

8270 Denver Street
Ventura, CA 93004
March 8, 1986

Dr. Torrey M. Johnson
P.O. Box 246
Wheaton, IL 60189

Dear Torrey,

We have been acquainted for over forty-five years, so I suppose it is alright to address you by your first name. I have greatly admired you all those years and counted you among my friends. Our first formal contact, as I recall, was at a Miracle Book Club rally in the Addison Avenue Baptist Church around 1940 or 1941. You were the guest speaker and I led the rally. I was a very nervous high school kid that Sunday afternoon, leading the rally and being on the platform with Rev. Torrey Johnson.

It is unfortunate that we could not get together briefly while you were in the Los Angeles area recently. I was not at home on Saturday when you were going to phone. It turned out that I had to pick up my daughter at the Santa Barbara airport. She came down from the Bay Area to care for her mother-in-law, who just had major surgery. I tried unsuccessfully to phone you at the hotel. It might have been just as well that I did not attempt to drive into town. Due to the rain and mud slides, conditions were rather unstable in Ventura County. You know, here in California we call that kind of weather liquid sunshine.

From our conversation on the phone, I understand that you want to visit China. That in itself is no problem. I can give you the names of some contacts. The Chinese you meet will be friendly, but reserved. They probably will not dare to have much to do with you. The situation varies from one part of the country to another. Some places the Chinese have more freedom than other places. When you attend church, I doubt they will even acknowledge your presence. An interview can be arranged with the pastor, but that would be all. You would not be asked to speak at any church services. Things, however, are changing there. It is hard to say for sure what to expect.

If I understand you correctly, you would ~~would~~ like to establish some interaction with the Christian leadership in China. This I think can only be done through official channels. My father-in-law gave me two prominent names, Bishop Ting and Professor Zhao Fusan. He personally met Rt. Rev. K. H. Ting in Stockholm when he was seated next to him at a banquet. Apparently they "hit it off," since Ting invited him to visit him in Nanking. If you write Rev. Ting, you may mention that Rev. Oscar Rinell of the Baptist Church of Sweden and former missionary to China had suggested that you write. For what it's worth, this might help. Ting is the chairman of the Chinese National Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee, president of the China Christian Council, and principal of Nanking Union Theological College. In other words, he is the official head of the church of China. It is he, by one means or another, who is trying to gather together all the "house" churches into the Three-Self Movement. Rev. Ting also is trying to establish contacts with Christian (or church) leaders abroad. Since

this is true, it is likely he would extend an invitation for you to come to China. Such an invitation could give you relatively free access to Christian leaders in China. I just phoned my father-in-law to confirm the address he gave me for these two clergymen, and he said they are so well known there that a letter sent to their cities would find them.

Rt. Rev. K. H. Ting
Chairman, Chinese National Christian
Three-Self Patriotic Movement
Nanking Union Theological College
Nanking, China

Professor Zao Fusan (I am told Zao is his surname) is vice president of the Chinese National Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement and deputy director of the Institute for Research on World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. My father-in-law was in Peking a couple of years ago, but I do not know if he met him.

Professor Zhao Fusan
Vice President, Chinese National Christian
Three-Self Patriotic Movement
Beijing (Peking), China

He sent me another source of information:

Mr. Johathan Chao
Editor-in-chief
Chinese Church Research Center
P.O. Box 312 Shatin Central P.O.
Shatin, N.T.
Hongkong

Mr. Richard van Houten was given as editor of above publication. I suppose one could write to either one.

My son Len had another suggestion, the Beijing YMCA. At least one staff member, he said, is a Christian:

Mr. Gao Gangling
Staff Member
YMCA
Beijing, China

Or maybe a letter should be addressed to Mr. Hou Fuyun, deputy chief of the YMCA (see enclosed pages of "Beijing Review").

Now, as far as the house churches are concerned, I do not have any contacts. Some places in China they may meet for worship with few problems, but elsewhere they are persecuted by the government and the "Three-Self" churches. These Christians most likely would be unwilling or, at best, hesitant, to meet with you. I have written Ted and Leona Choy about your wanting to make contacts with Chinese Christians. In recent years the Choys have made many trips to China, visiting house churches and even speaking to some groups.

A bit about the Choys and my association with them. Dr. Edman introduced us to each other while we were students at Wheaton. I was best man at their wedding. Ted once taught at a theological seminary in Singapore and Leona was director of Child Evangelism Fellowship for the Far East. They are among the founders of Ambassadors for Christ, a group that works among Chinese college students. Leona wrote the book, Andrew Murray, Apostle of Abiding

Love. I understand that she does some writing for Christian publications.

Another contact would be Stephen Wang, who worked with me in Tsingtao Youth for Christ and became director of Youth for Christ when I left that organization. Actually, we then had so many Chinese attending that we decided to turn YFC over to them and we organized an all English YFC that met in the Lutheran mission. The Chinese continued to meet in the Southern Baptist church. I am sure Stephen would be anxious to meet you. He is one of the pastors of the church in Tsingtao (now spelled "Qingdao"). But I doubt he could arrange a speaking engagement for you or any foreigner. Over a thousand meet every Sunday in that church, and services are held on Saturday also to accommodate the crowds. I understand that Stephen spent some twenty-seven years in prison and on prison work farms because he would not renounce his faith in Jesus Christ. Enclosed will be included his address in Chinese characters.

Rev. Stephen Wang
2 Lung Shan Road
Qingdao, China

I should have mentioned that Stephen is a college graduate and a graduate of the Baptist seminary in Shanghai. Len spent a day or two with him when he was in Tsingtao last October-November. Stephen mentioned to Len that the Chinese government now is permitting pastors to accept speaking engagements in the states. I take this to mean that he would like an invitation to come here. I am sure any host church or organization would have to assume all his expenses.

Mary Wang might have some contacts. I did not know that she existed until she visited us here a few years ago. She is the daughter of a Chinese Baptist pastor in Tsingtao. She gave her heart to the Lord under the ministry of Bob Pierce when the Youth for Christ team visited Tsingtao Youth for Christ in the mid-1940's. She would be a good source of information about the revival that Tsingtao YFC experienced at that time. I have written her and asked her to contribute information to you for the YFC "archives" at the Billy Graham Center. She is a remarkable person: a registered nurse, a medical doctor, and, I believe, a graduate of a theological seminary. She is the founder of the Chinese Overseas Mission, which has centers for Chinese to meet for Bible study, fellowship, and worship in various places in Europe.

Dr. Mary Wang
Director, Chinese Overseas Christian Mission
4 Earlsfield Road
London SW183DW
England

Bishop Ting has invited the Southern Baptist to participate in services this summer commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of their mission work in China. They will be meeting in Nanking. Undoubtedly there will be in attendance church leaders from all parts of China.

I hope all this proves helpful. I really do not think we can do much for the Christians in China, but pray. I pray for them constantly, several times a day, and have been doing so for over forty years. Apparently God is doing tremendous things there. Bibles they can buy, although they are very expensive. The Chinese

Christians copy portions of Scripture and pass them around. But hymnals are needed, and especially basic books - commentaries, etc. - for pastors. I have three new copies of Great Doctrines of the Bible by William Evans on my shelf and am trying to figure out how to get them into China without endangering the recipients. I have gotten a few commentaries and Bible dictionaries in. It would be better if the Chinese publishers copy them for distribution, and that is not beyond possibility. I question the ethics and practicality of smuggling literature into China. If we pray enough about it, God can show us other ways to help the Chinese to obtain Christian literature. Son Len has taken literature (Christian) into both China and Russia, and always declared it for customs. Strangely, they have permitted him to take it into their countries. Some Christians (including Chinese) say it is alright to smuggle literature in and others think it should not be done. I am not sure.

Incidentally, I have an old book that has been in my library almost as long as I can remember. Perhaps you have heard of it: Young Man on Fire by Larson. I am sure some member of your family would like to have it. It will be in the mail under separate cover.

A personal note. My wife Doris left for Sweden Friday for two months. The occasion is the celebration of her father's 90th birthday on April seventh. He is doing fine. Taped two radio sermons that were broadcast a couple of weeks ago, still speaks on missions in churches, serves on committees on the Far East, and writes for Christian publications. Doris' mother is 87, although weak, is doing quite well. Neither appear to be at all senile. Doris' grandparents went to China in the early 1890's. Her grandfather met J. Hudson Taylor while studying in Bethel Seminary in Stockholm and through Taylor's influence spent a life-time in missionary work in Shantung Province. Well, I just thought that this note would be interesting to you.

Best wishes to you and Mrs. Johnson, and our continued prayers. Maybe, the Lord willing, we can still get together. If there is anything else I can do, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

"Bud"

Bernard Holmquist
(805) 647-3787