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Bostick Family, Missions

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

2-3-1926

Correspondence - Attie Bostick - Feb 3, 1926 - Mrs. Packard

Attie T. Bostick

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Kweitch, Honan, China,

Feb. 3, 1926.

Dear Mrs. Packard:-

Thank you very much for the two pretty handkerchiefs and your good letter of Dec. 10, with the good wishes and appreciation expressed therein. You can not know how much it means to receive such word as "I love you and pray for you often" (Neither will any of us ever know in this life the deliverances that have come to God's people because of the prayers of such faithful ones. Just when you were writing this letter we were in grave concern about Pochow, where my two brothers and their families and two lady missionaries live, because that large city had been taken and looted by robbers on the night of the 8th. Mrs. King and Miss Barratt lived inside the city and had most of their things stolen, and were kept in there with the robbers threatening to burn the whole city and kill every one, till the night of the 27th. My two sisters-in-law were here and my niece Orion and the brothers were busy all the time trying to bring about some terms between the robbers and the soldiers. We were much in prayer and indeed felt to praise God when the word came the robbers had left and our ladies were safe. It had been very hard and trying on the ladies, they had not taken off their clothes for sleep rest or a bath for over three weeks, and when they told us how the man even pointed the gun in Mrs. King's face threatening to kill, and how they felt their bodies hoping to discover hidden treasures and yet they did them no harm, we felt that God had heard and answered prayer in their behalf. I was down there last week and it is pitiful to see the destruction those robbers made and many former well-to-do families are homeless and penniless, with only the clothes they had on when the burning was done. A little has been sent for relief work, and you would be surprised to see how they rise out of a calamity like this. Many had already begun a business again, on the streets in front of their burned shops, and some had built back straw covered houses and the place was humming with life. It is a specially busy time now as their New Year comes the 13th of this month. It is their biggest holiday, and one that every one tries to make a little preparation for.

We had our second snow of the winter yesterday and today the streets are just a loby of mud and slush and I thought the women all who once had bound feet, before they became Christians, would not come to our noon, woman's prayer meeting, but there were eight women and one little school girl, and two of these women had come a long distance through the mud and they are the only believers in their homes too. One prayed and asked the Lord to help her husband believe and to help him love her and her him. She told me after that he was ill today and groaning and couldn't eat and she prayed for him and he got better and could eat and then when she mentioned coming to prayer meeting he wanted to know what she wanted to go there for and she answered "to thank the Lord for hearing and answering

my prayer and making you better". I thought this morning as we had the first half of John 4 for our talk together, how many would have turned out to a prayer meeting at home in such weather, 6/6/67 EVEN WITH COMFORTABLE CARS TO RIDE IN.

I am so thankful to hear of the interest in the church there and the good work of OUR pastor. You know my membership is there and I feel a keen interest in the work of that church. I am specially thankful to hear of additions to the church so often. I feel that is the way it ought to be in a real live church. I pray the fine talent both in money and ability lying latent in that church may be brought forward to consecrate to the Lord. I long for the time when more columns will be used in the Star, reporting the good works of God's people in that place than are now used in reporting the bridge and other parties, with the kind of dress etc that each one wore. At the last great reckoning DAY how little and insignificant will such appear, yea less than dust and ashes in comparison with even a cup of cold water, "given in His name".

You are right, if the people would give the time and thought to the things that last, the unseen, the eternal, that they give to these bubbles that burst and are forgotten even by them in a year or two, there would be no debt, or threat of recalling missionaries. So you have two grand children I know they are a great joy to you, and I think it is sweet in Sallie Lou to take the care and responsibility of an orphan. May she find much joy in caring for the child. It is a blessing to any one who takes such a responsibility I think.

I received and appreciated your good letter of Aug. 4th, just after you had been home on that visit. I know it must have been a great pleasure to you, even though the joys were mingled with some sadness most all joys in this life are thus mingled.

I did not write anymore about procuring money for a building in this place, as I felt if my own home town with the means they had, and the nice parsonage they had built there, did not take an interest I had no hope to feel others would. In the meantime money that had been given for a ladies home in Chengchow has been promised to this place as they have a house at Chengchow they can use. We have no lot yet and are asking the Lord to direct us in getting one. The Whites and I shall occupy the new house together I suppose when Mr. and Mrs. Townshend come back to this one.

I have wanted to write Mr. Wall, but have so many things demanding my time, if you do not mind, just let him see this or parts of it, and tell him I am praying for him in the work he is doing.

With love and very best wishes and again thanking you for the pretty handkerchiefs. Sincerely, Your friend,

Arthur T. Bostick.