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Bostick Family, Missions

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

9-23-1926

Correspondence - Annie Bostick- Sept. 23, 1926- Mrs. Packard

Attie T. Bostick

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Sept. 23, 1926.

Dear Mrs. Packard:-

Your letter of sympathy, in the loss of my dear brother was very comforting and I thank you for it, also for the words from our pastor and the assurance I am remembered in prayer. You cannot know all the comfort this is to me-not until you exchange places with me and receive such word yourself. I am deeply grateful for all the progress I hear of in the church there, and I pray, with you that many may catch the spiritual, the unseen, the lasting and stop giving so much time and means to the bubbles of society-that give a little pleasure today and are gone tomorrow. I do not get the Star now, there was so much given to the things I take no interest in and people are changing so that I know very few, so I asked Judie not to trouble to send it any more. After it came out more times a week I felt I had not the time or interest for it.

Yes, we miss our dear one most keenly, but I know he has entered into a rich reward, and is happy with His Saviour and all the dear ones over there, so I would not recall him if I could. We plan to move his body here for burial and the funeral, Oct. 27, and our fall meeting will follow right after. Please remember us in special prayer that day-I think this will reach you in time. It will be like losing him again, in a way. Large crowds of Chinese will come to witness the first funeral of this kind they have ever seen. Pray that even on this day, some may be turned to Christ. One of the leading men of the city here, who knew and respected him, came to ask Wade how they might show their respect on that occasion and said they were anxious to even bow to his picture, the highest act of reverence they can show any one, dead or living. Of course that is really worship of the dead, and the heathen give that to their dead, but we want nothing of that kind and we do not want to offend any one either, so pray for us that we may be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves", a quality we so often need in our dealings with these people. They started a memorial fund the day he died, by one of his Chinese friends wanting to pay for the new pair of shoes that was bought for him. Of course we wanted to do that, so this money was the start of a fund and we hope to spend a modest amount in a stone and then use the rest in building of needed chapels.

Miss Barratt who worked in the city here (my brothers live in the north suburb) was called home suddenly on account of illness and other serious conditions in her family (Greenwood, S.C.) and Dr. Mary L. King had left in June for furlough, so that left them short three workers here since my brother is gone, and the Lord seemed to show me I ought

to come and help out at this time, and though it was hard to leave the good co-workers and Chinese friends at Kweichow, God is giving His peace and joy in the harder task and I am happy to be here. I was here from 1904 - 1912 so it is not like coming to a strange place. It is one of the many "homes" my father has given me. Miss Stribling from Kaifeng has promised to come and be with me in the city. We shall live in the Chinese repaired house that Dr. King and Miss Barratt lived in. The opportunities are great and I want you to ask the Father to use us to find many of his lost ones. A new couple, the Strothers who came out last year and have been studying the language, are due soon to live in the home Brother occupied and take up his work, but they will have to put in most of the coming year in the study of the language. That will make six of us (brother G. P.'s wife plans to return to the States by Christmas, if she can find travelling companion) and this city is estimated at 200,000, and we are the only protestant missionaries working here!!! But God is able and He can use small things to work His good pleasure.

We came down here, forty miles, in rickshaws, pulled by men, and by walking a lot, starting at five in the morning and travelling till after seven we made it in a day, but how tired we were even thru all next day!! The roads were too muddy for cars and no bridges either. The men carried the rickshaws across the plank, narrow bridges. Crops were ruined by too much rain and many of the poor have nothing to look to but starvation, unless some help is given them. Then in other parts fighting is going on and destruction of life and property. Poor China!!! Her greatest need though is Jesus Christ as the Saviour of her people.

I was on the mountain for a month this summer and heard a very earnest Christian Preacher from the U.S. teach Revelation, and I did so enjoy it. Surely the time for our Lord's return cannot be far off I feel there will never be any real lasting peace in this nation till He comes. May we all be ready and may we be faithful in doing our part in hastening that time, by finding those who are to make His bride elect.

I must stop now. I have written nearly all day as it is rainy and I could not get out. May God bless and guide you. I certainly do count it a high privilege to list you among my friends. May He give you much joy in Himself as you try to faithfully serve him. My love and best wishes to your daughters and your self.

Affectionately, Your friend in Christ
Arthur T. Boswick