

**1937 "Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Women's Missionary Society W. D.,
Presbyterian Church in Canada"**

"Chinese in Canada" – printed pp 73-76.

Mentions the work of **Mrs. Adams** with **non-Chinese women** in Toronto (as noted in preliminary research report already sent to Elise)

Sub-section heading: "Deaconess Department"

Excerpt: (72) "In Toronto, our hospital visitor, **Miss Mary Murray**, is truly a "Helper of Joy". Space does not permit the enumeration of instances of comfort and joy brought to the sick by a sympathetic hand-clasp, a cheery word, by a jar of jam left at the bedside, or dainty baby clothes for the unmarried mother. Eternity alone will reveal what this ministry of love has done for those broken in spirit and in body."

[Report signed: "(Mrs. W. H.) Tena A. Mitchell, Secretary"]

A bright spot in the year's record is revealed in the report of our Hungarian worker, Mrs. Charles Steinmetz. "The year which has just closed upon us has decidedly been the peak year of the five years of our history as a congregation. In the past year more than ever before our congregation has grown spiritually, financially, and numerically. In 1937 they received their ordained minister, had the largest number of new communicants, the largest number partook of Holy Communion, had the best attended services, and the revenue of the congregation was three times that of previous years." Through the gift of \$1,000 from the Women's Missionary Society this congregation was able to purchase the lot on which to build their church.

In Montreal Miss Iris Munro is at present doing survey work in the congregation of Hochelaga. During the summer she will continue to meet the ocean vessels coming to Montreal. During the year many of the people met at the boats were visitors, but to those coming to Canada for the first time a friendly deaconess with a friendly greeting meant much. Young and old were cheered and helped on their way. Ninety-eight boats and forty-seven trains were met by our worker.

Space will not permit an adequate report of the activities of our fourteen national workers, each one striving in her own way and with God's help to minister to the people with whom she is connected.

A report of our Deaconess Department would not be complete without reference to the interest taken in the various summer camps. In all cases the deaconesses were the leaders, and each reports the excellent opportunity afforded at the camps for a closer personal contact with the girls and boys. One deaconess writes: "At camp we had thirty-eight girls and leaders. It was a lovely spot and we had such happy times together. At camp it seems as though instead of just hearing about Jesus, we come to really know Him. One girl said, 'I have gone to Sunday School and church all my life and heard about Jesus, but here He seems as real a person as the friend you were telling us about the other day.' Ten days at camp makes us realize what our homes and communities might be if He were given the pre-eminence."

A paragraph from one of the workers' reports seems to sum up the longing and the hope that each of us should have for the work before us: "Looking forward to the New Year, there is the consciousness that problems and difficulties will be encountered; probably the greatest of these will be indifference. Figures do not tell of contacts with personalities, of hearts unburdened, or of encouragement and new hope because of words spoken in pulpit, home, or hospital. Unless through our service here, there are lives being nobly lived, children trained in unselfishness, service and righteousness, and hearts made hopeful and strong because of the 'Good News' we have proclaimed, we are not faithful to the Church which has entrusted us with its message, or to Christ in whose name and by whose grace and strength we serve."

(Mrs. W. H.) TENA A. MITCHELL,
Secretary.

Chinese In Canada

Place	Staff	Date of Appointment
Victoria, B.C.	Miss Gertrude Scott	1926
	Miss Grace Lee	1931
Vancouver, B.C.	Miss Ruth Yeandle	1931
	Mrs. G. P. Louie	1930

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Toronto, Ont.	Miss Esther Armstrong (died June 29th, 1937)	1933
	Miss Lily Yeung	1932
	Dr. Jessie MacBean	1905
Montreal, Que.	Miss Agnes I. Dickson, B.A.	1904
	*Mrs. Jean Herman	1929
	Miss Elsie Lee	1935
	Mrs. Gee	1937
	Part Time Workers	
Toronto, Ont.	Mrs. W. F. Adams	
	Miss Helena W. Gibbs (temporary)	
	Voluntary Worker	
Ottawa, Ont.	Miss Reid	

*Resigned.

In this report we wish to emphasize two points. The first is the continued and well sustained interest of the Chinese people themselves, in spite of their deep concern for their fellow countrymen in China. In all cases where allocations were made, these were fully met, and in some instances where no allocation was made, voluntary givings to the Society were increased. The other point is the necessity of looking to the future in the matter of trained workers. It would be so encouraging to have two or three young women from time to time dedicate themselves to this work and be ready to replace those who in course of time must have a well-earned rest.

Victoria. Miss Scott and Miss Lee carried on as in 1936. In the kindergarten there was a small decrease; we think the days of the crowded room are over, as there seem to be fewer small children. Most of them remain two or three years and gain a fair knowledge of the simple Bible stories and hymns; twenty-two of them attended Sunday School last year. We also have an afternoon school of one hour. Classes for women met every afternoon, five women learning to read English and six to read the Scriptures in Chinese. Chinese classes were conducted by Rev. Mr. Leung and Miss Lee, with sixty-six enrolled; Bible instruction is given, and a small fee covers expenses. The Women's Missionary Society Auxiliary with eighteen members reached its allocation; Rev. D. A. Smith, Rev. Mr. Leung, Mrs. McKinnon, Presbyterian President, and Mrs. Kennedy, Mission Band Secretary, gave addresses. The Mission Band has twenty-two members, in two study groups; Miss Lee took the smaller ones and Miss Scott the older ones, who studied *Friends Around the World* and *The Glad Tidings*, the last half hour being spent in sewing, etc. The Shining Light Girls' Guild met fortnightly, always having a mission study period; and the members are all in the choir. The Sunday School has ninety pupils. Many parents are not Christian and the children are left to decide whether to attend or not. It is very gratifying that twenty awards were given for good attendance. The Young People's Society's president, Ruth Leung, left in September for University, but it is carrying on under hard-working officers. The usual visits to hospitals and homes were made regularly.

Vancouver. Miss Yeandle reports a very busy year. Mrs. Louie was ill for a few months, her place being filled by Miss Isabelle Bennett, a voluntary worker. A Girls' Missionary Club, organized in January by Miss Elsie Potter, meets weekly for mission study, contributed \$2.00 to our Society, and provided ten new hymn books for the Church. The Mission Band is flourishing, and contributed \$4.50 to our Society. Our largest kindergarten is here, with forty-four pupils. In May Miss Myrtle Sellers started a communicants' class, eight of whose members joined the Church in June. The annual picnic was held in May. At the school closing in June Mrs. R. M. Thomson pre-

sented certificates. A Va Yeandle, had seventy-five and Rev. D. A. Smith to Church, donated the ref Fairview Young Women's a camp on Keats Island. The Young People's Society of Mrs. Dorothy Smith an ing speakers, and contrib exceeded its allocation, started, bringing in \$2.50 Miss Yeandle, Rev. D. A. F. Y. Louie gave address who came to the meetings much to the Chinese wom Mrs. Louie was back and Vancouver Heights, spoke larly, and the children ass correspondence is growi province receive Sunday parents read these cards Smith has followed up th The Chinese people are m has drawn them nearer to Chinese relief.

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sented certificates. A Vacation School, in charge of Miss Bennett and Miss Yeandle, had seventy-five pupils. Rev. W. A. Cameron, Rev. John McTurk, and Rev. D. A. Smith took part, and Mr. R. Harvey, an elder in Fairview Church, donated the refreshments for the closing. Donations from the Fairview Young Women's Circle and others enabled seventeen girls to go to a camp on Keats Island in July. The girls enjoyed this outing immensely. The Young People's Society had a good year and we are grateful for the help of Mrs. Dorothy Smith and Miss Myrtle Sellers; the members heard outstanding speakers, and contributed \$4.00 to the Manchurian fund. The Auxiliary exceeded its allocation, raising \$37.09; a Home Helpers Department was started, bringing in \$2.50; we hope to greatly extend this work; Mrs. Dong, Miss Yeandle, Rev. D. A. Smith, Mrs. John Fee, Mrs. G. P. Louie, and Mrs. F. Y. Louie gave addresses. We are grateful to members of other Auxiliaries who came to the meetings and helped with refreshments; their presence means much to the Chinese women. Christmas brought much work and much cheer; Mrs. Louie was back and at a splendid entertainment Rev. R. C. Acheson, of Vancouver Heights, spoke. Home and hospital visitation is carried on regularly, and the children assisted at four churches. The new work carried on by correspondence is growing. Fifty-five children in outlying parts of the province receive Sunday School papers and Chinese picture cards. The parents read these cards to the children and thus are being reached. Mr. Smith has followed up these cards with visits, which are much appreciated. The Chinese people are more receptive to-day than ever before. Their trouble has drawn them nearer to us, and six of our people are on the executive for Chinese relief.

The Mission was very much saddened by the death of their former worker, Esther Armstrong. They felt they had lost a real friend, a link between East and West, and now think of her as a link between them and our Heavenly Home.

Saskatchewan. Mrs. Farley carried on her good work of distributing Christian literature among the Chinese families in this province. We are convinced that this work is more needed now than ever before.

Toronto. It was a very trying year. In June Esther Armstrong, our much loved head worker, died after six weeks' illness. Miss Yeung, assisted by her sister Pansy and Miss Lambert, kept the work going, and we had a very successful kindergarten closing in June. The Vacation School in July had an average attendance of twenty-eight, Miss Yeung and Pansy conducting the kindergarten and Miss Lambert and Ruby Ma the primary department. Through the kindness of Miss Ferguson a happy closing party was held in the garden of the Deaconess Home. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong of Cooke's Church led the Young People's Society, a splendid group, which sent \$68.75 to Chinese relief; on Thursday evenings they had the use of St. Andrew's Church gymnasium. The C.G.I.T. continued under the able leadership of Miss Jean MacMurchy. Miss Helena Gibbs had charge of the Mission Band, assisted by Miss Lambert, Miss G. Wilson of St. Andrew's Church, and Miss Pauline Esler of the Deaconess Home; it met every Saturday and contributed \$6.00 to our Society. The Boy Scouts, under Edward Haines of Chalmers Church, is one of the best troops in Toronto. We have a large Sunday School in Cooke's Church, much of its success due to Mr. John Reid, who for ten years has driven the children to and fro. We do need a car; the families are scattered all over Toronto and the little ones cannot come to Sunday School or kindergarten unless called for. The women meet on Friday afternoons to work for their annual bazaar, and a Bible lesson, with singing and prayer, follows. From the bazaar proceeds \$800.00 in Chinese money was sent to China to be divided between the Red Cross and mission work and

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\$30.00 given to the Women's Missionary Society. In October Dr. Jessie MacBean consented to head up our work and Miss Helena Gibbs, missionary-designate to Manchuria, was appointed to help in the kindergarten. It was felt that the knowledge she would gain of the Chinese and the experience of working under Dr. MacBean would be valuable in her Manchurian work. On Monday evening Mrs. Adams has her class of non-Chinese women; she has won their confidence and many of them attend the Friday meetings, too, and seem grateful for a place to come to. This is a far-reaching work, mostly done by visiting. There was the usual Christmas concert and supper at Cooke's Church. When Miss Petch, who always had charge of the supper and taught in the Sunday School for many years, died just before the new year, the Chinese people lost a good friend. A dream very near Esther Armstrong's heart was to have our own church as a centre for all our work in Toronto.

Ottawa. Miss Katharine Reid, our voluntary worker, reports a good year under the leadership of Mr. Paul Chan, teacher-evangelist. He conducts daily classes for the children and men. The usual picnic and Christmas entertainment were held. At the Mission Band rally one of our girls received her blue badge. We hope soon to have a Boy Scout troop. There were two Communion services, one in April conducted by Rev. D. A. Smith, when twenty-one communicated. The women were visited regularly, but missed Miss Dickson's fall visit.

Montreal. The work has progressed quietly and steadily and we have forty-one Chinese homes. The thing uppermost in the minds of the Chinese people at present is the war, and thirteen cases of clothing were sent to Hong Kong. The Mission Band, with twenty-seven members under Miss Aiken and Mrs. David, took part in the March rally and contributed \$5.60 to the Society. The kindergarten had fewer children but the work was as interesting as ever. We regret the loss in September of Mrs. Herman, whose care for the children's health and efficient work as teacher makes her place hard to fill. Mrs. Gee, a young Chinese woman, is acting as substitute teacher, and Miss Lee continues to give real satisfaction. The children attended the New Year's rally, and through the kindness of the Mission Band of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul each child received a valentine by mail. We are very grateful for the services of a child specialist, who examines the children regularly, as part of the city's Child Welfare work. Solomon Leung and Miss Lee conducted a successful Vacation School, fortunate in having the help of Mrs. Miller, a returned missionary from China, and of Miss de Pierro, a talented musician. One hundred and twenty attended the annual picnic. Mrs. Trill, who so long and faithfully helped with the music, had to give up this work, but secured for us Mrs. Steele, who is instructing fourteen pupils, four of whom took part in the Christmas entertainment. The Young Women's Bible Class has continued. Its members visited other groups, helped with the supply work of the Olive Ross Auxiliary, and joined in a carol service with the young people of First Church, Verdun. There were many opportunities to present our work to groups in and around Montreal and Miss Dickson made two visits to Ottawa. We again express our sincere thanks to the members of Montreal Presbyterial for their continued interest in and generosity to our work.

(Mrs. J. C.) MARGARET E. B. WOOD,
Secretary.