

Nov. 4

October 16, 1922.

To the Members of the Executive Committee
of the Indo-China Mission.

Dear Brethren:

There are a few matters concerning which I want to write you. I trust you will pardon the delay in getting the Indo-China Minutes off to you. This was due to the fact that arriving in Wuchow on my return from Indo-China on Sunday night our South China Conference opened on Monday morning, and the Conference week and succeeding days have been exceedingly full. The excitement and problems incident in connection with the disturbed condition of our province, as you may imagine, do not make things any easier at this time. The Minutes have been duly sent to Mr. Smith for signature, and I trust are well on the way to you.

You will all be sorry to hear that the condition of Mrs. Smith's health has not improved during her stay in the hospital in Hongkong, but rather the reverse. To me it came as a real surprise for I have felt that the Lord would undertake for her. Yesterday I received a letter from Dr. Saunders of the Matilda Hospital in which he suggested that it might be necessary for her to return to the homeland. I trust that you will all join in earnest prayer for our sister at this time that a real change may come that she be built up and be made quite strong again. Little Bobbie has picked up wonderfully. Incidentally I have heard that Mr. Smith is not so very well, but he has not mentioned this in any of his letters. I will try and keep you informed as to what may prove necessary in Mrs. Smith's case.

Since Conference I have received a letter from Brother Grupe with regard to a language teacher. He says that they have an excellent language teacher who is willing to commence at \$25.00 a month. In six months he is to be increased to \$30.00. Mr. and Mrs. Grupe request the Committee to aid them with Mission funds to the extent of \$10.00 for the first six months, and \$15.00 a month after that date.

I have replied to Brother Grupe as follows: "With regard to the allowance for teacher, I shall communicate with the

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Committee as to this at once, but I wonder what we can do until we hear from the Board in the matter. Conference Minutes and our request contained therein, which I further emphasized in my letter accompanying the Minutes, is on its way to the Board, and I trust that we shall have an answer in due course."

I shall be glad to hear from you if you have any suggestions as to this.

Ere this letter reaches you, you may have heard that our good brother Olsen has returned to Saigon alone. As you know the expectation of the Conference was that he was soon to be married, and that it was with this in mind that the appointments were made as they were in connection with the Saigon work. Inasmuch as I was spoken to by more than one during the Conference on this subject, and the feeling was very strongly that a married couple should by all means be appointed to Saigon, I feel under obligation to the Conference to raise the question of a reconsideration of the Saigon appointment. I shall, therefore, be glad to hear from you as to what suggestions you may have to offer on the subject. I would further feel that the opportunity should be afforded for any other senior member of the Conference to express himself or herself on the subject freely. I would therefore request you to communicate this matter with ~~any~~ other senior members in your district, and invite them to correspond with myself and the sub-Chairman as to what they feel the Committee should do under these circumstances. I would suggest that Brother Cadman inform other senior members in Tonkin, Brother Irwin the senior members in Annam, and Brother Stebbins the senior members in Cochinchina. There ought to be as little delay as possible in reaching a decision, and I will be glad therefore to hear from any who would wish to write as soon as possible. I would suggest that after a reasonable time to hear from all concerned, the matter be left with the sub-Chairman and myself to decide by correspondence. The circumstances at least indicate an additional reason for the urgency of our having our Saigon house ready for occupation at the earliest possible moment. If a suitable place can be bought, ready built, at Saigon, and Mr. and Mrs. Ferry fulfil the Conference appointment there, Brother Olsen and other single brethren could continue at 120 Rue Paul Blanche.

When Brother Olsen was here in Wuchow I opened with him the question of his immediate furlough. He felt, however, that he wished to remain and finish if possible his translation work on the Old Testament before going on furlough. My own judgment would be that it would be better for him to go home as soon as possible, but I have every respect for his own feelings and leadings in the matter.

Before closing this letter, I want to say a word further with regard to Brother Olsen. Notwithstanding the measure of

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mystery in connection with his proposed marriage, and the fact that it did not consummate as he and we all expected, I want to say that I believe with all my heart that our dear brother is entirely sincere and thoroughly honest in the matter. He went to Hongkong fully expecting to be married, but felt a doubt as to the will of God in the matter so strongly that it seemed to him to prohibit his moving further in this direction. I also want to say that Miss Bruseke has acted throughout as a perfect lady. It has been exceedingly trying and embarrassing for both of them, and I trust that rather than allow ourselves to indulge in any spirit of criticism that we shall be truly sympathetic and pray for them at this time. *Miss Bruseke let the matter go on as long as she could & then felt that she had to call it all off.*

You will all be glad to know that Brothers Hess and Beattie, both of whom have been quite ill, are much improved in health. May I ask that you all unite earnestly in prayer that our province may soon be restored to a condition of law and order, so that our missionaries may be able to return to their stations.

Believe me to remain,

Yours in His service,

RAJ/M.

R. A. Jeffrey