

Metcalf, Ga.,  
July 26, 1941.

Dr. Chas. E. Maddry,  
P.O. Box 1595,  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Dr. Maddry:

Thank you for your kind, sympathetic letter. We truly appreciate what the Board is doing for us. It hurts deep down to have to trouble you again, but I do not know what to do unless I let you know that we have not received the July check. Your letter stated that the Board voted for the checks to begin July 1st. I notice that your last letter was sent to Guyton, so it may be the check has been lost in the mail some way, if it also was sent to Guyton. I would not mention it at all but for the fact that we need it so much.

With all my heart I want to thank you for the generosity of the Board in voting to help us. Please understand that I am really grateful before I speak of the pension. First I want to say that if there were any possibility of our making a living, I would absolutely refuse the pension. Under no circumstance would I accept the pension unless it was necessary.

I must not bother you with a letter that is too long, but at least there a few things I must say. At one time Mr. Williamson was the only man at Seinan Gakuin. Southern Baptists had more money invested there and it was the most difficult place in all our work in Japan. Aside from that he had many other responsibilities at the same time. Even when there was another man there, he had at least three men's work. When we moved to Fukuoka because the students were demanding Mr. Dozier's resignation, there was no one else to take over our two fields of Kumamoto and Kagoshima, so Mr. Williamson had to keep them. In addition to the school work he had to take over the evangelistic work connected with Fukuoka because Mr. Dozier had heart trouble and had almost given out. Besides this Mr. Williamson was secretary of the Mission, treasurer of Seinan Gakuin, auditor for the whole Mission, chairman of the Zaidan Hojin - the legal body which held all of our Southern Baptist property. The last two years he had to add on the position of Dean of the Theological Seminary. I worked just as hard as he did. I took all of the language examinations and did all of the language work required of the men - this was not required of the wives. I was a graduate of the Louisville Training School with experience in America before going out and after I got the language was in position to do what some of the wives could not. I gladly did more than my physical strength justified. We both sat up late and got up early. I could go on and on but I must not because I must not trouble you. To sum it all up: After we had trained ourselves in our best Baptist institutions, we poured out unreservedly our all for Christ in Japan. This was during a period of the most difficult time in the history of missions in Japan. Things have come to a head and you see things now you did not see when you were out there. All of our missionary lives the fight was on and the struggle was intense. We lived through all the depression difficulties, including having to stay in Japan eight years instead of seven, and the rise of nationalism with all that that connotes. We lived crowded, intense years and spent ourselves completely. I got a headache that never goes away even after these years in America. We are still able to walk around, but we are just like an old stove all burned out on the inside. There is no endurance or vitality on the inside. Because of our overwhelming desire to continue to try to serve, we have struggled on since we have been in America. We should have accepted the pension when you first offered it to us and rested for a period of years.



I will not be true to myself if I do not also say that there were many others in Japan who had as many faults as we had. After we got out of Japan and could not say a word to explain, we were stabbed in the back. On the evidence of what others said the Board voted. Of course we finally were permitted to go before the Board but after we got up there and before the Board met, one of the Board members told us it was already settled and we found that it was so. It was already too late for our going before the Board to alter the vote. Now I am not bringing this up to hurt you or any one, but simply to quote from a letter we had from Japan. If the thing had been brought up while we were in Japan, you could have been shown many things that you did not see. There were two missionary men and one lady who did not want Mr. Williamson back in the mission. All three of them had selfish reasons for that. I want to quote from a letter to Mr. Williamson from one man written Sept. 4, 1935: "I want to confess some things to you tonight ..... I want you to forgive me for being so dishonestly unloving. Truly I was at fault for there being less fellowship than there should have been. When your return to Japan has been discussed here I have said that I thought your usefulness here would be curtailed and hampered until hard feelings were wiped out. I did not then realize that possibly I should be the first to try to make restitution". He voluntarily confessed this. I tell you this to say that if we had been treated in a Christ-like way, others would have had to confess as much or more than we. Really we were 100% honest, consecrated and loyal. We gave the best we had to Japan and we did not deserve the treatment we got.

There was also a Japanese man who made life almost unbearable because he wanted to be Dean of the Seminary instead of Mr. Williamson. Mr. Williamson did not seek the place. The fact is that he was asked by the trustees to go to Fukuoka a year before he did go. We dreaded to go because it was an impossible situation. We only went because it looked like Mr. Dozier would die without help.

Just one more thing and I must stop. The other man who did not want Mr. Williamson back in Japan used to have a spell if any one ever expressed an opinion of their own. Mr. Williamson dared to express opinions of his own and this man did not like him because of it. Not to hurt you, but to show you that no one could get along with him without bringing on a spell, after you visited this man he had a serious spell and they thought he would not live. Now I do not know what you said, but I have every reason to believe that you were entirely within your proper sphere. In other words, you were simply discharging your official business in the right ~~xxx~~ way. You had the whole work and the main interest of the kingdom up-building at heart. You did your duty in the right way, never the less it brought on a spell. Naturally a man of Mr. Williamson's training and intelligence had convictions. He never overstepped his rights and duty any more than you did. Please understand me aright. I have not brought all of this out to worry you. But I felt that enough had to be said so I could say to you that on one of the most difficult fields that Southern Baptists have in one of the most trying periods in the history of missions we gave our all to the carrying on of Southern Baptist Work. Now we are spent and we cannot help it. By all that is right I feel that the pension should be restored. I am hoping and praying that a way will be provided. Please consider this letter strictly confidential. I am trusting it all with you. You ~~sh~~ have been so kind and understanding that I believe you will work it out.

Most sincerely,

