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1927-05-25, Letter from Frank Keller to Fellow Workers

Frank A. Keller

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Shanghai Postal Address
Care of China Inland Mission
9, Woosung Road
Shanghai, China

Shanghai Cable Address
Keller, Inland, Shanghai

Shanghai

May 25, 1927

Dear Fellow-Workers:

Please pardon me for once more giving you a new address, as I study the postal conditions here I fear that when I return to Changsha, unless this office should be take promptly by someone else, letters addressed to me here might lay around in this office for some time without being attended to, but letters addressed to me in care of the China Inland Mission will be forwarded promptly, therefore this new change. A post card to hand yesterday from Mr. Steybe gives the following information:- His card was dated May 13 and he writes:- "Your letter of April 22 just received." 21 days from Shanghai to Changsha! Mr. Steybe continues:- "We are here 32 adults and 11 children, in our household 19, thus the new house including the attic is filled up. S-s, Y, P, L, and forty outstations have gone, but it is going to be better now. All needed money for your workers is supplied as Mr. T applies for it. I hope to go to Hankow soon for a few days. We are having daily afternoon 2 hours prayer in German." This morning Mr. H had a letter from EM, which of course contains practically official, and so very reliable news. She wrote that in Hankow it was almost impossible to buy either rice or coal. Fortunately Mrs. H had foreseen this difficulty and had put in a good supply of both, so they are not suffering. Very imperative orders have been sent to Changsha that all mission property must be returned at once to the missions concerned, and must be evacuated by the local societies without delay. In Changsha rice is very scarce, people can only purchase rice if they have a government permit stating the number of persons in the home, and they can only purchase sufficient for two meals per day. In Hankow the dollar notes of the Bank of China, Bank of Communications, and other Chinese banks are only worth from fifty to seventy cents. No silver dollars can be obtained, it is said that they have all been taken to the front to pay the soldiers. EM thanks that in one or two months at the most it will be practicable for us to return to Changsha. On Monday evening I received a telegram from Hankow from YPC, the Fukien man who has been in Band No. 12. The telegram states that the money which he brought with him from Changsha is not usable in Hankow, so he is practically without funds, and wants me to send him forty dollars so that he can get back to Shanghai enroute to his home. The steamer fares are terrible now. It cost LHM thirty dollars for a ticket from Hankow to Shanghai, "Ta Ts'ang" and no bunk at that. Mr. Wood got the ticket for him, so there is no mistake about it. By this mail I am sending you copies of the Weekly Review on May 21st, it has a statement regarding the conditions in China, the great leaders, and other important matters that I think you will find of much value. I have marked two articles, but several others are well worth reading. In the rolls sent to Beth, Chester, Elden, Walter and Mr. Mac Innis I have also included a copy of the "Quarterly Link" issued by the Christian Literature Society. On page 4 there is such a valuable statement on the "General State of China on April 20th" that I begged Dr. MacGillivray for some extra copies to send to you, this morning he

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kindly sent me five copies, all he could scrape together. Will Chester please show his copy to Mr. Welles and to Mr. Hale and then send it to Charlie, and will Elden please send his copy to his father, thank you. I am sending seventeen copies of the Weekly Review, so each of you will have a copy and you will not need to think of sending your copy to some other member of your staff. Outside of the staff I am sending copies to various members of the Institute Faculty and Office Staff. No word has come to hand recently from Band No.12, so I am wondering if the return of YPC means that the Band has been compelled to scatter, I am eagerly waiting for news. This is an extremely busy week for me. Monday evening I led the weekly missionary prayermeeting [*sic*] held here in the Missions Building. The same afternoon I spoke on "Methods of Bible Teaching" at a meeting called by the Christian Educational Association of China. The meeting was a splendid and most helpful one, how I wish that you all could have been present. One paper was of great value and ##### [*sic*] next week I will try to get it and make a copy to send to you. Tomorrow is the annual day of prayer and fasting at the China Inland Mission, and I have been asked to speak at the afternoon meeting. On December 24th The Presbyterian Mission Press posted to me at Changsha five parcels, four of the parcels containing note paper came to hand at the end of March, just a few days before we left. The fifth parcel, containing the envelopes to match the note paper came to hand this morning, forwarded back here from Changsha with \$1.10 return charges on it! Well, I would rather pay the \$1.10 than to lose the parcel which is worth about \$20.00. About ten days ago the lovely prunes which Chester purchased for us on December 28th came to hand, forwarded back here from Changsha with \$1.70 forwarding charges to be paid. You see the refugee business is rather expensive. But the prunes are most delicious and are still in good condition. They are packed in two boxes so I have given one box to Miss Oakshotte for the 9, Woosung Road home, and the other box to Mrs. Crofts for the 58 Ward Road home. At last Boone College has been forced to close. Bishop Roots has made a brave struggle, and Mr. WTM was sure that he could run the college all right, but at last he was obliged to flee from Hankow. He left there to escape from the communists, and on arrival there on last Saturday night, as he was leaving the steamer he was arrested on the charge of being a communist! Some predicament! But he has influential friends and is now out on heavy bail. If you have not seen the China Number of the Literary Digest, March 12 issue, you ought by all means to secure it and read it carefully, it is a truly wonderful number, and of great value. The April 2nd and 16th numbers are also important and valuable, though the English members of our Staff may not enjoy the April 16th number as well as the Americans. On glancing over the carbon of last week's letter I find that I have repeated some things about this weeks meetings, I am sorry, Please pardon me. So sorry that I cannot go on for a few more pages. Much love to you all, Ever truly yours in Him

Frank.

[Hand written on bottom left corner of page 2]

Please show this to Mr. Wells, if convenient to do so.