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1947-08-05, Letter from Charles Roberts to William Orr

Charles Roberts

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Hunan Bible Institute
Changsha, Hunan, China

August 5, 1947

The Rev. William Orr, D.D.,
Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Inc.,
558 South Hope Street,
Los Angeles, 13, California, U.S.A.

Dear Bill:

Russell Davis returned to Changsha a few days ago, and we are glad that he is back. We have had a number of conversations together and he has given me his impression of his visit to Los Angeles. In the course of our talks a number of important matters came up, and among them was the re-opening of our Evangelistic Band work. This work was closed in 1943 when the Japanese overran [sic] the province of Hunan. In 1945 we returned to Changsha immediately after the surrender of the Japanese to discover the awful conditions that existed on our compound, and due to general conditions it was not feasible to start the Bands at that time. And there was no definite appropriation for that work. Conditions since that time have, in this province, become very quiet and it is now possible to re-open the work for the Bands this autumn with some sort of stability. Mr. Davis informs me that the Board is not only anxious to have the Bands resume the work of the past years but is prepared as soon as notified to increase the present budget from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Thus granting an additional \$500 for the specific work of the Bands. That is fine. And so as of September if the extra \$500 can be deposited at the Institute's account at Los Angeles, we shall organize at least one band and if possible two bands. It has been our custom at our annual Fall Conference to have all Band-leaders and men in for full reports and reorganization for the coming years work. We shall follow this method at our September Conference. If the allowance will permit we shall organize two Bands comprising of seven personnel each. This would give us a start of 14 evangelists for the coming year. I have already contacted our old and trusted and experienced Band-leader Mr. Hsiao Yu Cheng, and he will be reaching Changsha from his home at the end of this month. Mr. Hsiao will come as Evangelist –in-Charge of regular Band work, and Student evangelistic work. One of the special emphasis we have had in the Band work is that it shall be directed as far as possible by Chinese leadership. A little later I hope to give you more details as to expenses, but I must add a word about inflation which, of course, you already know something about, and that is it will be difficult for us to perhaps keep strictly with a limited budget, altho [sic] we assure you we shall do all that we can to do so. There maybe emergencies. Regarding my own plans Russell Davis has expressed his opinion that it would be wise if I delayed my return to America for the present. Also the word had been passed on to one or two of our Chinese and they too have come to me somewhat distressed and asked me to postpone any such idea for the present untill [sic] we have completely gotten back on our feet again. And there perhaps we had better let it rest for I would not want to embarrass my colleagues if it should be wise for me to further postpone my trip home. However we are looking forward to delegates from the Board in September when we can further take the matter up. I do hope that Russ Alder might be able to come, tho [sic] I appreciate September being a difficult month. But again will you permit me a word about having a good 'business representative' to evaluate the situation on the spot as well as having the spiritual contribution that will be made. Perhaps Russ could come a month or so later if not in September. With kindest regards, Ever truly yours,

Charles

[Handwritten on the right side of the page]

Dear Bill – may I ask if you could please send me several bottles of saccharin when the folks come?
Thanks –Grace