Material from Women's Missionary Society Records:

Verified with Bob Anger (archivist) that I should **cite** these as:

Presbyterian Church in Canada, Women's Missionary Society, Records of the National
Missions Department, Chinese Secretary [File number is 1988-7004-9-14 and 1988-7004-9-15]

Terminology: Christian Service Brigade. This may be a predecessor of "Boys' Brigade" = a child/youth organization. There is also the Mission Band for younger children, Sunday School, a kindergarten and a "Cradle Roll" (future members – the Church keeps track of them and sends birthday greetings etc.) File includes reports from all of these organizations, from the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Vancouver; reports also from Montreal, Toronto, YOW.

Church is organized according to regional **synods** (eg. Synod of Saskatchewan, Synod of Hamilton and London) and then within each Synod are the Presbyteries. Within these are individual churches, I think, because each "presbytery" lists several ministers – eg. Presbytery of Westminster lists Ministers in Vancouver, Prince Rupert, New Westminster.

Glad Tidings is the magazine of the Women's Missionary Society; started publication c. 1925.

First file/folder is labelled WMS (W.D.) Chinese Secretary: Chinese in Canada, 1927, June – 1945, Dec. [File number is 1988-7004-9-14]

Finding aid info "Reports and correspondence of W.M.S. missionaries, June 1927 – Dec. 1945"

Mrs. Harold Ferrier seems to have been on the receiving end of the correspondence – according to one letter-writer, she is the **new** "Secretary for the Chinese work" in 1944, preceded by Mrs. J. C. Wood (who was serving as secretary at least as far back as 1936). Official title of Mrs. Ferrier is National Missions Secretary for the Chinese in Canada.

File is all in reverse chronological order.

"Annual Report of the Christian Service Brigade Battalion No. 3. Meetings held every Saturday at 3:00 P; M. Chinese Presbyterian Church – 261 Keefer St. For the Year 1944"

Excerpts. "The first meeting was held on Saturday, March 25th with 5 boys present, and since that time about 25 meetings have been held, enrollment now being 13 boys, three of which are "white" boys.

Brigade meetings are designed to meet the challenge of presenting the Gospel in such a way that will appeal to boys and to train them for service for the Lord." ...

"Experience has shown the boys to be very reserved in spiritual matters but by watching the faces as the Word goes forth, one can see the Holy Spirit at work - - bringing some to the point of tears. There has been no outward profession of faith in Christ except in the case of "white" boy but I know that in due time, the Word will bring forth fruit unto salvation." ...

"Certainly God was in the opening of this Battalion for comparison of notes revealed that God had spoken to me about the Chinese boys in Vancouver about the same time that some of your leaders were concerned about these boys."

- Report signed by Hedley Nielsen, Captain Batt. #3

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Sunday School report. Miss Ruth A. Yeandle seems to have been a key worker in the Vancouver Church. Subsequent documents also mention Miss L. Isabella Bennet and Mrs. Yeandle, Miss Elsie Potter. Chinese workers in the church also including John Chan, Mr. F. Y. Louie (English teacher), Mr. Dick Woo (former superintendent of the Sunday school). Miss Yeung was the most qualified teacher at the kindergarten. Toronto church kindergarten report noted that Miss Yeandle had provided them with support in form of graduating certificates and loaned them caps and gowns.

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Some items demonstrate some inclusion of non-Chinese children in programs that seem to be designed and run by the missionaries to the Chinese community:

"1944 ANNUAL REPORT Chinese Presbyterian Church in Montreal" (report is unsigned, but could probably get name from the Acts/Proceedings for 1944 if needed)

Excerpt: (underlining in original; bold text is Anne's): "A two weeks <u>Daily Vacation Bible School</u> was held in July. Sincere teachers came to help us, whose efforts were responsible for the happy instructive time the thirty-five pupils had. **Most** of those pupils were Chinese Children. [capitalized in original]... Just after the Bible School we were enabled to send three Chinese boys to a Christian Boys' <u>camp</u> near Sherbrooke. Those boys came home in excellent health and filled with enthusiasm for such a camp."

. . .

"Visiting in the homes has been part of our regular duties and new contacts have been made both with Chinese people and with white wives of Chinese men. Tracts and Scriptures have been distrubuted [sic]. Several Hospital visits have also been our privilege. Some deputation work has been done by each of the three workers, at which times the progress and needs of the work have been told."

Letter dated March 27, 1944.

to Mrs. Ferrier (**new** secretary for the Chinese work in Canada, as of 1944) from Gertrude Scott, 1008 Carberry Gardens, Victoria, B.C.

"... I suppose Victoria and Vancouver are where you would find more Chinese families than anywhere else in Canada. In years gone by Victoria's Chinese lived in a segregated district known as Chinatown, but now the greater number of the families have moved to residential areas, and as the families prosper they buy or build theirown homes, and live very like their Canadian neighbours. Probably in a few more years the chopsticks will be discarded, and rice no longer hold its place as the staple food. The war has made a big difference in the status of the Chinese. A few years ago girls would not be accepted as nurses in training in the hopitals, or be employed in office work in Canadian business firms, and the professions were closed to the young men and women. Now the girls are gladly accepted as nurses, are working in government departments, the Navy Yard, ship yards and all sorts of jobs; and the young men are in the ship yards, taking courses in radio, wireless, engineering etc. and urged to do work prohibited to them before. This all means a big change in the lives of the young people. They are making more friends among the white people and I do not doubt but that there will be more intermarriages. When I think back to when I first became acquanted with the Chinese people in 1926 I realize what an entirely different type of people they have become. Of course the adults have not been affected so much but the young people are different. I notice the Kindergarten children speak much more English when they first attend the school than they used to, and almost all of them play with white neighbour children. Little three year olds can carry on quite extended conversations with me in English, and their mothers say the children don't know whether they are speaking English or Chinese.

The parents are anxious that the children should learn to read and write in Chinese, so the majority of school children put in about two hours a day in study in one of several Chinese schools in town. At our Mission Rev. Leung Moi Fong and Miss Lee teach ... [goes on to discuss kindergarten, children's groups, etc.]

... I do hope you enjoy your contacts with the Chinese. Perhaps some day you can pay us a visit. I know you would like to meet our Chinese families here, and they would give you a warm welcome."

Letter dated September 14, 1944.

to Mrs. Ferrier (**new** secretary for the Chinese work in Canada, as of 1944) from Gertrude Scott, 1008 Carberry Gardens, Victoria, B.C.

Excerpt: "The Chinese young men have recently received their draft notices for the army, so there is quite a bit of excitement among them. They are willing to serve, and quite a number had enlisted previously in the forces, but among those who have been called up, it means settling their business affairs, and as quite a few were running their own businesses it means trying to get someone else to run things for them or closing out. At least two young brides-to-be I know are debating whether to put off their weddings or go ahead, and one is so worried she is getting thinner every day. She had a new house and furniture but can't bear the idea of living in it along. Married men are called up too, so their families will have to adjust themselves to changed conditions. However, in many cases the wives will do what they can to carry on their husbands' businesses, and keep things going."

Letter 27 October 1944

to Mrs. Ferrier, from L. Isabella Bennett (2103 East 46th Ave., Vancouver, BC)

Excerpts: "In these days of Juvenile Delinquency, the importance of winning children to the Lord Jesus Christ, when they are young, can't be stressed too much. It is a known fact that of people who are saved, the percentage of those who are converted after they are 20, is very small. I have been asking the Lord to give me a new vision, and burden for those who are perishing – because they know not the Lord Jesus Christ. I would be glad of your prayers in this connection, too – thank you. ...

Miss Yeandle was telling me that you had your first Chinese meal. I'm glad you liked it. I am very fond of Chinese food."

Letter Sept. 22, 1944

to Mrs. Ferrier from Ruth Yeandle (2039 Creelman Ave., Vancouver)

Reports on painting, new woodwork, cleaning etc. of the Vancouver kindergarten etc. as a result of WMS gift of \$125.

Then talks about how the children have to be taken home at the end of the day, how busy the workers are.

Excerpt: "So as usual it keeps us busy collecting, teaching, and delivering our little ones each morning. But we are very happy in our work and praise the Lord daily that He gives us the privilege of ministering to these dear little lambs.

We had a very lovely Communion services on the 2nd Sunday of this month. Rev Kwan's two little grandsons were baptized and two new Chinese elders were oradained. Rev. David Smith was here to assist in this service. At the previous communion the little granddaughter of Rev. K. H. Yeung was baptized. These are happy times for us because

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Report (undated but I think this is from 1944) signed by Fay McTavish.

Excerpt from section headed "Camp Report"

"Last year Camp was a new venture with the Chinese and they were naturally reticent. This year they relaized more fully the benefits and joys of Camp life and so we had a larger crowd." ...

"On asking different ones [children] why they liked camp the answers were varied. Practically all put the swimming first, others liked the walks, the fresh fruit we could buy on the farms, the fellowship, the cooperation, even to the fun of washing dishes. All enjoyed the sunshine and fresh air."

(Talks about Miss Ballaugh, Miss Ma and Miss Ferrier – I think this report is from Toronto area but not sure)

Undated letter, probably from late June or July 1944.

to Mrs. Ferrier from Miss Annie G. Hill, St. Andrew's Church, New Westminster,

"The Annual Graduation exercises of the Chinese Kindergarten, Vancouver, were held in the flower-decorated Church Hall on June 21st, with thirty-three children present ... The programme opened with singing, in Chinese, followed by the Lord's Prayer, in English, and the Twenty-Thrid Psalm in both English and Chinese. Then the children sang, in English, "I am so glad that Jesus loves me.

These were followed by Group Activities, which included a Chinese Folk Dance and a Flag Drill, using Canada and Chinese flags, during which "O, Canada," and the Chinese National Anthem were sung.

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A six-page single-spaced typed report of activities, signed by Ruth Yeandle, L. Isabella Bennett, and Susan Yeung.

[Item 9 of the report] "(9) An attempt was made last year to reach the "white", (Canadian) mothers with the Gospel message. An informal meeting was held when they brought a quilt and quilted it. This took several weeks and we didn't preach a sermon but just talked and took advantage of any opportunity that offered itself. We at least won their confidence and I think we will try to get them together again."

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Letter to Mrs. Ferrier, on small slip of paper but not clear where it's from. Signed M.F. Pae, I think. (something like that; can't quite read it; note that by 1950s there is a Mrs. Arthur. W. Pae who is Secretary of the WMS, and she is in Toronto). Mentions Knox Crescent – so probably Toronto. Also mentions Miss Louie and Miss Burdick (who was in Montreal in mid-1940s; resigned in 1946), and poaching by the Catholics. mentions **french woman w/two children living w/chinese man.** Photo-copied.

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They all had milk and cookies which are provided by the Guild at Knox Crescent and were each given a teaspoon og Cod Liver Oil provided by the City.

The building is badly in need of repairfoundation crumbling, we were told butik
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Mrs Louie asked for Gospels, Scripture portions and tracts in the Chinese language.

They are hoping to send at least 1 boy to camp. 3 went last year.

The work appears to be difficult and after strainties but there is no evidence of discouragement. The R.C.'s have put on a picture show at the same hour as the S.S. and as they have much better equipment and means to 'attract' they are gaining some all the time.

Miss Burdick has set up a Church Roll and some new Elders have been ordained.

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Letter March 6, 1944

to Mrs. Ferrier from Ruth Yeandle (2039 Creelman Ave., Vancouver)

Excerpt: "The Pentecostal Church has just put a Cantonese speaking missionary to work among the Chinese here. They are great proselytizers and we would covet your prayers that our people may be protected."

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"1943 ANNUAL REPORT Chinese Presbyterian Church in Montreal" (report is unsigned, but could probably get name from the Acts/Proceedings for 1943 – by same person who did the 1944 report, evidently, and not Mrs. Louie – who was sending her report separately)

No mention of white women this year: "The usual visiting in the homes has been done and an effort made to reach any Chinese people who are at all interested in things Christian."

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"Report of Work of the Chinese Presbyterian Mission 1943"

Excerpt: "Mrs. Adams, our worker among the **white mothers** also retired in Sept. feeling that for the present there was not the same opportunities for reaching them."

Second file/folder is labelled WMS (W.D.) Chinese Secretary: Chinese in Canada, 1946, Jan – 1948, Jun. [File number is 1988-7004-9-15]

1946

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Several letters: Missionaries express their gratitude for the increase in salary, which they attribute to the interventions of Mrs. Ferrier.

fondness for Chinese food:

eg. Letter from Muriel Judd to Ferrier, Nov 15, 1946 excerpt:

"P.S. I'm still thinking of that delicious Chinese dinner of last Sunday!"

Expressions of humility also common:

eg. Letter from Grace Lee (1971 Newton St. Victoria BC) to Ferrier, Nov. 10, 1946 Letter is thanking Ferrier for salary increase.

"In your letter, I think you have praised me too much, I thank you for it, but I feel shame to deserve all this. I just do what I can do. God always make them good."

Letter from Ferrier to Yeandle, Sept 7 1946.

Yeandle (from Vancouver) to come to Toronto for the "meeting of Council." List of 8 questions that she might be asked at the meeting. Excerpt:

"4. Are Chinese homes increasing here and what, if any, are athe problems arising out of this?

5. Is there much inter-marriage with white people? What problems arise from this?"

[Too bad that there is no indication here of how Miss Yeandle might reply to these questions.]

Letter from Yeandle to Ferrier, June 13, 1946.

Talks about buying a house to use to care for children. "It is <u>not an educational institution</u> <u>nor a social service agency</u> which we want. We want, and need badly, a home where the presence of Christ is manifest, where parents and children alike might get to know Him whom to know is life eternal. ...

Since we first felt this need we have lost 6 whole families because the Roman Catholics could keep the children all day. I personally persuaded one of the Anglican workers to take a girl whose mother begged me to take her. She has since been baptized in the Anglican Mission. We rejoice that our early labours with her were not in vain but we can't help wishing it had been in our church she was baptized.

This is a hard letter for me to write because my heart is so burdened about the matter. But what of the heart of the Saviour? He will work on their behalf I know. May He help us to obey when He commands."

Letter, Alma Burdick to Ferrier, March 4 46

"You can never guess where I am – Down at the Dental Clinic waiting for a little Chinese Boy who is having his teeth fixed. The little boy is an orphan but is being cared for by his old grandfather who lives in a sort of men's club down in China town. No kind of "home life." We have finally secured the grandfather's permission to have William's teeth attended to and so hours are spent at the clinic."

Gertrude Scott: "Report of the Chinese Presbyterian Mission, Victoria, B.C., for the year ending December 31st, 1945.

Excerpt:

Section on the kindergarten: "As the years go on more English is used in the Chinese homes, and the Kindergarten pupils are now much more fluent in expressing themselves in English than they were a few years ago. When a Bible story is told some of the children can reproduce it with little difficulty. Two quite small pupils speak nothing but English as their mother is a white woman."

Letter from Ruth Yeandle (Vancouver) to Ferrier, dated Dec 15 1945. Discussion of **mixed-race child.** And delicious chow mein. <u>Photo-copied.</u>

Letter from Ruth Yeandle (Vancouver) to Ferrier, dated Nov 15 1945.

Discussion of **mixed-race children**. Also hilarious section on attitude towards working with United Church workers. Photo-copied.

COMPLETED READING THROUGH BOTH OF THESE FILES. These records only exist for these two time periods, as noted in the titles of the two folders. After 1947, files appear in a different section, headed "Chinese in Canada"

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over the we sepirations along this line. I caked then. M. S. to spones such a home but they felt they couldn't do it. If hinse git in Joster to me o instead of giving but the security of adopted of giving the is only 4 yrs. In the meading they must wait until the koy (10 yro, now) is old enough to ray he wants to be chieve. The same rule is beeping a little test Radopted by a Chinese man who was she is getting no Of you receive my reciprotion some children Muo. Wood, mro. Stracken and four much we do used a Rome for such because of knowing no chinese. OR, Mr. Smith are acquainted with my hearts. She is only 4 yrs. Ithe Children's Did workers to talk the welface of a little boy. He ted namese Imother but is, we lope, to Ven ale is of age take will be white people's color by dinese am Bur we had a visit linear influence at From

days west much of preasure of this need has become too Ino others (& tomes (tokenese) whose father is a member of one of our and another unwarried white gelf. and ofthe moment is a lay of 21/2, pure chinese, whose montes to mental care is father is, a member of our chines. ton or created many problems forme, is in Basi Vina the seater & brother, 5/2 & 3/2, are in a Chinese Rome. But he from tally look white home's is in a white home while he is flowing protect this little for mes I lave hoken, understood God bless Her o The Chinese woman wildhas o wold a not willing i will know that Naco it I white) are with their jath from to other members, of the longs to do. The lay I know to do atter is worked Lut the dear little girl) are with their pather Could another public probably the the meeting they served chow heir the meeting they served chow heir the year accepted in the year. Round accepted in the year nated by come of the himself of sevent the proper to face they are now the proper who have seen the proper who have the one we near part to here yet so we near part the glace of the face of something else the placed the was all se abuilt sprace, and here the abuse the placed the was all some than the placed the was all se abuilt sprace, and here than a life placed the was all some than the placed the was abuse the place of the place o

Thursday morning so nie then and I sakelle Be met they will face some extra, they not so much to Lucday. Itely are a wonderful left, 40the finat time, this year I sakelletaluting to the programme.

I led in the stocked see so in the starrying the seasons.

I like you get to would be a fittle were at tome.

I a fittle letter but attend. tent most of the time or your functions of the time. He was an experience that one of the presence that one of the presence that one of the presence of the pr I am sureing my father again, in hetween times mother tead to there whose nother bone while the party of the party of the family of the party of the family of the party of

2039 Creelman Ave., Vancouver, B.B., Dec. 15-1945.

Rear Mrs. Ferner:

Coring yesterday and I

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the S. S. tree on the Note. of Doe. At and don't west these proflems but the Cafe. I law nothing letter to offer, The U.C. worken I have to say ito satisfactory because. The U.C. Car a few good people but they are or even Kaptisto) than with 4.c. subject I don't often dieseise. and I Rober t told you much of our own work have I : Welf the souting is going on we have a fine chietian dervice loop do. I have always Brigade, Milsion Band, etc. Dus S. S. now tarmoniously with auglieurs udication of Realth) The Kindeyarten well neet its allocation (if that a hy good in spite of their chinel, not because & to because our arms are semilar or loved are a few anapo-all. Your report in the Osernie, I'm worm warm on a Lett I could work Red Tidings) was Lappens like that when friends from the east went us. When you come I hope you will be staying long enough to see us at our heat as ago Wednesday but alas! we had anow Swould get some letters writered getting an answer of to your letter. The weeks fly by so quickly. I thought I would get some letters written on in school this marnings. That is just aposts all around me. We have \$2 Monday cakes and "olds playing with amall block and seem to get time. Thy dear mrs. ferrier: and there were only 26 children out talways new out of ink and now it is friday Peu. a. E. Thomason paid us a visit a week fact average for us this I am a slamed at hery so but just how I am sitting at a kindertable with 8 two . There yearpudding instead they been done before hut they well did I never 2039 Cerelman Rue, Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 15-1945. term.

the noming we had a visit from one of the Children's lid workers to talk over the welface of a little hay be to be a few to grand by a Chinese man who is the hand of him. But former water to be Chinese to the nearly to say the former wetter to say the former wetter the say the west of age the will be all of the choose them wheel is doubted by white people's above by thinese of them wheel is doubted for much be choosed them wheel is doubted town much we do weed a home for such the wint are acquainted with my will they there along this line. I capted they were a sort this line. I capted they were they couldn't so it. If they receive my receptation some for they are seened and they was they couldn't so it. If

day, you will know that probably the what me much for mes of lave droken, pressure of this need has become too whose father is a member of one of oliver families o whose white mother has of the moment is a loy of 2/2, pure chinese, whose menter to menter care. In partie care. and another unmarried white geef. and the frieter & hother, 5/2 & 3/2, are in a Chinese Rome. But he from talylood in a white tong where he is flowing s not white home o Exected many thinkly she blinese woman who has anoteet this little Comb, another public et selfather is using to understood. God bless the & place in one of our Christian place in the dear little gent i hid Dan Relplezo too white) are with their pather uon to other members of the problems forme, is in