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1947-12-16, Letter from James Russell Alder to Charles Roberts

James Russell Alder

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558 South Hope Street
Los Angeles 13, California

December 16, 1947

Dear Charlie: Just received your letter of December 5th enclosing the minutes of the business meeting of the Hunan workers held December 1st. We were indeed glad to get your report and noted especially the work that is being done by the evangelistic bands. It's real encouraging to see how effective that work is, and it is our hope that we will have more bands out in order that we may spread the Gospel now. The only cable that we have sent to you was December 12th, which read as follows: "Reconsidering land use. Send information concerning long lease also sale. Letter following." A portion of the minutes of the last Board meeting is enclosed. After considerable discussion the Board felt, with reference to the sale or use of the land, that if possible a long term lease on some basis might be better than a sale. We received your cable of December 15th which read: "Evangelical Mission no authority lease desire outright purchase their builder arriving from USA January request early decision." While the Board did not pass any motions as to a sale, they did want to have some expression from you folks on the sale, as to what in your opinion should be sold to them, also the price and the terms of the sale. It is my personal opinion that on the southeast part of the compound there is considerable land which will never be used by the Bible Institute. Please send us the information as soon as you can as to the value and some sketch of approximately what would be sold, and give us your opinion or recommendation, as it will be necessary for us to rely upon the judgment of those on the field. We were glad to hear that that you were able to get the equipment through UNRRA and CNRRA as trust that you will be able to take care of many of the items which you will need, both in the school and the orphanage. We were glad to get the news with reference to the Ebelings. Will you have everything in shape to make the necessary moves in the housing problem? The other day I called on Mrs. Robinson, who is the sister to Mr. Johnson who was the UNRRA representative there. They are still concerned as to what his plans are and whether or not he intends to return to the U.S. I told them what I could of the compound and how he was with quite a group of Americans, and also expressed to them our appreciation for how he had helped all of you there. They send best regards to him. In our letter of November 11th we spoke of an inquiry from Paul Pietsch, our Field Representative, requesting information for Mr. & Mrs. Church of Covina concerning two former band men, L.C.Y. and C.F.L. Do you have any information concerning them so we can answer Mr. & Mrs. Church? Also, in our letter of November 26th we referred to a letter received by the Missionary Committee of the church which had been forwarded to you concerning the support of a native worker. If you have not already sent in the information, could you give us some answer on this as the people were interested in a contributing towards the support of a native worker. In our last letter we asked you tell Russ of the deposit that had been made to the account. We are making these deposits towards the middle of the month. In this

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way if there are any extras referred to in your letters of the early part of the month we can add them at that time. We also have an arrangement with the bank whereby any questions at all concerning the account are to be referred to the Bible Institute and that under no condition is a check to be turned down without first checking with us. In this way Russ can feel assured that while we will make the deposit each month (unless we advise him to the contrary), yet if he should overdraw some amount on the account through an oversight we will still be able to straighten it out when the bank contacts us. The December deposit is

3000.00. Sometime back it was stated that it was almost impossible to ship any clothing or food into China because of the many restrictions and the unlimited amount of red tape involved. Is there any way that we could ship to you items that would be useful in the orphanage? We are sure that we could present the need for blankets or comforters to various women's organizations in the churches and secure quite a number to ship to you. It might also be possible to get clothing. More likely food would not be practical as the cost of shipping it and handling it would be out of the question. We have noted what your letter states concerning recommendations as to furnishing a quarterly budget, and we feel that this will possibly work out better under the present economic sanctions. If the rates don't settle down a little we may have to come to a monthly remittance in accordance with the advice from you at the time money is needed. We will make copies of your letter of December 5th and send them to the other members of the Board so they can study this over before the next meeting. Dr. Sutherland has just phoned about a young lady who would like to go to China and teach English along the line of your request of some months back. However, your request was for a man who had a college degree and could enter some athletics as well. We have not been able to find any likely one to refer to you. This girl is very much interested in going to China and her academic qualifications are good. If it would be possible for her to do any work you might advise us and we will have her contact you. The Institute would not be in a position to finance her. Best regards to all of you and may the Lord's riches blessing be yours during this glad season of the year. We often think of you folks out there so far away during the time when all of the families are gathering together. May the Lord make this loss up to you each day. Sincerely yours in His Service,

[correspondent is J. Russell Alder]

JRA: hb
Enc.

P. S. Please tell Eleanor Cory that Mrs. Alder has enjoyed her letters very much.