

time. Beginning in 1944, he also served sequentially as dean of the Bible school, chairman of the Guangxi Alliance Union of Churches, and chairman of the South China Alliance Union of Churches. In the 1947 conference of the Union of Churches, he was about to be elected chairman, but he felt strongly that Rev. Zhao should continue to serve instead. He left the meeting in order to demonstrate his strong views. After finding him with the help of Rev. Desterhalf, Rev. Zhao promised his full cooperation in sharing the workload with Rev. Yang. Only then was he willing to accept the responsibility. This clearly showed Rev. Yang's humility before God and men.

Not long after the election, as he diligently planned for the advances of the Chinese church work, a verse came to him from Micah 2:12. He felt he should leave the Guangxi mission field early and so he handed in his resignation. Naturally, no one wanted him to leave. Rev. Zhao, now well on in years, tearfully asked him to reconsider. As Rev. Yang was slightly swayed, he prayed earnestly and still felt clearly it was God's will for him to leave. Thereafter, in late 1948, he took his family and returned to Shantou. He consistently felt that he made the right decision because it was God's will (Jeremiah 10:23 and Psalm 37:23).

Rev. Yang was very disciplined, serving as a good example for others, so that he could speak with authority. He was a good administrator, able to pay attention to details, while still an exemplary spiritual leader. If he had pursued worldly ambitions, it would have been a great loss to the church. Our church's pioneering leaders indeed had excellent vision, recognizing and using their talents and working with them in harmony. It was by God's grace that our churches had such talented individuals.

(18) Rev. and Mrs. Henry Holton

The Holtons not only taught my wife and me in the seminary, but for many years they were also our co-workers in Vietnam. We learned many spiritual lessons from them. In 1937, upon arriving in China, they first studied the language. Afterwards, they assisted in the Guiping Church and taught at the Wuzhou Bible School. After 1949, they worked in Vietnam and then later in Cambodia. Before his retirement in 1970, Rev. Holton also served as president of the Alliance Seminary in Cheung Chau. Below is a short memoir written by Rev. Holton in 1968.

In the past thirty years we had the opportunity to serve the Lord in the Far East. The work given to us by the Lord was compatible with our need and our desire. From our youth, my wife and I had developed the habit of seeking God's will in everything. Like Timothy, we came from devout Christian family backgrounds. The character traits we seek and try to develop include the image of a servant, discipline of an athlete, and perseverance of a soldier.

We first encountered language problems thirty years ago on the first leg of our journey to China. On the train from New York to San Francisco, a Chinese gentleman sat across from us. As he spoke loudly in his nightmare, the language he used was Chinese and we could not understand a word! Our passenger ship was initially docked in Shanghai, and with some friends we took a short excursion to tour the city. On the return trip we took a rickshaw, a new experience for us. After the rickshaw operator left, we discovered a purse was missing. Later on he came back and returned the purse. I gave him a dollar and everybody was happy.

We set out for Guangzhou as soon as we arrived in Hong Kong. It was an Easter weekend and we met with a couple who were fellow

schoolmates from New York days, and now were teaching at Lingnan University. They treated us with a banquet in the Golden Wheel Restaurant, the very first authentic Cantonese cuisine we tasted. Everything seemed new to us at that time.

Our language study started in Wuzhou, and later in Cheung Chau, Hong Kong. It's well known that in order to learn Chinese well one must have the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, and the longevity of Methuselah! Two years later we were assigned to teach Bible courses at the temporary location of the Alliance Bible School in western Guangxi. Those days of escaping from Japanese invasion were full of sadness and dangers.

On one Sunday afternoon in the city of Jingxi, with several students we went to preach the gospel in a nearby flea market, handling tracts and also telling the children about Jesus. Suddenly the enemy airplanes arrived and dropped bombs, killing and injuring many in the market. On the way back to school, the bombing raids came again, and we tried to hide in a bamboo grove. Noticing that the bright blue color cheungsam of the ladies could be an easy target for the bombers, immediately I threw hay and mud on their clothes. Afterwards they said Rev. Holton had saved their lives.

The temporary school dormitory in the outskirts of Jingxi was built with mud and bamboo branches. In the evening the fellows would keep watch of the campus while the girls went back to the city. In the morning they would come back and have breakfast together. On a rainy day everyone was happy because the enemy planes most likely would not conduct air raids.

The local robbers often robbed and killed refugees and strangers. Sometimes on our evangelistic trips, we had great difficulty finding a place to stay for the night, because there were no hotels, and the locals were quite afraid of strangers. All we could do was to have students

knocking on different houses until we were allowed to stay for a night. Unbeknown to us one time we arrived at the house of a chief of robbers, who was not home when we came. At midnight he returned and discovered a group of strangers sleeping on the floor! We did not let the opportunity go by without sharing with him the good news of Jesus. With God's mercy, this man's robber character did not surface and we could leave safely.

On another occasion we stayed in the house of a man called "Uncle 24." He was a Christian, acquainted with quite a few believers in the Jingxi area, and he accompanied us on a gospel journey for several days. He brought many people to hear our testimony, and to ask for our prayers. Prayer request items included illness, debt, backsliding, family problems, ignorance, lawsuit, swine disease, etc. His sincerity touched many people and me.

There were many things we recalled with pleasure, the few events mentioned above fully testifying to the love and presence of God, and we strongly believe in the power of intercessory prayers.

Some recollections from Mrs. Florence Holton:

My family and I have wonderful memories of Wuzhou, our first mission field in China where we stayed for several years as new missionaries in 1937, and where our two daughters Genevieve and Mary Frances learned to speak Chinese and eat Chinese food. For four years Chinese children came to celebrate their birthdays, seeing one little candle increased to four. From the very beginning we liked that area, with Chinese and foreign co-workers quickly becoming our good friends. Wuzhou was a scenic city, with the clear green color of Xun River and the muddy yellow of Gui River. Initially the colors were separate, but eventually compromised to be neither green nor yellow. When we took a boat to Guangzhou and looked back to Wuzhou, we were greatly impressed by its natural beauty, nested in tree-lined hills by the banks of

the two rivers. Although downtown Wuzhou was usually humming with business activities, the city was pretty quiet and peaceful otherwise.

Wuzhou was where we first met Rev. and Mrs. Newbern. The city was important to us because the Alliance Church and the Bible School were located in the center of town. Less than half a mile away was a Baptist Hospital, and behind it was the dormitory where Baptist missionaries stayed, with whom our Alliance missionaries had really wonderful fellowship. Every Sunday afternoon they would come to the top of White Crane Mountain for English worship service, where Dr. Wallace would usually sit quietly. Many local patients were introduced by Rev. Newbern to seek help at the hospital, and Dr. Wallace would take care of them meticulously. I had the occasion sometimes to take poor women and children there and he treated their illness in a caring manner, truly a friend of people in suffering.

When we first visited the men and women Bible schools, our testimonies had to be interpreted into Chinese and all we could do was smile at each other. We still remembered the welcome dinner, where Rev. Guo Fuhe and Mrs. Wang Junyi sat by our sides together with other teachers.

As the war intensified it was difficult to escape the air raids. So the school moved to the White Crane Mountain across the river, where we began to get well acquainted with our co-workers, whom we greatly appreciated. Among them was Mrs. Wang, the dean of the women's school, a much respected teacher. One floor below the women's dormitory was the dining hall, where Christmas delicacies included turnip cake and chicken congee. The school chapel was one floor below the men's dormitory where we had morning and evening services. Those conducting the services included Rev. Zhao Liutang, Liu Enhou, Zhong Benyong, Bao Hankong, and Enoch Yang; also Mr. Lian Guanglin, Miss Xie Zhenru, Miss Amy Law, etc. When pastors from other churches

visited Wuzhou, they were invited to speak in the morning service, including Revs. Cai Yutao, Zhong Zhentang, Li Muzong, and Lin Darong, etc. We often have these people in our thoughts.

In the spring of 1944, Hong Kong and Guangzhou fell into the hands of the Japanese army, and Wuzhou suffered increasing air raids. As we faced the prospect of relocating the school, all students and faculty members knelt down on the floor and prayed fervently, and then we sat facing each other. All felt that we needed to complete the current school year. In June there would be eighteen graduates, and for those enrolled in the preliminary curriculum just three more months of study was required. Therefore, our prayers were to be able to finish the current school year with the least disturbance, i.e. no air raids. It turned out the Lord granted our prayers and all of us were spiritually revived, getting closer to the Lord.

In 1946 together with the Newberns we returned to Wuzhou, working until 1949. A plaque with a Bible verse was hung on the building on the mountaintop: "Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13). To occupy means to work hard until the Lord returns. Keeping the command in this verse, we have occupied in different mission fields, working hard for the kingdom of God until the Lord comes back.

V. The Alliance Union of Churches and the China Missionary Union

(1) The Extension of Gospel to Southeast Asia

Around 1928 Rev. Jaffray reported in the Alliance mission publication concerning that year's annual convention of the Guangxi Alliance Union of Churches. He pointed out how the mission strategy and priority of the Christian and Missionary Alliance differed from other mission boards. The Alliance missions