

Chunju, Chosen,
May 24, 1931.

My dear loving friends and relatives:

Soon I hope to be seeing you all as it is just a month today that I will sail from Kobe, Japan, arriving in Vancouver July 8th. Time is going fast in some respects and in other ways it is dragging, both of which are acceptable. I long to see you all and rest and get some inspiration and build up in body and soul. I do hate to leave the work here and in spite of not being as strong physically as I would like to have been, this year, it has been a happy year's work and I am loathe to leave it and these people. They are so loving and appreciative of anything you do for them, and no trouble has arisen in the work to mar the thoughts of it as I leave it to come home for a year.

We all hate to come home for fear something will happen that we won't get back here, as some have each year during the past four or five years, and I don't want to be the one this time to have to stay unless of course it is the will of God. I want to do what He wants me to do, and I am praying that if something does come up that I won't get back that I will have surrendered my will to His so completely on the subject that it will be no pang of sorrow or regret because He will send me back unless He has further work for me in the home land.

Never in all the eleven years I have been out here have the Koreans been so responsive to the Gospel message. They are longing to hear and begging for workers to come to them, and the regular visitations of the evangelists in church or gathering place are full to over-flowing, even in the city churches here in town, the heathen are crowding in. Two weeks ago 40 new believers received baptism and came into full membership of the church, while there were over a hundred who were received as new believers on probation, as is the custom here, to give them a year or longer according to their spiritual growth and knowledge of the Bible and witnessing before others, before being baptized into full membership and regular communicants. Not a bad custom is it? Certainly it stimulates the spiritual growth of each. From what I hear and read I am afraid there are a good many so called church members in the home land no better than the heathen in these so called heathen lands when it comes to real religion and spirituality. For that one reason I most dread to come home. I hate to see my beloved country turning heathen in many ways, while knowledge of worldly things have the upper hand. Did not Rome so develop as well as other nations in past history, and where are they today?

The little heathen Sunday school which I started five years ago is still in existence, and a month or so ago, the little girl who recited the catechism to me within a year after attending and to whom I gave a scholarship to come to our school, came to me and said the people of the village told her to come and ask me to send a Bible woman to the village for study and prayer. My heart leaped with joy and my prayers are being answered. Not having been able myself to walk that far every Sunday for over a year to attend the Sunday school I feared lest they were going backward, although a deacon in the local church here has been going every Sunday since I stopped until after Christmas when he came to me and said that it wasn't any pleasure any more going out there and he was going to stop. I told him all right if that was the way he felt about it. The local pastor of West Gate Church had sent him out there when I had to stop and because I was sick at Xmas time and didn't give any money towards the Xmas entertainment he lost interest and I suppose didn't create interest in the children attending. So this new cord of revival was certainly a happy one and Bible women are going out there every Sunday afternoon and the man is attending Sunday school also. The good part about this new interest that it is among the women and men of the village who five years ago when I started were all opposed to my coming there and we had to meet out doors even in the winter time because no home opened to us for nearly a year and a half. It's about three miles out there and many of the women come into the West Gate Church occasionally and every Sunday the old man of the village is seen trotting home with his cane as support. He has been faithful since the first six months but he hasn't any influence over the other men in the village. They have been begging and begging me to come out there before I go home and I am going this afternoon with the Bible teacher from our school who is a lovely strong Christian woman and wonderful speaker, and has such good influence over the girls, she is also dormitory supervisor. Of course I hate to leave all this interest, love, faith, and hope. I put love first, because that is where it belongs. I loved them and they loved me, long before faith or hope sprung into existence. They are still meeting in the two six-by-six rooms of a widow who gave them to us Sunday afternoons three years and a half ago. Warm days they meet in her yard, instead of the room.

I hate to leave the girls in the school too, I will miss them. They are so thotful and helpful, and my weakness this last year has been God's opportunity for His strength to be used thru me, I believe. He has said that it would and I know that it has been so. Since Xmas I have not lost a day from school, or the work, in any way, and yet I only have had strength for that much and no more. Six o'clock has seen me in bed many a time, but

I am glad to have had this work to do, it has been no drag, but a joy, no great trouble but an opportunity to witness and speak for Him.

This term, since April, I have had one more additional class, besides my music, industrial and principalship. In face of the cut and lowering salaries and getting rid of one teacher to reduce expenses that much, Miss Winn was asked to help teach Bible in the school when she was not able to go to the country. Just four days before school opened, she was taken sick with pneumonia and is still in bed not able to get up yet. I had classes shifted so that one class could be provided for in Bible and I have been teaching that, in the third grade of the common school. The Bible teacher has all she can do with the other five classes of Bible teaching from three to four times a week in each so that her time has been full, and doubling up on other teachers in the other subjects. I had to do this, and it has been an added joy and blessing and gets me in closer touch with the younger children that I didn't have before. They are so interested in the Bible stories that children at home have heard all their lives and they are so new to them. I always did love to tell stories to children from my own childhood days up thru school and finally ten years in the kindergarten at home, and in little Sunday schools out here. There is nothing so inspiring as to see the eager faces upturned to you, drinking in every word you are saying. We have just gotten the children of Israel into Canaan and we had a good time getting them there. They were much interested in Moses and the ten plagues, and how God saved His people. The music in the school is a constant joy, and the older girls who have gone out from the school, several have come back to me this year and thanked me for having taught them even a little music so they could play the hymns in the heathen Sunday schools of their villages and in the kindergartens most every church of any size throughout the country carries on.

The girls get these positions because they know how to play a little. Always the new beginners' first question is, "When can I begin to learn to play hymns?" We have three now in the second grade of the high school and two in the first grade who can play most every hymn of general use, I believe. The music in the school is a great drawing card to our high school. We have more children this spring term than ever before, 206 registered, last year we had just 200. Of course some will drop off, they always do, but even so we are happy so many are coming to us. Wish I had time and you did too to tell you more about the work. Have been so interested in the school work this year. Since I have been in charge new views have been brought to my attention and new interests and likewise new and more responsibility. I have so enjoyed leading in turn at chapel

time, it used to frighten me dreadfully to lead, but I have gotten over that and it has been a great privilege and blessing.

Will see some of you soon and hope to see all of you in the course of the next year. Don't forget the work and the obligations some of you have made in supporting girls out here. They are still looking to you for financial help as in the past, and your hard times should not affect the little obligations you have made. The girls are still in school and money is running short for them. To those of you who have not been able or especially interested in helping girls get this little education, I can say that I hope you will see the vision of need and come in and join those who have and get the blessing awaiting you, from so sacrificing, what to them is a large amount of money is small in dollars and cents and you wouldn't miss it more than one month out of your advantages or other obligations you already have. What is \$30 a year compared to nothing for weeks or even 40 cents a day the best laborers here get for work when there is work to be gotten? One of the sad things of the school work is to have to get after the children to bring in 25 cents a month for tuition. When their names are read out towards the last of the month as the deficient ones and sent home, they cry and look so pitiful and you know they probably haven't had any thing to eat that morning or any other morning maybe for weeks, but rice water, and is that very sustaining? I tell you that gets next to your heart and you realize what it means 'to bleed a turnip' as is a common saying in America. None of us in America know the real meaning of pulling heart strings or purse strings until it hurts, like these people do, when you try to get money out of them it also pulls your heart strings of sympathy and makes you ready to cry with them. We do feel the cut dreadfully, but then I mustn't get on that subject, it's too big a one and I have tried to keep from mentioning it all thru this letter. The only thing of comfort about it is that money is nothing in God's sight. He has all power to turn misfortunes into blessings and His name should be glorified in and thru us, no matter what money can do or can't do, it's all His and the work is His and is more precious in His sight than in ours, and I am so thankful it is that way.

I sail on the Empress of Canada, second class, June 25th, arriving Vancouver July 8th. My address will be, 691 Woodland Ave., S.E., Atlanta, Ga. I expect, God willing, to make Wm. Earl's home my headquarters this furlough and I am counting on it a lot. It's a grand feeling to know that you have homes opened to you and arms waiting to welcome you after five years of wandering in any country where mission work is carried on. It's like a haven of rest sure enough. I believe I am the richest wanderer alive with three homes where my feet can find welcome and rest. I have spoken of rest so much in this letter. It only is a tell-tale of my need of

change and rest and loved ones to love and comfort you. I suppose not being up to par physically makes my mind also dwell on the meaning of rest.

Lovingly yours,

Janet Crane

P.S. In mentioning those who can play fairly well among the students, I failed to mention the girls in the third grade of the high school, where it is taken for granted that they have music, that is, organ or piano as a regular course, from the second grade of high school, so that by the time they get to the last grade (which is third grade with us) it is required of each graduated that she can play at least three hymns and two marches. So those in our third year this year can all play hymns and marches for kindergarten use. One girl in particular plays any hymn she wants to and has been all this last year. She plays for the girls' Sunday afternoon meeting, often teaching the little children special songs to sing at that time. She is really talented and would like to go on studying music, she says after she finishes here next April. I had two to graduate who were specially gifted and I did so long to help one of them to further study, so she could be a teacher of music in my stead, but no funds were available to send her to a music school and so she is just playing the little marches in a kindergarten and for church services in a nearby growing town and church, not a bad position in itself, but I had higher ambitions for her particularly.

Received at Nashville, Tennessee, June 13, 1931.

Address: Miss Janet Crane, 691 Woodland Avenue, S.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

Soonchun, Korea,
May 26, 1934

My dear Friends:

Wonder if you are as much surprised as I was to know that I was moved by the Mission in April and will live here in Soonchun and work. In February a letter from this station went to Chunju Station saying they were contemplating asking the Mission when it met in April to release me from Chunju and let me come here to work, so I have not been writing letters until I knew definitely just what would happen at Mission meeting.

The Mission granted Soonchun's request and I have been here about three weeks. It's lovely to be here with my brother and family and I am very happy in the work and assignment. I have 23 teaching hours in classes, teaching Bible in the fourth and fifth grades of both the girls' and boys' schools, and English in the first grade of the boys' High School, then all of the music in both schools from the fourth grade on up. Besides I now have eight piano pupils, which teaching comes outside of the 23 regular classes. My assignment on Sundays is to itinerate among the seven churches of Mr. Unger's field working among the women. Two churches have already asked me to come twice a month and give them special Bible teaching.

Have been to two of the churches for Sunday services and tomorrow go to the third church. The first one has a new stone building built by the few men of the village as they had time and the money to build it, so that when it was finished, the building had no debt on it and was dedicated right away. One bright young man from that church is coming in, five miles, once a week for me to teach him to play a little \$10.00 organ they are getting. I have more requests for music pupils than I have the time for – they think I am made of India rubber, I guess.

Was sorry to leave the many Korean friends in Chunju, but will be making friends here. From the first day, every Korean who knew who I was, tho I did not know them, stopped me on the road and said they were glad I had come to work for them here, and the missionaries have all given me a most cordial welcome. Hope this happiness is not a dream to wake up from, for I am happier in the work than I have been for some years.

I had gotten to the point where I felt my usefulness in the industrial work in Chunju was over and didn't see much future for me in it, although the industrial is to be carried on, yet I was not happy in it and the doctors

said that I should have a change of work if my health was to improve. I have fought the prospect of a change of work for some years, knowing that the industrial work was so necessary in Chunju for girls to get a Christian education, but after much prayer for some six months to be guided in the right way, this work was opened up for me, and I find it such a satisfactory kind of work, teaching Bible and music and the chance to itinerate some, too.

Do pray for me that I will be used in a special way for bringing more souls into His kingdom. I do feel the opportunity is greater for soul winning as I have more chance to come in contact with a larger number of girls and boys in Bible teaching, and then in the itinerating work, while it is not strenuous, I can teach and talk to more people about their soul's salvation.

The first Sunday out, a woman of the village we visited went with me to 25 heathen homes and we had good chances to talk with not only those living in those houses but neighbors who were already there in a social way. Could have gone to many more homes only it was time for supper and soon the night session was to begin.

Hope you are all well and that God will continue to bless you in a larger way.

Sincerely yours,

Janet Crane

Received at Nashville, Tennessee, June 22, 1934.
Address: Miss Janet Crane, Soonchun, Korea.
Postage: Letters five cents, postcards three cents.

[Source: Emma Carleton Scrapbook #4, p. 518]