March 2nd, 1948

Mt. Adams Lodge No. 227, 
Yakima, Washington, USA.

Dear Brothers,

It was with much pleasure that I received the recent letter from your secretary Bro. W.E. Richardson, enclosing a renewal of my membership in Mt. Adams Lodge for the year 1948.

Your yearly gift reminds me often of the honor you thus pay to me and that you wish to continue to share with me in this my adventure in travel in foreign countries to receive a Master Mason's wages. I then feel that I am representing you in this work of re-establishing a modern hospital, a service of charity, in this Japanese devastated district.

I wish to remind you that there is another way that everyone of you have been contributing to the support of my hospital. After many months of work I finally got UNRRA supplies directed to this hospital. I finally obtained thousands of dollars worth of equipment, supplies, and drugs from these UNRRA gifts to China, which you all paid for through your taxes.

After eighteen months of separation from my family we finally had a family reunion when Mrs. Corpron and the two girls arrived in Shanghai in September. Young Doug was left behind to continue in College. The business of rehabilitation of this medical work had gone so well that it was getting out of hand, too much for me alone to manage. So now I have Mrs. Corpron and my former nurse Miss Grace Young to help. All of the rest of my staff are Chinese, our own students - doctors, nurses, technicians, orderlies, etc.

Because of allocations and contributions that we receive from organizations such as the Yakima First Christian Church, the Yakima Rotary Club, and many personal friends; and because of the large amount of UNRRA supplies that we received, we can charge our poor patients a very small fee - just enough to cover Chinese salaries and wages and local buying for food and domestic supplies. It permits me to charge as little as one or two million Chinese dollars for an operation. That is only US$5.00 or US$10.00, if you wish to know what I mean. Often our charity amounts to a small percentage of our monthly takings from fees. Our charity was equal to 16% of the amount obtained from fees for the whole year. Without these contributions and the UNRRA supplies it would not be possible to give medical aid to these needy interior Chinese districts.

So please accept my grateful thanks for your thoughtfulness in carrying me on thru 1948.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

[Signature]

P.S.
SPOKANE SURGICAL SUPPLY COMPANY

Surgical Instruments, Appliances and Supplies
For
Sick Rooms - Hospitals - Nurses - Druggists - Veterinarians

111-113 N. Stevens Street
Spokane 8, Washington
March 5, 1948

Selling Representatives:

Castle
Sterilizers

Kny-Scheerer
Haslam Instruments

Davis & Geck
Sutures

Vim Syringes and Needles

B. & D. Syringes and Needles

National
Cauteries and Diagnostic Instruments

Johnson & Johnson
Dressings

Spencer Microscopes

Hanovia Sun Lamps

Simmons Hospital Beds

Trusses, Abdominal Belts
Elastic Stockings

Metal Surgical Furniture
Wood Furniture
Enamelware
Glassware
Gas Machines
Oxygen Tents
Bircher Short Wave Machines
Baxter’s Solutions

Mrs. Douglas S. Corpron
Luchowfu Christian Hospital
Hefei, Anhwei
China

Dear Mrs. Corpron:

Received your letter and were very glad to hear from you. Your letter certainly made fast time.

We are very sorry to advise that we are out of the Counting Chambers at present, but expect to have some within a week or two. At that time, we will forward one to Mr. Chien Wen Chich at the National Medical College of Shanghai, Foong Ling Chia, China.

It sounds like you are plenty rich with the two million bucks. The help enjoyed getting the Chinese stamps, as they don't see those very often. With kindest regards, we remain

Very truly yours,

THE SPOKANE SURGICAL SUPPLY CO.

BY C. H. Quigley, President

C. H. QUIGLEY, PRES.-MGR.

CHQ/w
March 8th, 1948.

Tuft's Drug Co.,
West Yakima Ave.,
Yakima, Wash., USA.

Dear friends,

I have had a stroke of good luck again. I just received 900 vials of good Penicillin Sodium, 200,000 units each from UNRRA. So I must cancel further orders of Penicillin from you for the time being. Some of the other things which I received in this shipment are:—Sulfanilamide cryst., 5 gm. x 12 envelopes, 400 doz.

Sulfasuxidine tabs. 25,000
Neoarsphenamine 0.6 gm. 3400 vials.
Aspirin tabs. gr. 5, 10,000 80,000
Procaine dihydrochloride 150 mg. 200 amps, for intraspinous.
Ascorbic acid tabs 300 amps
Dover's tabs, 5 gr. 14,000 32,000 tabs.
Adhesive plaster 12" x 12 yds, 48 rolls
Green cotton mosquito netting, 3000 yards.
Cal. lactate tabs. gr. 5 30,000
Sod. Bromide gr. 5 48 x 100
Tab. Brown mixt. 84,000
Thiamine chloride 5 mg. 16,000 tabs.
Tab. Phenobarbital gr $15 50,000
Tab. Sod. salicylate, gr. 5 25,000
26 more steel spring beds (I have 115 already)
5 drums, 50 gal. each of ethyl alcohol
600 yds. flamelette
Ascorbic acid tabs. 40,000
371 yards of muslin
100 army blankets (I already have 600)
6 electric hot plates
100 lbs. 100% DDT pd.
ETC, ETC, ETC.

Now that I will not need you to send any more Penicillin for some time you may send me the following:—

10,000 tabs Creamalin.
10,000 caps. Benadryl, 25 mg.
5 x 15 cc. Diptheria-tetanus-pertussis (Combined) Park Davis.
2 x 1 pint Gluco-thricil Park-Davis.
1000 caps. Dilantin Sodium with phenobarbital P.D.
10,000 tabs. Sulfadiazine gr.7.7
50 vials Streptomycin hydrochloride, 1 Gm.
5 x 20 cc vials Etamon (tetraethylammonium chloride) Parke Davis.

Please send this at once as I have a case needing it.
March 15th, 1948.

Bro. W.F. Turner,
6218—20th Ave., N.E.,
Seattle, Wash., USA.

Dear Bro. Turner,

All are well in our missionary group in Hefei. We have survived another year in this Communist devastated land. We have survived what is as bad, the inflation debacle which is getting so bad that the printing press money is about to become entirely worthless. Every Sunday, as we meet together for supper we missionaries sing as our grace, "Safely through another week."

It is most confusing trying to operate a hospital with this fast degenerating currency. What to charge the patients? What to pay to staff for salaries and wages? In order to keep up with rising commodity prices it has been necessary to increase salaries 50% or more monthly. But now the paper money has become so worthless that we are to start paying salaries in rice next month, as has our Mission School already.

To show you what I mean by the skyrocketing of the inflation I will quote you a few figures for 1947 and estimates for 1948:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1947</th>
<th>1948</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages, Jan. (staff of 33)</td>
<td>$4,448,000</td>
<td>Jan. 61 dan (120 lbs) of rice (It's value in June 61 Chinese paper money)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages by June (still same 33)</td>
<td>10,969,000</td>
<td>June 61 dan of rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages by Dec.</td>
<td>51,451,000</td>
<td>Dec. 61 dan of rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same for this month of Mar.</td>
<td>197,120,000</td>
<td>Still 61 dan of rice's value in Chinese dollars.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You see inflation is progressively getting worse more and more rapidly. It is a problem every month to know what percentage to increase salaries and wages so that my staff can barely exist. It has been 50% per month over the previous month of late. With rice or the value of rice as the medium we always give the same in value. Our girl's school took in their tuition in rice, not just the value of so much rice, this year. They charged one dan of rice per student. Their teachers were paid in rice, which they can sell for cash as they need cash to buy other things. What a crazy world.

We rented one Mission property to the post office for use, the money to be used for repairs of other places. We made a contract for six months at $4,000,000 per month. The first month that money would buy 4 dan of rice. By the fourth month it would buy only 1 dan.

Under these conditions you will wonder how we can operate. I wonder that myself. We try to accept all worthy and needy sick free of charge or for a mere pittance, if they can give something.
Some can pay more. But none can pay the cost of the service in this land of civil war and inflation. But with the great help that we have received from UNRRA, the U.C.M.S., the Ryan Memorial Fund (in honor of Bro. and Mrs. M.B. Ryan of Yakima), and other special gifts of church friends, Rotarian friends, and former Yakima patients of mine, we seem to manage to get along and carry on some way or other even under these terrible conditions.

Our presence here not only gives them the best medical and surgical service available in this region, but it gives them a great spiritual up lift, which is even more important. Everyone is discouraged with the prospects of the ever losing struggle against the Russian supplied Communist forces. We are happy to be of service in the name of Christianity under these conditions. We will stick it out as is physically possible.

Give our best regards to all of our many Washington friends. We know we have their constant prayers or this could not have had the success of the last year.

Sincerely yours,  
Dory

D.S. Corpron
Apr. 2nd, 1948.

Dear Nell and Reilly,

Grace's freight just yesterday arrived in Hofei, in fair condition. It had been seven months and a week on its way from Yakima to Hofei. It did not make Grace's boat, as planned, because she was advised to send it to S.Frisco by truck freight to save money. The trucks got stalled in rain, and the stuff came two boats later. If sent by express it would have cost less than a tenth of what it has cost to get it to Hofei, after all the extra trouble.

Because of the delay, it got mixed up in a Shanghai customs graft turn-over and was delayed there six months, with all that storage to pay. Because of the customs upset, my ten boxes of candy — which the Phillpots sent to me — got confiscated, and it cost me 2 million dollars to turn it over to them, besides the storage and customs duty paid on it. (Such raw deals in modern Chinese officialdom is what makes usual law-abiding citizens turn over and make every possible opportunity to get it back, black market, or other ways, if possible) Then it missed my boat. I could have brought it up on my own "Washington" as well as not, but couldn't wait for it. Therefore it cost the Mission about 100 million more (US$300) than it would have otherwise.

In this freight was the "Magic Wand Welder", Transformer Model "A-1"; which your SS class sent out for this hospitals shop. During customs inspection in Shanghai the inspector took this welder's book of welding lessons and instructions out to list some information on it for duty estimation. He said he would return it but didn't. So now I need another before I can learn how to work this and teach my mechanic to use it. Will you go to the Yakima Hardware and ask them to give you another welding lessons booklet for me. And if you will please send it F.D.Q. by air mail, so I can weld my lawn mower for the summer mowing — it got broken on the way from Shanghai to Hofei.

Grace's little radio and the record player attachment came thru perfectly. I am enjoying so much the records the friends in Yakima sent out. Tell Bro. Starr his music is refreshing my soul. I was just starved for nice full toned music, well reproduced. As hungry for it as I still am for a good snappy golden delicious apple. Earl Cowin did his best to send me some, five whole boxes of them. But they all rotted in storage (not cold storage) for their six months in HShangh, so we got only empty boxes. Many had been stolen so some one got to taste them. I STOLE five of them while the customs examiner was inspecting our freight. I ate two myself and gave the other three to the president of the Shanghai Rotary Club, a man from Tacoma, Wash.

We are all well on our Hofei missionary staff and all working hard doing over five mens work each, because of staff shortages. My surgery schedule alone should keep me out of mischief. So far this year I have done 140 operations, I did eight on last Friday alone.

Love,
April 11th, 1948.

Dear Pat and Corrine, and the mob,

We have just sent off another Kodachrome film. Your idea of sending numbered copies back to me for me to see and describe is the correct solution. I am just too a gunt-minded to keep track of the exposures, now that I am not on an trip but taking them off and on over a longer period of time. I never have my notebook with me and then of course forget the order of the exposures.

This film was of our receiving Church World Service milk by the cases, and milk powder by the 50-lb drums, ProviC (high vitamin food supplement powder) for free use for the undernourished, patients, etc.; with Grace in the pictures. Also pictures of our Rotary Friendship Project free school, and some of their homes.

I am working on a film now that has some good pictures of Chinese Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Also some exposures taken one Sunday afternoon in Coulter's front yard, of Church friends holding a "get-together", with games, refreshments, etc. Also Verla Elliott, one of our new missionaries, holding a Chinese baby.

My letter describing the Idols seems to have been lost. So I'll give you a bit of setting. On the return trip from Shanghai, the second trip - pulling the heavy sailboat loaded with missionary baggage, freight, and food, we arrived Tues., Nov. 12th in the city of Chang Chow. The Grand Canal here was choked with log rafts going down to Shanghai, so all boat traffic was worse than blocked. On the first trip up with Grace, we took only about an hour to get thru this place. This time it took us five days - not hours - days, to make it. Here are a few notes from my Log: "Wed., Nov. 12th. No police to get things going till 10 AM, so no one could move. Then we struggled all day thru traffic jams, leaving our sailboat behind. At 5:30 PM we got to Sin Tsea in our VP only, 4 1/2 (1 1/3 miles) outside of Chang Chow. We will remain here until the sailboat can get thru to us. I'll go back on my bike to see how they do, and tell them where we are. Had two fights today. Three boatmen beat me up with clubs, when in a pinch in traffic our steel boat damaged their wooden one. Another time a smart sailor jumped onto our boat and started beating up one of my crew for not obeying his orders - which couldn't be obeyed in the jam. I lit into him and he beat a hasty retreat. Kind of took him by surprise to bump into an American, who is not used to taking a soldier's dirt. Turnus, and Fri., Nov. 13th and 14th. Our sailboat has been promised permission to move by tomorrow morning. Maybe?

Sat., Nov. 15th. 6:00 AM. 1/12. Finally left pulling the sailboat again. While in Changchow I visited Tein Ling Temple, a big Buddhist Monastery. The name means Heavenly Earnest Heart Temple. Tein (heaven) Ling (heart) Sz (Temple)

I'm afraid you have taken on too much of a burden with trying to finance the movie camera and these prints. I have other funds rolling in unsolicited from time to time that could be used for this if you say the word. I just got $200 which Reilly Friedline sent in to the UCMH treas. to the Corporon Fund so I can use it. I haven't
used any of this yet. I intend to add some books to the hospital medical library for one thing with this gift. So don't make it too much of a burden, it is not necessary. Just do what you can comfortably. The service of handling it and getting these out to the churches is a big job in itself.

I just was called to deliver a difficult breech case, dead baby for several days, etc., etc., so I kind of goof off of my subject of the temple pictures, which was your question.

I spent the most of two afternoons in this Heavenly Earnest Heart Temple. I made friends with several of the monks who told me about the various idols, and we had much time to compare the Buddhist theology and that of Christianity. It might be added then at the end neither was converted to any new faith. But both sides were on much more intelligent and friendly terms.

Here are my notes on the Changchow exposures:

6th Film #11 Lepers on a bridge at Chang Chow.
#12 "Washington" and our sailboat in traffic jam - Chang Chow, Kiangsu.
#13 "Washington" waiting for traffic to pass, Chang Chow.
#14 "" and sailboat waiting in traffic.
#15 "" docked, jam.
#16 Chang Chow grass carriers.
#17 "" pagoda.
#18 A Mi Do Fu, the large Buddha, the central figure in the group of the Buddhist Trinity.
#19 Two side figures of the Trinity.
#20 Prayer mats before A Mi Do Fu, where the monks come for prayers every afternoon.

7th Film #1 and #2 not exposed by mistake.
#3 The main temple building of Tein Ling Sz.
#4, #5, #6, #7 various and sundry idols in the several buildings.
#8 The ten Kings lined up on the left of Buddha.
#9 "" "" "" "" right "
#10 Camel-back bridge over the Grand Canal at Chang Chow.
#11 "" over on her side at Sing Fen Cheng, caught by the falling tide. Held by guy ropes and righted alright when tide rose.
#12 Silver Is. another monastery on an island near Chinkiang, Kiangsu.
#13 Silver Is. closer of monastery buildings.
#14 Sail boats and reflection, near Chao Maehin.
#15 Cap. Gorgron, eating noodles.
#16 "" coming out of art, at Hefei.
#17 & #18. Lading truck at riverside, Hefei.
#19 Adits last case being carried.

I hope you all are back on your feet and in good health again. You certainly have been having a time of it. Grace and I continue monotonously healthy. The girls in Shanghai are also in good health; and DOC reports a fine time on his spring vacation spending most of the week at his Aunt Sally's on a California orange grove with his sweety along.

Best wishes and thank you, sincerely yours,
May 8th, 1948.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cowin,

It has been quite a long time since I last wrote to you; but I am often reminded of you, in fact many times daily, for it is your gift to us, known as the Ryan Memorial Fund, which is paying for the many carpenters, masons, and painters that are working almost every day making screens for the hospital and hospital homes, continuing repairs to the hospital (at present finishing a four room - 9 bed - isolation unit; and a bath room for men and another for women patients), and the carpenters are now finishing up 30 wooden stools, 30 bed-side tables, and 15 chapel benches. Every stick of the lumber must be sawn out of large logs on the place. Also this month we finished putting in window glass all over the place with this fund. We bought CNCL60,000,000 worth of glass. Even in US dollars it would be ten times more than it costs in Yakima.

It seems an endless job to get this hospital into shape. I thought about a year ago that I had only a few months more and I'd be finished with repairs. But materials are difficult to obtain, and labor is often unobtainable. So it is dragging out. As soon as all repairs are out of the way in the hospital proper I had wanted to do something about housing for my hospital workers - orderlies, cooks, mechanics, laundymen, etc. - and their families. At present they are crowded into old, collapsing, mud houses, which are unsanitary and very unsafe. I have only lately repaired these as they tumbled down - hoping to get more adequate housing soon. I hope to build them a simply but sanitary court of brick and tile roofs.

I am very happy in my work in the hospital. Things are going along quite smoothly most of the time. Since the Provincial Hospital recently lost their good superintendent, we have been swamped with their business. They have received more stuff from UNRRA than we have, but they keep it locked up in their private rooms unused. Their beds are still filthy with the patients' fermeine infected bedding. The patients wear their own street clothes in bed. On the other hand our hospital is a small model of an American hospital, with clean laundered hospital bedding and patient clothing, with the walls all spick and span clean with new paint or white wash. So all of the better class of official class in town come to us.

We also get our share of charity cases. And now we are free to do everything for charity cases for in February - out of a clear sky - the China Relief Committee started sending us funds to cover the cost of all expenses for our inpatient charity cases. This was an unsolicited gift when I made my 1947 report, which showed our last year's charity work. This will probably continue for some time yet.

I am getting a good rep for my surgery now. I have had more guts to tackle a larger variety of surgical cases since my three or four years in Yakima working as Dr. West's assistant. That was why I took so much of my time there to help old Doc West. I wanted what he could teach me.
I am doing the only major surgery for this entire district of about 2,000,000 souls. I have had the Lord's blessing in the work I have attempted; and with the help of Penicillin the Lord has worked many miracles thru us here. They are just as much miracles to me as they are to my patients. It is a wonderful thing to have effective "tools" with which to work; and a God Who knows you are doing your best, and is able to carry on from where you have to leave off. Many times I have to say, "Here Lord, I've done all I know how to do. It's Yours from here on." And most of the time He sees fit to carry-on.

In these first four months of 1948 we have performed 226 operations in our operating room. That was formerly about the annual number. The most I remember was 300 in a "best" year before. I am getting a lot of abdominal surgery recently. I have to "crack" a belly five or six times per week. I try to do but one of them daily and schedule them first when I am freshest. But often an acute appendix is run in on me while we are still at it. We always do at least five cases every afternoon, and one day it was ten before we got away. This is pretty hard on my hard-working Chinese staff; but they love it. They revel in being a part of the busiest operating room in these parts. But when a rainy season catches us, we often can't keep far enough ahead on clean and sterilized linen to do all we could and have to slow up the pace a bit.

I had a very sad and discouraging bit of news forwarded on to me from Dr. Higdon recently. He had to report that young Dr. Joe Chandler, who was taking his internship in preparation to coming out to China to help me, died suddenly while receiving an injection of novocaine for a tonsillectomy; leaving his young wife, who is with child. Since then Dr. Higdon reports that he may have a line on another young doctor. But evidently not enough of a line yet to report his name. So here we still are without assurance that we shall have a relief for our next furlough, which may also be our swan song. It may be that our regular furlough will have to be delayed until a doctor can be found, sent out, studied the language, and been introduced to this work.

Inflation continues the most important current event in China. The yesterday radio report of the black market exchange rate in Shanghai was $1,500,000 to $1.00 US. With that in mind our seemingly enormous financial figures are small potatoes. But here is a sample of our April report:-

(April report given)
So you see we are in the billionaire class now. Poor Grace has to struggle over these figures now. And that lets me out. She couldn't account for a surplus of $157,000,000 for several days before she found it. What a blessing she is to me. I hate accounts. And in these figures I simply can't do them and keep my mind on my cases.

Our yard looks lovely this year. Grace brought out our homemade lawnmower and it makes the difference. We have been helping out a refugee family - refugees from the communists brutality of a few hundred miles north of us. We took the father on as a gardener. He helps make food for us and we feed his family. And the kids are in our Rotary Free School - where they get food, clothing and regular schooling. Our garden is now producing strawberries, radishes, lettuce, onions, and scum (a Chinese vegetable). We share from our several gardens, and now we get new cabbages from the Gouler garden. Later we will have corn, potatoes, cauliflower, Swiss chard, beets, tomatoes, beans, peas, peppers, kohlrabi, etc. - seeds sent out by Harold Adams and the Be/renns.

The swimming pool, which I build in 1925, is repaired and I am installing a spring board again. UNRRA sent me a water pump. I put it up to pump water into and out of the pool. This pool is a life-saver for me and my staff during the summer months, when we have our heaviest season of sicknesses.

Last summer Mr. McCallum and Mr. Haskell helped me get my Kuling shack repaired. It had weathered the years of the war and Japanese occupation very well. I invested US$300.00 of my savings in repairing it. We hope we can take the girls up there in the mountains this summer to get them out of this heat. But we have no encouraging assurance that communist conditions will permit this. Still we are all planning on going to Kuling. It is our missions policy to encourage every missionary to take a vacation each summer. But we will await developments.

I just delivered Mrs. Adsit of a fine new son. He is the first missionary baby born in Hefei since our Mary, 16 years ago. So it is a real event. Mr. and Mrs. Adsit and Miss Verla Elliott are our new Hefei missionaries. Now we have added another, this junior, who was not sent out by the UCMC, nor did he deem it necessary to provide himself with a passport, when he came to China.

Verla Elliott is proving herself a fine young missionary. She makes many Chinese friends, and they all like her as much as we missionaries do. Last week she went out into the country on one of her evangelistic trips, with several Chinese men and women evangelists. They were resting in a village, about 30 miles from Hefei, when a report came to them that communists were only a mile away. The Chinese friends tried to get Verla to turn back to Hefei for safety. But she refused to leave them, when she learned that they intended going on. The communists passed on without entering the village. But this shows the stuff she is made of.
Sixteen Chinese and missionary delegates are going from Hefei to Nanking for the Annual China Mission Convention. Grace and I plan on going. The group has chartered a bus from Hefei to Nanking. If it doesn't rain we can go that way, making the trip in eight hours. After the convention Grace and I are going to run down to Shanghai for a few days. I have a date with a dentist for work badly needed for the past five months. I have equipment and the know-how to fill teeth in Hefei, and do it for the other missionaries. I recently fixed Grace up. But I can't fill my own teeth. We will also see the girls briefly. Mary will have a birthday while we are there. I also have some hospital shopping to do in Shanghai. The water is late in rising in the river this year. So the "Washington" is not able to take us to Nanking at this time. But it is all overhauled and ready for any need as soon as there is water enough, which should be any time within two weeks.

We are all well in Hefei. All are very busy and at present at ease in our minds on the communist situation in our immediate neighborhood. I hope this letter finds you and yours back in Yakima, much rested after your winter in California. Give my regards to Brother and Sister Ryan.

Sincerely yours, 
D. S. Corpron
May 9th, 1948.

Fred Young,
902 So. 29th Ave.,
Yakima, Wash., USA.

Dear Fred and all,

I've been keeping my nose pretty close to the old grind stone and haven't written to you for a long time; but I have been wanting to tell you how much we are appreciating the little 3 KW Onan generator you gave us for the hospital.

The two sets I brought out (the 2 KW set purchased from Fairbanks-Morse - also Onan) - and the 3 KW you turned over to me, arrived in Hefei on the fourth month after I left Yakima, with the rest of my freight. It had all been so murderously mishandled enroute from Shanghai and so many engine parts broken that it was four months later before I got them into operation. I was so busy rehabilitating my destroyed hospital that I couldn't do it until I finally found a Chinese engineer in town who could do it. Finally I took him on full time as a member of my staff, to keep things in running order.

During 1947 I received much equipment from UNRRA, including an xray (field portable); which depend on our own current for power. We are now depending on your 3 KW set for night lights and for use with the xray. The little 2 KW set won't carry us for that. We use the 2 KW set only for day time uses (the refrigerator, diathermy, electric welding, spot light in the operating room, cautery, suction pump, and surgery, etc.) I have to do my xray work in the daytime too, as the 3 KW set can carry it only and not when we need the lights at night too.

Grace's arrival in China last September was a life saver for me. My work was piling up on me so that I was snowed under. She has taken over the hospital accounts and reports and the Rotary Friendship Project. As I am the only one doing major surgery for 2,000,000 people, that now takes most of my time. I simply can't concentrate enough on accounts to make them come out; especially with this terrific inflation. When Grace arrived last September the US dollar exchange was $1.00 to one in the Black Market - which is what we buy things at. Yesterday the radio quoted it at $1,500,000 to $1.00 US. It's not legal to quote Black Market in China. So it came over the Manila short wave station. So at that rate our income from fees for April of $761,975,000 doesn't amount to so much. For April we also had contributions of $294,755,000, so that puts us in the billionaire class. Our expenditures were $1,115,740,000. So we are in the billionaire class there also. A million Chinese dollars now is worth about the same as one Chinese dollar in purchasing before the war.
Mary and Ruth are located in the Shanghai American School in Shanghai. They are well taken care of there and the scholarship is high. We hope to be in Shanghai to see them within a week. For we are going to Nanking for a Mission Annual Convention and they expect to run down to Shanghai on the train from there.

It still is most harrowing trying to get from Hefei to Nanking. The railway is still not built on our branch line from the main line. So we have to go by truck-bus over dry weather roads to Nanking. For instance we had chartered a "bus" to take our 16 Chinese and missionary delegates to Nanking — an eight hour trip in dry weather. But this morning we woke up with it raining. So we cannot leave tomorrow as scheduled. If this is a week's rain we won't go at all.

Still there is no possibility of using a private plane in China. The military take flying as their private right. Rules and regulations are made by crack-pot officials, drunk with power, with no seeming thought for the good of the country. This is more evident in business regulations. Business just isn't so far as foreign firms are concerned. So China suffers for lack of things they need most terribly. Government controls business for a few "favored families" who are making trillions. No free enterprise. Government monopolies. That is the order of the day here. Communism is not the answer, for that is even more chaotic and monopolistic. But revolution is bound to come soon. The common Chinese people are used to standing a lot, but some time the worm will turn.

I would like to be able to run in and see you and your fine family of six. I say "six" with confidence, for I know.

I am having a good time doing my surgery. I only wish I had someone to take the medical cases off of my hands and let me do only the surgery. Our Mission Board had a young doctor lined up last month. He was taking his internship in Indiana and was to come to Hefei a year from this fall. But some accident happened in giving the novocaine for a tonsillectomy for he passed out before the operation. He left a wife and unborn child behind. Now again there is no one in line to relieve me. This is a two-man missionary hospital. But with one thing or another I have been left holding the sack since 1926. It really is a One-man hospital; for all of my staff are those trained by myself and I have to supervise every case — carry the responsibility for the cases, see every case daily. We have 80 inpatients; 100 Clinic cases daily; five to ten operations daily. So it keeps the old nose to the grind stone. But that is what I need, I guess, to keep me from getting lazy. I am naturally lazy.

Best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely yours,