

Kanto Gakuin University
Mitsuura Machi 4834
Kanazawa-Ku
Yokohama, Japan
January 15, 1968

Dr. C. C. Meeden
First Baptist Church
217 Main Street
Haverhill, Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Meeden:

It was indeed to receive both your Christmas letter and the letter of January 3. We had heard earlier through Mrs. Hudgins of Viven's broken ankle, but are now happy to hear that she is back on her feet and making out well. It would indeed be nice to sit down and chat for awhile. We actually thought you might be dropping in to see us sometime soon!

In reply to your inquiry as to how everything is going for us this second term in Japan, I can say quite satisfactory, though not what I had actually hoped for. The Bible translation work to be undertaken by the Bible Societies, and in which I had hoped to participate in at least a little, has not materialized. From what I hear and know of Japan, there is not likely to be any serious O. T. translation work begun before another ten years. This has been somewhat disappointing. My work in the Kanto Gakuin College of Theology leaves something to be desired. I have one course only in which there is enrolled only one student. Although there has been some desire of the other O. T. faculty members to have me join the faculty there, with greater responsibility and opportunity, it was decided administratively to have me keep my present status until after my next furlough, so I doubt if I will be teaching more than one course there for the next five years.

My work as part-time chaplain on campus consists primarily in teaching required courses in Christianity. These are quite elementary and afford no opportunity for me to use own advanced training. There is a subtle hostility against these required courses (they receive only half credit and over 95% of the students are uninterested non-Christians) and having a foreigner teach them doesn't make them anymore popular. Having taught four such classes this year, my present opinion is that a Japanese teacher (with a B. D.) would be more effective and better received by the students. Kanto Gakuin is asking for a missionary who will work in a "campus ministries" program. This would be great! But it is neither my training nor my interest.

The most enjoyable part of my work has been the class in Biblical Aramaic which I have taught this past year at Union Seminary in Tokyo, as well as the private class in Ugaritic for two doctoral students working in the area of O. T. studies. But I'm not too certain that these classes will continue after this present semester.

So when I say things are satisfactory, there is some reser-

vation. Consequently, in light of the limited opportunities that are opening up for me in my area of study, I definitely am interested in the position at Eastern as head of the Department of Old Testament. As you suggested, I am enclosing a brief biographical sketch and work resume.

You stated that this is still several years in the future. But is it really that far off? If Dr. Griffith retires in 1969, I imagine that his successor would begin teaching in September, '69. If this were to be me, it would mean that in order to teach in the States in September, I would have to end my regular classes here in February, the end of the Japanese school year. I probably would not want to begin teaching here at the beginning of the Japanese school year in April, only to leave in June during the summer vacation. If so, that's just a year off. How soon will the decision on Dr. Griffith's successor be made, and how soon after that would it be made public? I would like to give the Japanese administration here as much time as possible to find a replacement for me. Not that I am going to be that hard to replace, rather just to make for a happy, smooth transition here.

The salary of around \$12,000 per year, I must admit, sounds very nice. The cost of living here in Japan is so high that the mission salary permits only a minimum level. I've not yet been able to apply anything to a lingering loan related to my doctoral studies.

I hope this letter is enough to indicate my interest and that the enclosed material is sufficient for the instruction committee of the Seminary. I'll be looking for a letter from you before too long letting me know of developments.

With best wishes to you and Vivian.

Sincerely yours,

Tom McDaniel

P. S. Doris, too, sends her greetings and is quite ready to settle down on the east coast of the U. S. A. instead of the east coast of Japan.

Kanto Gakuin University
4834 Mitsuura-cho, Kanazawa-Ku
Yokohama, Japan
January 22, 1968

Dr. C. C. Meeden
First Baptist Church
217 Main Street
Haverhill, Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Meeden:

Since I wrote to you last I have received a letter from Dr. Walter B. Davis, saying that my name had been mentioned as a possible candidate for the position of Professor of Old Testament Interpretation and Hebrew. He suggested that if I were interested, I should fill out the forms which were enclosed, including the doctrinal statement. These I filled out and signed.

There are two brief items to bring the information I sent you up to date. Just this past week I was informed that the article I had submitted to Vetus Testamentum for publication will be published in July of this year. So that publication is no longer pending. Then last week I was asked to continue teaching in the graduate program at the Union Seminary in Tokyo, for the coming school year (April to February). I will be teaching a course in Syriac and a course on the importance of Ugaritic studies for Old Testament studies.

There were also two items on the forms sent by Dr. Davis which I sure are important, but I did not think to mention them in your letter. First, after returning to the field a duodenal ulcer which had been inactive since seminary days began to act up. This was the end of '66 and the beginning of '67. Why I'm not quite sure, but no doubt the pressures of being a full time pastor and a full time student had to show up in some way. No doubt the return to a Japanese diet of fried foods, curry, etc. added to the problem. But presently I am having no difficulty with my stomach, that is except when I eat what I know ~~what~~ I shouldn't eat. But this can't always be helped. This medical problem has not interfered with my work here in Japan, and I do not think it is the kind of a medical problem that would interfere with one's work as a professor. Indeed, a Stateside diet may help. But whether I am in the States or still in Japan in '69, I hope to get completely rid of the ulcer long before then. I'm told Ph. D. candidates frequently get ulcers, but few keep them after graduation.

The other item was the question "Do you smoke?" Now I don't, but for several years I did smoke a pipe some. I realize that the Seminary would no doubt prefer professors who did not smoke. For me this would not be a problem. I could have just answered the question "no" without indicating what I used to do, but since I did not attempt to keep my use of the pipe a secret, I didn't would any possibility of misunderstanding.

These bits of additional information and clarification are probably not necessary, but just in case they are I have called them to your attention.

Again many thanks for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas McDaniel

P. S. I have not mentioned anything to my family nor to Doris' family about this ulcer. It's not been that serious and I didn't see much need for them to worry about our health while we are here in Japan. I'll let them know when I fully recovered, which won't be too long.

Kanto Gakuin University
Mutsuura-cho 4834
Kanazawa-ku
Yokohama, Japan 236

Dr. C. C. Meeden:
11 Windsor Street
Haverhill, Mass., U. S. A.

June _____ '68

Dear Cliff:

During the past couple of weeks I received the off-prints of my articles published in Biblica and Vetus Testamentum, and I am sending you (under separate cover) the first copies of these my first serious publications as a way of saying thanks. It's been almost twenty years since you took me to Walter's Art Gallery to look at the Dead Sea Scrolls. I could never have dreamed then in 1948 that one day I would enter the world of Hebrew and Old Testament scholarship. But I have and I am really appreciative of that first visual introduction and your encouragement all along the academic highway. I know you share with me the feeling of satisfaction at this modest beginning.

What's new at Eastern? I am just wondering if my replies to Dr. Harnish's questions were really to his liking. You stated in your last letter that you believed they were entirely satisfactory, but he hasn't written me although he stated, "if we find ourselves getting together in this exploratory letter, then I would state to you formal details...."

I will need to know something definite pretty soon, because with the academic year in Japan starting in April, I will have to decide sometime this fall whether to accept responsibilities for the '69 academic year here. Whatever invitations may come are likely to come in September or October. But I do not want to agree to teach here starting in the middle of April '69 if we will be leaving in June '69, during the summer vacation. On the other hand, if by the end of this calendar year nothing opens up here in O. T. studies or Semitic languages for the Japanese '69 academic year, and if Eastern is not interested in me, I will want to make plans for seeking a position State-side for the U. S. '69 school year (for reasons given in my letter of January 15).

In your last letter you gave the encouraging word that you feel confident that when the time comes I will get the nod. Without trying to find out anything confidential, could you let me know when the decision will most likely be made. I realize that Eastern may well choose someone other than me. But whether the decision be 'yea' or 'nay' I would like to know something definite so that I can respond to invitations here for April, if there are any, or look elsewhere if there are none.

Things here at Kanto Gakuin University have been in a turmoil during the last month . On May 28, there was a fire on campus which destroyed two old barrack type dormitories housing over 200 students. Student demonstrations (led by a small left wing) following the fire have resulted in the resignation of the University President and the Chancellor. There are no really qualified Baptist leaders to replace them and the 8% non-Christian faculty and 95% non-Christian student body are pushing for an end to the requirement that the University president must be a Christian. Students want all the trustees to resign, the faculty want to make four faculty members trustees. So with no President, no Chancellor, no chairman of the Board of Trustees everything is in a big muddle. No only has the role of the missionary been weakened over the years as all administrative responsibility was given to the Japanese, to a point where it is almost non-existent, but what little bit of missionary influence is left is impotent in the present crisis because of the lack of communication and abundance of tension within the missionary community on campus. I sit on the sidelines and watch, not too optimistic about the future Christian affiliation of the University.

Our best regards to all.

Sincerely,

Thomas McDaniel

Kanto Gakuin University
Mitsuura-cho 4834
Kanazawa-ku
Yokohama, Japan
October 14, 1968

Dr. C. C. Meaden
First Baptist Church
217 Main Street
Haverhill, Mass. U. S. A.

Dear Cliff:

Your letter of October 2 arrived the same day I received a letter from Dr. Harnish, dated September 30. In his letter he made no reference to the possible visit to Japan of Dr. Lee Westrate and the conference I would have with him. Instead he indicated that "the Instruction Committee of the Board of Trustees will be meeting either in October or November, at which time they will take a vote on this matter," i. e. whether to invite me to join the faculty. Your letter indicated something somewhat different, with the decision postponed until January, after Dr. Westrate's visit. Of the two possibilities, I hope the one outlined in Dr. Harnish's letter actually happens, for as much I welcome such a conference with Dr. Westrate, the few extra months difference would facilitate a much smoother transition here at Kanto Gakuin, assuming the committee's vote were positive.

The University continues to have its problems, and changes are occurring weekly. One of the significant developments is the election of a University President who is not a Christian. With all the pressures from faculty and students his position is not too strong. If I were to wait until January to announce that I would not be teaching classes as of April, the head chaplain, Mr. Oshima, may have difficulty in finding funds for my replacement. Mr. Oshima could use all the time he can get to find a replacement and then come up with his salary. Under present circumstances I doubt if the new president would hastily provide the necessary funds on short notice.

Another reason why an early decision would be helpful is that The Graduate School of Aoyama University has approached me about teaching one course in Biblical Archaeology. I told them I would not be able to give them an answer until November. Without definite word from Eastern, I don't really want to tell them I can't do it, yet I don't want to tell them I can and then have to back out. So that's another problem.

I realize the difficulty of calling a man to join the faculty when there is no opportunity for a visit to the school or with those responsible for making the decision. If the proposed conference with Dr. Westrate does not materialize, and if the Instruction Committee decides to act at its next meeting, as I hope it does, but still wants someone's candid opinion of me and the impression

impression I make now, would the Committee be willing to do this by proxy? What I have in mind is this: Dr. Herbert Gezork is in Japan for this Japanese school semester, teaching at the College of Theology. He is living right next door to us. Since his arrival last month we have gotten well acquainted with him. Without knowing what he really thinks of us, I imagine he has some impressions, and these are probably more accurate than those made during a prearranged conference. He certainly has had enough experience in looking men over for seminary positions. A telephone call to him (Yokohama 782-2486) or a cable to him before the next meeting could produce a confidential and candid opinion. Since I don't know what he would say, it may not be of any help to me, but it could possibly be of help to the Committee. I have been very impressed by him, needless to say. Well, that's just an idea

Whenever Dr. Weststrate comes to Japan, before or after the decision --be it yes or nay--we would like to visit with him and show him something of our work here in Japan. So let him know that the welcome mat is out.

Having stated my preference, I leave it in your hands. I realize that you understand my position with reference to leaving Kanto Gakuin as smoothly as possible, and I am fully aware of the Committee's desire to have a real "look" at me.

This semester I am teaching an extra-curricular class at Aoyama University, a class in Arabic for three graduate students. Other than that, everything is about the same with all of us. Give our love to Vivian and all the family.

Sincerely yours,

P. S.

After a summer of careful dieting I had thorough gastro-intestinal studies made in September with the happy result that there is no sign of an ulcer. The specialist at the medical college where the studies were done thinks that my trouble all along may have been gastritis rather than an ulcer.

Kanto Gakuin University
Mitsuura-cho 4834
Kanazawa-ku
Yokohama, Japan
November 14, 1968

Dr. C. C. Meeden
First Baptist Church
Haverhill, Mass.
U. S. A.

Dear Cliff:

In Japanese we have the phrases gokuro-sama and o-kaga sama de, meaning respectively, "you have really worked hard" and "thanks to you..." I feel I should express both ideas to you for I appreciate all that you have done to place my name before the trustees and faculty. The fact that the action was taken this month makes it so much easier for me to make the transition here.

I had not realized until I received the last "President's Newsletter" that Eastern was looking for four other men. This really means a lot of committee work! Even though my position is now settled, I will continue to you and the committee in my thoughts and prayers as equally important decisions are being made.

Latter today I will be writing to Dr. J. Lee Westrate, inviting him to stay with us for a day or so if at all possible.

All of us are quite excited about the months and years ahead, and we are trusting that God will use us in a meaningful and effective ministry at Eastern.

Thanks again for your most significant part!

Most sincerely,

Thomas F. McDaniel