

Chapter 13

SEVEN NEW MISSIONARIES

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Ivan Charles and Amanda Wing Worhley

A life committed, a life dedicated, a life viewed through the rose glasses of the ultimate service- this is the vision that most new missionaries have. Thus did Ivan and Amanda look forward to their life as they made preparations. to go to the Tibetan Mission field following in the footsteps of beloved Dr. Shelton. As a doctor, Ivan had reason to think of himself as Shelton's successor. Ivan and Amanda had gone to see Mrs. Shelton and she had fostered that feeling and was impressed by their determination. She spoke to them of all her concerns and her worries since not being able to return to the field herself but feeling she understood the situation. This gave them preconceived notions of what place they would have and how it would be.

Dr. W- had wanted to go to the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. for further studies in surgery when he was first in contact with the UCMS through Dr. O.J. Grainger (1-19-22) and later in a letter to Bro. Corey (7-10-22). The need was so urgent, though, for a doctor to be prepared and on the field before Dr. Hardy's furlough that he agreed to simply finish his one year of internship at Fairfield Park Hospital, Cleveland, Oh. after graduating from medical school in Cincinnati, Oh. Then he transferred to White Cross Hospital in Columbus, Oh. to be closer to his father who was ill.

Mrs. (Royal J.) Dye had said he was an exceptional young man who had such debts owed to his mother-in-law that he was being tempted to take one of some very flattering offers made to him. (12-19-21)

There was some discussion between Bro Corey and Amanda Wing Worhley re: her mother's influence on them both. Bro Corey had written on 12-28-21 to OJ Grainger before the 1-19-22 conference, "His wife is a little notional". She had taught three years at a Chinese Mission in San Francisco before going for her nurse's training. Her mother, Mrs. Wing, had also worked there.

She had had one year, 1915, at Hiram College, getting to know Louise D- there. She completed nurse's training at Bethesda Hospital in Cincinnati, Oh. They had no time to study at the College of

Missions only going there for the commissioning service for new missionaries.

Amanda and Ivan were encouraged by the enthusiasm people, including Jim Ogden, showed for their going out to Batang to follow in Dr. Shelton's footsteps. They sailed from San Francisco 9-20-23 with Jim and Minnie Ogden meeting the rest of the party at Seattle to sail on the S.S. President Harding, 9-23-23, heading for China.

Jim took a bad cold after boarding at L.A. due to his run-down condition. On the trip Dr. W- was astute enough to realize that the liveliness of the Peterson children contributed to the state of Jim's nerves. Arrival at Hong Kong was no better, as their "undisciplined behavior" was evident at the Missionary Home where they all stayed. The party followed the usual route by boat to Haiphong and the French RR to Yunnanfu. By this time it was obvious that Jim could not go on, so Dr. W- put him in the hospital there. (12-14-23)

In Dr. W-'s mind emotional illness was a matter of self-control and it was unacceptable behavior that Jim could not 'control' himself, particularly if there were times of uncontrollable temper. His respect for Jim was diminished even though he recognized his sympathetic qualities. In letters to Bro. Corey, Dr. W- wrote in great detail of all these things. 11-5-23, 12-14-23, 2-17-24, 3-5-24, 3-13-24.

"OUR CONSTANT DREAM"

Leland and Corrine Emerson

Leland stated once that "our constant dream for years has been to be a service to Tibet, or if not there, in China".

Leland Emerson was born May 22, 1899 and his wife Corinne on Dec. 8, 1900. A note on 12-28-21 Bro. Corey wrote to Mrs. Eva N. Dye (the Royal Dyes, missionaries of Africa) re: a scholarship for the Emersons and she replied "the Emersons are splendid people."

Leland graduated from the University of California, attended the Pacific School of Religion, had two years at the College of Missions with additional courses at Butler College. He had a successful pastorate while a student in Indianapolis and in California. (Letter exchange LHE and SJC 5-16-28 & 5-25-28)

All of them seem to have profited from living those weeks in South China, picking up some Chinese and studying some Tibetan. Corinne did very well in language while both Leland and Ivan found themselves not so apt.

In order for them not to feel entirely useless in the mission, work was given to all of them. Leland and Dr. Ivan were asked to make up an auditing committee for the treasurer's books, starting after the end of the fiscal year, July 31, 1924.

To Mr. Duncan re: the audit- I have tried to fix up the data on our audit in such a way that you can make the corrections alone and indicate on the sheets where and how corrections were made. This will save considerable of my time. I know that the report can hardly be satisfactory to you, but we have been as lenient as we conscientiously could. I am sorry to have been appointed on the audit committee and really hope we will be asked to resign. Your Friend, LHE. P.S. Of course you are likely to have some explanations to make to us which would be too long to put in writing. We are at your service at any time for that purpose."

From the Preliminary Report- We wish it clearly understood that we are making no charges of fraud in book keeping. On the contrary, we have no evidence of it, and have every reason to believe the books have been kept with the utmost honesty. Nor is there any personal enmity or desire to make trouble in our actions. We shrink from making this report, but having been appointed as auditors, and having examined the books, we have no other choice.⁵⁶

Knowing Marion D-, there could not help but be an explosion of wrath at the innuendoes. Years later, someone at the UCMS told me of this charge against him, but that the UCMS Treasurer exonerated him. The mistakes were errors and doubtful items, lack of legal accounting for the funds on hand for 7-31-24 and lack of correct balance sheets. My father was not a bookkeeper but he had to learn to be.

Later Leland Emerson, 1-20-25 to Bro. Corey "We are sensitive enough that the constant displeasure and criticism towards us almost takes the heart out of us." Their time in Batang was not an easy time, but they never lost their vision of cooperative endeavor.

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS

Grace Nora Young

Grace Young was born Aug. 12, 1888 in Oregon and lived her

⁵⁶ Preliminary Report of the Auditing Committee to the Treasurer of the TCM, 10-7-24, LHE, ICW.

entire life on the mission field and in the Northwest of America. Therefore she said that having lived in high altitudes she preferred Tibet as she worked better at higher altitudes. Her references were excellent and the inquiry into her abilities and personality were extensive and intensive, including a medical examination. Besides her nursing training at Mercy Hospital Training School, Denver, Colo., for three years, she had experience as an evangelistic singing worker for 8 years and assistant pastor for two years.

Grace attended Eugene Bible College for three years getting a diploma in 1913. She went to Drake University Conservatory of Music for a year and was supply music teacher for six months at Eugene, Or. She also had a complete course in dressmaking. All of this training meant she was better trained than any other woman in Ba. She was a delightfully kind and gentle person, who made her way in the missionary world with a quiet and firm determination.

She finished her nursing training in Dec., 1922 and was able to go the College of Missions for the 1923 spring semester. She set sail with the Ogden party from Seattle to cross the Pacific and to trek across South China to Batang.

2-20-23 Leta Taylor wrote how pleased she was as she got to know Grace. They made gingham dresses together and she praised her, "She is such a dear, good girl and so capable. We all love her." Just the one they were looking for as a single woman missionary for Tibet.

It was the policy of the UCMS to pay for half the tuition for a missionary candidate going to the College of Missions and \$200 outfitting money. From then until they set sail they are paid \$25 a month to live on. The journey was at UCMS expense; salary begun upon reaching their station. Grace was told her equipment as a nurse was provided from the Shelton Memorial Fund.

(5-14-24) So Grace arrived in Ba with the Hallelujahs of welcome at their sighting and this was special for her as the Mission had waited so long for someone to help out at the Orphanage as it grew larger, at the Hospital as the nursing work there increased beyond the ability of the missionary wives to handle and the work load increased in assisting Dr. Hardy. She could also train midwives and nurses.

"She warred against disease, ignorance, superstition, unsanitary conditions and religious prejudice against modern medicines. She knew the uncertainty of war and siege, the strain of sitting through long evenings without light because of the dangers that candles would bring in making the house an easy target for bandits."⁵⁷

⁵⁷ They Went to China. Biographies of Missionaries of the Disciples of

**“OTHERS HAVE LABORED”
“We Follow in Their Train”**

Raymond and Georgia Fillmore Peterson

“Pete” and Georgia studied long and hard for the mission field; overjoyed to have a conference with Dr. Shelton and Alexander Paul. It was good to have Dr. Shelton approve of his becoming a registered pharmacist it being “decided that we should prepare for work in Tibet” (11-2-22 letter to Dr. Hardy). Georgia’s father and uncle, the Fillmores, were well-known in the churches as hymn and lyric writers. They sent copies of the hymnals, “Hymns for Today” and “Praise Hymnals” with Georgia for the TCM, which were received with heartfelt gratitude for their kindness and generosity. (K. Louise H. Duncan, Sec’y, 9-4-24 to Fillmore Bros, Cincinnati, Oh.) Charles Fillmore was pastor of the Hillside Christian Church of Indianapolis, Ind.

Raymond was born Dec. 8, 1894 in Indianapolis and attended the College of Pharmacy there 1912-13 becoming a registered pharmacist April, 1913. He had an A.B. degree from Butler College in 1921 and an M.A. from the College of Missions in 1923. His Living Link church was the Central Christian of Connersville, Ind.

Georgia, born Oct. 6, 1894 in Peru, Ind., received an A.B. degree from Butler College in 1916 and attended the College of Missions 1921-23. Her Living Link was the Crawfordsville Christian Church, Ind. She and Pete were married Dec. 30, 1917.

Their two sons, Charles Fillmore born May 11, 1920 and Raymond Elmer, Aug. 1, 1922 were supported by their grandfather’s church, Hillside Christian, Indianapolis. Raymond and Georgia were both ordained to the ministry and appointed as missionaries to Tibet, June 5, 1923. They sailed with the Ogden party.

This time of the big push endeavoring specifically to have enough missionaries on the field readied with language study and experience in Batang for an entire team to go to a new station- - high hopes were resting on them! Raymond Peterson was a man with the ambition to make a niche for himself in the missionary world; to do this job, to reach out for possibilities and to find friendship among his colleagues.

Christ, Indianapolis, Ind: UCMS, 1948.

Georgia and "Pete" write back of their experiences on shipboard and in the cities in Japan they visit. They lost a Sunday crossing the International Date Line, but had services on Monday with Grace singing a solo and Georgia playing the piano. It all seemed like a dream yet it seemed wrong for them to fare so well when many in Japan are starving. Tokyo was devastated by the recent earthquake, 10-9-23, so severe that the shock was felt in Szechuan Province and in Batang, according to Louise Duncan. The business area was totally destroyed as fire broke out, the water mains burst and huge tanks of oil burned, flooding the bay with flames.

The children in Japan were dressed so cute in bright colors; the houses and terraced fields were so quaint. Following Ray's interests they went into three drug stores, one an older native one.

The 70 day stay while Jim O- was in the hospital in Yunnanfu was filled with the sights and sounds of a strange Chinese city for the newcomers but the Ogdens fretted and it was very expensive for the UCMS to pay for the stay. Worhleys and Grace Young kept busy with their medical work. The rest did some language study. Word of the horrendous robberies and fighting kept all in a turmoil. They finally left and got to Talifu where the Chinese New Year festivities were in full swing. They accompanied a merchant caravan of 1000; which size was hard to accommodate in inns and temples on the way, but safer for travel.

Georgia left an interesting diary of their travels and telling the adventures of their children and of the strange sights. Charles liked to babble at the Chinese who crowded around his chair at rest stops and then jumped at them so they ran off laughing. They wondered greatly at his silky white hair. Charles can now speak in all three languages and Ray is walking since Talifu.

Pete's descriptions in letters tell of the colorful events and towns. Sugar was bought shaped like rock candy and was used to make pear preserves to eat with the peanut butter they made. Bathtubs were huge pottery jars. Pete mentions that their fears about the trail were not justified and friends were made of the most feared Nosu tribesmen of N. Yunnan. In Atuntze they celebrated Easter and heard the lamas chanting prayers and beating drums and cymbals trying to drive out the devils (themselves?). In Gompa they stayed at the yamen of an official and received 'ula' from him for the road.

There were many landslides and following the Mekong River the whole road ahead went out, but only one mule was lost. There were many rope bridges over which they had to drag themselves, their packs and sometimes the horses, too. Mani piles were found on the passes where travelers had left stones with the Buddhist prayer "Om Mani

Padme Hum” engraved on them to give thanks for safe traveling this far. They met the Lewers (with the Bakers from the Pentecostal Mission working among the Lisu). Mr. Emerson and Mr. Peterson had tea with them of cream puffs, cake and candy, enjoying it greatly. Pete led Sunday service on the theme “I will lift my eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my strength...” They borrowed an organ for singing.

Everyone had dysentery, some showed swollen faces from the effects of high altitude at Atuntze and little Ray had worms. The Chinese, as they are so few, are scared to death of the Tibetans. The consul feels that the Chinese are the civilized ones, yet it is the Tibetans who befriended the missionaries. The king of Kham (Inner Tibet) takes them into his protection clear to Batang because of Dr. Shelton’s friendship for him.

Long looked for, wearily looked for, the passes are mounted and traversed; now the final descent into the Batang Valley, and there are the joyous crowds of greeters, come to walk the last miles with them. They have been lining the road all morning, home at last-Batang! Petersons have traveled 3873 miles by rail to Seattle and then 8 months and 22 days from there to Batang! But joy, JOY, HOME AT LAST!

Upon arrival the Peterson and Emersons were placed in the Old Mill House, renovated for them by Dr. Hardy. Grace Young was given a room in the Ogden home. The Worhleys were offered a room in the Hardy home but, through correspondence previously, had already opted to take the 5 rooms on the third floor of the hospital. Dr. Hardy proudly took them around to show them the Dilts Memorial Hospital that very first day. That it did not compare to hospitals in the US was obvious to the Worhleys but politely not mentioned.

At last they may unpack. It was a great event watching all the newcomers trying to settle in: boxes unpacked, furniture being made, repairs done to doors, windows, and color-washing done. Funds were available, but depleted by the renovating of the Mill House.

Dr. Hardy had had some furniture made for them. Petersons would have the lower rooms and Emerson the upper rooms. Mrs. MacLeod had left a bed for Ray, Jr. Trunks were used for lounges and boxes for bookshelves. “Once again we can have our pictures up and have the organ and sewing machine to use. The first thing we saw coming into the town was the psifong (arch or gate) being erected in honor of Dr. Shelton.”

Dr. Worhley had told of how he put out a flag at every stop on their journey to indicate that a doctor was present, treating any illness. People flocked to him. It was confirmed in their minds- being able to put skills to use was all that was important and that he was following in

Dr. Shelton's footsteps. Lack of language was no problem. He and Amanda were determined to conquer the heathenism of the Chinese and Tibetans by the sheer weight of their skill and their love for God. They looked forward to their service in this land of such awesome mountains, the strange people and the excitement of a new and different life. Dr. W- expressed all this to Bro. Corey as they reached Batang.

6-18-24 Mr. Emerson, who knew mechanical and electrical matters, determined that an electrical plant was not feasible. It would have to be larger than first thought with a greater water flow. A committee was appointed to study this.

The little social life the missionaries had included exchanges of visits for tea, luncheons and dinners, tennis and croquet; meetings of committees, TCM monthly meetings, the weekly communion and other services, hikes, camping, picnics and gardening. Of course all birthdays, anniversaries and holidays were celebrated. There were also the occasions when they shared work at the school, hospital and orphanage or in itinerating and visiting in the homes of the natives, with occasional feasts. Of course, one must not forget the New Year and Harvest Festivals.

Jim Ogden was doing his best to regain his equilibrium; he and Dr. Hardy cooperated in helping the newcomers get settled and to start language study (stating this was the policy from the handbook and the UCMS manual). Dr. W- noted that Jim was much better and had 'gotten fat' re-gaining his weight!