

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

No. 727.

June 6, 1928.

To the Chosen Mission.

Dear Friends:

Since the last Board Letter of May 18 we have received the following letters from the Rev. Dr. J. Gordon Holdcroft as Chairman of your Mission's Executive Committee: May 2, 5, 7 and 15. We received May 7 his letter No. 82 of March 28 giving information regarding your Executive Committee recommendations V. 715-724, but we had to hold it until the arrival of his letter of April 21 reporting the votes of the Mission. His letter of May 15 speaks of his expected arrival in America this month on furlough and reports that the Rev. Dr. William N. Blair will serve as Chairman of the Mission's Executive Committee until the annual meeting. We heartily appreciate the faithful and efficient service which Dr. Holdcroft has rendered during the two years of his chairmanship. His frequent letters have helped us to a better understanding of the various matters which they have discussed.

GIFT OF WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

February 27 I wrote Miss Vera F. Ingerson of Syenchun Station about a gift of \$400. from the Westminster Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the pastor, the Rev. Dr. John R. McMahon, stating that "it is an extra contribution to the Board of Foreign Missions to be applied toward the deficit on the Boys' Academy or to any other purpose which Miss Ingerson may designate. In other words, we want you to communicate with her and find out from her how she would like to have this money applied. I recognize of course that this may seem strange; nevertheless this is the desire of those who have contributed it. The money is to go to the Board of Foreign Missions, but the object will be that designated by Miss Ingerson."

In my letter to Miss Ingerson I asked her to "kindly take up the matter at once with the Chairman of the Mission's Executive Committee and ask him to send me a statement specifying the object which you approve and which is approved by his Committee." Dr. Holdcroft's letter of April 21 states that "it is the wish of the Executive Committee that this money might be applied to one of the items of the Approved Property List of the Board", but that "Miss Ingerson wishes to specify the money for the 1926-27 deficit in the Syenchun Academies which by Mission action was to be a Station responsibility for which the Station could not come back on the

June 6, 1928.

Mission and the Board". The Board's Department for Specific Work has had further correspondence with Dr. McMahon, who replies that "the money is to go as Miss Ingerson directs." Therefore since the gift is not available for any purpose for which the Board has assumed responsibility, or which the Mission's Executive Committee recommends, the Treasurer has transmitted it without appropriation in a money order to Miss Ingerson.

SALARY OF DR. JESSE W. HIRST

We have received no request from the Mission's Executive Committee regarding this, but Dr. Holdcroft referred to it in his letter of May 2. We are aware that Dr. Hirst's financial problem has special complications in his plans for his children, and the Board has taken the following action:

"In accordance with Article 66 of the Manual providing that the salary of a widower with children shall be arranged in view of the circumstances, the Board voted that the field salary of Jesse W. Hirst, M.D., of the Chosen Mission, shall continue to be the salary of a married man for the remainder of his present term of service, any necessary readjustment to be made on his return to America on furlough. (Adopted June 4, 1928)."

Announcement of this action was included in the cable mentioned on a later page of this letter.

GIFT FROM ABBEY CHURCH, DALLAS, FOR CORNELIUS BAKER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, ANDONG.

Dr. Holdcroft's letter, No.92 of May 5, refers to a gift of \$300. which Dr. Bercovitz understood was to be applied to the deficit on this Hospital. May 17 I wrote a letter of explanation to Dr. Bercovitz, quoting a letter from Mr. Henry Manton of the Abbey Church in which he agreed that \$120. of the \$300. referred to should be applied toward the obligation which the Board had assumed in the regular appropriations for medical work at Andong Station, and that the remaining \$180. should be appropriated as announced in Board Letter No.723 of March 10 (In two items of \$55. and \$125. respectively.) The Mission's request on its Preferred Property List for yen 71,634 for bath-rooms, sanitation, heating and lighting "did not specify local needs except for Chungju and Syenchun. If any Andong needs were included, the way is of course clear for the Mission to assign these two gifts aggregating \$180. to Andong.

V.-716-V.-718. SEOUL PROPERTY REQUEST

We note your Executive Committee's approval of Mr. John F. Genso's letter of March 16 on this subject. We also received a letter dated March 29 from the Rev. Alex. A. Pieters, and Mrs. Roys referred to me a letter of the same date which she had received

June 6, 1928.

This was at once communicated to Miss Bergman with a covering letter. She replied May 28 as follows:

"In reply to your letter of May 23 I would say that while in fullest sympathy with the situation in Pyengyang, the conditions which made it necessary that I remain in this country last year are practically unchanged. For this reason I must ask that you do not expect me to go out this fall. If, under these circumstances the rules require that I tender my resignation I shall accordingly do so. If, however, I am not obliged to offer my resignation and can be retained upon the furlough list for another year, it may be that the way will be so cleared that I can then return to the field."

You will note that the substance of this reply was indicated in our cable of June 5 already referred to. The Board at its next meeting will probably extend her furlough without home allowance until March 1, 1929, in the hope that prior to that date she will be able to give more definite word whether she can return to the field next summer or whether the Board must accept her resignation.

V.719. SYENCHUN ACADEMY CONSTITUTION

This is an interesting additional development of the policy of bringing the Korean Church into closer and more responsible relation to Christian work. The Board welcomes plans of this kind and we shall be glad to have you keep us informed regarding further developments. The following action has been taken:

"The Board complied with the request of the Executive Committee of the Chosen Mission, in V.719, to approve the constitution of the Board of Directors of the two academies at Syenchun Station, subject to the understanding that the Board's financial responsibility is limited to such sums as the Mission may feel able to assign to these academies within the limits of such total appropriation for the native work classes as the Board may be able to make from year to year; that the Board will consider any request for property and foreign staff in connection with the Mission's annual preferred lists in the same way as other requests on these lists are considered. (Adopted June 4, 1928)."

V.720. CONFERENCE WITH BOARD

We shall be very happy to have the suggested conference with the furloughed missionaries mentioned. I assured Dr. Moffett and Miss Best on their arrival in New York that we would look forward to it as soon as we could learn when all concerned would be available.

V. 721 & 723. SALE OF LAND AT PYENGYANG STATION AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Of course the Board approves the sale of the land, but it does not see the use of applying such a small sum as Yen 456. toward the Union Christian Hospital, to which your amended action of V. 723, reported in Dr. Holdcroft's letter No. 90 of May 2, states that you wish it to be applied instead of to the Soltau house. Your last preferred list stated that the needed balance amounted to Yen 62,274, and thus far the Board has received gifts aggregating only \$8,599.65. You will recall the reference in Board Letter No. 724 of April 17 to the report that questions affecting the continuance of the union have arisen and to our suggestion that, if the institution is to be continued as a union one, the Methodist Board should assume the chief responsibility for additional property requirements. The Board has therefore taken the following action:

"The Board complied with the request of the Executive Committee of the Chosen Mission, in V. 721, to approve the sale to the Y.M.C.A. of a small piece of land at Pyengyang Station, valued at Yen 456. The Board did not see its way clear to comply with the request of the Executive Committee of the Mission in V. 723 to apply the proceeds of the sale to the building fund of the Union Christian Hospital in Pyengyang, and directed that it should revert to the Board in accordance with Article 58 of the Manual, the amount involved not being large enough to permit building operations, and the Board understanding that questions are under consideration on the field which may affect the continuance of the union with the Methodist Mission in this Hospital. (Adopted June 4, 1928)."

The printed letter of April 30 signed jointly by Dr. Bigger and Miss Reist gives an exceedingly interesting account of the work of the Hospital and we earnestly hope that a satisfactory adjustment of pending questions may be worked out.

V. 722. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR SOLTAU HOUSE, PYENGYANG STATION

This was cleared in Board Letter No. 722 of February 23.

V. 724. FURLOUGH EXTENSION REV. DR. AND MRS. S.A. MOFFETT

"The Executive Committee of the Chosen Mission, in Action No. 724, having suggested the advisability of extending the six months' furlough of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Moffett, the Board extended their furlough, with home and children's allowances and pension payments, from November 1 to February 1 with the understanding that he will be at the disposal of the Home Base Department of the Board for deputation work in the interest of the general work. (Adopted June 4, 1928)."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS I.474-484.

We note that most of these relate to matters within the jurisdiction of the Mission and that those that do require Board action have been cleared in former correspondence.

DESIGNATION OF BOYS' ACADEMY, PYENGYANG STATION

We have been awaiting with mingled eagerness and anxiety confirmation of reports from various sources that this academy had at last received official designation. May 28 we received a cable which was decoded as follows:

"Government has given designation Boys' School at Pyengyang effective at the end of academic year 1931. Please communicate information to Dr. S.A. Moffett. (Signed) D. L. Soltau."

I reported this to the Board at its meeting June 4. You will appreciate the interest with which the announcement was received. We are naturally somewhat perplexed by the statement that the designation does not become effective until 1931. We have no doubt that explanatory letters are on the way.

PENSIONS FOR CHILDREN OF THE REV. ARTHUR G. WELBON

You will be interested to know that the first case of the application of the New Service Pension Plan to the minor children of a missionary who dies in service has been reported to us in the following letter from the Rev. Dr. Henry B. Master, Secretary of the Board of Pensions:

"I am writing to advise you that we are granting the following pensions to the two minor orphans of Rev. Arthur G. Welbon, a foreign missionary under your Board, who died April 5, 1928:

Charles P. Welbon)	Sustentation Annuity of \$192. payable
Mary E. Welbon)	in quarterly instalments of \$48. each
		beginning as of April 5, 1928.

and a pension under the Service Pension Plan of \$200.04 payable in monthly instalments of \$16.67 each beginning as of April 5, 1928."

Of course the Board will supplement this pension, under the Service Pension Plan, up to the regular children's allowance of \$300. each.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The representatives of the Board at the recent meeting of the General Assembly report that the foreign missionary interest of the Assembly was at a high level, that there was not a word of criticism, that all the recommendations of the Standing Committee were unanimously adopted, and that there was every indication that

June 6, 1928.

the cause of Foreign Missions was in the heart and prayers of the Church. Judging from the enthusiasm with which the Assembly welcomed the report of the Board, its representatives and the missionaries who were present, we ought to expect a forward movement this year. Unfortunately, the receipts of the Board for the first two months of the fiscal year (April 1 to May 31) show a decrease of \$37,867.52 as compared with the receipts for the corresponding two months of the preceding year. If, however, the Assembly commissioners carry their enthusiasm back to their churches we may look for better things. We are expecting a blessing too from the Jerusalem Conference. All reports are to the effect that it was an event of extraordinary spiritual power. The Assembly was deeply moved by the accounts of it that were given by Dr. Speer in his sermon as retiring Moderator and by Dr. Schell in his address in behalf of the Board. There are sounds of His going in the tops of the mulberry trees. We know that God waits to be gracious and it is for all His followers to consecrate themselves anew to the worldwide service to which He has called them.

With renewed remembrance of each of you and frequent prayer that the blessing of God may continue to rest upon you in increasing measure, I remain as ever

Affectionately yours,

Arthur J. Brown.

Pyongyang, Korea, July 23, 1928

Mr. James Moffett,
Union College,
Sioux Falls, Dakota,
S. D.

Dear Mr. Moffett:

The Mission has commissioned me as its Chairman for this year to send you a word of greeting and to assure you that we are thinking of you and remembering you often in our prayers. The number of the children of the Mission who have left the field has increased so greatly in the past few years that I am called upon to send out nearly 75 of these letters. We are immensely interested in all that you are doing and our prayers rise daily that you may be prospered in all your plans and work.

The Mission this year met at Pyongyang with an excellent attendance. The meetings were shorter than usual, lasting only from June 22 to 29. The spirit was fine and the meetings more inspirational than any which I have ever attended. One special feature which was begun last year, I believe, was the presentation of a Bible to each of the children of the Mission who are leaving the field to complete their education. There were three of these this year, Mary Hunt, Harriette Brunen and Keith Owen. The two girls are entering College and Keith is going to Toronto to complete his High School course.

Two of the features of the Annual Meeting were the Musical Program and the Baseball Game. Among the stars in the former were Mrs. Boots and Miss Lucetta Mowry with the violin, Mrs. Soltan, Mrs. A. K. Baird and Mrs. B. H. Adams on the piano and Mrs. Lutz in a number of excellently rendered vocal selections. In the latter Pyongyang played the "World". It looked rather bad for Pyongyang at the end of the first inning when the World had seven runs to the good, but by tightening up well there were no more World runs and the score ending 9 to 7 in Pyongyang's favor.

The Mission is rejoicing greatly in the improved facilities for High School work in Seoul and Pyongyang. The former has had 13 and the latter 50 High School students this past year and the standards of work have been raised fairly high. As a result many more of the children are being ~~admitted~~ kept until they graduate from High School, and nearly all of these are being admitted into different colleges on recommendations from the local schools.

The Mission has lost quite heavily in personnel during the year in the resignation of six of its members and the death of two others (Mrs. J. W. First and Rev. A. G. Welbon). These losses have not been met by new appointments, two only being under appointment, namely Mr. Bruce Hunt and Mr. Kinsler. The former has been assigned to evangelistic work in Chungju Station and the latter to religious work in the Union Christian College in Pyongyang.

We know that there are many things which you would like to hear about but as it is my object rather to convey the good wishes of the Mission than to give news, I will close with the wish that God's richest blessing may rest upon your endeavors, and that you may remember in your prayers and work the Mission which thinks and prays so often for you. And if in God's good plan you are called back to the field, we shall welcome you with open arms.

Cordially yours, in behalf of the Mission, I am,

J. O. Peiner
Chairman.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
KOREA MISSION
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

DR. BROWN, REC'D

OCT 13 1929

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Pyongyang, Korea,
September 18th. 1929.

*Master of the Copy for Hamilton
Mrs. Byham*

Rev. Arthur J. Brown D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York.

Dear Dr. Brown;

I am just back from Taiku and Seoul where I attended the meetings of the General Assembly and the National Council of Churches and Missions in Korea.

Your communication as President of the Western Section of the World's Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches addressed to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Chosen was received by the Assembly with much interest and appreciation. The matter was referred to a special committee which later made a report to the Assembly which was adopted. This report recommended first that four delegates be appointed to represent the Assembly at the Boston meeting, June 20th. 1929. Mr. Chai Yun Kwan, Mr. ~~Lee~~ K. G. Han, Dr. Moffett and Dr. Clark were elected. I told the committee that it was ^{not} likely that Dr. Moffett would be in America in June, but ^{they} thought it would be well to appoint him in case his return should be delayed.

Your suggestion that the Korean Church join the Western Section of the Alliance until an Eastern Section or rather an Asiatic Section could be formed interested the Assembly very much. If possible the Assembly would like to have such an Asiatic Section organized immediately and to this end a committee of six prominent Koreans was appointed to act in behalf of the Assembly in inviting the Presbyterian Churches in Asia to join with the Presbyterian Church in Chosen in the formation of an Asiatic Section. I understand that an invitation is to be the various churches to send delegates to a meeting to be held in Korea for this purpose. Just what countries would be included was not definitely determined but Japan, China and the Philippine and possibly Siam were mentioned. If the last two are not ready to participate it was thought that Japan, China and Korea very much needed such an Alliance and that it should be organized as soon as possible.

You may regard this effort as premature, but the suggestion having been made to the Assembly it would have been unwise to try to hinder the sudden determination of the Assembly to try to carry it out. I am not sure how the committee of six will proceed ~~or how they should proceed~~ or just how they should proceed. In fact they have not as yet asked my advice as to how they should proceed, but I am sure they have no other thought than that the new Section if it can be organized should be a part of the World's Alliance.

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
KOREA MISSION
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2 It was rather a turbulent Assembly, a bitter and sectional contention having ~~arisen~~ arisen over the action of the Kyung San (Australian District) Presbytery in demitting from the ministry a certain pastor from the northern part of the country who was pastor of the Masan Po Church.

3 A matter of much satisfaction to us missionariss was the emphatic way the Assembly rejected the recommendation of the committee on revision of Church standards that hereafter all missionaries who desired to vote in Presbytery should be required to transfer their membership from the home presbyteries to the Korean Church. This would be a proper action if there was any reason for taking it at this time except the anti-foreign spirit of a few men who pushed the matter in the committee not with a sincere desire that the missionaries should actually bring their letters but rather in the expectation that they would refused to do so or be unable to do so and so drop entirely out. As far as the members of our mission are concerned there seems to be no reason why we should not bring our letters if the Assembly so wishes, but the Canadian and Australian brethren think they cannot do this without losing their old age service pension benefits. We decided, however, in conference not to object in any way to the proposed action and all of us supposed that it would carry. As a matter of fact the report was strongly opposed as unnecessary and disturbing and rejected by the assembly by an overwhelming majority, we missionaries not voting. I think the agitation has done a lot of good as the church realizes more than before the great importance of close cooperation between the missionaries and the Korean Church.

4 The Stations are very slow in returning to me the voting sheets on the August Executive Committee Meetings actions. So many of the station members have been away from the stations attending Assembly and other meeting that a fully vote has been difficult to secure. Most of the stations have now reported and I will be able to report to you within a day or so.

5 Mrs. Byram who underwent a severe operation two weeks ago is making a good recovery. The doctors have ordered Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Adama to return to America on account of the condition of their daughter Phillis. The Mission is now voting on the Drs' and Andong Stations recommendation which I will forward at once if carried.

6 The evangelistic campaign in Pyengyang for which we have been preparing for nearly six months begins next Monday. Twelve Presbyterian Churches in Pyengyang unite in the campaign which we expect will last at least three weeks. I am chairman of the committee in charge and will give my whole time to the campaign.

Cordially,

William A. Blair

The assembly appointed a committee to arrange for conferences on Systematic Benevolence in all sections of the church when Mr. Conroy visits us next spring. His coming is opportune and welcome.

311 Alexander Hall
Princeton, N. J.
Sept. 26, 1928

Dear Father,

It is only two days and less that I have been here, yet it seems ages. The getting acquainted and adjusted process has just started, and there is much that is and will be new, but so much has happened already and I have met so many that I know that it seems as if I belonged. It has been almost like coming back to a school I have attended. I have been bumping into fellows I haven't seen for two, three, four, and five years. The students from Wooster and Wheaton seem to form about half the school. They rival each other for the numerical supremacy with Wooster taking the lead this year with four new ones against one for Wheaton.

This morning I met Gertrude and Harold Voelsel. It sure was good to see them. Then in the opening chapel I found Dick Baird just back from Korea. He is staying at the missionary apartment. There won't be any trouble putting you up when you come. It won't be a search for a place; it will be a choice of many places. Aside from all those that I know there are those that know you, or Dr. McClure, or Bruce Hunt, etc.

This morning I got a taste of what the year is going to be like. It is what I have been wanting. What a chapel service we did have! I was spell-bound and drunk in the words that were spoken. Dr. Radcliffe (I think that's the name & spelling), from Washington, gave us a splendid address. He graduated from Princeton in 1866. After chapel I spoke to Dr. Erdman. All are going to be most helpful taskmasters, of course.

The rest is up to me. It isn't going to be easy, but it is going to be absorbingly interesting and studying for a purpose at last (all except the Hebrew).

I signed up for my courses this afternoon and have already attended my first class - Church History under Dr. Loetscher. He knows how to make history very hard and exacting. I have Homiletics and English Bible to-morrow morning. You will see it all on the schedule I shall send you as soon as I find out which section of Public Speaking I shall be in.

This first term I am carrying 18 hrs, with the next term calling for 16 hrs. After I find my bearings, capabilities, & limitations I may increase the number of hours next semester so as to allow University work next year. My problem

is going to be to limit myself so that what I do will be done well. A good start this year will allow more expansion later on.

There is much more about my studies and about the eating clubs and about the students that I could write, but it will be better to write of those things later.

How soon will you be coming here? Have mother and the boys left, and did they stop at Chicago? Did Betty leave for Indianapolis? Are you all well? Have you done anything about the pictures? I am having the ones I brought with me developed. Do you suppose you can find some curtains of some sort for me for the room if I send you the measurements?

Which reminds me I haven't told you about the room. I was extremely lucky, - but first unlucky. In the drawing, I drew a blank, but

a fellow I knew at Wooster offered me his room here in Alexander. Most of the upper classmen try to get rooms here. He drew first last spring and chose the room he thought was best. Then this summer he got married and now needs only a place to study. He offered me the room on condition that I share the study with him. So here I am - well fixed.

My trunks came with me as far as Phila. and got here later the day I got here (~~only~~ yesterday it is).

It sure cost like fury to get here. I almost wish I could have driven through. I could run the car for a month and more see what the trip cost. I rather wish I had it here - a good many have cars of some sort. Have you made any efforts to sell it?

The money you gave me is deposited here. It seems I should have more

as soon as the October interest is due so as to avoid paying a deposit fee. There is no charge for accounts averaging \$100⁰⁰. A dollar a month is the charge for a smaller account. If I can I should like to act as if the hundred were not here and not count on drawing it out. What do you think? Outside of the hundred I have less than ten dollars now.

Will you ask Uncle Howard for me please what the interest rate is on the South Bend bond in which he invested the Edgemoor money that was turned in. The latter was 7% while the new I believe is 6½% which would reduce the October interest a little. He gave me the name and number but not the interest rate.

On the train with me Monday was an Indianapolis business man who runs the Fair Store. His name was Traugott (sp?). I wonder if he is or is related to the man the papers are talking about.

Enclosed is a receipt for the final payment on the car. I don't think you need it in addition to what I gave Uncle Howard, but you may.

Richard Peters was over last night from the University. He asked me to come to the Blunch to-night for their Young People's gathering. I should like to have gone but wouldn't be writing you if I had. I want to meet Livingston Erdman, too, as soon as I can.

Yesterday I was over on the University Campus to see the new cathedral-chapel. It is very impressively beautiful. I want you to see it when you come.

I am due for a seven-thirty breakfast at the Friars Club in the morning and must get some sleep. Bruce Hunt was head of that club I think. The new men are being shifted

around from club to club before stating their choice. The fellows are all so fine that I think it will be hard to choose.

What haven't I told you that you want to know? You will find out about my schedule very soon now.

Judging from the snappy weather we're having I am going to be mighty grateful to Mother before long.

It is late at night with a lovely moon shining down on the beautiful campus. A plane roared by overhead a few minutes ago. I threw up the window in time to see its lights heading for N.Y. I wonder if it was a mail plane. It was the first I have seen at night. A little uncanny! I wonder if the Air Mail N.Y. to Cinicy would get this to you any faster. I'll try it in the morning. Good night & love to you all - Jim