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1909-07-31, Letter from Frank Keller to Ralph Smith

Frank A. Keller

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[Written on Bible House of Los Angeles Letterhead]

July 31st, 1909.
Changsha, Hunan,
China.

Mr. Ralph D. Smith,
Bible House of L.A.,
Los Angeles, Cal.

My dear Ralph:

The two cablegrams came to hand at six o'clock this morning and I take this first opportunity to acknowledge them, and to assure you that I will push ahead with the work as fast as possible. Many thanks for the prompt reply, it will help greatly. I am so glad you approve of the grant to Mr. Warren. That work will begin, if God wills and prospers, on or about Sept. 10th, and will continue for about a month. Of course you all will be praying much for that most important distribution. Please pray too that if it be God's will, I may be one of the party. It looks as if I might be. The Custom's and Post Office contract medical work will probably be taken over by the Yale Mission, as they have a staff of three doctors, and are doing a purely Christian institutional work, and not a directly evangelistic work, so they can take it on without great detriment to their regular work. If Dr. Hume should get back from Kuling in time it would set me free and

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permit me to go with Mr. Warren. Thank you very much for your letters dated and received as follows, May 21 and 24 (also duplicate) received July 8, on return from Shanghai. The duplicates sent to Hankow and Shanghai also received. Draft for ten thousand dollars deposited in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Shanghai. Yours of June 5th received July 17, June 8 received July 11, a week earlier than the one of previous date, and June 17 received July 22, also duplicate, Draft for \$1400 deposited as above. Please find enclosed signature form as requested. I presume that you will have received a check book before this reaches you. My last letter was dated July 6, and posted at Hankow. I mention this that you may not think one or more letters have been lost, so long a time has elapsed. On arrival here there were some very critical cases of sickness, and a mass of mission business that demanded immediate attention, and these duties compelled me to postpone letters that I have longed to write to you. The mercury stands regularly at 97° to 100° and the humidity is awful, even the Chinese find it almost impossible to work, but there is much sickness, and the Customs' demands are many and urgent at this season, so I am kept on a literal run from morning to night, and am almost exhausted. Still, while I have not written to you, I have written a number of letters to others in connection with your work, and have had several important interviews of which I will write you

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later. Last evening I started off a fine party of young men under the leadership of Mr. Y, for a thirty or forty day's trip in a houseboat, they are to go directly South as far as they can get in half the time, (as they have a head wind going) and then return preaching and distributing Gospels in all the cities, towns, and villages on the river, and adjacent to it. I hope that this may reach you so that you may pray for them during the last ten or fifteen days. You know also "Before they call I will answer", and that means prayer will help work already done. Mr. Y will lead them in a course of study on Revelation based on his translation of Seiss during the trip. We are praying for you and your work in Spain daily. Now I must

send this on its way, and leave answers to questions for a letter which I hope to write early next week.
Warm Christian love to all. Affectionately yours,

Frank A. Keller.