

8270 Denver Street
Ventura, CA 93004
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Mr. & Mrs. Norman Cook
Multnomah School of the Bible
8435 Northeast Glisan Street
Portland, Oregon 97220

Dear Norm & Muriel:

We were delighted - really honored - to hear from you. It was a pleasure to learn of your many activities and how the Lord is continuing to use you both. I have, at your request, added you to my prayer list; that gives us the opportunity to be a part of your ministry. How wonderful it has been for you to be deeply involved in missions for so long and the last few years on the staff at Multnomah. We rejoice with you for the way the Lord has blessed your lives.

Here is a run-down on our lives. Since leaving the military service I have been involved in education, elementary through junior college: teaching, guidance counseling, and administration, both in Christian and in the public schools. It is my desire to retire this year and return to a Christian school, possibly as a secondary teacher or administrator. We'll have to see how the Lord leads. Doris completed her nursing education here in Ventura, which was begun at the German hospital in Tsingtao (called Qingdao now), China, and the Red Cross Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden. Upon graduation, she received the only two awards given: the Nursing Student of the Year and the Student with the Greatest Clinical Potential award. Not bad for a little Swedish girl born and raised in China! She has done many things in nursing: been in charge of a hospital emergency room, and been director of nurses in three different hospital facilities. Add this to raising four children, she has done quite well.

All of our little kids you knew on Taiwan are now married. You met our lovely daughter Meilynn at Mount Hermon, where she teaches conference classes and generally fills in where she is needed. Meilynn also teaches in a Christian junior high school and is very busy in the Conservative Baptist church where they attend. Her husband Steve, a computer engineer, is chairman of the deacon board there. They have two boys, Josh who is nearly thirteen and Jeremy, eleven. Both attend the Christian school where Meilynn teaches and both can recite more Bible verses than most preachers (note the "grandfatherly" touch here!). Meilynn and Steve are known for their Hospitality and consider that their home and everything they own belong to the Lord. They are a very lovely Christian couple. As a

matter of fact, Dick Hillis and his wife were dinner guests at their home recently.

Len, our elder son, graduated from Westmont College near Santa Barbara, studied a year at the American Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem, and received his M.A. in Old Testament and Hebrew at Wheaton College. He is very well-read, finding special interest in apologetics and working with young people who have gotten into the cults. As a result, he spent several years in Europe with YWAM, founded the only Christian book store in Amsterdam, developed an excellent library at the Heidebeek School of Evangelism (said to be the best Evangelical library in Europe), and criss-crossed Europe many times (including Russia and Eastern Europe) to witness for the Lord and distribute Bibles and Christian books. He has some exciting adventures to relate. Len now works for Apple Computer Company in Cupertino, California. A year ago, when he was an information analyst for the Apple Computer library, Apple sent him to China to demonstrate their computers to the staffs of Chinese universities. He took along several Bibles and other Christian books, all listed (not smuggled) with the declarations of his many boxes of equipment and other literature. Len does not speak Chinese, so he had as his interpreter a Chinese friend who is a librarian at Stanford University. While in China, he took a side trip to Qingdao (Tsingtao) and met many of our Chinese friends. Even before he left his compartment on the train, a voice rang out: "Len, is that you?" It was Rev. Stephen Wang, who had taken over the leadership of Tsingtao Youth for Christ shortly before I left China in 1946 for discharge from the marine corps.

Stephen, in his early twenties then, has since spent over twenty-five years in communist jails and prison work farms because he refused to renounce his faith in the Lord Jesus. Today Stephen is one of three pastors in a large church in Qingdao (the junior pastor, to be sure, possibly because he is an Evangelical). He is a graduate of a Chinese university and the Baptist theological seminary in Shanghai. The Lord is still maintaining a witness through these faithful believers even in the Three-Self-Patriotic Movement churches. Stephen, incidently, would like to have an invitation to speak in churches in the United States. He speaks excellent English and is a good public speaker. A Chinese friend in Los Angeles, who is a former professor at that seminary and very knowledgeable of China today, said that such an invitation would greatly enhance Stephen's prestige and influence in the official church of China. Do you have any contacts who could sponsor him (and possibly his wife)?

Back to Len; he also spent considerable time with the old principle of the Swedish Baptist Chinese School, Rector Wang, and also met Doris's high school chemistry teacher and his wife. The wife of this teacher was so excited to meet Doris' son that she jumped up and down like a little girl. These Chinese were in their 90's and friends of both Len's grandparents and great-grandparents (who went to China in the early 1890's). Len's wife Jill also was a missionary with WYAM. She is a graduate of Emerson College in Boston, majored in drama, and used her talents in Christian drama. She is currently working on her masters degree in a related discipline. Both are active members in

the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. Len has been teaching classes in apologetics and Bible doctrine there. He also has been teaching a Bible class at Apple for office employees.

Carey and his wife Holly are missionaries with Greater Europe Mission. They spent the last few years in support ministries at the Scandinavian Bible Institute in Saffle, Sweden, in charge of buildings and grounds and construction. Formerly, he was in charge of automotive maintenance at Azusa Pacific University. Carey is an auto mechanic by trade, a vocation in which he has his associate degree. He and Holly are getting ready now to go to the Belgium Bible Institute where Carey will be in charge of coordinating renovation of a ten-story former Jesuit seminary. GEM is turning it into a conference center, dormitory, chapel, classrooms, and dining facility. The building now is empty, even void of partitions. Holly will be in charge of housekeeping and possibly do some secretarial work. We were able to attend Carey's and Holly's wedding in Saffle two years ago. It was a beautiful Christian wedding in the Baptist church there. Meilyn was in charge of the affair and did a great job for her "kid brother." Due to Carey's kind of work in the school, he had made friends of many of the town's businessmen. In a culture where marriage is not always thought necessary and few have weddings in the church, the ceremony was a fine testimony to everyone. Doris's parents, Rev. & Mrs. Oscar Rinell, were also able to attend. Many other family members on both sides from Sweden and the States were able to attend, including Len (the best man) and Holly's triplet sister (maid of honor) and brother, and her parents and another sister.

Carolynn, our younger daughter, was only three years old when we left Taiwan. She is married too and has three lovely children, Krysta, Davie, and Nickie. Although she once professed faith in Christ and was baptized by our pastor, she married a young man who is indifferent to the things of God. Sadly, she and her family do not attend church. Doris teaches the children Christian songs and reads Bible stories to them. Otherwise, they are unapproachable by us. We do much praying.

Doris was home for her father's 90th birthday last spring. He is doing great, still speaks to groups about missions, has several slide shows on China, and actively writes for publication in Christian periodicals. Right now he is attending a conference on missions in Stockholm in which he has received the assignment to report on China. He is very knowledgeable, reads constantly, and is in contact with Christian friends he has known in China, Japan, and Korea. Before leaving China he was under house arrest for several months. That's a story in itself. Then he joined the United Nations Supervisory Commission (representing Sweden) in Korea. After that, he and Doris's mother spent ten years in Japan; he, teaching in a branch of Kobe University and they, starting a Baptist church. From there they went to Korea to take charge of some orphanages for a united Scandinavian church organization. Quite a career and they're still going along rather well.

Thank you for the invitation to visit you in Portland, although such a visit is improbable. "Turn-about-fair-play:" how about your visiting us here? We're a couple of miles off route #101, have a spare room, a fine Mandarin restaurant near-by, and would love to see you. If you're going up or down the coast, we have fine accommodations and the price is right (free!).

I do want to return to Christian school education, the Lord willing. For health reasons, I am not sure it is wise to leave the States (although my heart, as always, is in missions). We have raised our kids, helped them through college, supported them as missionaries and now, just maybe, we can be given a little time for what we have called "full-time Christian service." The Lord is good and surely He is sovereign. We just have to trust Him.

I do witness in the public school whenever the opportunity arises. So far I have not gotten into any difficulty for this. Often it is rough being a believer in the schools. Many educators doubt the sanity of Evangelicals. Also sometimes we have to tell the students that the things in the books just "ain't" true. But little by little we can tell them about the Lord. Like the other day, I was emphasizing the necessity of using the period after "B.C." and "A.D." Then just the simple question as to the meaning of these terms. Of course, the answer came and I had the opportunity to impress on them the fact that the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, divides all history of the human race. Also every semester I tell them that to be a success is to know God. If they become a millionaire and don't find God, they have nothing. If they want to know more, I refer them to the New Testament or tell them to accept a Gideon Bible the day they are distributed outside the front gate. Likewise, I know a few other Christian teachers and administrators who look for opportunities to point their students to the Lord. I believe this can be done and still remain within the framework of laws relative to education. Walter Frank, a representative of Greater Europe Mission, said it correctly: "We need to make ourselves expendable for the Lord." There are times when we must be willing to "stick our necks out" a bit.

Thanks again for writing. It was great hearing from you.

Sincerely yours

Bernard Holmquist