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## Manitoba Health Libraries Association

Box 232, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 3S7

WINTER



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### ENCLOSURES

MHLA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
CHLA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
AUDIO VISUAL HEALTH & WELLNESS  
SERIES.

## MHLA EXECUTIVE - 1988/89

Susan Rogers - President (945-5046)

Pam Green - Secretary (788-6345)

Wendy Barber - Treasurer (787-3146)

Barb Carstens - President - Elect (474-8171)

## MHLA COMMITTEES

## STANDING COMMITTEES

## A/V INTEREST GROUP

Richard Nordrum (chair), Sharon Allentuck, Pat Hebert, Bernice Pratt,  
 Helene Proteau, Tim Spencer, Sonja Paas, Edith Konoplenko, Gwen Shorten  
 Myroslaw Tracz, Steve Sirkka  
 EXECUTIVE REP: Wendy Barber

## CURRENT AWARENESS

Dallas Bagby  
 EXECUTIVE REP: Susan Rogers

## MHO/MHLA CONFERENCE PLANNING

Sharon Allentuck, Kathy Eagleton (co-chairs)  
 EXECUTIVE REP: Susan Rogers

## NOMINATIONS

Bev Brown (chair)  
 EXECUTIVE REP: Pam Green

## PROGRAMME

Judy Inglis (chair) Marilyn Brookel  
 EXECUTIVE REP: Barb Carstens

## PUBLICATIONS

Kathie Gaudes (chair) Pat Hebert  
 EXECUTIVE REP: Wendy Barber

## SERIALS HOLDINGS

Helene Proteau, Jill Brown (co-chairs) Barb Carstens, Susan Rogers, Bev Brown,  
 Pam Green, Kathy Eagleton.  
 EXECUTIVE REP: Pam Green

## NORTH DAKOTA LIAISON

Dallas Bagby

## ON-LINE USERS GROUP

Michael Tennenhouse

## SELECTED BOOK AND JOURNALS

Helene Proteau (chair)

## TASK FORCE ON INFO HEALTH

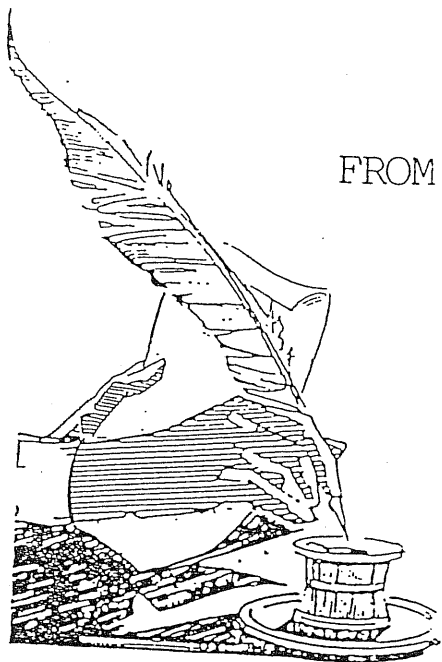
Michael Tennenhouse (chair)

## TASK FORCE ON HOSPITAL LIBRARY STANDARDS

Kathy Eagleton (chair), Ada Ducas, Sharon Allentuck, Dallas Bagby

## TASK FORCE ON MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Ada Ducas (chair), Sharon Allentuck, Dallas Bagby



FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S

PEN.....

On behalf of your Executive, I hope that you've had a happy, prosperous, and healthy holiday season.

Over the past six months, MHLA has been involved in a number of activities and programs. We participated in the 1988 MHQ Conference on quality assurance. Our library session and book display were very well received. To all our volunteers, thank you for your time and effort.

Elections are fast approaching. Very shortly, there will be a call for nominations. If you wish to run for office, or, are approached to do so, please take the opportunity to serve your association. Nominations are open for Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. It looks great on a resume and I do hate elections by acclamation.

The Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses is considering the possibility of closing its library as reported in the December issue of NURSCENE. On behalf of MHLA, I wrote a letter outlining our concerns with this course of action. A copy is included in this issue of the MHLA NEWS.

Doris Pritchard has submitted a proposal to the Manitoba Heritage Federation to index MHLA's archives, minutes, and resolutions. To date, there is no decision on the funding request.

MHLA will be participating with other Manitoba library groups in the MLA Joint Spring Conference to be held May 5 and 6, 1989. Plans are well underway and you'll get details at the February meeting.

Just a reminder: the February meeting is February 7, 1989 at 1 p.m. at the Manitoba Department of Health Library. The Spring meeting is April 25, 1989 at 1 p.m. at Deer Lodge.

Hope to see you soon.

*Susan Rogers*

# ASSOCIATION NEWS...

## SELECTED BOOKS & JOURNALS FOR MANITOBA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

The following bibliographies are now available via the  
Manitoba Health Libraries Association:

1988	Medicine	\$ 4.00
1987	Allied Health	\$ 4.00
1985	Basic Reference Sources Long Term Geriatric Care	\$ 4.00
	All sections from the 3 years	\$12.00

For further information contact Hélène Proteau,  
at (204) 261-5843.

TO ORDER: Please circle the title of the section(s) you  
are purchasing and make cheque or money order  
to the Manitoba Health Libraries Association.

RETRUN TO: Manitoba Health Libraries Association  
Selected Books and Journals (Hélène Proteau)  
Box 232, Postal Station C  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3M 3S7

Continued...

## TRAVEL SUBSIDY FOR RURAL MEMBERS

In order to encourage active participation from outside the greater Winnipeg area, the Manitoba Health Libraries Association makes available a travel subsidy for rural members. The subsidy provides a maximum of \$25.00 towards the cost of transportation to one MHLA meeting per year. To receive this subsidy, members should submit travel/mileage records to the treasurer Wendy Barber. For further information contact at 787-3416.

## MHLA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The MHLA Executive invites nominations for Honorary Life Membership in the Association in accordance with Article 4 of the MHLA Constitution as follows:

4.1 All MHLA personal and designated institutional members in good standing may submit nominations for Honorary Life Membership in the Association to the Executive Committee.

4.2 To be eligible for Honorary Life Membership in the Association, a candidate must have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the Association, be at or near retirement, and hold an institutional or personal membership in the Association at the time of nomination.

### Criteria for Awarding of Honorary Life Membership

4.3 All nominations must be made in writing to the Executive Committee, and must be signed by a nominator and a seconder.

4.4 A statement of the candidates contributions to, and activities within, the Association must be included.

4.5 Nominations will be considered by the Executive Committee, and the successful candidate must receive a minimum of three favorable votes of the Committee.

4.6 The conferring of the Honorary Life Membership in the Association will be made by the President at the Annual General Meeting.

On April 27, 1988, the Manitoba Health Libraries Association presented honorary life memberships to Eleanor Kamyzek and Doris Pritchard.

Eleanor Kamyzek was a founding member of the Association and present at the inaugural meeting held at MARN on October 26, 1976. Her involvement however, goes back even further, for she was present at one of the first informal meetings in 1974 as a representative from Heritage Lodge where she was working as an RN. She was responsible for the October, 1976 program portion of the meeting held at Grace Hospital. She was active in the preparation of "Selected Books and Journals", as she chaired the Long Term Care Committee for this publication. She chaired the Publications Committee for 1980/81 and most recently co-chaired the A/V Interest Group.

Doris Pritchard was also a founding member of MHLA and present at the inaugural meeting. She was in fact, the seconder of the motion to form this group. She was a very active member of the Association. For many years she organized & maintained the Current Awareness Service. She has been involved with numerous committees including: Elections, MHO/MHLA Planning Committee and the Publications Committee. Significantly, she was President of MHLA for our 10th Anniversary year. During this time, she wrote the most recent history of the Association. Also, during her term as President, she instituted the honorary life membership and provided the impetus for the application which received the CHLA 10th Anniversary Award.

#### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

February 7, 1989  
1:00pm

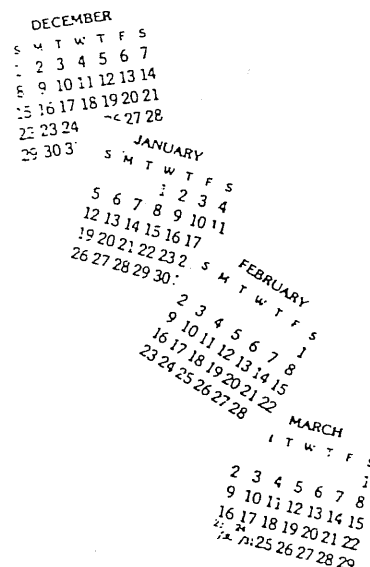
Manitoba Health. Manitoba Community Services  
& Corrections. Anna E. Wells Memorial Library  
202-8<sup>th</sup> Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3G 0P1  
Marilyn Brooke, Co-ordinator of Informational Resources

April 25, 1989  
1:00pm

Deer Lodge Centre Library  
2109 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3J 0L3  
Janis Saunders, Librarian

MHLA NEWS DEADLINE.....

SPRING ISSUE MARCH 31, 1989



MANITOBA HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS INC.  
19TH ANNUAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

November 2 - November 4, 1988  
Winnipeg Convention Centre

THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CASSETTES

**WHO/MHLA  
CONFERENCE  
NEWS...**

<u>QUANT.</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>	<u>SPEAKERS</u>
....	MHO 1	(W01) Keynote Address "Quest For Quality"	Stephen Lewis
....	MHO 2A	(W12) Public Relations and	John Burke-Gaffney
....	MHO 2B	Health Care Fund Raising	
....	MHO 3	(W02D) Aids and Administration	Dr. Sharon MacDonald
....	MHO 4A	(W16) Quality Self-Talk	Barbara Bowes
....	MHO 4B		
....	MHO 5	(W13) Quality Corporate Decision Making	Roy White
....	MHO 6	(TH17) Long Term Care Address	Patricia Moore
....	MHO 7A	(TH33) Creating Quality Programs	Dr. Mark Novak
....	MHO 7B	For Today's Older Person	
....	MHO 9	(TH21) ELDER ABUSE: What Do We Know? What Are We Doing?	Dr. Betty Havens Dorothy Hardy Diana Wieruki
....	MHO 10A	(TH29) Promoting The Health	Dr. Phyllis Fleming
....	MHO 10B	OF Organizations	
....	MHO 11	(TH19) Balancing Optimal Quality And Cost	Dr. Ramesh K. Shukla
....	MHO 12A	(F43) Community Health Centres -	Mark McGuire
....	MHO 12B	Integration and Cooperation: A Model For Effective Health Care	

TO ORDER BY MAIL:

1. Indicate the cassettes and quantity in the "QUANT." column

2. Price: C-90 Cassettes \$8.00/ea. + 7% P.S.T.

Handling: \$1.50 per cassette up to 5 cassettes, for each  
additional cassette, \$0.25 per cassette.

3. Payment may be made by: NO C.O.D. ORDERS ACCEPTED

CHEQUE ( ) VISA ( ) MASTERCARD ( )

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION \_\_\_\_\_

Please send complete form with  
payment to:

INLAND AUDIO VISUAL RENTAL LIMITED  
1781 Wellington Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3H 0G2

5. Print the following information:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque payable to Inland Audio Visual Rentals

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

# CHLA UPDATE

News from the CHLA Task Force on Hospital Standards.

Following the discussions held at the annual meeting in Halifax last June, the Task Force met immediately after that meeting, and again in November 1988. We are reasonably happy with the Draft Standards now, although there will always be room for improvement, and there will probably be library staff who will feel unhappy about some phrasing here and there. We are now struggling with the background documents which will accompany the standards, in particular, attempting to design a system of categorizing hospitals, so that library workload may be related to something tangible. We carefully studied the responses to the questionnaire sent out to CHLA hospital library members, and felt that more information was needed relative to ambulatory services provided by hospitals, and also greater definition of categories of library staff. Consequently, we will be asking members for additional information in these areas.

The Task Force will meet again next March, when we hope to be able to pull together all the loose ends in preparation for one final "Bash at it" at the annual meeting in Ottawa. If anyone has any strong feelings about hospital categories, please advance them in very good time for a March meeting.

Kathy Eagleton

Library Services

Brandon General Hospital

150 McTavish Avenue East

Brandon, Man

R7A 2B3



# ST. BONIFACE GENERAL HOSPITAL

## NURSING LIBRARY

We are please to announce that Charley Pennell will join our staff March 1, 1989. Charley moved to Winnipeg from Pennsylvania, where he was Head of Cataloguing & Bibliographic Control at Villanova University. He received his MLS from the University of Toronto.

In February, 1989, the Helene Fuld Library will be instituted at St. Boniface General Hospital. This event will coincide with the integration of interactive video technology into our nursing education. This progress has been made possible through the ongoing assistance of the Helene Fuld Health Trust.

Since 1935 the trust has supported a broad range of projects in over 300 schools of nursing across North America and overseas - \$50 million in grants have been awarded.

The Schools of Nursing at St. Boniface General Hospital have benefited from the support of the Helene Fuld Health Trust since 1976. The schools have received approximately \$310,000, largely in support of the Nursing Library, audiovisual department and nursing arts laboratories. In recognition of this ongoing support, St. Boniface General Hospital has invited Alan Trench, Vice President of Marine Midland Bank and Chairman of the Helene Fuld Health Grant Funds Committee, to visit the Schools of Nursing at St. Boniface General Hospital and to rename the Nursing Library - THE HELENE FULD LIBRARY.

Recently the trust has created the Fuld Institute to support and facilitate the integration of technology in nursing education. Forty-six schools have been selected to become interactive video demonstration centres. Under this special half million dollar project funded by the Helene Fuld Health Trust, 46 schools will receive one or two interactive video systems. The selected schools will participate for three years in data collection and research into effectiveness of the technology and how best to use it. St. Boniface General Hospital Schools of Nursing have been selected to participate in this project and will be receiving two interactive video svstems in January, 1989.

Interactive video joins a video disc player to a computer to form a powerful educational tool. Material in video format is presented to the learner who is queried at each step as to their somprehension of the material. The computer analyzes each response and chooses the next appropriate video sequence to be presented. This techinque ensures that this manner the learner is quided through a lesson, module, clinical procedure, etc. It is the mating of the computer's analytical capabilities with the video disc's imagery display that makes inter-active video so powerful.

We are excited about becoming part of this demonstration project and proud to join the Helene Fuld Health Trust team in exploring how interactive video will affect the future of nursing education.

# SEVEN OAKS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Arthur had a surprise visitor to his library in the person of Mrs. Lily Schreyer.

Mrs. Schreyer was at the Hospital as a Guest Speaker at the Seven Oaks Hospital Foundation Annual Dinner in October, 1988. Arthur also sent us the following review.

General Practitioner's Sourcebook: The Physician's Direct Link to Vital Social and Medical Support Services in Canada. edited by Julian Zuckerbrot. Don Mills, ON.: Southam Communications Limited, 1988.

As indicated by the subtitle, this volume is geared to doctors, purporting to save them time and helping them extend their quality of care. This reviewer's copy was received as a "freebie" from our Medical Administration Department. Mainly useful for looking up addresses and telephone numbers requested by medical, nursing and administrative staff, the manual is quite up-to-date and may be used in conjunction with both the Canadian Hospital Directory and the Canadian Medical Directory.

There are the usual amount of pages devoted to advertising, but this is not excessive and does not detract from the appearance of the publication. The sourcebook is divided into six sections, each being given a handy "tab." However, there is no general index, which is a major drawback to finding which section contains the name of the group you are seeking. You have to go through all six sections, sometimes, until you become more familiar with the general layout.

One good feature is that there is an attempt to put together in one volume the names, addresses and telephone numbers of Canadian government departments included in, say, the Canadian Almanac and Directory in the same handbook as health care related agencies and supplier resources (that might be found in the Canadian Hospital Directory). Also, there are attempts to include many provincial associations and self-help groups such as might be listed in the Manual of Social Services in Manitoba.

One section deals with legal issues. Another lists medical societies and governing bodies. A "speed index" done by subject endeavors to cover many diseases, listing groups associated with those disorders.

The book may be purchased for \$87.00, which is about average for this sort of material. If you know a physician who would consider donating his/her copy to the library, this is a worthwhile reference. But if you already have any or all of the other similar references referred to above, you can get along without this book.

Reviewed by Arthur Short,  
Library Technician,  
Seven Oaks General Hospital Library,  
Educational Services Department.

# BRANDON GENERAL HOSPITAL

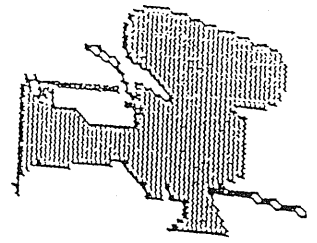
I was in England in September, speaking at the annual conference of the Library Association Medical, Health & Welfare Libraries Group in Guildford. The conference was held at the University of Surrey, where we stayed in a rather spartan residence. Attendance was over 300, with many exhibits. The conference theme was 'Enhancing access to information', and my topic was 'Consumer health information in a Canadian Hospital Library'. There was great interest shown in the theme, and in the topic. I tried to summarize the history of the consumer health care information services as developed in North America, through the MLA and the CHLA, and added how we had done things at BGH during the past two years.

Kathy Eagleton had the following article published:

Quality assurance in Canadian hospital libraries : the challenge of the eighties / by Kathy Eagleton. -- Health Libraries Review (1988, 5, (Sept):145-159)

If you would like to see this article, it is available from Arthur Short at the Seven Oaks General Hospital

# Media Page



Greater Winnipeg Cablevision Limited

Greater Winnipeg Cablevision is a non-commercial community television channel available free of charge to groups and individuals within Winnipeg.

Anyone with an idea or a topic they would like video taped for airing on the community channel should call the programming department to discuss the possibilities.

At present a health related video tape library is not maintained. Programs are erased after they are aired.

For more information about community television contact Greater Winnipeg Cablevision Limited 667-4610.

## WINNIPEG VIDEON INCORPORATED

Videon cable T.V. serves Winnipeg T.V. viewers west of the Red River.

Over the past 6 years, VSP Cable Channel 7 has presented Winnipeggers with a television series which provides its viewers with an opportunity to gain a greater awareness of the social, physical, environmental, emotional and cultural factors which contribute to a state of well-being.

"Health & Wellness" provides information in an entertaining fashion which enables individuals to make a positive choice in health care and lifestyle.

Regular cablecast times are: Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m..  
Replayed Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 p.m. and nightly at 12:30 a.m.

Some of the nearly 200 programs produced in the past series have included: schizophrenia, Aids, Patient's Rights, Second Hand Smoke, Marriage Breakdown, Alzheimers, Suicide, Drug Use and The Elderly, etc., etc. (see enclosed listing).

Videon Special Programming provides dubbing free-of-charge to participants and charges a minimal fee to non-participants for copies of their material for educational purposes.

For more information, contact:

Richard Edwards  
Program Manager  
Winnipeg Videon Incorporated  
651 Stafford Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3M 2X7  
Telephone: 475-9170

# PASSAGES



## MANITOBA LUNG ASSOCIATION

*A division of the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba*

The Christmas Seal People

October 13th, 1988

The Manitoba Health Libraries Association  
Box 232  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3M 3S7

Dear Sirs:

I wish to advise that, as a result of an organizational review, the Manitoba Lung Association's library service has been discontinued and we no longer employ a librarian.

It would be appreciated if you would delete both the Manitoba Lung Association and Mrs. Helen Wheeler from your mailing list.

Sincerely,

R.F. Marks, C.A.  
Executive Director

RFM/jal

# ACRONYMS

Do you sometimes wonder what people are saying? It can often sound like another language. Here are a few of the ACRONYMS that are tossed about at MHLA meetings now and then....

MLA        MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MALT:     MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS

MLTA:     MANITOBA LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

MSLAVA:   MANITOBA SCHOOL LIBRARY AUDIOVISUAL ASSOCIATION

MGLC:     MANITOBA GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES COUNCIL

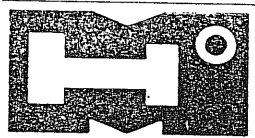
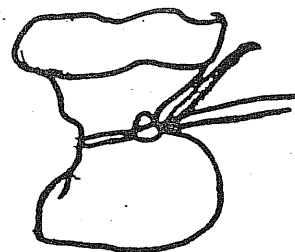
CASLIS:   CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES  
(A DIVISION OF CLA)

PLS:       PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES [OF MANITOBA]  
(PRESENTLY PART OF MANITOBA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE)

MHLA:     MANITOBA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

SLTT:      STUFF LIKE THAT THERE





## MANITOBA HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS INCORPORATED

#600-360 BROADWAY WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3C 4G6 - TELEPHONE (204) 942-6591

October 31, 1988

Chief Executive Officer  
Member Facilities  
Manitoba Health Organizations Inc.

Dear Sir, Madam, Sister:

We are pleased to recognize your membership with the Manitoba Health Organizations Inc. by way of the enclosed certificate and hope you will display it in a prominent location in your facility or association office.

We will continue to do our utmost to meet the needs of your organization and look forward to working with you to meet future challenges.

Sincerely,

L. L. Desjardins  
Executive Director

## 江西师院南昌分院

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Dear Family and Friends,

A year ago a page wasn't long enough to record the impact of all the new experiences and impressions. Now we must be careful not to let familiarity relegate the uniqueness of this country, to commonplace.

Many things have changed for us this second year. Almost all our close friends have left this college: our two Beijing friends have finished their assignment and returned home, others are studying in Chicago and Shanghai, and Little Miss Wan who scouted around Nanchang for us to ferret out scarce items like sugar and salt, married and moved away. We are making new and delightful friends, but miss the ease of last years' relationships.

China has made many economic strides and there is much evidence of new buildings, fashionable clothing stores and electrical appliances; yet there are so many shortages that the ticket system has been re-instituted. There are shortages of salt, sugar, soy sauce, gas for cooking and gasoline for driving, and, of course, meat. Though we prefer pork, last week only beef was available. This is terribly tough because it is really water buffalo which, according to law, may not be slaughtered until it is too old and decrepit to plow the fields. Meat ration is 17kg. per person per year.

This year also, the college has changed from a three to a two-year program as a drastic measure to provide teachers for the many schools in the countryside who are still without. It is deemed better to have a poorly trained teacher than none at all. So this year we have fewer students, but meet them oftener. Building on a year's experience, I think I'm better at it this year, and really enjoy teaching. George has the second years while I have three classes of first years. One class is especially noteworthy. They failed the entrance exams of this college but were allowed to come, providing they pay their own way. At first I was told there would be a few, but already there are 32. These students are highly motivated and a pleasure to teach, but also exhausting. <sup>9 8 0 8 3 0 8 2 1 0</sup> Every afternoon that we don't have classes we are in the office (an empty classroom) with George and I sitting at



# 江西师院南昌分院

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a desk at either end. Some days George has to move to another classroom as 20-30 students for each of us crowd in and stay from 2-4.

Many of these students are not at all stupid, rather they reflect a deplorable education in classrooms that were dark, cold in winter and hot in summer, crowded with 30-90 in one room, and taught by teachers who themselves had only junior or middle school education trying to do a job without any teaching aids as we know them.

Though the government stresses economic reform, intellectuals advocate that educational reform should receive top priority. Teachers have low status and poor pay, which explains why our college, being a teacher's training college, receives those students who have been rejected by all the more prestigious institutions.

Children's education becomes important very early. One of the teacher families here leave their 3 year old son with grandparents during the week because kindergartens in Nanchang are better than here, while another registered their daughter under a fictitious name as that was the only way they could get her into a "good" kindergarten. Until the end of middle school, students work very hard at their lessons, consisting mainly of memorization and reciting, for six days a week. Even small children have hours of homework every night. The goal is to gain entrance into a college, preferably a prestigious one. Marks, not inclination or interest, are the deciding factor. Once they are in college, the momentum of the past years stays with them most of the first year, but gradually reality exerts its influence and they slow down perceptibly. Once they are in college they are virtually guaranteed a pass and a job for life. This is commonly referred to as the iron-rice-bowl. Teachers here deplore and ridicule its weaknesses, but are themselves loath to part with the security it affords.

Back in Canada changes have been drastic. Our son Harold married Linda Dietrick on May 7th. A week later my brother John passed away. Two close friends have died while several others are struggling with the diagnosis<sup>9 8 0 8 3 8 2 10</sup> of cancer. Our social environment will be very altered when we return.

# 江西师院南昌分院

May and June were difficult times for the students and for us. Our graduates were told that 95% would be sent to teach in the country-side where the living conditions are so deplorable - poor housing, poor food, no social life, far from city and family - that some students feel this is a sentence of death. One promising student committed suicide and several others told us they wished they had the courage to do likewise. During this time our instruction became less an imparting of skills in oral English and more a discussion of what it means to be a teacher. We helped them to analyse what gives meaning to life and what happens to us when we serve others. With the present teacher shortage, we were not exaggerating when we reminded them that without them hundreds of children would never learn to read and write. Our greatest rewards came when some of them, on leaving, assured us they would try to teach like we do, and when others wrote this fall, recalling specific lessons or statements we had made.

It was a hot summer, beginning with 38C. on May first and culminating in an unprecedented heat wave of 40-42 the first few weeks in July. During July we attended Nanjing Normal University to learn Chinese. It's a long time since we lived in a dormitory. The heat wave persisted, minute visitors kept us company in bed, construction immediately under our window proceeded 24 hours a day with frequent specials of unloading bricks at 2A.M, so it is not surprizing that we learned less than we had hoped. We did, however, revel in the companionship of the rest of the CEE group and prized opportunities to take the bus down-town just to browse in the shops.

On August 7th, we met all of our family plus a few friends, making a group of 13 Canadians, in Shanghai for our much planned holiday. We are so very grateful all of them managed to arrange holidays at the same time, though for some this was not easy. We saw the major points of interest in northern and middle China: silk factory in Hangzhou, Forbidden city in Beijing and climbed the Great wall. We explored shops in Chongqing, took a boat up the Yangtze River and saw the recently excavated terracotta warriors

near Wuhan. We had favorable weather until we came to our college when our scheduled day of sauntering through the countryside, was rained out. We stayed while the rest of the group proceeded to Guangzhou and Hong Kong. After several days together our group had become a real family. After the trip, these were some of the comments:

"a phenomenal experience...we grew a lot as a family", "everyone showed great openness and tolerance toward the new culture ...there was so much fun and laughter", "this whole experience has been a new beginning for the Kroeker family... we are looking forward to the next time we can be together", "...a highlight in my life, so much more than just a vacation". We are truly grateful for this experience, and for God's grace in granting it to us.

On our return to the College we soon found our way to church, which was just as crowded as ever, though the throng in the courtyard seemed to include more young people than we had noticed before. On October 16th it was announced there would be 600 baptisms. These were divided into three groups of 200 each, with the first group in the morning, the second in the afternoon, and the rest the following Sunday. Consistent with last year's practice, baptism was by sprinkling or immersion, as requested. Of course there is not room for another 600 in church that is already overcrowded. We have been told that most of these come from the suburbs or countryside, which means transportation to church is very difficult, so these people will meet in homes. One of my students told me her grandfather is a church worker who speaks in church some times, but mostly visits house churches.

What is most amazing to us is that this phenomenal growth is occurring without the Western concept of evangelism. The government forbids overt evangelization, and last year one of the ministers became quite angry in his sermon about some people who were trying to talk others into becoming Christians. He said: "You are breaking the law, furthermore, it is your job to live Christ. If you do this well, if Christ is evident in all you say and do, then it becomes possible for the Holy Spirit to change people. When you, yourself, try to change people, you are usurping the role of the Holy Spirit." It seems to us, we need to take a thoughtful look at the Chinese church, for surely a very powerful form of evangelism must be at work to produce the growth we see. Perhaps it is time we too, became less frantic in our efforts, and learned to be still before God.

# 江西师院南昌分院

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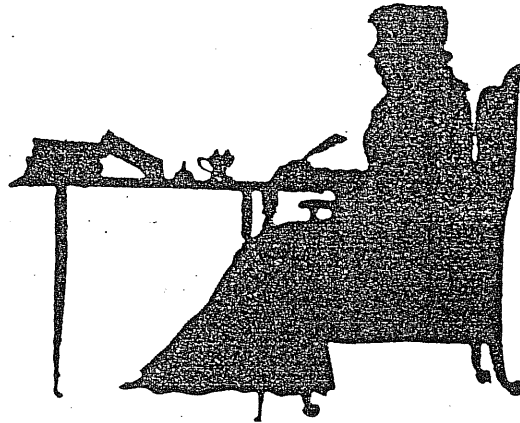
By the time you get this letter you will be knee deep in snow and it will be time for Christmas. We wish to thank you all for the wonderful support you are giving us with your letters and assurance of prayers - they truly keep us going. We had no idea there were so many excellent letter writers in our families and among our friends. Through your letters we have glimpsed aspects of your personalities we never knew of, but now value. We are truly grateful.

In his book, Lilies of the Field, Wang Weifan writes: "Christ, the saviour of ~~marking~~ humankind, is the great light which shines upon all peoples. But the very first to be called to worship the holy infant were the wise men from the East." As you watch nativity scenes this Christmas, please remember the church in China.

We wish you peace, joy, the warmth of family and friends around you, this Christmas.

Love,

*George and Rena*  
Ge



PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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