

## **Lottie Moon Portrayal, 1988**

*(LM has completed a letter. She is reading it back to herself. Has pen in hand. Lights will show transitions between writing letter and reading/speaking to audience.)*

I believe I have expressed my thoughts accurately but I shall read this letter once again to be certain I have said what I feel God has burned into my heart.

To my dear Baptist friends in the United States,

Please thank the women for all they are doing on our behalf in China. I have heard how you have taken the sponsorship of the Christmas offering as I suggested. You have chosen well the week before Christmas for a time of prayer and self-denial for missions.

“Need it be said why the week before Christmas is chosen? Is not the festive season, when families exchange gifts in memory of The Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race, the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?”

I have also heard how Miss Annie Armstrong has written numerous letters to the women’s societies informing them of our needs here and asking for personnel as well as finances. I am most grateful to her for her loving service to the cause of missions. I have written to tell her so. Because of these efforts word has come that three women missionaries are coming to help us. We rejoice!

I must remind you that you must never work to raise money on my behalf by entertainments and gimmicks. Your offerings of money must be scriptural, freewill tithes and additional offerings.

“I wonder how many of us really believe that it is more blessed to give than to receive. A woman who accepts that statement of our Lord Jesus Christ as a fact, and not as ‘impracticable idealism’ will make giving a principle of her life. She will lay aside sacredly not less than one-tenth of her income or her earnings as the Lord’s money, which she would no more dare to touch for personal use than she would steal. How many there are among our women, alas, who imagine that because ‘Jesus paid it all,’ they need pay nothing, forgetting that the prime object of their salvation was that they should follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ!”

I have followed the footsteps of Jesus to China. There are others among you who should follow also. Are there not men and women among your churches who would be willing to come to China to give their lives in sacrificial service to God?

“I would I had a thousand lives that I might give them to the women of China! As it is, I can only beg that other women and many of them be sent.”

Search the “inner chamber” of your hearts. Can you not feel the need for laborers in China? Search again, my friends in Christ. For God may be calling you to a life of sacrificial giving. If you cannot come, will you pray ye therefore that God will send forth laborers, here, to China?

Those who come must know that mission life here is hard. It “takes the strength and energy out of us before we know it. We have to learn to be watchful and not overwork lest the time come too soon when we can work no more.”

I am surrounded by the horrors of the mental and physical breakdown of the missionaries with whom I work.

“We are so weak – weak in numbers – none of us are strong. If we are not reinforced heavily, disaster will follow. Some of us may break down or die. Others will go in and reap fruit of our labors of the past.” I have felt the weight of the nation on my shoulders for I was at one period in time the only Southern Baptist left in North China.

My heart is full of love and gratitude for you. You must continue to be faithful in your giving of tithes and offerings and prayers that the work here may continue.

Most cordially yours,  
L. Moon

*(Pause in reflection then turn to pray)*

Dear Father, your love sustains me, even though the support of my brothers sisters at home wanes for they do not understand because they cannot see these beloved Chinese people. Break the hearts of Southern Baptists so they will send more reinforcements soon!...Amen  
*(or other appropriate prayer from Imitation of Christ)*

(Quotes and other thoughts taken from The New Lottie Moon Story, pages 178, 179, 175, 180, 176, 177, 170, 171, 169, 118)