

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Rev. Stacy Lippincott Roberts, D. D.
Memorial Minute

Adopted by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
October 21, 1946

The Board recorded, with a deep sense of loss, the death of Dr. Stacy Lippincott Roberts at Princeton, New Jersey, on October 2, 1946.

Stacy Lippincott Roberts was born in Brownsburg, Pennsylvania, February 18, 1881. He was reared in a truly Christian home, his father being an outstanding minister in the Presbyterian Church and his mother a devout Christian woman. It was perhaps natural that in such an environment he should be interested in the things of Christ and should early take responsibility in making Him known to others. His parents were determined to provide him with a good education. Thus, after finishing the grade school, he went on with his secondary and higher education, graduating from Mercersburg Academy in 1900, from Lafayette College in 1904, and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1907. He received his M.A. degree from Princeton University in 1906, and in 1924 Lafayette College conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

On January 7, 1907, young Roberts received his appointment by the Board as a missionary to Korea. On June 26 of the same year he was married to Miss Evelyn Millen, and soon after their marriage the young couple sailed for Korea. They were assigned to evangelistic work at Syenchun where they labored faithfully until 1921. At that time they were transferred to Pyeongyang where Mr. Roberts began his work in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, of which institution he was made president in 1924. He occupied this position until he and Mrs. Roberts returned on a regular furlough in 1939. The war prevented their return to Korea, so Dr. Roberts accepted a position in Beaver College, Jenkinstown, Pennsylvania, for two years. From 1943 until August 31, 1946, he was Stated Supply at Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, and at the same time cared also for the church at Hartleton, Pennsylvania. In September, Dr. and Mrs. Roberts moved to Princeton where he was engaged in working on a commentary on the Synoptic Gospels in Korean, when he was suddenly called to higher service.

Dr. Roberts was a man of many talents, all of which he consecrated to the service of his Master. His first love was the church and, although he spent many of his years in Korea as a professor and as president of the seminary at Pyeongyang, he always kept a close connection with the church and continued preaching in various pulpits. "He was one of the most acceptable preachers in all Korea," writes a fellow missionary. His gentleness and sympathetic understanding of other people's deepest needs made him also an effective pastor. Many of the members of the thirty churches which were under his general care when he was stationed at Syenchun learned to admire and love him. When he was transferred to Pyeongyang, his Presbytery insisted that he continue to visit the churches which he had helped to found and to nurture during his earlier ministry. Even after he had the heavy responsibilities as President of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, he carried on his shoulders "the burdens" of two small churches in Pyeongyang.

As a teacher, Dr. Roberts was very popular, especially as a teacher of the Bible, which he knew with a thoroughness very few achieve. To him, teaching was a sacred responsibility and he always made thorough preparation for his work. He once said that before preparing to teach any book in the Bible, he first read that book forty times consecutively. That is why one of his colleagues could say, "Stacy's greatest contribution was his splendid teaching in the Bible Institute and in Bible Conferences, both locally and on the circuit." He brought this same high standard to bear in his work as head of the Seminary and under his administration there was a decided advance in scholarship among the students. However, this insistence on higher standards never became a matter of mere academic interest. All training was ever with a view to practical service. As administrator of a Union institution he frequently had to be an arbitrator, and this delicate task he performed usually to the satisfaction of all concerned.

In his busy life as pastor, teacher, and school administrator, Dr. Roberts nevertheless found some time for writing. Thus he contributed one or two articles to each issue of the "Theological Review" published bi-monthly. He was also a regular contributor to the "Christian Endeavor," a monthly magazine. He wrote articles for a Bible dictionary published in 1928, published a 350-page commentary on Proverbs, and at the time of his death was engaged in finishing a commentary on the Synoptic Gospels, which he had taught for thirty years. All this was in Korean. He published only one book in English, "Lessons on the Lord's Prayer."

Dr. Roberts, although always busy, never was satisfied with what he accomplished. With a sense of deep humility and dependence on God, he wrote in 1926 after he had become president of the seminary that he realized afresh: "1. That more things have been left undone than have been done. 2. That more things have been done poorly than have been done well. 3. That greater blessings have been received than have been deserved. 4. That he needed the help of the Lord even more in the future than in the past."

One of his associates well stated the truth about Dr. Roberts' deep spiritual life when he wrote: "His own loyalty to Christ and to the Bible, his consecration and his carefully maintained devotional life, enabled him to meet all burdens with quietness and cheerful composure which always impressed his colleagues."

The Board extends to Mrs. Roberts and to the children its deepest sympathy and prays for God's continued blessings upon them.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
COMMISSION ON ECUMENICAL MISSION AND RELATIONS
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

#932

October 7, 1966

TO RETIRED MISSIONARIES FROM KOREA

Dear Friends:

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Stacy L. (Evelyn Millen) Roberts on October 5, 1966 at the Rest Home of Westminster Gardens, Duarte, California at the age of 84. Mrs. Roberts served in Korea for thirty-nine years and was honorably retired January 1, 1947.

Evelyn Millen was born May 5, 1882 in Sussex, New Jersey and received her education at Blair Presbyterian Academy, graduating in 1901 after which she taught school. She was appointed in January, 1907 by the former Board of Foreign Missions and following her marriage in June to Dr. Stacy L. Roberts, she and her husband sailed for Korea. From 1907 to 1920 their work was in Syenchun and from 1921 they were located in Pyengyang.

Mrs. Roberts' special sphere of activity was evangelistic work among women. Her former teaching experience proved most valuable to her as acting superintendent and teacher in the Sunday school where she had the opportunity to become acquainted with the women. Her versatility was shown in her adaptation to various kinds of service from mothering her family of six children to serving on the entertainment committee when necessary, calling in the homes of church people, and the editorial work of the "Pyengyang News" - the station newspaper which was a great factor in establishing new contacts.

While in this country, Dr. Roberts died in October of 1946 and Mrs. Roberts was retired a few months thereafter.

According to our records, Mrs. Roberts is survived by her six children - Mrs. Allen D. Clark of the Korea Mission, Mrs. Henry E. Hale, Mrs. A. Howard Hooper, Rev. W. Dayton Roberts, Rev. Stacy L. Roberts, Jr., Mr. Newton Roberts.

I know you join us in thanksgiving for the life and work of Mrs. Roberts.

Sincerely,

L. Newton Thurber

L. Newton Thurber
Secretary
East Asia Office

Room 932

From the desk of...
Stacy Roberts
"Sticky"



Dear Sam —

8 Oct 1992

Hi! Surprise!

I have seen you on film & heard your voice on cassette, but with the exception of a brief "Hello" in a church in San Francisco, I believe it was in Japan at a Prostly. Chaplains' Retreat that I last saw you "live" and "in depth".

Anyway, the reason I am writing is to ask you if you can return to me my mother's (Evelyn Roberts) journal -- a sort of diary of her first experiences in Korea.

I don't know when or how

I got it to you but I don't want to
lose it.

I trust all is well with you. I
see Dayton & Hilda every few months.
Hes (theyse) fine.

Dorrie sends her love.

Sticky

CPT ROBERTS
11940 GOLD DUST LN
NEVADA CITY CA 95959-9508

November 19, 1992

Capt. Stacy L. Roberts Jr.
11940 Gold Dust Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959-9508

Dear Sticky:

Thank you for your good letter earlier this month. Anything from a Roberts bring back happy memories of golden days in old Pyengyang.

I wish I could remember something about your mother's journal. I stretched through my files of letters and material on the older missionaries in Korea and I don't find anything under Roberts except your mother's obituary and your father's. *searched*

When do you think you gave that to me? I simply don't remember it. But I know that my memory has its lapses these days, not surprisingly.

If you could give me a clue as to where and when it might have come into my possession, I might be able to track it down and I would surely be eager to give it a try. Something like that should not be lost so I will keep looking for it.

Blessings on you in your own retirement. We see Dayton every once in a while but haven't seen you for entirely too long.

Power to you.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Hugh Moffett

SHM/dms

