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MINUTES OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE HUNAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, CHANGSHA, HUNAN, CHINA, SEPTEMBER 25, 1947.

Present – Dr. L. T. Talbot and Mr. J. R. Alder, of Biola, and Messrs. Roberts, Davis and Cory, and Mesdames Roberts, Davis and Corey of H.B.I.

The motion was made, seconded and passed that the Hunan Bible Institute business meeting be held on the second Monday of each month, so that the monthly financial statement can be presented at the meeting and forwarded to the Biola Board with the minutes.

The motion was carried that future issues of the Hunan Bible Institute manual include the Biola Statement of Faith.

Dr. Roberts referred to a letter from Dr. Reuben A. Torrey concerning the availability of Jonathan Hsu for a position on the faculty of H.B.I., and some of his qualifications, which include degrees from North China Theological Seminary and Westminster Seminary. He has had a position in several schools, his last being in a former C.I.M. school. He has also held some government positions in recent years.

Dr. Roberts read a resolution on the proposed board which was voted upon and adopted. This resolution is as follows: “It has been proposed that the Hunan Bible Institute be given permission by the Board of Directors of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles to organize an Advisory Council in China. This is deemed necessary from two angles; past experience and present needs. In 1935 the Bible Institute found it necessary to close the Institute in China because of the arbitrary attitude of the Chinese faculty. Had there been an advisory council at that time, the matter without a doubt could have been taken up with them and satisfactorily settled without closing down the entire activities of the Hunan Institute. As to present needs, if there is any matter of policy, whether as to Chinese personnel or faculty, or other matters, the final decision rests on one person’s decision. This makes it most difficult, especially as the decision is that of a foreigner. This Advisory Council would have as its ex-officio member the Superintendent of Hunan Bible Institute and as voting members, possibly five Missionaries, and five Chinese whose mature experience and interest in such a Christian Institute for the training of capable Christian leaders would be of much value and carry weight with the personnel of the Institute. For clarification it might be stated that in event of deadlock or division within the Council that all final action be referred to the Biola Board at Los Angeles for decision.”

Proposed Members of Advisory Council:-- E.R.Y., W.C.E., P.T.C., General W.Y.S, Alumnus, Bishop Frank Houghton, R.A. Torrey. E.T. Bannon, Rodney Sundberg, W.G. Blackstone. There was some discussion about the inclusion of an alumnus on this Council, and it was agreed that it would be a wise procedure.

The establishment of a scholarship, or student aid, fund was the next subject of discussion. The belief was expressed that a student should be supported for \$40.00 during the nine month school year. Two restrictions for granting help were agreed upon; to give no student more than 50% of his expenses, and to give no aid where a student was already receiving part of his maintenance from other missions. It was moved and passed that the Biola Board be asked to make a grant of \$100.00 per month for student aid, which should materially increase the student body. It was decided that it was most unwise to allow home support of individual students or evangelists.

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Dr. Roberts reported that one evangelistic band consisting of nine men would be ready, after a short period of training, to go out in October into evangelistic work. It was planned to divide this band at the end of the year, into two bands, with new men added to each group.

Dr. Roberts brought up the question of which language course should be adopted for study by new members of the mission who must learn Chinese. One advantage of the Peking Language School course over the C.I.M course is that college credit is given for the former on completion of examinations, and that credit is recognized in American colleges. Any decision was postponed until the following meeting, awaiting more information on the course which should be forthcoming from Peking.

Mr. Davis presented the budget for 1948, which was accepted by a motion duly seconded and passed. A copy of the budget is attached.

Mr. Davis brought up the need of a means of transportation at Hunan Bible Institute, for the purpose of taking evangelistic band men and equipment to out laying districts, for transporting students for their practical Christian work in the country during summer months, and for general use. He favored a G.M.C. or Chevrolet "Suburban Carryall", which is an all steel body type station wagon on a light truck chassis. This type was favored over a jeep or other type because of cost, sturdy construction, carrying capacity, and safety. It was moved that the Board be asked to provide a vehicle for transportation, suitable for use in China.

The desirability of having a public address system for use by the evangelistic bands and the school was brought up. It was moved and passed that the Board be requested to purchase a public address system with a portable generator, microphone, record player, and loudspeakers, for use by the evangelistic bands, and for general use at H.B.I.

The motion was made, seconded, and carried, that the meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Eleanor Cory
Secretary