai. It is almost certain she will have to have an operation for appendicitis before she can return here. She was worried

more about it because she has a bad health record. At any rate she has much better health and is far more fit to stand an operation than she was a year ago. There is all the work two can do here. It just means a number of things will be neglected.

Today it has been raining so there were only about sixty came to church. I suppose we should be thankful for that number. At conference some one I met several years ago began telling me about a Bible school she hopes to start in the fall for women and girls. I told her there is a possibility that a couple of girls might go there from here. She said if they could get one from each station they would be very much pleased. I did not mean to boast but did tell her that there is as much possibility of there being three from here as one from any one of the three nearest stations to us. I have already talked to one girl about it and she says she will go. In the three days since coming back I have sold two Bibles. I have to order new ones every month or two. A number of the men use reference Bibles now. I encourage this. There are the same references as in the American Standard Bible and these are keen for study of the Word. More than half the time they are all the helps I use for preparing for Bible classes. Ruth Elliott has a Young's Concordance and a Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary which I use rather freely in preparing for the adult Bible class on Sunday. I wish I could have access to a Matthew Henry's Commentary too. Of course that is not wishing for much. Fifteen is the highest number we have had in the class. Nearly all of them can look up Bible references not taking too much time. This is the more remarkable because most of them learned to read so they could read their Bibles.

Apr. 15. Since starting on this letter this forenoon there has been two interruptions. On Mondays I do wash any woollen things or silk stockings. The colporteur came in to see about arranging for his next trip and he is trying to find some one to take a couple of goats to one of the girls who did work here until she was married. Also the former cook came in to see about money. His son-in-law works in another place and sends some to him sometimes for the care of his children. The son-in-law married a woman I do not think is keen about taking care of his children by his former marriage.

In the afternoon a woman came in to ask me about helping make a match. For one thing the two young folks involved are old enough to manage their own affairs. The wife of the young man died only three months ago and I do not think he wants to think of such things for a while. At any rate he saw the girl last summer and his opinion of her was very horrid. The woman and the girl's mother went with me for a call in the country. When I came back the young man who superintends the children's part of the S. S. came in talk over the Easter program. Ruth sees to that when she is here. For one of the choruses I can not find the music. Almost certainly I will have to play the organ myself and help arrange the program. For some reason or other the young man although a fourth

generation christian has never seen an Easter program put on. Very few other people in the church have seen it either. The missionaries working here before were Scotch and they do not make so much over Easter. I am afraid we will not have many flowers except a few tulips. We have a large shrub known as a Judas tree in the yard but it has gone past. We have another shrub just past its prime that has small and very double golden color flowers. There are also English daisies. Later on there will be plenty of hollyhocks. We do have some roses but not an abundance of them. I doubt if any will be in blossom by Sunday.

Apr. 16. Last evening your letter came with the five dollars from Father. I do thank him for it. I may use it for a rug for the sitting room. Because we have so many who come through here we need one. There is a firm that makes very satisfactory rugs of buffuls hair that wear very well.

The pictures also came in the same mail. We have some of those you sent before framed and may frame some more. The reason these thank yous come at the end of the letter is that the letter was nearly finished when they came. Nevertheless I do want you know I appreciate these things,

With love to all of you,  
Hazel.

Wagel Todd,  
China & Inland Missions,  
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.



Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Todd,  
Strathmore,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

Apr 14

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Shucheng, Anhwei, China. May 8, 1935.

Dear Mother and Father:-

It is past bed time and I have been busy since early this morning. Besides there is enough work for two to do tomorrow and the next few days but I will try to get something written yet tonight.

A Chinese lady of the official class came to hold meetings here and at the out-station. The attendance has not been very good partly because I have not had the time to go out after folks. There has been too many extra things in spite of the fact that the servants have done their work well. Mr. and Mrs. Whipple with their two children came Saturday with Miss Kiang. Mr. Whipple played the organ Sunday and Monday. And that made the singing go well. But on Tuesday they had an opportunity to get to their station by bus so they left. They have a seven months old baby girl who smiles all the time. Their four year old boy is fine also.

The meetings have gone on for four days and while the numbers have been disappointing, there were not many over thirty here this afternoon there were some who have been helped. This is a very busy season of the year. Some are looking after silk-worms. And the farmers are busy harvesting rape seed from which most of their vegetable oil



is pressed also the wheat is about ready to cut. Also as soon as possible they will plant rice. They transplant the rice by hand so it is a big job. I wish you could see how straight some of them plant the rows.

Tomorrow Miss King and I expect to go to the out-station. She will be staying nearly a week. But I ought to come back for Sunday. I hope there will be a much better crowd when we go there. Last time I was in Taoschen there was an average of over a hundred came every night for a week. That time the woman who went with me told me she had a lovely peaceable time coming to church to listen to some one else preach until I came to Shucheng. And then to her amazement I began to ask her to take meetings. She did admit that she has began to like to preach. This is the second time at least she has held the crowd for at least an hour every evening for a week. I have not began to be sorry. I have invited her to take meetings. I had to spend a good part of every day helping her prepare partly because she can not read her Bible well. But it is much better to do it that way than to do the speaking myself. Everyone who came could understand all she said. And she is likely to give each message she prepares several times.

May. 11. This letter has been put away for a couple of days. When at the out-station there are so many folks I want to talk with and it is not so convenient

as in the main station. This time the christians here are having a small pulpit made. After working here four years this is the first piece of furniture they have tried having made. They intend to have it painted blue. Last year they decorated the chapel with paper flags, chains, flowers and lanterns. This year they have had a pulpit made. Next year I hope they can buy a piece of ground for their own chapel.

May 14. Yesterday I came back from the out-station. Today Ruth has come back with the new worker. I think she will be very nice to work with when we become acquainted. She may be ~~seen~~ older than Ruth at least she looks it. She is more near my size. Ruth is much smaller. She got over the operation she had in Shanghai very well or she could not have come back so soon.

There is a mulberry tree with mulberries on it just outside our windows to the west. Yesterday I saw a pair of golden orioles and one of a bird I think are called fly catchers in the tree at the same time. There are some simply gorgeous birds in this district. Golden orioles are a very bright yellow except for some black on the tail and a bright red beak.

One of the children who was here two years ago fell off the veranda a couple of weeks ago and cut

her lip open more than an inch. There was no doctor there who could do a good job of fixing it so it has left a bad scar. The child herself is more worried about the tooth she knocked out. It is a wonder those children have not had more accidents. Possibly I can spare a day or two to go over and see them next week. The Chinese lady who has been here wants me to escort her to the next station to the west. With her small feet she would be even more helpless than I would be if anything should happen.

This is a short letter this time but there is not time to write more.

With love,  
Hazel.

China Inland Mission, Shucheng, Anhwei, <sup>China</sup>  
May 27, 1935.

Dear Mother:-

Since my last letter there has been time to spend another week at the out-station. During most of my stay two of the women were with me. One would be enough. But we often take one woman who is not so mature as a Christian to be learning how we do things. One had her own three year old daughter and the other took her three year old grand child. The younger woman did most of the speaking. Our street chapel there seats nearly ninety and not one evening while I was there were there less than thirty grown up people who had to stand. We made all the children stand up. The people there are collecting money to have more benches made. While I was there we took down some meat partitions and moved the kitchen so we will have more room. When we first rented the place there were three rooms at the back that we had very little use for. But with the increasing crowds we will be using every foot of space from now on. The landlord has lowered the rent to a sum about equal to thirty dollars a year.

When we go to the out-station now a number of women come in during the day for us to help

them to learn to read. One woman who had been demon possessed stayed with us the last two nights. She declares she is trusting the Lord but she is afraid to pray. We think it is because the demons still have not completely lost their hold on her. She lives in the country so she has very little fellowship with other christians. This time we made arrangements with them about the keeping of their accounts. One is to do the writing, another is to supervise the accounts and a third has the money in hand. We have to be very careful about this for it is so great a temptation for these people to use any money that comes into their hands regardless of whether it belongs to them or not.

The woman who went to escort Miss Xiang the Chinese lady who has been here returned before I did. She passed through the place where we hope our next out-station will be opened and on the way back spent a night there. One of our Shucheng church members owns a building which would be very suitable in which to start work. She went to look at it. There are a number of people of the place who are keen to hear more of the gospel. In fact not only in that place but many others as well there are so many who have never heard and so many others where they want to hear more. And the laborers are so very few. The town is over fifteen miles from here which is the nearest mission station and has nearly five

thousand people. There is I will admit one church member who lives just over two miles from there. We have a hundred and three church members in this county of four hundred thousand people. And yet the three nearest mission stations say "You are so fortunate because you have so many workers." And we do share with them some of ours. We can not hire people to preach as one can a hired man or woman we have to wait until they catch the vision themselves. Some of those who want to go are hindered by their families or by work that has to be done.

There are a few new people interested here in the church but not nearly as many as we want to see. We have been away so much this spring that I have not had so much time for the work. I am glad we have a new worker. She hates the fleas terribly. Perhaps the rest of us just get used to them. There are so many annoying things we come to accept as part of days work and yet we love it just the same.

We are about to make a start of one of the leading families in the church. Half of the church belong to one family. Everyone who comes here says there are so many of them, they get mixed up.

I owe Isabelle a letter but may not have time to answer it for a while. There are some other letters that have to come first.

It has been very dry for a while so the farmers are late planting their rice. Although it has rained some the last three or four days it has not been nearly enough. I do so hope they will have a good crop this year so the preaching of the gospel will not be hindered.

With love,  
Hazel.

Nigel Todd,  
China Inland Mission,  
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.



Mrs. C. A. Todd,  
Strathmore,  
Calif.,  
U. S. A.

May 27, 1935



China Inland Mission, Shucheng,  
Anhui, China  
June 14, 1935

Dear Mother:-

Please excuse my writing this letter with pencil but there seems to be no other way to get it done this week. I have just been to the out-station again and this time found out more about the underneath condition of things. One can depend upon it that where the Lord is working or about to work that the Enemy gets in double time. One can see real growth in some of the christians. But some have gone back and one wonders where some of the others really stand. One got mad partly because we refused to lend him money. Others want the name of being christians and have never repented. Adultery as usual is one of the sins that causes the trouble although I can praise the Lord it is not as prevalent as it was where I worked in Hunan. I have never been able to figure out why that sin should be dealt with any less

leniently than murder. Surely there is no excuse for it. One should say though that there are a few really earnest christians at the out-stations. There are three church members that seem true and I think about three more will be added yet this year. Besides we are teaching a fair number of women to read who may be promising. The things we teach them to read are simple gospel truths. And we aim to have all church members able to read their own Bible. A number like to learn to read the hymns so they can follow at first. Among these "Jesus Loves Me" and "There is a gate that stands ajar" are favorites to begin with. "What a Friend we have in Jesus", "In the Cross" and "Follow, follow" come later. With really mature christians "Take My Life and Let it Be" expresses the desire of their hearts just as it does

with us. I hope some day they will learn to appreciate "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

One of the newer christians went with me this last time. She has only been a christian a couple of years and before that used to smoke and gamble. Her husband was much worse in his day and probably shortened his life by his opium smoking, etc. I do not like to push the newer christians forward too much. But there was no other

woman to go with me. She has offered to spend nearly all her time in the autumn going out with us. She is a widow and her foster son is studying to enter the ministry. So she has no home ties that she has to consider. Being one of those who always seems to be better off busy perhaps I had better let her go with me.

June 17. It was not possible to finish this letter last week after all. Saturday afternoon had to be spent preparing

for Bible class on Sunday. I ran  
a temperature from about Wednesday  
afternoon before I came back from  
the out-station Thursday until Saturday  
afternoon so did not get much done.  
I still feel a bit washed out today  
but will try to get this and some  
other letters off. I even sat down  
yesterday to take the Bible class. I  
had not been with them the Sunday  
before and yesterday it rained so  
hard. Only about a dozen were there.

At the out-station I took the  
Sunday service that day. Almost  
always we depend on the men for  
it. But there were no mature  
christian men about to do it. The  
two young men studying for definite  
christian work should come home  
before the end of the week and then  
I will have fewer meetings to take.  
One is to share in the responsibilities  
of the work after he graduates  
next year D. V. And that will

mean so much to me. But what really counts is that it will be so much better for the work.

I am becoming better acquainted with Pearl Galloway the new worker here. She is more like me than Ruth Elliott our other fellow worker. Ruth and Pearl are the same age but Ruth is ever so much more capable. Ruth being China born and a college graduate will not always win out though for she lacks in her consecration at times. By the way have you read the last article I think in the May's King's Business written by Ruth's mother. Out of six in the family all but one are Bible school graduates. Four applied to our mission. Three were accepted and two are in the mission. One who was turned down is engaged to a pastor who works in South Africa. Another may

apply to this mission soon. The oldest son has a hare lip that is a hindrance in his speaking or he would probably still be in our mission. Everyone seems to like him.

It is fine the others could be with you on Mother's day. But some time if there are a few more to praise Him where "they go no more out" these years will of separation will seem so short. I think you will enjoy meeting some of the saints I have known out here. And the language will not be a barrier there. I have been out as long this time as before yet furlough is probably some time away yet.

Please remember me to Mr. Black. I also remember him although we only met in Tipton one Sunday.

With love,  
Hazel.