

American Baptist Mission
Swatow, China

May 3, 1950

Dear Clara,

I'm truly thrilled to receive your letter - and so quickly! And I'm proving that statement by breaking all my past letter-writing records and sitting down to answer it immediately.

Since Liberation in October we have had a number of real thrills - various kinds! There was an upheaval in our school which brought about the resignation of principal and several teachers and threatened us with a most serious situation. Trustees, students, teachers and old grads. united in an appeal to former

Principal Ling & return from Shanghai and take over. He finally came, to "diagnose the case", he said, and later he consented to "stay on and help" if the school could be changed into a vocational school and developed into a college! Amazingly enough, the authorities seem graciously inclined toward the plan; school trustees and the Church Committee heartily favor it, and the thing is already under way! And this, in the face of unsettled conditions and extremely precarious financial situation! We are still holding our breath & see whether the thing can possibly come true. It would be wonderful if it could, for advanced study opportunities just now are exceedingly limited and the outlook for young people is not optimistic.

from many points of view. It remains
to be seen just how far and how
fast this ambitious plan can be
carried out. Principal Ding (my
"boss" for ten years when I was out
here before) can put the thing across
if any one can.

New thoughts, new movements, new
outlooks are in the air out here; and
it is a stirring thing if one can have
a share in something new which
appeals to one as surely worth while.
In the meantime, certain of the old
realities remain; there are some
values that do not wane with the
shifting scenes of circumstance!

My gift is small but carries with
it a weight of good wishes for Old Colby.
I'm so glad to hear from you, and
hope to hear again.

Yours ever, Abbe J. Sanderson

August 15, 1950

Dear Abbie:

Clara Piper sent your letter along, together with your contribution to the Alumni Fund for which we thank you very much.

It was interesting to read of your school and the developments there. It must be a source of satisfaction to see the school develop into a college, and to have your share in the work.

Whenever any of us of our time get together, we are likely to mention you. You know, I suppose, that Eva Macomber is Resident Head at Palmer House. We get together occasionally but not as often as we wish.

Abbie, we plan to send the ALUMNUS to all ALUMNI this coming year, with the Alumni Council absorbing the subscription cost. Is it possible to send it to you. Last year your copy kept coming back. Some copies I had forwarded to your brother, but we did not handle that work in our office, and I do not know what the final disposition was. If it is possible we will get a copy to you.

When do you get a furlough? You must plan to come to the college when you get home, and see how wonderfully beautiful the campus is. As to the young people they are awfully like us as we were back in 1913 and 1914!

Sincerely,

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American Baptist Mission
Swatow, China
April 10, 1948
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READ
A.S.

Dear Friends:

We are being very thankful just now for rain, which has been so long delayed that a drought such as the one two years ago was feared. Out here in China the weather is not usually a subject for conversation; but since the rain came two days ago many people are so glad and relieved that they say so out loud.

There are many other things big and little, that I am grateful for these days, too. We have acquired a cat that really catches the rats. Now it is safe to leave candles sitting on the table when we go to bed at night, knowing that they will still be there in the morning instead of being chewed in two in the middle! I am more than grateful that for this term I have a high school graduate to help me with the correcting of my beginners' English notebooks. He will go away in the summer to begin his medical education, and I know I shall miss him sadly unless I can get some one to take his place.

Our WWG group (Daring Endeavorers, in Chinese) had their third meeting this term, today. The first was election of officers. the second, a lovely little sunrise service Easter morning out on a grass plot in sight of the hills and bay. Today after the worship service Miss Lee of the hospital gave a very practical health talk to the girls and they were intensely interested. Then plans were made for answering the letter of a group of girls in America who want to correspond with a group here, and for making a literary poster for Parents' Festival, and last we had a lively play time together. The next meeting will be a handwork meeting, and this is where the materials that some of you have sent to us will be useful. Children's clothes, stuffed toys, bags pillows, towels, small knitted things that can be done in odd moments, make it possible for the girls to have something they have made themselves to give when Christmas comes. Their enthusiastic earnest spirit is most encouraging.

Another thing we are rejoicing about is that during the year twenty-two of our Academy students have accepted Christ and have come into the church. There are others who are doing some serious thinking. Some of the WWG leaders have only recently become Christians: the glow of their new-found joy is bound to have its influence on their classmates who have not yet made the Great Decision.

Mrs. Sears' visit here in February brought inspiration to many, missionaries and nationals alike. It was my privilege to be with her in Kityang and Chowen, and one sensed everywhere a deep interest in her presence and in her helpful messages. She was here in Swatow with us for our annual Mission Conference and for a joint session with the Ling Long Executive Committee and her help and advice were worth a great deal to all of us. In May, Dr. Fridell and Mr. Albaugh are coming to us, and we are looking forward to good days with them too.

Many of you have sent used Christmas cards and I want to tell you how gladly they have been received. There was one for every single student in all the schools on the mission compound here and those in special groups such as the choir, BYF, or WWG received an extra one. They are used for book marks, notebook covers, wall decorations and many other things and are highly prized you may be sure. For these cards and the other things you have sent me and even more for your interest, your letters and your prayers, my sincerest thanks.

Ever your friend
(Signed) Abbie G. Sanderson