



Writing from,—

C.I.M. Chefoo, Sung.,  
Jan. 23rd. 1940.

Permanent Address,—

China Inland Mission,  
Tunki, Anhwei, China.

*"Behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12*

Dear Friends,

First let me thank each one of you who has been associated with us in the Lord's work through prayer. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, and we greatly value having you lined up with us against the powers of darkness. In the reports which follow you will find much for which to praise God in answered prayer. This encourages us all to continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

We praise God for giving us all a happy Christmas together in Chefoo. This has been all the more precious as we had been separated for about seven months, the family here, and I in South Anhwei. During these months the children developed greatly. David is a big boy of eight now. He is always on the go, has a very inventive mind, thinking up endless plans and stunts for the entertainment of the family. John is nearly six, very sturdy and steady. He has abundance of energy, but often spends happy hours in tracing and coloring pictures. Danny is just two, and is a merry little sunbeam. He likes to do stunts, he can stand on his daddy's shoulders held only by the ankles, but quite erect and fearless. Little Esther, eleven months, is a most energetic young lady. She is very like her Mother. We all enjoy her immensely.

About Feb. the eighth we hope to leave here for South Anhwei. David will remain here in school, where he will receive the best of care. We shall look forward to his spending the two months holidays with us next winter.

As we return to Tunki, South Anhwei, we shall count on your prayers. Mrs. Birch is very keen to be back amongst the Chinese women in South Anhwei. As she has been out of the work for so long, she will value special prayer that she may get very close to those women whom the Lord can use her to help, and that she be enabled to bring them the Lord's message in the power of the Spirit. Please pray also for the children, David separated from us in Chefoo, and John, Danny and Esther in Tunki. There are peculiar difficulties in bringing up children in China, and they are a precious responsibility before the Lord, as well as a great joy.

I am sending you my report on the Churches in Shhsien and Tunki, our new field, and Suancheng, our former station. These reports are as straightforward as possible, we want you to know the facts so that you may join with us in intelligent and fervent prayer and praise.

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. "Eph. 3:20.

### SHHSIEN, ANHWEI, ANNUAL REPORT.

Jan. 5th. 1940

For Years the Church in Shhsien has been in a dead condition, largely because of the backslidden state of the Pastor. He is a man seventy-two years of age. For many years he was a paid worker, but for the last ten years has received no salary. He lives in the residence behind the Church, and belonging to the Church. Here his grandson carries on a hospital. This young man has no use for the Gospel and it is well known that gambling is regularly practised in the home. The sad thing is that the Pastor does not show much concern over this terrible state of things. The church has not been used for years, the forms are pushed back against the wall. The name of the Church over

the main entrance is dim and dirty, while a big new sign bearing the name of the hospital is prominently displayed. Pastor Chang has conducted a service in his home every Sunday morning which has been attended by his wife, his daughter-in-law his adopted son from the country, but seldom by anyone else.

A number have prayed that Pastor Chang would repent and get right with the Lord. The Lord has given the assurance that He will cleanse that building, and revive His Church in Shhsien. So far we have seen no change in the Pastor, though the Lord has spoken to him. Please pray for him. Join with us in fervent believing prayer for this man and for the Church in Shhsien, that the powers of darkness may be overthrown completely in that place, and the Lord's name glorified where it has been so disgraced.

In answer to prayer the Lord has shown forth His glory in His power to save in Shhsien. During July many students arrived there on their way west. Among them were some Christians. The Lord used some of these in cooperation with the missionary. A meeting for prayer, the Word and testimony was held nearly every afternoon for three weeks. Six students came to know the Lord as their Saviour. The enemy of souls was busy. The Pastor definitely opposed and told the students that they had no right to say that they were saved. But they searched the scriptures and the Lord gave them definite assurance that they were saved through faith in Christ. These students have gone on their way. Please follow them with prayer.

In the middle of July the Lord brought to Shhsien a young man, Wu Kueh-chang, a Christian refugee, with other members of his family. His sister had died during their pilgrimage of about a year and a half through four provinces. This young man had truly known the Lord and had some wonderful answers to prayer in the past. At one time he had suffered from a running sore in his side, for two years this had continued, two of his ribs were affected. Doctors could do nothing. When Dr. John Sung prayed for him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord this sore had instantly dried up. His sister had for

fourteen years been troubled by a demon, at times when the demon came upon her she would be confined to bed for months. She would refuse to eat except as they forced her. She would not be clear in her mind, and would waste away. Wu Kueh-chang had just returned after a year in Bethel Bible School when he found his sister under the power of this demon. He was greatly distressed for her. After earnest prayer he commanded the demon in the name of the Lord to leave her. At once she was delivered, and was in her right mind from that time. She accepted the Lord as her Saviour and was never again troubled by the demon.

But during this long pilgrimage amid many trials, Wu Kueh-chang was defeated. He wished to witness for the Lord, but His mouth was closed. He came to the place where he seldom read the Word of God or prayed. He made many good resolutions, and struggled against sin but found himself powerless to fulfill the Lord's will, even though this was his great desire.

One Sunday morning, Wu came to see the missionary in Sihstien, having arrived the previous evening. He asked the time of the service. They had prayer and the Word together. When asked to choose a portion of Scripture he read Rom. 7:14-25. This portion speaks of defeat climaxed with the bitter cry, "O wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" When asked why he chose this portion Wu said, "Because it is so true, and this is my experience." But how hungrily he listened as he was told that this portion was a picture not of the true Christian life but of one who has begun in the Spirit and is striving to go on in the flesh, which means utter defeat. But this is not the true Christian life at all, Christ is our life, for by faith we are united with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension. The old Adam is crucified and Christ through the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts by faith, which means complete and continual victory. Through his own study of the Word particularly Rom. 6, 7, and 8 and much prayer the Lord brought Wu Kueh-chang into a place of glorious freedom and victory.

After the missionary had left Sihstien for Tunki twenty miles distant, Wu armed with tracts, Gospel portions, and Gospel posters started out for a country village not far from the city. He felt that it would be easier to commence to preach in that place. He hung his hymn sheet and Gospel poster on a wall, then bowed his head in prayer, after which he began to preach the Gospel. O, what joy! What a realization of the Lord's power as he preached the unsearchable riches of Christ. He could now say with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me." What liberty, what joy in the Lord! Wu preached three times in the village that day, and from that time continued in city and country to preach the Gospel in power. The Lord has given him the joy of seeing souls saved and backsliders reclaimed.

The first to come to the Lord in response to Wu's message was Liu Chih-chang, twenty-one years of age, a Bank clerk in Sihstien, he had never heard the Gospel until he heard Wu preaching on the street. He stayed to buy Gospel portions, and when he heard that there was a complete Bible at once produced a dollar asking Wu to obtain one for him. Liu was soon rejoicing in salvation and witnessing to his friends in the Bank. He encountered opposition, but now there is another young man in that Bank who believes, Praise God!

We marvel at the way in which the Lord has used various members of His body making all things work together for good to those who love Him. Three years ago Chang Hung-chih went to the neighbouring province of Chekiang. At that time he came to the place where he thought that life was not worth living. Then the Lord brought him into touch with the Gospel and he was saved. He obtained a position in a mission hospital and during three years there grew much in grace. Chang visited his home in Sihstien periodically, but none of his people believed the Gospel. This summer Chang received an urgent telegram to come home at once. His brother had died some time before, now his sister-in-law had just died, and his father was in bed with half his body paralyzed. At the

same time Miss Kiang, a Spiritually minded Christian lady was seeking the Lord's guidance for she needed an escort to Sih sien on her way home to Tsingteh. The Lord in His wonderful way brought these two together. Chang was much encouraged in the Lord during the trip, and Miss Kiang praised God for an efficient escort. The most heart breaking news awaited Chang. Upon arrival at his home he was told for the first time that his own wife had proved unfaithful, for long she had been living in sin, and five months before this time had run away with another man. This was a terrific blow, Satan was trying to overthrow this young Christian. All the neighbours regarded the home as under a curse. But praise God! He gave Chang the victory. In spite of his sorrow the young man continued to praise God, who had already given him assurance in his heart that He was going to do great things in his home on this visit. He invited Miss Kiang to the home. She and Wu came next day. The Father and Mother turned to the Lord. Taking their position under the blood, so that evil spirits could not touch them, they put away all idolatrous things. Chang's joy knew no bounds. He rejoiced that the Lord had cleansed his home. The powers of darkness tried to regain a place in the home, several times the aged Mother cried out in great fear in the night. But after much prayer Chang was given the faith to claim the covering of the blood for the whole house. From that time there was no more fear. A live witness was borne to the neighbours who were much moved. Some women said that they realized for the first time what sinners they were before God.

Apart from the six students who were saved and have gone on their way rejoicing, ten souls have professed faith in the Lord and two backsliders have come back to the Lord in Sih sien since the summer.

Wu was offered a good position lately but turned it down as he is sure that God has given him this ministry in Sih sien, and that the Lord will supply his every need as he seeks first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Thus the Lord is doing His own work in Sih sien, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

So far there is no true spiritual fellowship with Pastor Chang. These young converts have found more hindrance than help in attending his Sunday morning service. This is a call to fervent and believing prayer that the Lord will deal with Pastor Chang in mighty power bringing him to true repentance, and that the Lord will cleanse the Church premises in Sih sien and revive His Church, to the glory of His name. Faithful is He who hath promised who also will do it.

#### ANNUAL REPORT, CHINA INLAND MISSION,

TUNKI, ANHWEI, Jan. 5th. 1940.

During July Tunki was bombed for the first time. This caused about thirty people to seek refuge at the mission premises. As a result these people, some of them Christians and others unbelievers had the Word expounded to them daily for about a month. This was made possible, for the Lord in His own wonderful way had brought two Chinese Pastors and a missionary to Tunki just at this time. Six or more professed to put their trust in the Saviour, and those who were already Christians were encouraged.

The Christians in Tunki seem to be for the most part in a low state spiritually. They have been in the habit of attending one service a week if the weather was fine and if their work was not interfered with. They showed little or no concern for the state of the heathen round about them. There was at least one exception to this, a young man Wu Yu-chium. He had been a nominal Christian only, until he went to Shanghai as a tailor. There for a number of years he attended Watchman Nee's assembly, and when he returned to his native place it was with a keen desire to win others for Christ. He brought with him a good supply of tracts and Gospel portions. He received much bitter persecution, but it was with him a case of, "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel."

When "Cottage Meetings" were proposed to which Christians might invite their friends to hear the Gospel, even old elder Ying shook his head saying that it was useless

to preach the Gospel to the heathen. However in answer to prayer these meetings were started, and real interest began to be shown. Some Christians became eager to have a meeting in their home. We are encouraged to continue to seek the Lord for cleansing and revival in the Church in Tunki. We rejoiced to hear Wu Yu-ch'ui say, "What we need is revival in the Church. Let us have a Convention the beginning of the year. But let us spend several days in prayer first asking God to pour out His Spirit upon us." There are unprecedented opportunities in Tunki now to tell forth the Gospel. God's children need to be full of the Holy Spirit to do this effectually.

ANNUAL REPORT, TSINGTEH, ANHWEL.

Jan. 5th. 1940.

Five years ago John and Betty Stam laid down their lives in Miaosheo, Tsingteh county, Anhwei. For several years that district was unsafe on account of banditry. But now conditions are wonderfully peaceful there. In different ways the Lord is preparing the soil "till souls shall blossom from the spot." Old Mrs. Wang the first Christian in Miaosheo has remained true for over thirty years. Pastor Ch'en Hua-t'eh is planning to live in Miaosheo with his family. The Lord has also sent Miss Kiang, a keen witness, to live in her ancestral home four miles from Miaosheo. Thus the Lord is establishing a live witness in the Tsingteh district. Pastor Ch'en, an outstanding man of God is in charge of the work in three districts, Kinghsien, Tsingteh, and Chiki, as well as at his home over the border in Changhwa, Chekiang. He plans to have a Bible Conference followed by several days of evangelism in Miaosheo at the beginning of March. Will you please line up with us in prayer against the powers of darkness, that there may be a great harvest of souls in this place where John and Betty Stam laid down their lives, bearing such a triumphant witness.

ANNUAL REPORT, SUANCHENG, ANHWEL.

Jan. 5th. 1940.

The city of Suancheng being near the front line has been very hard hit by the war. Christians have been scattered some of them very far afield. The Lord has used Dr. Ling who went to Szechwan to lead many into the light. Miss Kiang has witnessed faithfully in a neighbouring province, and has now returned to a new field, her old ancestral home in Tsingteh. One is impressed with the fact that a few of God's children have made big strides in faith, and that others have gone down to defeat. But even in defeat the Lord has brought some to an end of themselves. This is the place where God can do great things for them if they only cry to Him. Rom. 7:24 Therefore we believe that the time is ripe for revival in Suancheng if we pray fervently to the Lord for it.

Money has been a big stumbling block in Suancheng. Several thousand dollars belonged to the Church, but instead of using it for the Lord, it was lent out at interest, while the Church refused to assume its proper responsibility in the matter of self support. The devil used that money to stir up covetousness, causing Christians to backslide, hindering others from giving, involving the Church in law suits, and wasting her strength in useless wrestling with flesh and blood while the enemy laughed.

When we lately visited the outstation where the leading deacon lived we found that there was adultery, opium smoking and gambling in the Church, and that this leader was doing nothing about it, nor could he witness for the Lord because his mouth was closed. Of course he was very unhappy. Pastor Ch'en, Pastor Ho and some of the local deacons met with us there. In answer to prayer the Lord made all unanimous in dealing with this sin. One man had his Church membership taken away until he should repent and bring forth fruit meet for repentance. Another against whom there was no clear evidence was warned and exhorted. We all rejoiced in the knowledge that the Lord had got the victory. The man whose membership was taken away pro-

fessed to repent and promised to leave his sin. We hope that he will bring forth good fruit so that he can be restored.

Not far away from this is a Christian home where Mr. Hsiao has gone on with the Lord. His brother a school master has lately been converted, and his students about seventy in number have the Gospel preached to them. It was a joy to spend a week-end in this home.

We rejoiced to see a great change in the attitude of the Christian leaders at Suancheng towards money. Worldly methods were denounced and there was a greater readiness than ever before to assume responsibility.

In the city of Suancheng the Christians connected with the M.E.M. and C.I.M. are meeting together regularly every Sunday for worship. Pastor Ho is living in Suancheng. Please pray for this man. He has gone through much trial. He loves the Lord and believes the Word. He is kind and upright. Yet one would say after an acquaintance of ten years that in the things of the Spirit he has very much to learn. His work seems to be largely in the natural realm. He seems to know little about how to lead a soul to Christ, how to restore the penitent, or how to lead the flock in the way of victory. I say this not in a spirit of condemnation, but to call forth earnest prayer for this man, and others like him. We need a revival amongst the Church leaders. We are sure that God will give this as we in faith maintain our triumphant position in Christ in the heavens, and from this place of assured victory battle in prayer and testimony with the powers of darkness.

### PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS

1. Pray for Pastor Chang of Sibsien that he may repent and become a true follower of the Lord, to His glory.
2. Pray that the Lord will cleanse the Church premises in Sibsien and use them to His glory.
3. Praise God for Wu Kueh-chang, and pray that he may be more and more used to the salvation of sinners and the building up of the Church.

4. Praise God for bringing Chang Hung-chih back to Sibsien, and for saving his parents. The last news is that his father died believing, and that the relatives are trying to insist on a heathen funeral. Pray for continued victory. Ask the Lord to guide Chang concerning work. D. V. I hope he will find suitable work in Sibsien.

5. Praise God for some real spiritual life in Tunkl. Pray for revival there. Pray for the cottage meetings. Pray for blessing on the leaders of the Church, especially Dr. Ma.

6. Praise God for establishing a live witness in Miaosheo, where John and Betty Stam laid down their lives. Pray for Pastor Chen, Miss Kiang, and Mrs. Wang witnessing there.

7. Praise God for exposing the sin at Hanting, Suancheng. Pray for victory for Li Cheng-mei that he may have victory liberty and power in Christ as he witnesses in Hanting. Praise for Mr. Hsiao and his brother. Pray for about seventy scholars who hear the Gospel in his home.
8. Ferrent prayer for Pastor Ho, that God will make him a fisher of men, and a spiritually minded Pastor of the flock.

"Where Prayer focuses Power falls."

Yours in Christ's triumphant service,

G. A. BIRCH