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### 1948-04-30, Letter from Charles Roberts to James Russell Alder

Charles Roberts

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*[Letter written on Hunan Bible Institute letterhead]*

April 30, 1948.

Mr. J. Russell Alder,  
Bible Institute ,Los Angeles  
Calif. USA.

Dear Russ:

Thank you for your letter dated April 15. It was waiting me on my arrival last evening from Nanyoh. You will doubtless recall your visit to that Sacred Mountain. Russ Davis and I made a trip up there in connection with a piece of property that the Institute owns there. I think I told you when you were here that this piece of property was purchased by Dr. Keller as early as 1917. A little later it was rejected for another piece of land higher up on the mountain side known as the autumn a conference ground and later sold to the Hunan Educational Authorities. This first piece of land I personally knew nothing about until I discovered two deeds for such property the year I went home on furlough 1942. The property is largely rocky and sandy and at the time of purchase was off the beaten track. However in recent years, the main highway which was put through, runs very close to this land. During the war, the Provincial Government without informing us, instructed the Hunan Agricultural College to use the land and put temporary buildings there. These buildings were later completely destroyed by the Japanese. The question now comes as to whether after all these years and the use by the Provincial authorities during the war years, of this land, whether or not we can still claim ownership. I am next week preparing a written request to the Governor that any order by the Provincial Government for further use of this land shall not be permitted. I note what you write about getting an import license covering the items you have ready to ship to Hunan. I am asking Russ Davis to secure the license as you request and will forward it to you as soon as possible. We indeed did receive a letter from Gene Poole with reference to a large donation which he secured from Mrs Gover. And at his request we have written Mrs. Gover a long letter thanking her for the donation and telling her about the work here. I have instructed Russ Davis to pay the \$250 to Dr. Eitel to be used on repairs of the dormitory he is now occupying as a Hospital. He is doing a good job of putting this dormitory into fine shape. The Hospital, I trust will be a great credit and asset to our work. If you can secure at least another \$1000 for him, you will really be doing a great service for the sick and suffering in China and it will still be for the benefit of the Hunan Bible Institute. Thank you for the donation list. These are truly a great help and periodically I get out a mimeograph letter of thanks to these folks. Already I have received a few acknowledgements with small gifts direct. I feel that is the way we can keep up interest for you back there.

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Sometime ago Frances Nielson gave me the address of a Mrs. Bransford who wished to have direct contact with Evangelists doing work in the BIOLA Bands. I wrote Mrs Bransford cautiously, and at the same time pointed out to her the fine work that Band No.1 had been doing West Hunan. Last evening I received a letter from Mrs. Bransford with a check for \$1000 for support of Band no.2 now working in Ninghsiang area, about 90 miles west of Changsha. I am sending her a receipt for this amount and as it is a check on the Security First National Bank, Russ will send it to our account at that Bank. I thought you would be interested in this item and so would not wonder on the statement why this extra \$1000. Thank

you for your inquiry regarding my health. I am feeling somewhat better and on the suggestion of Dr. Eitel, I intend to take a few weeks rest from Changsha by visiting Bible Schools [*sic*] and Seminaries in Hankow, Nanking, Shanghai and possibly Hong Kong. I expect to be gone about 3 weeks. There are a number of reasons for this trip apart from personal change from Changsha. We are coming to close of the school year and while we seem to now have a fine faculty from the missionary personnel, we are still very weak on the faculty from the angle of chinese [*sic*] teachers. If we are to develop the Institute and Seminary Courses, we should at least have one or two more Chinese qualified teachers. One reason that it has been well that I remain at Changsha is that one or two of our Missionary teachers are still unable by reason of language to take a full teaching schedule. Thank you for your concern about my return home for a rest and deputation work. You ask could such a plan be worked out to advantage. Supposing we put it this way: I have already written the American consul at Hankow concerning a visa for permanent entry into the U.S. Due to the number of changes as to time in the past, it seems to us now necessary for another check up by Washington for the reapproval of such a visa. This will doubtless take time, perhaps several months. Should this visa come through I believe it is valid for 6 months, in which case I can remain in China through the summer and complete arrangements for the Intersity conference in July and our own conference in September. This will also allow me to remain here for the opening of school in the fall, the placing of the Evangelistic Bands for another year's work and seeing that other arrangements are made for the coming school year. That may mean I could proceed to the US either in late September or early October. If this is satisfactory to you and the Board I suggest that I follow this plan, hao pu hao? We are very pleased with the folders that you have prepared giving information about the Institute here. Excellent!! I have just completed work on our Chinese and English Bulletin for 1948-49. The English Bulletin will be off the press shortly and I think the Information contained therein will be sufficiently interesting enough for you folks at home that I plan to send you a number of copies. With kind regards from us all to you all, Ever truly yours,

Charles