

CHARLOTTE, VERMONT
JULY, 1960

DEAR FRIENDS:

MY LONG JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EUROPE IS NOW A THING OF THE PAST. IT WAS TRULY THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME FOR ME.

DR. VELVA BROWN JOINED ME IN JAPAN AND ON OCTOBER 24 I SAID GOODBYE TO SENDAI AFTER FIVE YEARS AT SHOKEI GIRLS' SCHOOL. ON NOVEMBER 1 WE TOOK THE "HELIOS" (A NORWEGIAN SHIP) FOR HONGKONG. FOR THREE WEEKS EDNA SMITH PRACTICALLY KEPT OPEN HOUSE FOR THE STREAM OF FORMER STUDENTS AND PATIENTS AND OTHER FRIENDS. THEY COULD NOT DO ENOUGH FOR US! THERE WERE MANY THRILLS FOR US IN HONGKONG; CHUNG CHI COLLEGE AND ITS BEAUTIFUL NEW CAMPUS; THE VAST GOVERNMENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND THE HUGE NETWORK OF RELIEF PROJECTS TO MEET THE PROBLEM OF MILLIONS OF REFUGEES; CHURCHES GROWING AND NEW CHAPELS SPRINGING UP; 175 WOMEN AT AN ALL-DAY DEVOTIONAL MEETING; THE "HAVEN OF HOPE" TB SAN; VISITORS' DAY AT "HAY LENG CHAU" LEPROSARIUM; DEDICATION OF A NEW BUILDING AT THE TRUE LIGHT SCHOOL; CHANGE AND INCREDIBLE GROWTH ON ALL SIDES. BUT HOW WE YEARNED FOR NEWS OF FRIENDS STILL BACK ON THE MAINLAND!

FROM HONGKONG WE FLEW TO MANILA; HAD A FEW DAYS IN ILOILO WITH ALICE GIFFIN AND OTHERS AND BRIEF GLIMPSES OF ROXAS CITY AND BACALOD; SAW SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY WHERE DR. AND MRS. HIGDON, VETERAN DISCIPLES' MISSIONARIES, ARE WITH THE PRESBYTERIANS, DOING "POST-POST-RETIREMENT" WORK! THERE WE ATTENDED OUR FIRST CAROL SERVICE OF THE SEASON.

TRAVEL FROM HONGKONG ON THROUGH INDIA WAS MOSTLY BY PLANE BUT INCLUDED SOME BY TRAIN, BUS, CAR, CALESA, RICKSHA AND SCOOTER. WE HAD GRAND VISITS IN OUR OWN AND OTHER MISSIONS, WERE OFTEN IN THE HOMES OF DEAR COLLEAGUES OF CHINA DAYS. OUR HOTTEST WEATHER CAME IN THAILAND. WE SPENT CHRISTMAS WITH THE CAPENS IN BANGKOK, THREE DAYS IN CHIENGMAI WITH ALLISON OSBORN, FOUR DAYS WITH OUR TWO DOCTORS CHEN IN NAKOM PATHOM. AGAIN WE HEARD CHRISTMAS SONGS, THIS TIME IN CHINESE AND SIAMESE; AGAIN FORMER STUDENTS RALLIED AROUND, MANY OF THEM NOW OUTSTANDING IN BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL FIELDS. WE SAW SAFFRON-ROBED PRIESTS OUT WITH THEIR BEGGING BOWLS; AT THE SNAKE FARM WATCHED DOCTORS EXTRACT VENOM FOR SERUM; SAW MARBLE TEMPLES, PAGODAS, CANALS AND THE CLASSICAL DANCERS; WERE BAF- FLED BY SIAMESE NUMBERS THAT WE COULD NOT READ ON STREET SIGNS AND EVEN ON COINS AND POSTAGE STAMPS!

AT THE AIRPORT IN RANGOON WE WERE MET BY LUCY WIATT AND WITH HER WAS MISS SHANK! MISSION CONFERENCE WAS ON; SECRETARY RUSSELL BROWN WAS JUST LEAVING FOR HIS NEW APPOINTMENT. OUR PROGRAM IN BURMA INCLUDED "FUND FAIRS" AT PWO KAREN AND KEMMENDINE SCHOOLS, "SEMINARY DAY" AT IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, VISITS IN HISTORIC MOULMEIN AND INSEIN. WE INSPECTED THE SACRED WHITE ELEPHANT; WALKED BAREFOOT AROUND THE SHWE DAGON PAGODA; SAW A JAPANESE GOLD BUDDHA PRESENTED TO BURMESE BUDDHISTS IN THE SACRED CAVE.

IN CROWDED CALCUTTA BEATRICE ERICSON WAS OUR PILOT TO KHARGPUR AND MIDNAPORE IN THE BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION. WE COULD HARDLY HAVE MANAGED WITHOUT HER HELP THEN AND LATER. IN ASSAM, THANKS TO THE MUNDHENKS, WE WENT FROM GAUHATI TO NOWGONG, GOLOGHAT, JORHAT AND SHILLONG; VISITED SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, CHURCHES; HAD A MEMORABLE THREE-HOUR RIDE THROUGH THE JUNGLE ON ELEPHANT-BACK; WENT TO AN ELEPHANT DEPOT TO SEE SOME YOUNG ELEPHANTS BEING TRAINED; THEN ON TO A BIG NEW DAM AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT HIGH UP IN THE HILLS.

IN SECUNDERABAD WE WERE WELCOMED INTO ANOTHER MISSION CONFERENCE. THEN WE TOUCHED AT THE SOUTH INDIA MISSION STATIONS OF JANGAON, HANUMAKONDA, ONGOLE (WITH THE BRAISTEDS), NELLORE AND MADRAS. EVERY VISIT HAS A STORY OF ITS OWN! MR. ERICKSON GAVE US GREAT HELP IN PLANNING THIS PART OF OUR TRIP.

IN ALL WE SPENT SIX WEEKS IN INDIA. WHAT CONTRASTS WE HAVE TO REMEMBER! TREASURED MOMENTS AT VELLORE WITH DR. IDA SCUDDER, WHO HAS SINCE DIED; BRIGHT SILK SARI AMONG GORGEOUS BLOOMS AT A FLOWER CONTEST IN ALLAHABAD; CROWDS, DUST, JOLTING TRAINS, LUGGAGE PILED HIGH ON TURBANED HEADS; COWS LEISURELY BLOCKING TRAFFIC IN CITY STREETS; THE SHEER QUIET BEAUTY OF THE MATCHLESS TAJ MAHAL. ONE HIGH SPOT WAS THE UNLOOKED-FOR COURTESY EXTENDED TO US BY A YOUNG INDIAN WHOM WE MET BY CHANCE. HE RECENTLY HAD A PERIOD OF STUDY IN MAINE! NOW HE IS POTATO DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IN AGRA. WE WANTED TO SEE THE GREAT EXHIBIT IN DELHI BUT CROWDS AND HEAT PROVED TO BE A WILTING COMBINATION.

IN BOMBAY WE BOARDED AN ITALIAN SHIP, THE "ROMA" FOR NAPLES. WE HAD ONE DAY IN EGYPT, RIDING FROM SUEZ IN A BIG DODGE, SEEING THE MUSEUM WITH THE MUMMIES AND RELICS OF KING TUT AND OF ROMAN ART, IN GIZA STANDING IN THE SHADOW OF THE SPHINX AND THE PYRAMIDS, THEN CATCHING THE SHIP AGAIN AT PORT SAID.

FROM NAPLES WE VISITED VESUVIUS, POMPEII, HERCULANEUM AND CAPRI. IN ROME AND VICINITY WE REVELLED IN MORE OF THE PRICELESS OLD RUINS AND WONDERS. THEN ON TO FLORENCE, MILAN, BERGAMO AND VENICE. IN ZURICH WE WERE CARED FOR ROYALLY BY DR. AND MRS. LAHRSON, WHO HELPED US TO GET TO SOME OF THE OTHER BEAUTY SPOTS IN SWITZERLAND. APRIL WAS TOO EARLY FOR SOME TRIPS. HEIDELBERG AND FRANKFURT WERE OUR ONLY STOPS IN GERMANY BUT WE DID HAVE A RIDE ON THE RHEIN FROM BINGEN TO KOBLENZ. MY KEENEST INTERESTS IN HOLLAND WERE IN THE GREAT DYKE, THE POLDER OR RECLAIMED LAND, TULIPS, CHEESE MARKET, THE FLOWER SHOW, AND LOVELY DELFT.

IN LONDON IT WAS OUR GREAT JOY TO BE GUESTS OF DR. AND MRS. STRANGE, ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATES IN SWATOW, AND TO MEET OTHERS OF THEIR MISSION AFTER SO MANY YEARS. WE SAW A GOOD MANY OF THE FAMOUS SIGHTS IN AND AROUND THE BIG CITY, VISITED WINDSOR CASTLE, STRATFORD, AND THE CATHEDRAL AT ST. ALBANS, AND TOOK A SEVEN-DAY BUS TOUR INTO SCOTLAND TO EDINBURGH AND ABERDEEN. AT DURHAM, ON OUR WAY BACK, WE SAW THE QUEEN WITH THE DUKE ON HER FIRST VISIT THERE. THAT HAPPENED ON MY BIRTHDAY!

WE SAILED FROM SOUTHAMPTON ON THE SS "ROTTERDAM" ARRIVING IN NEW YORK JUNE 7. AT PRESENT I AM WITH MRS. MARY CLOUGH HERE IN CHARLOTTE, VERMONT, MY FATHER'S LAST PASTORATE. THIS FALL ARTHUR, MY BROTHER, IS TO RETIRE FROM HIS POSITION IN BERLIN, N. H., AND WILL LIVE IN THE OLD SANDERSON HOME IN SOUTH BERWICK.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU SOON!

SINCERELY YOURS,

Abbie G. Sanderson
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