

File folder: Chinese in Canada-Toronto 1956, Feb. - 1958, Dec. [File number is 1988-7004-23-5]

*

Correspondence with Margaret Near about her missionary training courses in San Francisco

*

Nov 5 1958. Letter, Miss Matthews to Immigration Branch in support of application for permanent residence for missionary in Toronto, Miss Gee Bun Lee from China.

*

Jul 21 1958. Report from Margaret Near to Frieda Matthews. "Report of the Half-Year ending June 30, 1958."

Says that much work is to be done in Toronto

Excerpt: "The Young People's Society is in need of a thorough rebuilding. They have a reputation of being "cliquish", and they have done nothing to bring the China-born young people out, so they are down to just a handful at their last few meetings. Some of the young People who come to English classes here, we know go to the Young People's meeting at the United Church."

*

Report from Margaret Near to Frieda Matthews. "Report for the Quarter ending March 31st, 1956."

Section on **white woman and Chinese wife**. Photo-copied.

REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31st, 1956.

This quarter has truly been a blessed one for our work among the Chinese people in Toronto. The congregation has become a truly Presbyterian one, and that in itself will greatly strengthen the work, though it will also need much patience and instruction in Presbyterian ways. In a couple of cases there have been growing pains--but it is far better to have the pains and the growth than no growth at all.

The attendance has been fairly good at the Women's meeting, averaging about 20, with several new members. This is the poorest season for the women turning out since the weather is so cold. There has been quite a bit of sickness also. A new executive was elected with Mrs. E. Ling as President. The visiting committee has been very active, calling on all the ladies of the congregation and those who have attended the meetings at some time. The ladies have set up a building fund, looking forward to the day when the congregation will have a building of its own.

The W.M.S. Auxiliary continues to hold its meetings once a month. The group faces a real challenge to draw the English-speaking Chinese into its fellowship. They were pleased to have a representative from the Presbyterial at the last meeting.

Our women were hostesses for the district World Day of Prayer meeting. It was a very impressive service with our own women, negro and white women taking part. Rev. Doo was the speaker. From time to time it has been the custom of some of the women to hold a Thanksgiving Service as a way of thanking God, their friends, and as an act of witness. One of the ladies held one this quarter and I'd like to tell you a bit about her. When she came to Canada, her husband was living with a white girl who afterwards left, only to return. The situation, of course, resulted in heartbreak and trouble, not only for the woman, but also her son. But in the midst of this, she became a Christian, and her love for her Saviour has been the new centre around which her life revolves. Her faith has enabled her to rebuild her life and find peace and happiness in so doing.

The afternoon classes in English for the women continue to have a good response. Particularly on Fridays when the English-speaking Chinese teach, there are many anxious to learn. On Tuesday there are an average of five attending.

In the evening the attendance varies. On some Tuesdays and Thursdays there have been over 30, but the average is about 20-25. Some of the students are very regular but others are transient-