

Oscar Rinell,
5 Tsi Yang Road,
Tsingtao, China.

Tsingtao, March 19th. 1950.

Dear Doris and Bernie,

It was ages ago since I wrote to you. I am glad that Mother and Daughter have a lively correspondence, so that we are all able to follow what is going on on both sides of the Ocean. We are very grateful for all letters that reach us. Mail is beginning to make very good time - 12 or 14 days is excellent, I think. Air Mail can now be sent directly from here, that is train or steamer will forward it to the nearest airbase. Soon I cannot blame the Post Office for your not receiving mail from me.

We were glad to hear about the expected happy event. We feel proud to be Grandma and Grandpa! We hope and pray that everything will turn out according to our best wishes. The photos you sent were fine. I wish I had sent Kodacrome with the cameras, but it is lying around here, because there is no chance of processing, if taken. Dady John is feeling fine, I hope, and you Bernie are working hard in college. Glad to hear that you, Doris, can make yourself useful around home. Elaine enjoys Bethel Institute.

Doris wrote about your thoughts re the future. Well, I wish I could heartily recommend our own Mission. Dad and Mom have put in about 100 years of work together. Egron and Gerda have been here as missionaries about 50 years and Hellen and I about 55. It would be wonderful to see the third generation of Rinells continuing this great work. I wish I only had enough faith to see it that way. Somehow I can at present not see any great future for our mission. Of course we have never experienced anything like what we are living through at present. This is the reason why I would rather suggest that you either serve the Southern Baptist Mission or the General Baptist Conference. I would however not decide at present, if I were in your shoes. If you feel God's call to China, I think the best thing to do is to use the time in theological preparation, while waiting for conditions to clear up in this country.

Generally speaking I think the Church in China will experience a time of difficulty, but that there is still a future for Missions. With the exception of medical missionaries I hardly think foreign missionaries in the near future will be permitted to enter this country. At present every missionary that leaves this country reduces the staff by that number. The government has confiscated all our chapels in the country and work is with few exceptions discontinued except the Christian homes. All our mission property in headstations - except our twostoried house, Church and Chinese co-workers' homes (Fu Yin Tsun) in Kiachsien - has been "borrowed" by the government. Nankuan has just been seiged. Our coworkers have carried on without ~~sla~~ salary since June last year, most of them have been very faithful. We cannot get permission from the local government here to return to our stations. Sweden has restrictions, so we have been having difficulties financially. Recently the first funds in months have been received. Here in Tsingtao we preach in different churches. I have been asked by the Southern Baptist Mission to teach in their Theological Seminary, where our students have been trained. Their Board has wired approving this temporary arrangement as requested by their missionaries and faculty. A letter is on the way so details have not been worked out. It has been suggested that Southern Baptists pay two missionary salaries in order to help

Swedish Baptists. I have Comparative Religion and the Philosophy and History of Missions, and also Chapel once a week in the Seminary. At present I only have 5 hours a week, but this is a new type of work for me and takes lots of preparation and I enjoy the work very much.

I have written mostly from the viewpoint of our Mission. More liberty is however given in larger cities. In the southern section of Shantung a spiritual revival is taking place in the Church. People gather for religious meetings and prayer also for the healing of the body. There are no doctors or medicine, and prayer is the only way out. Hope in the new political movements have been dashed to the ground and many try religion again. Christian leaders are persecuted, but move to other sections preaching the gospel. This is a hopeful sign of the times. Bright spots may be few, but they are so much brighter against the general dark background.

Long ago the Standard advertised a book: "The Philosophy of Christian Missions." I believe that was the title. I have Edmund D. Soper's book: "The Philosophy of the Christian World Mission." If the other book was not the same as this later one, I would be obliged if you would kindly order one and kindly send a copy to me under the following address: c/o Miss Lucy Smith, 415 Castle Peak Road, Kowloon, Hongkong. She should forward it as first class mail to me in Tsingtao. This is a trail, but I know others have received books this way.

Take care of yourselves. Warmest regards and best wishes from Gunnar Hellen and Oscar Rinell.

Oscar Rinell

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