

File folder: Chinese in Canada-Toronto 1950, Nov. – 1952, Nov. [File number is 1988-7004-23-4]

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Oct 1 1952. "INTERVIEW WHICH MRS REID AND MISS MATTHEWS HAD WITH THE REV. D. A. SMITH, OF Vancouver, SEPT. 30TH."

More discussion of the **differences between Canadian-born and China-born Chinese.**

Sub-section heading: "Re Chinese Kindergarten". Excerpt:

"Mr. Smith says that the kindergarten is very important. He says that it is one of the finest avenues of approach to our Chinese homes. (Many of these homes are still pagan.) Then he added this: there is no reason why they could not go to the kindergarten set up by the Board of Education but "Why cut off our nose to spite our face"."

Also more info on the fate of Miss Kong (see previous folder).

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Fay McTavish off for an extended period due to goiter surgery. Miss Kong helped fill in. She seems to have been a bit unused to discipline.

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Letter from Frieda E. Matthews, National Executive Secretary, to Fay McTavish, (addressed to Room number 504, Private Patients Pavilion, Toronto General Hospital), January 21st, 1952.

Dear Fay ..

Excerpt: "As I read your annual report I thought of the many ways in which your work has developed. You mentioned that the kindergarten personnel had changed considerably, yet that is a part of all the new developments. **The fact that the Chinese families are moving away from that area appears to me to be an indication that more and more they are being assimilated into the life of Canada.** The children will attend schools in those areas, make friends, and we hope will be taken into the churches in those districts.

Meantime there is a big opportunity for our church, in visiting the homes, welcoming the new arrivals from China, and in helping a nucleus of faithful church members."

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Transcript of two speeches dated 1951 from L.P. Kan about the work of the YMCI: "WHAT THE Y.M.C.I CAN DO FOR THE CHINESE" and "SOME WORDS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE". These talk about how children born in Canada to Chinese parents often don't speak Chinese well, and do not have the pride in their ancestry and culture that they should have. Justification for taking Chinese classes, etc. There is also attached an un-dated Christmas talk "GLIMPSES OF OUR CHINESE MISSION" by L. P. Kan (probably Christmas of 1950, because it is number page 12 in this series of documents, before the other two speeches noted here. Photo-copied.

GLIMPSSES OF OUR CHINESE MISSION

By L. P. Kan

The Chinese Mission has been growing and making progress for some years. Since the change in the Citizenship and Immigration Laws of Canada, many newcomers are found recently, and more are expecting to come soon. As many of our friends are interested in the work we are doing, a summary will be found useful and opportune.

We have a family prayer meeting every Thursday. Some thirty people attend the meeting which takes place in different families of the congregation. The hostess often invites relatives and friends who have never heard of Christ, or who have no opportunity to attend the service in the church on Sundays. This meeting may help the families to know that Jesus is the Master of the Home, and lead non-Christians to hear the Gospel.

A Choir of about twenty young people give fine help to the service every Sunday. They have both English and Chinese hymn-books with music. The Ladies' Auxiliary has helped in raising funds for twenty gowns which would be ready by Christmas.

A Bazaar of the Chinese Products was conducted recently to raise funds for making gowns for the choir, and purchasing a 16 mm projector for showing sound motion pictures, that the people may know the Lord through visual education.

English classes have been formed to help the newcomers to learn English through which they may know the Master, as the students are taught the Scriptures and hymns besides the language. They come every Wednesday to learn English and Bible, and every Sunday to learn singing hymns.

A Prayer Meeting has been conducted regularly every Wednesday evening without suspension for the whole year with an attendance of twenty percent of the congregation.

As we have special meetings to mark the different occasions in the year, as Easter and Good Friday, Mother's Day and Father's Day, the Chinese National Day and Thanksgiving Day, we shall have a joyful celebration on Christmas Day, and Christmas Carols in Christmas Eve in different homes of the church members. A group of twenty or more young people driving in two automobiles pay visits to different homes, singing Christmas songs as they come, to announce the glad tidings of the birth of the Prince of Peace.

In conclusion, we hope to have the prayer and guidance of our friends and of our senior fellow churches that we may make more advance in our spiritual progress.

WITH BEST WISHES

for

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Chinese Church of Christ
The Y.M.C.
The Ladies' Auxiliary
The Young People's Society

WHAT THE Y.M.C.I. CAN DO FOR THE CHINESE

By L. P. Kan

The Y.M.C.I. is a Christian Institute founded by the Chinese for the purpose of helping and enlightening their own countrymen. It has a long history, as we are celebrating its forty-first anniversary this evening.

The Y.M.C.A. is a world function established in every chief city of the world. It helps the young men in four different ways; religiously, educationally, physically, and socially. As this Institute is formed after the model of M.M.C.A., it aims also at these four points in helping the Chinese.

Every Sunday we have Sunday service in union with the Chinese Church. The Young People's Society meets every other Monday. So the members and friends of this Institute have a chance to join and participate the meetings and religious services conducted here. As many of the members of this Institute are also members of the church, they can join in worship without discrimination. As the Y is a world function, it has no discrimination to the denomination of the Faith, so a member of any denomination may come to worship and pray, whether he is a Presbyterian, or a Baptist, or a Methodist, or a Lutheran. In fact, as Christian Faith is given to the Jews and to the Gentiles as well, the Church of Christ in China is an amalgamation of different denominations, so in China, or according to the opinions of the Chinese, there is no difference of denominations. They belong to one Church, and that is the Church of Christ. So the Chinese residents in this city are cordially invited to join and participate the meetings we have here in this building, every Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, and at the homes of the members every Thursday evening.

Besides these, we have also Young People's Meeting every other Monday, and Women's Society every Friday afternoon. These societies are very active and doing good work in helping those less fortunate, and those in need of help. They pay frequent visits to hospitals, give comforts and good feelings to those who are in distress and in of sympathy, from the religious point of view. The Chinese are guests or visitors here in this city, thousands of miles from their motherland, so they need the help and sympathy from their fellow countrymen, particularly in times of sickness or of disaster. What we can do here is to give help to these people through the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

I have asked a Chinese resident how long he has been here. He told me he had come to Canada for twenty long years. "Have you ever been to the church?" "No, never," is the answer. "Have you ever heard of Jesus Christ?" "No, no one has told me." Now, Brothers, this is the point. There are many people who in their whole life have never heard of our Lord the Saviour. How can they believe in Jesus Christ, in God, as they know nothing of Him? How can they be saved from their sins, as they have no chance to confess with their mouths or to believe in their hearts the Lord Jesus? This is what we should do for our fellow countrymen. We can lead them to the Y, that they may have a chance to know Jesus.

In the second place, many Chinese, who have come to Canada for their living, work from morning till night. They have no chance to study. They know nothing of what is going on in China. Some who have come for a generation, or a score of years, have settled down here and brought up children. These, as they are born and brought up in Canada, are of course Canadian citizens by birth, but they are still children of Chinese parents and ought to know the Chinese language, both written and spoken. But so far as I have met many Canadian-born Chinese, most of them can not write Chinese characters, though some can speak a smattering of imperfect Chinese dialect. The Y, I suggest, should teach them their mother-tongue, the Chinese language. You do not expect the Canadians to teach you Chinese.

Perhaps some may say that a Canadian-born Chinese should know English, as he will make his living through this international language. Yes, he may make his living through the English language, but anyhow he is still a Chinese by his ancestors. He may, in the long run, go back to China, or he may have intercourse with his fellow brethren in his native country. What will he do if he does not know his mother-tongue? He will have inconvenience in dealing with his relations in his mother country. So the Y should teach the Canadian-born Chinese their mother-tongue.

Moreover, when the Immigration Act has been improved, more new-comers are here day by day. Most of these young people are children of the naturalized Chinese. They have just come from China. They know nothing of English nor the Western civilization. They may come in touch with the Canadians or any English-speaking people. How can they express themselves and understand others? It is the Y which should take up the responsibility to teach them English. So through the Y, the naturalized Chinese may learn the Chinese language, and the new-comers may learn English. The Y is a medium between these two.

As the Y.M.C.I. has such a long history, I hope it will render the Chinese any assistance it can.

Delivered at the Memorial Service of
the 41st Anniversary of the Y.M.C.I.
April 15th, 1951

SOME WORDS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

I am very glad that I have this opportunity to speak to you this evening. Let me thank the Chairman for giving me this privilege. I appreciate very much the work you have done here, especially the help you have given to the church by joining the choir.

So far as I know, most of you are born here in Canada from Chinese parents. So by birth you are Canadians, but by race and ancestry or lineage you are Chinese. You are fortunate enough to be brought up and educated as Canadians, you learn English as your mother-tongue, you also learn Canadian history and geography, as you are naturalized as Canadian citizens. But learn a lesson from the Japanese. Wherever they go, they still keep their own language and civilization. Their children are taught their mother-tongue and know their own history and geography. The Chinese are able people and are found almost in any part of the world. They have done much in commercial and labouring life, as many are prosperous merchants and able workers, some have done much in science and in other courses of study. So in point of knowledge and intelligence they are not behind their foreign brothers. When they are brought up and educated here, as I have said before, they easily forget or pay no attention to their own mother-tongue, history or geography. If they live forever in foreign lands, it is alright even they forget everything of their fatherland. But anyhow they are Chinese and may go back to China sooner or later. They will feel inconvenient or even shameful if they do not know their own language. So in the first place I suggest every Chinese young man or woman who was born here should learn the Chinese written language besides the spoken. As you know, the Chinese written language is different from the spoken. In speaking you may perhaps learn or copy from your parents or older brothers or

or sisters. They, however, may not be able, or have no time to teach you to read or write the Chinese characters. You should have a class under an experienced teacher to teach you the Chinese written language, that you may feel no inconvenience in reading and writing. I do not expect you to be great writers in shaping beautiful characters as the old Chinese scholars did, but at least you are able to express your idea when you have a chance to write to your cousin or your friend in China.

In the second place, your ancestors have, in a period of several thousand long years, achieved much in the past. What they have done in their native land, and what they have done in foreign countries may give you inspiration to be better citizens. It is good to know their achievements and deeds in the past. Some may despise their own brethren and say these are backward people who can do nothing good. No, not so. Our ancestors had many inventions. Our modern weapons and arms become effective from gunpowder. Tell me, who invented the gunpowder. It was a Chinese. Sailing in an endless ocean in a liner, or flying in the wide, wide air in a plane, how do you know the direction without a compass? But tell me, who was the first to use the compass. It was, also, a Chinese. Knowledge is spread by books, and the circulation of books depends upon printing. Without printing, you cannot let people know or publish a certain event in millions of copies as what we do in modern journalism. Tell me who invented the art of printing. It was, again, a Chinese. The Chinese invented these instruments of civilization, the white men copied them and improved them, and became far more advanced than we. As we have already the genius of invention, we can do the same or even better than the white people do. We have a record of brilliant history, so we should know our history which inspires us very much.

Moreover, our fathers were born in a country whose area is larger than that of Great Britain and her colonies combined. China has a population equal to that of Soviet Russia or that of India.

Do you know the natural features of China? The topography of China? The other day I was a witness of a certain Chinese woman who asked another where she had come from. The latter told her that she had come from Swatow. The lady was so stunned that she asked in what part of the world is Swatow, and said that she had never heard of that city. She even had not the slightest idea that Swatow is in China, in Kwangtung, not far from the city where she was born. She knows only such cities as Montreal, or Ottawa, but not such as Shanghai, Nanking or Foochow. What rivers are there in Kiangsu? What products and what exports are there in Kwangtung? What minerals are there in Yunnan or in Kweichow? How are the railways, rivers, or transportation in different provinces of China? What mountains and what well known places of scenery you can name? These are all very interesting and important. As we are Chinese, we should know the geography of China.

In conclusion, what I would like to say is:

Do not forget that you are Chinese;

Do not despise your own culture; and

Try to learn, if possible, the best that is in China.

L. P. Kan

At P. Y. P. S.
April 16th, 1951.