

YOUR BRIDGE TO CHINA



*The
Reformation Translation
Fellowship*

The Reformation Translation Fellowship

Your Bridge to China

Language is a bridge across which eager minds move to greater heights and new discoveries; great thoughts from strangers become ours, and our thoughts become theirs.

Christianity has circled the earth, its Good News of Jesus the Saviour of the world being carried across the bridge of language, haltingly, by "foreigners" and strangers, by word of mouth, by writing or by the printed page, to peoples who had never heard the News.

For thirteen centuries and more, Christianity came into China from a full score of Christian nations, and in many forms, and yet, millions in China today have never heard of a Saviour from sin. Anti-Christ, temporarily, we believe, bars the gateway and has closed the language bridge to the Land of Cathay. Christian missionaries and Christian literature are denied entry into the greatest unfinished mission field of all the world by a Communist power that seeks to root out Christian faith from the world. Truly an abyss seems now to separate the West from the Chinese people behind the Bamboo Curtain. Still, "the Word of God is not bound."



THE ORIGIN OF THE REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP

Mao Tse-tung of Communist China is no friend of Christianity. He is a dedicated Marxist, fully convinced that the Communist revolution will eradicate all religion from the earth. He does not realize that God rules in Asia, even in events which seem disastrous to Christian evangelism in China. God's Word says:

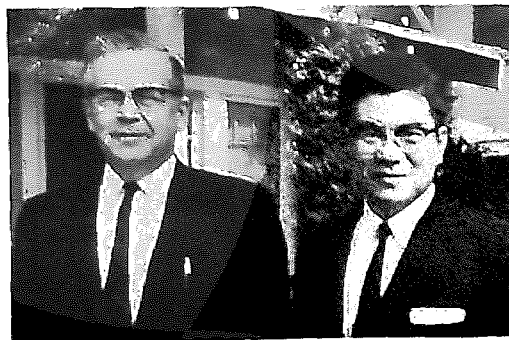
"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain."
Psalm 76:10

The Reformation Translation Fellowship is one of many evidences that God the Lord of the harvest has His own mysterious purpose in historical changes that seem to threaten the destruction of the Church. Out of trouble is born a new proof of God's love.

As Communist armies in 1947-1948 swept down in victory through Manchuria, North and Central China, a continually increasing flood of refugees moved southward toward Canton and British Hong Kong. Among these refugees was one Christian family whose remarkable escape from Communist Manchuria led to the formation in 1948 of the Reformation Translation Fellowship, a new Christian organization in China.

These Christian refugees from Communist Manchuria were the Charles H. Chao family.

Mr. Chao escaped first, for in a battle near his home he was temporarily taken prisoner by the Reds and had to flee to Mukden. Later Mrs. Chao and her seven young children followed Mr. Chao to Shanghai, where the family was happily reunited. In Shanghai Mr. Chao had been corresponding with American friends, including Dr. Loraine Boettner, author of many Reformed theological works. Dr. Boettner introduced a new friend to Mr. Chao, the Rev. Samuel E. Boyle, Reformed Presbyterian missionary in Canton, South China. After months of correspondence and prayer the two men agreed to launch a new Chinese literature work dedicated to the proclamation of the Reformed system of doctrine. Late in December, 1948 the Chao family arrived in Canton after a rough, miserable voyage on a little coastal steamer from Shanghai.



Rev. Boyle and Rev. Chao



Charles H. Chao family.

The Reformation Translation Fellowship was scarcely organized when the rapid approach of Communist armies forced a missionary evacuation to Hong Kong. Mr. Chao and Mr. Boyle moved their families to safety and for one year they worked together at translation in peace. In 1950 the Reformed Presbyterian missionaries moved to Japan, and Mr. Chao followed Mr. Boyle to Kobe, where the Chinese translation work continued. Later, Mr. Chao moved his family to America and in 1962 the Boyle family retired from the Japan Mission to begin full-time work with the Reformation Translation Fellowship.

When we look back on fifteen years of Chinese literature work; and when we see how this venture survived the shocks of successive moves from Canton to Hong Kong, from Hong Kong to Japan and from Japan to the United States, we can only say, "...but the word of God is not bound!"

Our growth in this work was made possible by the help of many Christian friends, among whom we are most indebted to Dr. Johannes G. Vos and Rev. Lester E. Kilpatrick, the two men who have maintained the American office and managed the financial affairs of the R.T.F.

PURPOSE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of the Reformation Translation Fellowship includes: (1) translation of Christian theological literature into Chinese; (2) stimulation of original Chinese Christian theological writing; (3) the publication of valuable theological literature in Chinese; (4) free distribution and sale of Reformed literature in Chinese;

(5) publication of English information which will promote, directly or indirectly, the above goals.

DOCTRINAL BASIS

"The doctrinal basis of the organization shall be the Reformed or Calvinistic interpretation of Christianity as set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith."

PUBLICATIONS

From the beginning of its organized existence the Reformation Translation Fellowship has been publishing one theological quarterly, *Faith and Life*. This Chinese publication still goes out regularly.

In 1963 a new periodical appeared, a monthly family paper called, *Trumpet Voice of Truth*. Mr. Charles H. Chao edits both papers.



Over the past fifteen years such books as these have been published by the fellowship in Chinese: J. G. Machen's *Christianity and Liberalism*; S. G. Craig's *Christianity Rightly So-Called*; F. C. H. Dreyer's *Romanism in the Light of Scripture*; V. Cameron's *God's Plan and Man's Destiny*; O. T. Allis' *God Spoke By Moses and Prophecy and the Church*; Loraine Boettner's *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination, Immortality, The Christian Doctrine of the Atonement, and The Inspiration of the Scriptures*; L. Berkhof, *The Atonement*; Charles H. Spurgeon's *Revival Year Sermons, 1859*; Edward J. Young's *Old Testament Prophecy*, and others.

Small paperbacks or pamphlet titles published were these: "Communism's Three-fold Challenge to the Church" by S. E. Boyle; "Do You Believe?" by Edward J. Young; "Calvin as a Theologian and Calvinism Today" by B. B. Warfield; *Recent Trends in Theology* by L. Berkhof; "The Visible Church" by J. G. Vos; "The

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support of the Reformation Translation Fellowship comes from voluntary donations by individuals, church groups and from sale of published literature.

While the fellowship is non-ecclesiastical and independent in its organization, one denomination, the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, has placed this missionary literature agency on the annual foreign missions budget. Other American and British churches of the Calvinist creedal tradition allow appeals for financial help to be sent to their ministers and members.

A British Branch of the Reformation Translation Fellowship was organized some years ago to assist in this work. A list of the members appears in this brochure.

Income Tax Status (U.S.A.)

The Reformation Translation Fellowship is recognized by the U. S. Treasury Department as exempt from Federal income tax. Contributions made to the Fellowship by individuals in the United States are deductible in computing their taxable net income in the manner and to the extent permitted by Internal Revenue regulations.

Send all gifts to Rev. Lester E. Kilpatrick, Treasurer, 1031 E. Glenrosa, Phoenix 14, Arizona.

Additional information and literature may be obtained by writing to the same address.

The Reformation Translation Fellowship

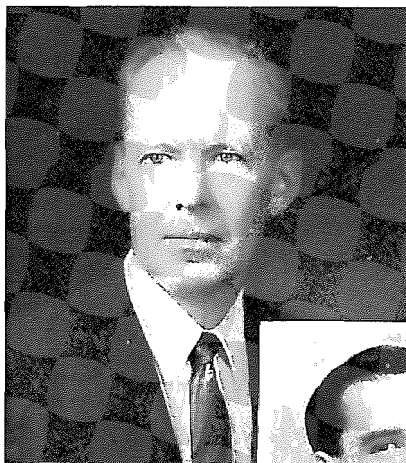


"But the Word of God is Not Bound"

Meaning of the Word 'Blood' in Scripture" by A. M. Stibbs; "What Is Presbyterianism?" by Charles Hodge; "Karl Marx or Jesus Christ?" by V. Raymond Edman.

Other books are now in process of translation and some older Chinese volumes are being revised for another printing. The fellowship is continually praying for capable Chinese writers and translators who will be committed to the Reformed system of theology and approve the purposes of the R.T.F.

There is an urgent need in Chinese for good commentaries, new orthodox Bible dictionaries and other helps for Bible study. The ecumenical literature program of the World Council of Churches for China is supported by many churches and operates on a generous financial budget, but it cannot be depended on for books that are faithful to the Bible. If the Christians of China are to possess a sound Christian literature for the growing churches it must come from scholars who believe the Bible and who fearlessly proclaim the whole counsel of God. The Reformation Translation Fellowship welcomes all who stand firmly where Luther and Calvin and Knox and other reformers stood; on the Divinely inspired and inerrant Word of God "which cannot be bound."



▲
Rev.
Lester E. Kilpatrick



➡
Mr. John J. Murray