

# To Save the Children

**W**OMEN'S INSTITUTES seldom fail to respond to an appeal of human need; and perhaps their sympathies are especially warm toward the needs of children. So when the "sponsor-a-child" project was introduced a year ago, requests for a child to "adopt" came in at an amazing rate. In this project the child "adopted" stays in his own country, with his own family or guardians; and the organization "adopting" him (or her) pays \$60 a year which, in the case of the Institutes is sent to the F.W.I.O. head office and from there transferred to the Save the Children Fund. The organization acting as foster parent is put in touch with the child selected for its adoption, so that letters can be exchanged. The letters from the children befriended are often quite a reward in themselves.

Within the year upwards of three hundred Institutes asked for a child to sponsor. To gather the information for this story we wrote to the first one hundred making application and here are some of our findings:

## In the Hong Kong Area

A great many of our Institutes are sponsoring children in Hong Kong, possibly the most refugee-crowded centre in the world and one of the difficult places for parents to provide for their children. Some institutes sponsoring children in this area — and in others — provided not only the sponsoring fee of \$60 but sent an extra donation of money or other gifts at Christmas time or on birthdays. Most of the children sponsored attend a Church school and the vicar's secretary usually wrote to acknowledge the gift and to say that the money would be used to buy "clothing — a shirt, trousers, underwear, shoes; some food, some toys; and to pay school fees." Most of the children are of Chinese background and



Chan Chi Yu, Hong Kong, wrote his first letter to his sponsors, Glen Morris Institute, in Chinese characters with a translation by his vicar. Four months later he wrote a letter of thanks in English.

Barbara Sieron, eight, a frail little Polish girl who has lived mostly in refugee camps and is now in Germany. Sponsored by Institutes of Perth Centre District.



it means a great deal to their parents to be able to give them some education. So Uniondale's little six-year-old Lee Chi-Lo can start to kindergarten right away. He appreciates the dollar sent to him at Christmas time and another on his birthday.

Chan Chi Yu wrote his first letter to his sponsors, Glen Morris Institute, in Chinese characters which his vicar translated into English. Four months later the boy himself wrote in English thanking the Institute for the clothes they had sent him at Christmas time. Part of his letter read: "I can't write on the paper how happy I was while I got the present. The wool is suitable me. As I wear it I feel very warm. My mother has never bought this kind of clothes for me." And it is typical of his people that he should add: "If you have time will you be so kind to tell me the funny things that happen in your country?"

Fong Kam, Norman Institute's boy is very thin and small for his age, thirteen. He is one of a family of ten; his father earns approximately \$25 a month and his mother works at home doing the paper work on firecrackers. Evidently an Institute of eight members carries this project, for the secretary says: "We are proud and happy to be helping Fong and the eight of us are looking forward to hearing from him."

The Eramosa members also say how much they are enjoying "helping their little girl Tang San-Fun to a better way of life." The Maple Grove women were delighted with a Chinese Christmas card from their boy Cheun Ying, a grade A student of thirteen. Helena Feasby's members were pleased to learn that their gift would make it possible for the twelve-year-old girl they have adopted to go to day school instead of night school. She wrote: "I will try very hard to study well so I will not disappoint you."