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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from John Yost to Frank Bell

**Date:** Januray 22, 1909

**Location:** I-BellR-1982-1

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Jan. 22 '09.

My dear Bill:-

It is many a day now since I had a line from you directly, but I happen to know however that you took a trip to the Holy Land a year or two ago which must have been quite a treat. Bob Peters did the same I believe. We hope to get to that part of the world too someday if at all possible, but it is difficult to say just when. It might be on our way home as we think some of going by way of India and the Red Sea.

I see by the Beta Pi alumni letter that you are now at Weatherly, Pa. or at least you were there last year. I trust you are having good success and great blessing in your work.

You may or may not know that my work here is school work altogether. I have had charge of the Boy's schools of our Mission in Chent'ing for the past two years, while my senior colleague Rev. Jos. Beech has been home on furlough. It is extremely interesting work and just the kind I like. Moreover to my thinking it is the plan by which China is going to be won to Christ. We can never get enough foreign Missionaries out here to preach the Gospel to all these millions and the only way left is to train the young men of China to go out and preach to their

own people. Our mission has followed this method from the start and here in Western China we are far ahead of all the other missions in results attained. That is in results of evangelistic effort as well as of educational and medical.

To get boys and girls to train for this work we must at present depend largely upon the poorer classes who are unable to pay their way through school, consequently we must get funds from home to support our students. Now would this do for a plan to get your people interested in Missions.

Tell them the Gospel is now beginning to be preached to the very ends of the earth. Christ has not died in vain but that he arose victorious and still continues to conquer death and sin and will go on conquering ~~it~~ till all the nations are brought to a saving knowledge of Him. Do you not wish to join His mighty army which knows no defeat? Remember it is not by might nor by power but by my Spirit saith the Lord. Victory is certain whether we help or not, but we have the blessed privilege of sharing in the glorious victory. Can any one afford to let a single opportunity pass by unused?

You must have a number of young people in your congregations. Tell them God wants them for His work. It may be on the

mission field in the front of the battle or it may be as firm pillars in the home Church. Urge them either to come out or help pay for a substitute whom you can easily find here among our school boys.

Twenty five dollars a year is enough to support a student in our Chentze College! Why might not your Church establish a number of scholarships in our school here?

There are doubtless in your Church quite a number of men receiving a salary of \$500. or more a year. Now if in addition to what they already give to the Church they would give \$1. from each hundred i. e. \$50 or more per year to the training of a young man to preach the Gospel here in China, five such men could train one student who in a few years could be telling the story of salvation to thousands who have never heard.

Money for such a purpose can be sent to Dr. Homer C. Strutz, 150 Fifth Ave. New York with instructions as to where it is to be used and under whose direction.

I am sending a letter like this to a number of the fellows who are preaching and to some who are not, feeling that something definite like this placed before their young peoples societies might help to arouse interest in missions and if so it will of course aid the work here.

You of course have read of the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager of China which occurred on the 14th and 15th of November respectively. We did not get the news here till three days after by telegram. Don't know why it was so long coming.

Possibly the news came to the Viceroy at once but he wished to make some preparations before allowing the people to know it.

There was a fear of course that there would be rebellion, but everything has been perfectly quiet so far.

The people were greatly grieved indeed, much as we would be upon the death of our president, but here they make their grief more apparent. Every man wears a blue or white button on his cap instead of the usual red one. They decreed also that they would not shave their heads for 300 days and they have kept to it now for seventy days. You perhaps know that their usual custom is to shave their heads once a week leaving only a small patch on the crown from which the queue grows.

When the news of the deaths came to our school we at once dismissed with prayer. The teacher who offered prayer was so broken up that

he could hardly speak and before he had uttered a half dozen sentences the face of every boy was wet with tears and some were weeping aloud. It was a sort of a revelation to me to see the effect that was produced.

I hope you will pardon my using lead pencil as we are on a boat on our way to Annual Mission Conference.

It will require ten days to get there. Our boat is about 40 ft long and about 7 ft wide in the middle. Covered with a bamboo matting. We cook our food in camp style, of course having no real stove with us. Mrs. York baked enough bread before we started to last ten days and we can cook potatoes and sweet potatoes nicely on our camp fire which is built in a large iron pot.

Our crew consists of four men and for the ten days journey we pay about \$8. altogether.

Let me have a line from you soon,

Yours as ever

John W. East,

July post  
Cheater  
West China

D'son '03

Rev. F. T. Bell  
Weatherby,  
Pennsylvania  
U. S. A.

LEATHERHEAD  
MAR 23  
7AM  
1909  
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