

Mitchell, James -TAPEI -GR

From: Alvyn Austin [alvyn@yorku.ca]
Sent: April 22, 2001 7:15 AM
To: james.mitchell@dfait-maeci.gc.ca
Cc: michaelstainton@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: are you ready?

Hello James A. Mitchell,

What a pleasant surprise your letter was on Wednesday. Far Formosa is dear to my heart, and I would love to come. However, I can't. I would like to send James Rohrer of Iowa in my place. He is the key historian in the Mackay industry here, compared to him we are all pikers.

He is writing a chapter for our Mackay book, and is working on a biography of the Great Man. He knows the sources better than anyone, and has gathered material we can only dream of. Any discussion of the sort you mention would be incomplete without him. I cannot recommend him more highly.

Besides, I am writing the plaque for the Ontario Heritage, and press release, etc. So I kinda would like to see the unveiling. Hot times in Ingersoll. (By the way, there is already a plaque in Oxford to Aimeeee Semple McPherson, the Hollywood evangelist who was a Pentecostal missionary in HK / Canton in 1906.)

Another reason is that two weeks later I am off to Greece and South Africa for the Currents in World Christianity Conference. That is the conference series I am organizing at York. This year's seminar is entitled: "Representations: Re: Writing Missions." Next weekend.

I am green with envy at Michael going to Taiwan - again! I can't tell you what a life-changing experience Taiwan was. And I want to thank you again for your welcome and hospitality during our stay. I am still on a high.

Today I gave a talk to the Chefoo school reunion. This was "the best school east of Suez," a British boarding school in China which was attended by my 3 brothers. The average age was probably 80, some dears who had attended before WW I; it is the largest contingent of Japanese civilian internees in Canada, since the whole school was interned. Of course, I had to throw in my 2 cents about Mackay, and that the missionary story did not have a tragic ending....

Thank you for inviting me. Please invite James in my place. All the best, Alvyn.

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