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**Dr. A. Dayfoot  
 Writes from China**

Through the kindness of Dr. A. G. Hallister, a letter is reprinted below from a former Georgetown boy, Rev. Arthur Dayfoot, a United Church missionary in China. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Dayfoot, who now make their home at Oak Bay, B.C., and a nephew of the late Harry Dayfoot of town. The letter is now a year old but the news it contains will be of interest to his friends here, and we hope in the future to be able to reprint similar letters from Mr. Dayfoot.

Canadian Mission,  
 Fowling, Szechwan, China  
 March 20th, 1948  
 Letter #

Dear Friends:  
 From one of you came a letter yesterday, remarking that my last circular letter was dated Oct. 24th, 1947, and adding: "I must presume that you have written other circular letters since that date and that I have been removed from the list. Perhaps now I can be reinstated." Let me say that letters from anyone 'at home' are most welcome; but lest anyone else be under the sad impression that for lack of that they have been "dropped from the list," I confess that there have been no intervening letters! So I am at last stirred to take time — although still labouring at the foot of a mountain of work, to write again! The long silence will be explained (though not excused) by some indication of the work of the last year and a half.

In November, 1947, Geoff Smith (our predecessor here as district missionary) and I, took a trip around the rural districts of the two Presbyteries which are in our charge. If you have a good map you can find Fowling (or Fowling-chow) and Chunghsien (Chung-chow) on the Yangtse River, between Chungking and Wanhien. In the Fowling District there are four churches besides Fowling itself, and in the Chunghsien area there are five altogether, widely scattered and with no roads except footpaths to connect them. It took the best part of the month to visit all but one of these places. In a future letter I will try to describe each place and the various Chinese workers and their work.

After returning from this "tiring" trip, the Fowling missionaries (the Smiths, MacKenzies) just arrived and still doing language study after refuelling from Honan — Miss MacIntosh and ourselves prepared for Christmas and the visit of the Delegation from the Home Church. Rev. D. H. Gallagher of the Overseas Mission Board, Dr. Astbury and Dr. Ferguson representing education and medicine respectively, visited us just before Christmas and Mrs. Taylor of the Women's Missionary Society just after New Year's. We were glad of their fellowship and the opportunity to discuss with them the problems of our work.

Early in January 1948, the Smiths left for Canada on furlough, and soon afterward Bessie and I, and

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Miss MacIntosh, set out for Chemung for the Annual Meetings of the Church and the Mission. Once again we were glad that the four Delegates from the home church were there to consult with us. For some obscure reason I was elected to the Mission Executive, which meant two further trips (a couple of weeks each time) to Chengtu during last year, in May and September.

After my short trip in February, to one of the district churches for evangelistic meetings, came the departure to Canada of Miss MacIntosh, nurse in the hospital here. There was no one to replace her, and her retirement left the Trusteeship of the hospital in my hands. It was several months in November, in fact, before we were able to get even a competent Chinese bookkeeper! Meanwhile, in addition to the church work, I had to do bookkeeping and maintain contacts without which the hospital could hardly continue to do good work. To make it worse, there was only one Chinese doctor we are short of Chinese as well as missionary personnel! In this best hospital, with an Outpatient Clinic ranging up to 40 or 50 patients a day. Some administrative questions, which Dr. Chao had not time to ask, also fell to me. Then we happened to get a grant from the China Relief Fund of two billion dollars (yes \$2,000,000,000 Chinese dollars) to help build a multiphase building for the hospital. Don't be surprised: this was worth only \$800.00 American! That added a building project to the job!

In April and again in June came more itinerating trips, and from the second trip I arrived back in Fowling to hear that Norman MacKenzie had taken sick and left for Chungking. He had been preparing for our Summer School (something like a Young People's camp, minus the place to swim, and with four classes daily in the Bible, Church

work, etc.) Again the job was mine, along with the Chinese leaders of course, and we started a Summer School at which the attendance was almost 200 — more than we could adequately handle. Norman was back on the job for the last half of the School, which was four weeks long. He and I led a course based on a translation of the United Church Catechism, and also a few classes in the Leading of Worship and duties of a minister. Several of the young men at the School are preparing for the ministry, and will have to take 'student charges' (as we would call them) before entering theological college.

After the School (and a few days getting hospital affairs in shape) I finally got to this semi-tropical hills — out of this couple of weeks before the September Executive meeting in Chengtu. While returning from the latter in a fellow-missionary's station wagon, we broke the universal joint on the rough road, and I spent 3 1/2 days watching the car by the roadside while he hitch-hiked to Chungking to get the new part! That, I may say, was the most tedious three days I have spent in China!

After a brief trip to Fowling from Chungking, where Bessie was awaiting the arrival of our first baby, I returned there in time for this event. Catherine Marie was born on Oct 7th, in the Canadian Mission Hospital, Chungking. Everything went well, and by the 17th we were ready to come home to Fowling again. "Cathie" is now a healthy 15-pound baby with a very nice laugh and a lusty cry.

Late in October, Miss Graham, our WMS worker returned from furlough, giving me welcome relief from responsibility for keeping her work going! We now have five adults and three children in the missionary group here.

During November, when Norman

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and I were both away itinerating, the political situation in China became critical. For a time we were very unsettled, though locally life went on much as usual. By the time the Annual meeting of the Mission were held in January, things had cooled off, and we have settled back again to "business as usual". In another letter I will have room to say more about this, which is a subject in itself! Meanwhile, greetings to all — Yours Sincerely, Arthur Dayfoot

#### WINS QUILT IN LUCKY DRAW

The AYPA meeting was held Friday in the school. Mrs. Bob Harris read the scripture and two hymns were sung during the de-

otional. Mrs. J. E. Maxwell playing the piano. Jeannine Humphreys, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Maxwell were winners of contests conducted by Mrs. C. Blizzard. Next Friday's meeting will be held in the school. Esqueing Women's Institute held a quilting meeting at Mrs. H. P. Lawson's home Wednesday afternoon and evening. W.A. meeting on Thursday was a Smith. quilting at the home of Mrs. Cecil. Miss Alice Davies spent the week-end with relatives in Strabford. Next Sunday, church service at St. John's will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday School at 2 p.m.

The Machine Age! Moscow is a street called "Ball Bearing Avenue."