

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

American Board

Board of International Missions

November 7, 1960

United Church of Christ
Pacific Area Missionaries

Dear Friends:

Much as I would like to recapture some of the pageantry of the Anniversary Meeting at Farmington, Connecticut, I think it will be best to leave that part of the reporting on the Annual Meetings of our two Boards to the UNITED CHURCH HERALD. As you can imagine, the attempt to dovetail separate sessions of the two Boards with the great public meetings, the tour of points of historic interest, the sessions of the American Board Corporation (televised in part for news programs throughout New England), and the afternoon of expanded Area Committee meetings resulted in four days of frantic activity.

Time and again it proved gratifying, fruitful activity, however, as I hope this letter will demonstrate to you. And for all the activity, there were moments of profound spiritual experience for all of us: the evening service in West Hartford, shared with the Connecticut Conference and including a chancel enactment of the 1810 organizational meeting of the American Board in Rev. Noah Porter's parlor in Farmington; the afternoon service led by Rev. Abe Akaka of Hawaii, a memorial for the Hawaiian youth who trained to be the first missionary to his people and then died with his ambition unfulfilled but with a host of others inspired with his zeal---the unexpected spiritual climax of the week for many; and the evening service in the Farmington Church with Dr. Carleton, Bishop Rodriguez of the Philippines, and Bishop Selvaretnam of Ceylon to raise the curtain on tomorrow's horizons.

The enlarged Area Committee meetings gave us a two-hour period in which to do some probing in depth with Corporation members who do not, of course, attend the regular meetings of the Prudential Committee (although the membership has not yet settled completely into the final pattern because of unfinished terms, there are 113 E&R members of the Corporation even now---somewhat more CC members at the moment but 112 eventually in the new Board). The program included my own half-hour presentation, statements by five of the visitors, and forty-five minutes of discussion, sparked oftentimes by our visitors and taking us into problems of recruiting and support and program emphasis. We weren't working for new policy, and I think we moved toward the objective: a larger unit of membership much better aware of the opportunities and the problems we face in meeting them. It was great to have Alice and Frank Cary with us and to have such a list of visitors from overseas: Dr. and Mrs. Rodriguez of the Philippines; Rev. and Mrs. Masaichi Honami of Mito; Dr. Otsuka and Prof. Yanagishima of the Doshisha; President Tamaiki of Baika; Rev. and Mrs. Paul Nishida of Sapporo; Rev. Shunji Iwamura of Tokyo; and Mr. and Mrs. Motoo Sakata of Osaka.

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Before we move on to budget matters, it may be well to share the good news of the long-awaited break-through on the question of a new term-and-furlough policy. The Boards took identical action (even though this meant mention of fields not yet on the roster for one or the other), and we now have at least this much of a start on our new Board Handbook! Here's the action (60-PC-427):

- "(1) That, as of January 1961, a five-year term with twelve months of furlough, exclusive of travel time, be considered as normal practice for all fields with the exception of Angola, Ghana, Honduras and Micronesia, which continue according to present rules. The application of this change to the furlough schedule of missionaries completing five years of the present term during 1961 will be considered by the field bodies and the Area Secretary in terms of staffing needs.
- (2) That the first term and first furlough follow the normal pattern and that, in accordance with present practice, applications from field bodies for shorter or longer subsequent terms and furloughs to meet urgent personal or field needs be considered in their individual merits.
- (3) That thereafter, if the field requests deviations from the normal pattern, the following alternatives be considered.
 - (a) In general, term and furlough shall be in the proportion of one month of furlough for each six months spent on the field;
 - (b) A three-year term with a three-month furlough will be recognized as an approved alternative, but two successive furloughs of this sort will not normally be permitted;
 - (c) In cases where parents and children on Board support will presumably be separated for a period of more than two years, subsidy may be granted for the visit of a child to the field in place of a shortened term and early furlough for the parents."

I think you all understand that furloughs must be cleared with Staff (the American Board has the Executive Cabinet take action on each one), so that the general procedure remains as before: plans for furlough under any of these provisions will still have to come to us here with an accompanying field request (Mission, Field Committee, Personnel Committee, as the case may be) for final Staff of ExCab action.

Another general action which is of particular interest to our E&R missionaries should probably be included here because it indicates the direction of our integration moves. American Board freight allowances are among the most generous of all DFM-related boards, and the contrast with the BIM has become harder to take as we've moved together. The BIM has moved onto middle ground, holding open at least the possibility that AB allowances at this point may eventually be scaled downward in a final adjustment. The BIM action (B60-76):

"That, pending formulation of a new Manual regulations in regard to freight allowances, the Staff be authorized to grant freight allowances for missionaries departing for the field according to the following schedule and that this authorization be declared effective as of August 1, 1960:

- (1) for career appointees, 3 cubic tons (that is, 120 cubic feet or 1,200 pounds) per adult plus one cubic ton for each child;
- (2) for missionaries returning after furlough, one cubic foot for every \$4.00 of re-outfit allowance."

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There is one general action by the AB which will be of interest to all of you, I'm sure, although the details and the timing of the allocations have not yet been decided. The action blocks out the anticipated breakdown on the AB portion of Christian Higher Education Fund receipts, and, while a comprehensive list of priorities is in preparation, it is not yet clear where our own Area institutions will fall in the list; payments will undoubtedly be spread over a four-or five-year period. What is particularly important in these last months of the drive is that you emphasize the educational work in your areas and encourage the churches with which you have some special contact to go this "second mile". Our hope is that the level of giving of CC churches will rise to include the equivalent of CHEF contributions by the time the collections are completed, so that we will have a solid basis for our budget increases all across the board. The action taken(60-PC0453):

"Voted that the following schedule, based on askings prepared by the Area Secretaries in consultation with their fields, and set forth in detail in the list attached to these minutes, be approved for the distribution of receipts from the Christian Higher Education Fund, as such funds are received:

For Theological Education	\$ 698,000
For General Education	1,506,100
For Scholarships	527,400
For Campus Ministries	68,500
	<u>TOTAL \$2,800,000</u>
Later Allocation	200,000
	<u>\$3,000,000</u>

It is further understood that the order of priorities in which payments will be made, as money is received, is to be determined by the Executive Cabinet on recommendation of the Administrative Council, and that the same bodies are authorized to modify recommended grants in the light of changing circumstances between the time of the adoption of this schedule and the making of any actual payments."

The divisions for the Pacific Area stand as follows at the moment: (1) Theological Education, \$128,000; (2) General Education, \$313,500; (3) Scholarships, \$178,000; and (4) Campus Ministry, \$53,000.

For both Boards, the 1961 budgets are little different from those of 1960, although there has been expansion on both sides. This expansion has taken a great deal of faith in the constituency on both sides, for it flies in the face of facts which exist at this moment. For various reasons (United Seminaries appeal on the E&R side; CHEF and a steadily expanding conference program everywhere on the CC side), there has been no indication so far this year that the churches will meet the expanded budgets of last year with corresponding support. There is some fear that E&R apportionment payments will not even meet the "guaranteed advance" which General Synod provides the boards and agencies. For the AB, contributions from churches and individuals are \$40,000 less than at this time last year, so that it would appear that the quarter million dollar advance in the 1960 budget will have to come out of reserves! Despite all this, the Boards have chosen to believe that the churches will rise to the need in another year, and we must give them every measure of support possible.

A point which I tried to make with the other Pacific Area fields last year needs a special emphasis now. Special, designated gifts---beyond Authorized Specials and beyond the budgets, of course---have increased even while the AB has had to draw on reserves to meet your basic work budget. It is easy to make a forceful appeal for special projects and special people, I know; and churches here at home are all too prone to attempt to block out some little area of endeavor they can call "their own". But there is drama in the core of the work budget too---or there should be, if it's designed to serve the real priorities in our total work and witness; and the budget must certainly be working exciting miracles in the lives of the people around each of you.... through you and through the schools and through the Word made more real and relevant. We need your help in pointing this out to the churches with which you are in contact, for, while we're making the leap of faith another year, we can't go on draining reserves. There'll have to be new support for the budget itself next year, or the core work budgets everywhere will have to feel the pinch in 1962.

Despite the fact that the askings constituted an 8% or 9% increase over 1960, the Micronesia requests were granted just about as the Mission presented them. I don't think it requires much comment:

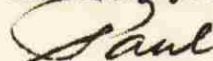
I. General Work.....		\$14,775.
Marshalls Station	\$ 1,250.	
Kusaie Station	1,800.	
Truk Station	900.	
Ponape Station	7,070.	
Field Superintendent	1,855.	
*Bible Translation (Bailey)	900.	
Boat Maintenance	1,000.	
II. Non-Recurring.....		4,000.
Mizpah High School Dev.	1,000.	
Delegates, Samoa Conference	3,000.	
III. National Leadership (scholarships).....		2,000.

*With no confirmation as yet, we're assuming that Park Street Church will provide this item.

Building grants for the Mizpah High School and for the Ohwa schools are included in the priority list for the appropriation of CHEF grants. I don't know when these may become available, but I think the importance of the total training program has been established beyond any doubt, so that we are hoping to be able to give you new help at these points, although we have assumed that there will be Liebenzell help also and do not at present have hopes of sufficient AB funds to carry the Mizpah High School project unaided.

I'm looking forward eagerly to the February visits, for it's going to be so much easier to speak for you when I've had an opportunity to know you and your work firsthand. If there are questions about the above, I'll try to answer them before or during the visits. Power to each of you and the patience to use it with love; and great joy and satisfaction as you take these prosaic facts and figures from home and translate them into the living fabric of the Church in the islands.

Sincerely yours,



Paul R. Gregory
Pacific Area Secretary