

8D22
Brooklyn, N. Y., November 7th, 1924

My dear brother Jeffrey:-

It is a long time now since I received your good letter of July 24th. In fact I am ashamed I have not answered it before. But you know the old story. I had a delightful trip in Norway. Stayed with my father almost 3 months. Have been back in U.S. over a month. I like Norway; but I guess I feel more at home in U.S. Since coming back I have been doing a little deputation work. Have just returned from the Philadelphia convention. Attended also the New York convention, and had a part in it, though not one of the appointed speakers. I find that there is a woeful lack of any knowledge of French Indo-China and its great need. I believe that people at home have been thinking Indo-China is evangelised. At Nyack, where I had the opportunity of speaking some three weeks ago, there has been no interest in the field of I.C. This is no doubt due to the fact that there has been nobody to present its needs. South America has been in the limelight for the last two years, and S.A. is getting the interest and the recruits. For this I am glad for there surely is a terrible need in that land, especially among the Indians. But it seems to me there ought to be more attention paid to the need of the field which in it self represents 1/3 of the responsibility of the Alliance in all the world. However, I believe the interest is growing at Nyack, and I trust there will be a number volunteers for I.C. I have already met a number that are looking that way. I also believe the leaders and the members of the Board are getting more interested. I have been told by several of the leaders that if we as a field desire to have our needs put to the front, we should ask for a deputation visit by some member of the Board. Every field that has had a deputation visit has been pushed tremendously. Fr. West Africa, for instance, is getting more men than any other field. I say, praise God! But would like to be in on it and get some, too.

I wish I could give you a report of how the Alliance is faring at home. But I feel I am not able to as yet. We are without doubt facing the greatest crisis in the history of the work. The Alliance needs a revival more than it needs anything else. One hears a lot from various sources; but if repeated, I am afraid they would do more harm than good. We need to stand together in prayer that God will undertake and lead the Alliance back into His way. If not, I am afraid we may lose our ministry.

I am certain that the resignation of Paul Rader was out of the will of the Lord. I am sure he did wrong in some of things he did. I am also certain that the Alliance did wrong in pushing his resignation. The Alliance is without a leader. Through the machinations of the devil, the leader, whom God chose and so signally blessed, is out of God's place and God's will, and the Alliance is out of God's will by not recognizing what was evidently His will at last Council. The wonderful closing service at Council last Spring, where Mr. Rader took part, and where everybody's heart was melted before God, surely was an indication of what was God's will. But it seems the leaders did not see it that way. May God help them and all of us to humble our selves and seek God's face, that He may lead us back into His way! I am not criticizing any body in particular. I would not dare do so, as only God knows the hearts and what is what. But I cannot help, (as many others) to recognize that we are facing a crisis.

I had a letter from Mr. Jaffray not long ago. It

was written from Haiphong right after your conference. I hope to hear more about your decisions from some of you on the field. Heard Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have gone to Saigon. I am glad for that; as I think they are needed there, especially at this particular time. Hear Smith and Mrs. Smith are with you. Trust they are all well.

Mr. Jaffray also mentioned the school. I feel that if it is the Lord's will for me to take it after you go home, I will be glad to do so; but be sure about it being God's will before you decide. I feel there are others who are better fitted than me; and for that reason would be glad if somebody else was appointed to take that of all service the most important. Let us pray no mistake be made in the appointment of the man.

I was sorry to read what you wrote about the trouble in Saigon. I have not had a word from anybody in Saigon, except one letter from thầy Phan before he went back to school. I trust Phan is getting around alright. I realise more and more that as missionaries we need the wisdom and patience of God to deal with the native workers. We can mar God's work in their lives if we are not careful; and on the other hand, we can be used of God in the molding and making of their lives for His glory.

I would be glad if you would send me the outline of your three year course, and also write me and tell me where the man who takes your place would begin in order to continue what you have begun. For I suppose it would be necessary to follow as nearly as possible your plan and curriculum. I am not at all sure I am the man for the place; but I would like to prepare myself as much as possible, in case it should fall to my lot to ~~fix~~ serve in that capacity. Therefore, I would be glad for any and all the information and suggestions you can give. I do not hope to meet you in the Spring, as I will be in France by the time Council meets in June. I suppose you know Council is to be held in St. Paul the first part of June. Wish I could be there.

Mr. Jaffray also mentioned the decision to hold next year's conference in June in Hongkong. I wish it were possible to hold it in August instead; for I would like to be there. I do not see how it will be possible for me to get there in June. I know Mr. Stebbins would like to be there, too; but he also is unable to get there as early as June. You will be glad to know that four couples are under appointment to sail for France in January. These are Mr. and Mrs. Travis, Mr. and Mrs. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, and Mr. Jones and his fiancée, Miss Wheeler. Some of these have not got their support and passage money yet; but we hope they will, so that they may get away in January. It would be fine if conference could be postponed so that these new missionaries might ~~get~~ have a part in it. I do not suppose they will stay more than six months in France.

I think this is all I have to write this time. I am enclosing a check for \$60.00 gold. This is for the support of a student which I wrote to you about some time ago. I would like you to take 5 piastres out of it when it is changed, and give to thầy Khanh as my wedding present to him. I hear he is going to be married in December.

With kind regards to all on your station, and most of all to Mrs. Jeffrey and yourself.

I am, as always, Yours in Christ's happy service,

John D. Olson