

8270 Denver Street  
Ventura, CA 93004  
November 13, 1986

Rev. Kenneth W. Wilson  
1020 N. Main Street  
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Dear Rev. Wilson,

It has been several months since I have heard from you. You will recall our long conversation on the phone early last summer or late spring. Our common interest was our love of the Lord Jesus and the work of Christian missions in China. Forty years ago I had been director of Tsingtao Youth for Christ. We had Saturday night rallies with an attendance in excess of 500, and there were also Youth for Christ Bible classes in many of the military units taught by missionaries.

Dr. Torrey Johnson, founder of Youth for Christ and now minister-at-large for that organization, has asked me to compile information about Youth for Christ in Tsingtao (now Qingdao). This I have agreed to do, but have found it very difficult to obtain information about Tsingtao Youth for Christ after these forty years.

I know Dr. Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, went to China with a Youth for Christ Gospel team in the late 1940's. He told me about this personally when I was a student at Wheaton College. He also spoke of the great revival that occurred as a result of the extended meetings there. Meetings started, he said, in the morning hours and continued uninterrupted (I believe) until late at night. A public address system had to be set up so that the crowds could hear the Gospel.

Well, that's all I know, except that you told me you were there at the time and observed the things that happened. Rev. Stephen Wang also confirmed that the meetings existed and some twenty thousand attended. But for whatever his reasons, he seems reluctant to say more. Stephen Wang became Youth for Christ director just before I left China for discharge from the marine corps. I do not think he actually was active in that organization at the time of the revival because he had gone to Shanghai some time before that date for some additional theological training. Since then he has spent over twenty-five years in communist jails and prison farms and now is one of the three ministers at what was known as Christ Church (German Lutheran) forty years ago. This, of course, is a part of the communist Three-Self-Patriotic movement. Perhaps these facts account for Stephen's reluctance to give me much information. I am sure he knows what is best.

I have some questions for you. Please forgive me for being "pushey" about this. But time does go by and this information could be an important part of the history of Christian missions in China.

I shall include some xerox copies of this letter. Perhaps you know some other individuals who were there at the time. Kindly send the enclosed copies to them.

1. Was the Tsingtao revival a part of the Tsingtao Youth for Christ movement, or did Tsingtao Youth for Christ contribute to the revival?
  2. How did the revival begin, what events and conditions led to the revival?
  3. Was the revival a thing of God, or was it more a result of other events and conditions (as the threat of communism)?
  4. Who were the leaders of the revival, or was it a spontaneous even of the Holy Spirit?
  5. Where in the city did the revival begin and where did it continue? Draw a map if you can.
  6. What were the approximate inclusive dates of the revival?
  7. Do you concur with Stephen Wang's estimate of about 20,000 in attendance?
  8. Can you give me names of other individuals (and addresses, if possible, but not necessary) who were there also?
  9. Was there evidence of people being converted (saved!) or lives being changed?
  10. Can you see any connection between the revival and the present spiritual awakening that appears to be occurring in Qingdao today? This question would be a hard one to answer.
  11. What do you remember about the revival.
  12. Did the revival have any effect on the churches and did the local pastors and missionaries (apart from Bob Pierce) participate?
- Many of these questions are based upon my conversation with Bob Pierce at Wheaton College a long time ago. Maybe I am putting too much significance on the Tsingtao revival. But it could be an important link with the past.

I am anxious to hear from you. Whatever you can contribute will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Bud*  
Bernard Holmquist