

Historical artifacts Retrieved by the American Baptist Historical Society

The beginning of the White Cross tradition

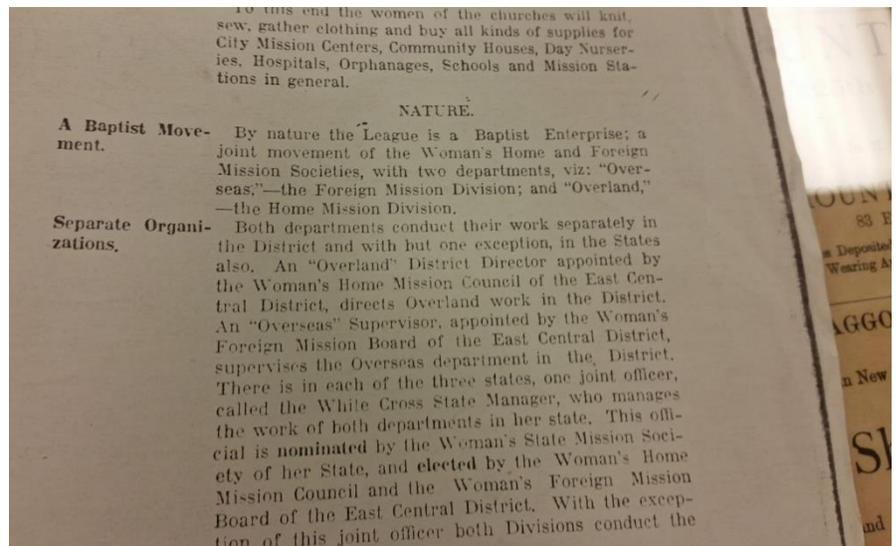
During World War I, many church women helped by providing surgical dressings, bandages, and other medical supplies for U.S. service personnel. In 1919, following the end of the war, two American Baptist women from Cleveland, Ohio organized the "White Cross Service League," channeling the war effort into support for global mission.

A Baptist Movement since 1919

By nature the League is a Baptist Enterprise; a joint movement of the Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Societies, with two departments, viz: "Overseas," – the Foreign Mission Division; and "Overland," – the Home Mission Division.

Separate Organizations

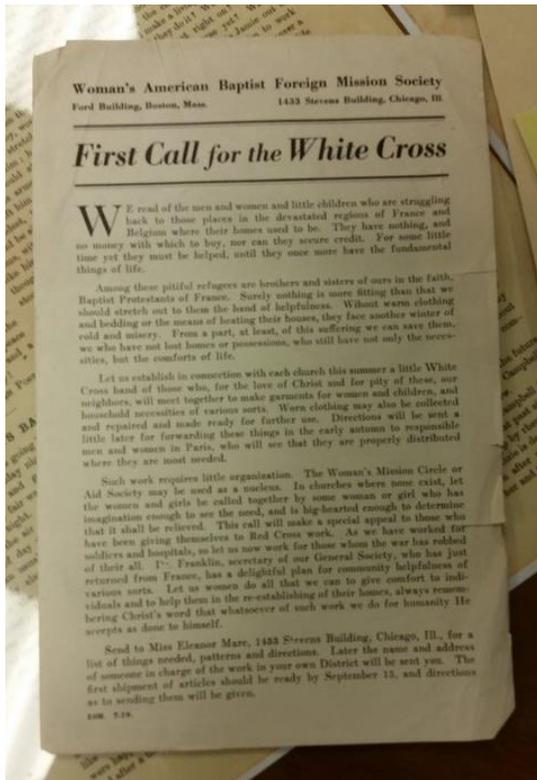
Both departments conduct their work separately in the District and with but one exception, in the States also. An "Overland" District Director appointed by the Woman's Home Mission Council of the East Central District, directs Overland work in the District. An "Overseas" Supervisor, appointed by the Woman's Foreign Mission Board of the East Central District, supervises the Overseas department in the District. There is in each of the three states, one



joint officer, called the White Cross State Manager, who manages the work of both departments in her state. This official is nominated by the Woman's State Mission Society of her State, and elected by the Woman's Home Mission Council and the Woman's Foreign Mission Board of the East Central District. With the exception of this joint officer both Divisions conduct the work separately in each state.

First Call for the White Cross

We read of the men and women and little children who are struggling back to those places in the devastated regions of France and Belgium where their homes used to be. They have nothing, and no money with which to buy, nor can they secure credit. For some little time yet they must be helped, until they once more have the fundamental things in life.



Among these pitiful refugees are brothers and sisters of ours in the faith, Baptist Protestants of France. Surely nothing is more fitting than that we should stretch out to them the hand of helpfulness. Without warm clothing and bedding or the means of heating their houses, they face another winter of cold and misery. From a part, at least, of this suffering we can save them, we who have not lost homes or possessions, who still have not only necessities, but the comforts in life.

Let us establish in connection with each church this summer a little White Cross band of those who, for the love of Christ and for pity of these, our neighbors, will meet together to make garments for women and children, and household necessities of various sorts. Worn clothing may also be collected and repaired and made ready for further use. Directions will be sent a little later for forwarding these things in the early autumn to responsible men and women in Paris, who will see that they are properly distributed where they are most needed.

Such work requires little organization. The Woman's Mission Circle or Aid Society may be used as a nucleus. In churches where none exist, let the women and girls be called together by some woman or girl who has Imagination enough to see the need, and is big-hearted enough to determine that it shall be relieved. This call will make a special appeal to those who have been giving themselves to Red Cross work. As we have worked for soldiers and hospitals, so let us now work for those whom the war has robbed of their all. Dr. Franklin, secretary of our General Society, who has just returned from France, has a delightful plan for community helpfulness of various sorts. Let us women do all that we can to give comfort to individuals and to help them in the re-establishing of their houses, always remembering Christ's word that whatsoever of such work we do for humanity He accepts as done to himself.

Send to Miss Eleanor Mare, 1433 Stevens Building, Chicago, IL., for a list of things needed, pattern and directions. Later the name and address of someone in charge of the work in your own District will be sent you. The first shipment of articles should be ready by September 15, and directions as to sending them will be given.

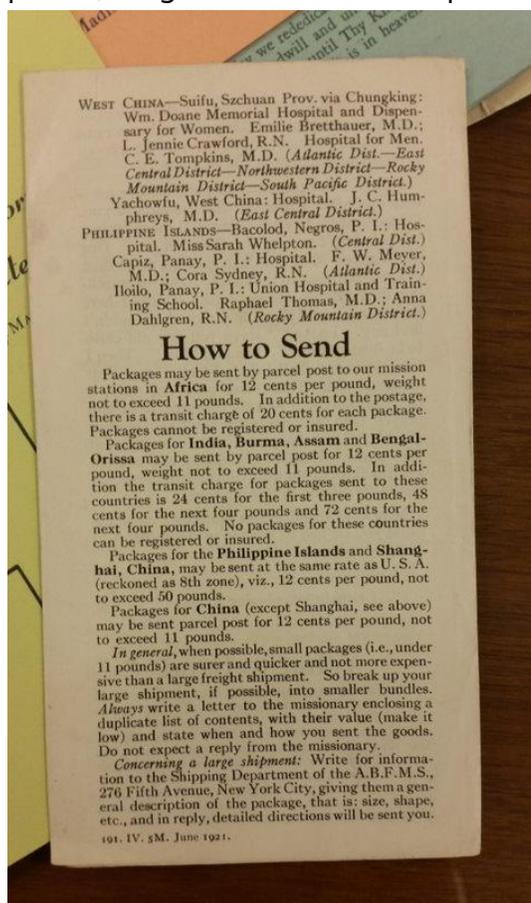
HOW TO SEND

Packages may be sent by parcel post to our mission stations in AFRICA for 12 cents per pound, weight not to exceed 11 pounds. In addition to the postage, there is a transit charge of 20 cents for each package. Packages cannot be registered or insured.

Packages for India, Burma, Assam and Bengal-Orissa may be sent by parcel post for 12 cents per pound, weight not to exceed 11 pounds. In addition, the transit charge for packages sent to these countries is 24 cents for the first three pounds, 48 cents for the next four pounds and 72 cents for the next four pounds. No packages for these countries can be registered or insured. Packages for the Philippine Islands and Shanghai, China, may be sent at the same rate as U.S.A. (reckoned as 8th zone), viz., 12 cents per pound, not to exceed 50 pounds.

Packages for China (except Shanghai, see above) may be sent parcel post for 12 cents per pound, not to exceed 11 pounds. *In general*, when possible, small packages (i.e., under 11 pounds) are surer and quicker and not more expensive than a large freight shipment. So break up your large shipment, if possible, into smaller bundles. Always write a letter to the missionary enclosing a duplicate list of contents, with their value (make it low) and state when and how you sent the goods. Do not expect a reply from the missionary. *Concerning a large shipment:* Write for information to the Shipping Department of the A. B. F. M. S., 276 Fifth Avenue, New York City, given them a general description of the package, that is: size, shape, etc., and in reply, detailed directions will be sent you.

June, 1921



The What, Where and How of The White Cross (Overseas Division)

Since the day that Mary, the friend of Jesus brought her box of precious ointment and anointed His feet, women have gloried in hand service for the Master. During the war the women of our land did glorious service in providing those enormous quantities of supplies which made our army the best equipped army the world had ever seen. When that need was no longer facing us, the trained, capable, willing hands turned to another task and found it waiting for them in the form of our White Cross work. By this organization we supply our soldiers on the Christian battle line with the equipment they need to carry on the work with the greatest possible efficiency.

Before undertaking White Cross work, consult your district captain (see list pp. 13-18). She will inform you what supplies are still needed and to what hospital they should be sent. This is important as the needs of each hospital vary in respect to climate, customs of the people and the conditions under which the work is being done. This plan will prevent some hospitals from receiving an over-supply while others receive an insufficient amount, or a hospital receiving an over-supply of certain articles and not enough of others. If you desire to make certain types of articles or you have an especial interest in any particular hospitals, please inform the captain. She will try to adapt your quota to suit your desires.

WHAT TO SEND-HOSPITAL SUPPLIES

Hospital Gowns - white material, opened in back, fastened with tape long enough for good ties. The neck either faced or a band $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide when finished. Neck measure with band, 15 inches; if faced, 20 inches. Hems, back 1 inch, bottom $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, sleeve $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Seams, narrow, flat, fell throughout. These gowns should all be $\frac{1}{4}$ length. Red Cross pattern will answer.

Surgical Gowns - Pictorial Review pattern 4928, size 48 bust. These are for the use of doctors when operating. Should be made large and full length. Fastened in the back by means of tapes. White, light-weight material should be used. Can be made according to the directions for hospital gowns except they should be made larger and full length.

Pajamas - White, of either muslin or outing. Made with draw tape in the hem at top. *Ladies' Home Journal* pattern 2399 B 9695.

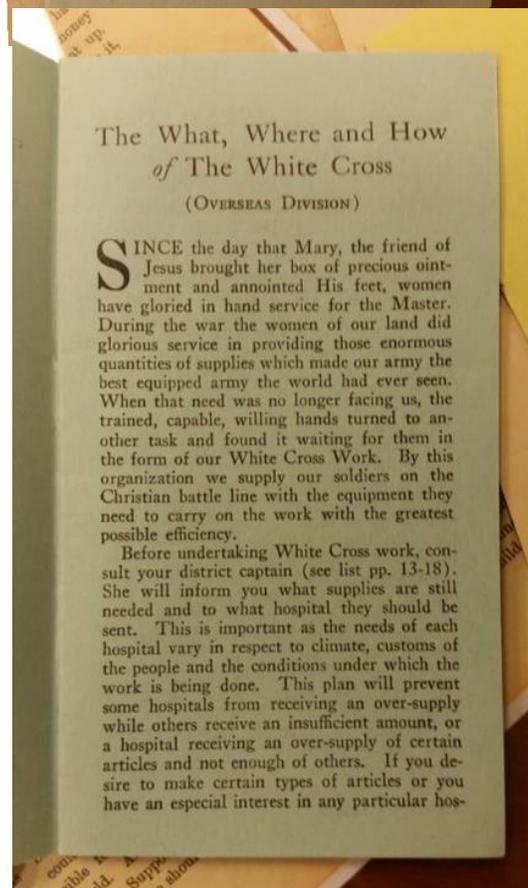
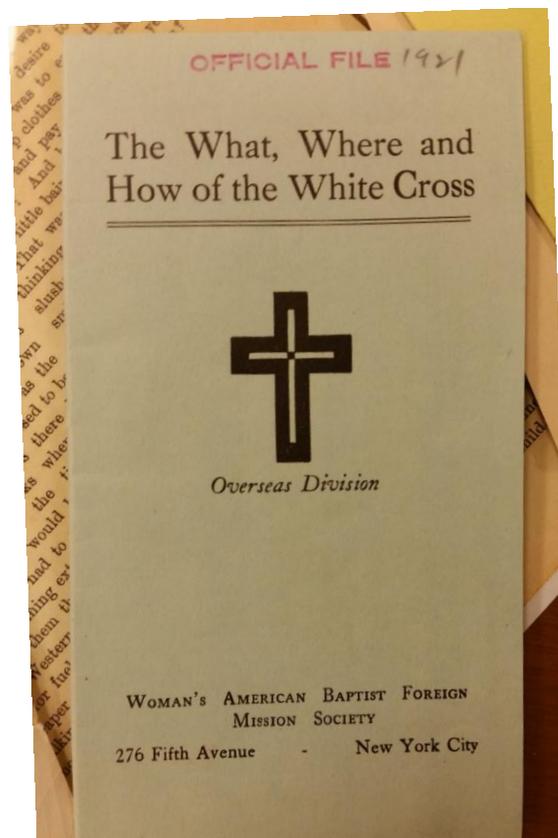
Nurses' Aprons - *Ladies' Home Journal* pattern 1639 will do.

Pillow Slips - Size 18 to 32.

Sheets - For single beds. Sheets for babies' cribs 36 inches by 36 inches.

Towels - Three-quarter yards in length, made from yard toweling.

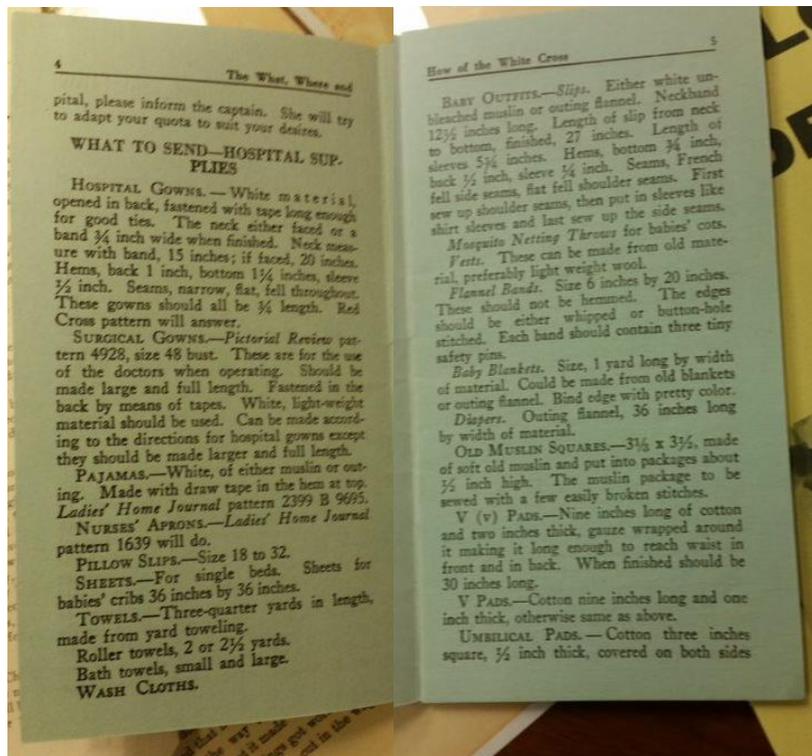
Roller towels, 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards.



Bath Towels – small and large.

Wash Cloths.

Baby Outfits – *Slips*. Either white unbleached muslin or outing flannel. Neckband 12 ½ inches long. Length of slip from neck to bottom, finished, 27 inches. Length of sleeves 5 ¾ inches. Hems, bottom ¾ inch, back ½ inch, sleeve ¼ inch. Seams, French fell side seams, flat fell shoulder seams. First sew up shoulder seams, then put in sleeves like shirt sleeves and last sew up the side seams.



Mosquito Netting Throws for babies' cots. *Vests*. These can be made from old material, preferably light weight wool.

Flannel Bands. Size 6 inches by 20 inches. These should not be hemmed. The edges should be either whipped or button-hole stitched. Each band should contain three tiny safety pins.

Baby Blankets. Size 1 yard long by width of material. Could be made from old blankets or outing flannel. Bind edge with pretty color.

Diapers. Outing flannel, 36 inches long by width of material.

Old Muslin Squares – 3 ⅛ x 3 ½, made of soft old muslin and put into packages about ½ inch high. The muslin package to be sewed with a few easily broken stitches.

V (v) Pads – Nine inches long of cotton and two inches thick, gauze wrapped around it making it long enough to reach waist in front and in back. When finished should be 30 inches long.

V Pads – Cotton nine inches long and one inch thick, otherwise same as above.

Umbilical Pads – Cotton three inches square, ½ inch thick, covered on both sides

“Rush a Ship to Russia”

There is to be another “Ship of Fellowship”. The great relief achievement of a year ago is to be repeated. Imperative appeals for clothing, particularly from Russia, have been coming during recent weeks, and in response to these appeals the Board of Managers of the Foreign Mission Society has decided to ask the denomination to forward another shipment of relief supplies to Europe.

The Woman’s Society has heartily endorsed the idea and is already urging the women in our churches to respond with that same enthusiastic cooperation with which they helped to fill the ship a year ago. Do the people in Russia need help? Their distress is beyond conception. Owing to the disastrous famine of last year, millions of people perished. Those who survived are now so undernourished and

without adequate clothing-for in their misery they bartered every possible garment in return for food-that they cannot survive the rigors of another Russian winter unless America comes to their

assistance. Relief workers and others who have visited Russia recently, including our own Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke, Baptist Commissioner for Europe, who arrived in America October 11th, are unanimous in the opinion that clothing conditions are far more terrible and destitute than in any previous year since the great war. Last year nine countries were included in the distribution of supplies from the "Ship of Fellowship" and Russia received only her proportionate share. This year Russia is to have the largest part of all that our people contribute.

The American Relief Administration, of which Mr. Herbert Hoover is chairman, has kindly consented to transport from New York, without expense of ocean freight, all supplies that our churches may contribute. All packages should be sent to the warehouse by express or parcel post prepaid. Baptist Relief Committees will be used in distributing but the distribution, as last year, will be made to all who have need of help irrespective of racial, political or religious affiliations.

The following supplies are most urgently needed;

Warm garments of every description
Suits and overcoats
Sweaters of all sizes
Blankets of all sizes
Shawls and mufflers

Skirts and warm dresses
Stockings and socks of all sizes
Underwear of all sizes
Unbleached cotton cloth with needle thread and buttons, for the making of underwear suits in Russia

Do not forget the children! Mr. Hoover's remarkable organization fed millions of children during the past famine year in Russia, but like their parents they are today sorely in need of warm clothing. The two Foreign Mission Societies, therefore, earnestly appeal to Baptists to participate in this second "Ship of Fellowship". We are sure that the satisfaction which so many of our churches derived last year and the blessing which they received from their participation will prompt them to respond enthusiastically and quickly to this second appeal.

The time is short and quick action is necessary. Instead of several months' time, as was afforded last year, it is hoped to have the entire achievement out of the way within a few weeks.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Address American Baptist European Relief Warehouse, c/o Abercrombie Corporation, 108-126 Dobbin Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
2. All articles must be clean, serviceable and in good condition. Anything not in good condition will be discarded. The high quality of goods sent last year occasioned favorable comment. A similar quality is desired this year.
3. Ship prepaid by parcel post or express. Owing to freight congestion on the railroads, it is not advisable to ship by freight.

4. Pack garments in well secured burlap of cloth bags, properly sewed. A heavy box or barrel adds considerably to the expense of postage or express.
5. All packages must be delivered to post office or express company not later than November 10. Anything shipped after that date may reach the warehouse too late.

In the interest of keeping expenses at the minimum, it might be advisable for people living in the extreme West to ship mostly children's garments and light weight garments. People in the Middle West might ship some heavier weight garments. Those living in the Eastern States might be expected to forward heavy blankets, overcoats and other articles. In this way the postage and express charges would be more evenly distributed among all our people.

In as much as the autumn months are known throughout our Sunday schools as the Home Mission period culminating with the Christmas offering, it is earnestly desired that any response to this appeal on behalf of Russia shall not occasion a diminution of interest in the work and support of either of the Home Mission Societies or in the regular activities of the White Cross Circles. In meeting the needs abroad, we must not neglect the needs at home. It has been customary in previous years to forward packages of clothing and other supplies to Home Mission Schools. It is hoped that our churches, in addition to meeting the needs in Europe, will continue to remember these institutions at home.

Once more Baptists are called upon to express their sympathy and fellowship with the suffering people of Europe. The achievement last year accomplished a measure of good far beyond all anticipation. Thousands of people receiving clothing and were kept warm and comfortable during the past winter. Some of the most interesting episodes in the reports of Dr. Carter Helm Jones and Dr. Frederick E. Taylor, who made an evangelistic tour in Czechoslovakia last summer, and in the reports of Dr. W. S. Abernethy and Mr. W. T. Sheppard, who toured the capitals of Europe, were their stories of seeing groups of people at the close of their various services who pointed to the garments they were wearing as having come on the "Ship of Fellowship." These fraternal visitors reported that many people were going barefoot during the summer months in order that the stockings and the shoes they received last year could be conserved for use during another winter. The greatest good was of course spiritual.

Baptists were encouraged in realizing that they were part of the great Baptist world brotherhood. Indeed, it may truly be said that the evangelistic awakening and the large numbers of converts reported from Europe during the past year were occasioned by the influence of this relief achievement.

Let us do it again. Those of you who had a part last year will gladly respond in order to fill the second ship. Those who did not participate for various reasons are now urged not to neglect this second opportunity. "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these, my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me."

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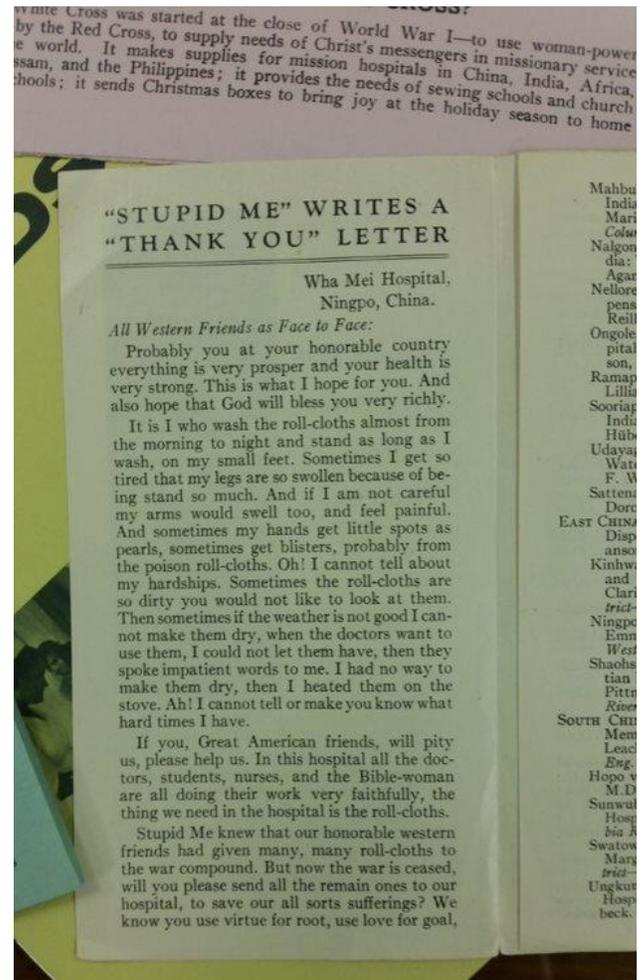
"STUPID ME" WRITES A "THANK YOU" LETTER – Wha Mei Hospital, Ningpo, China

All Western Friends as Face to Face:

Probably you at your honorable country everything is very prosper and your health is very strong. This is what I hope for you. And also hope that God will bless you very richly. It is I who wash the roll-cloths almost from the morning to night and stand as long as I wash, on my small feet. Sometimes I get so tired that my legs are so swollen because of being stand so much. And if I am not careful my arms would swell too and feel painful. And sometimes my hands get little spots as pearls, sometimes get blisters, probably from the poison roll-cloths. Oh! I cannot tell about my hardships. Sometimes the roll-cloths are so dirty you would not like to look at them. Then sometimes if the weather is not good, I cannot make the dry, when the doctors want to use them, I could not let them have, then they spoke impatient words to me. I had no way to make them dry, then I heated them on the stove. Ah! I cannot tell or make you know what hard times I have.

If you, Great American friends, will pity us, please help us. In this hospital all the doctors, students, nurses, and the Bible-woman are all doing their work very faithfully, the thing we need in the hospital is the roll-cloths.

Stupid Me knew that our honorable western friends had given many, many roll-cloths to the war compound. But now the war is ceased, will you please send all the remain ones to our hospital, to save our all sorts sufferings? We know you use virtue for root, use love for goal.



Thank you to the women, the churches, groups and community that continues to pray and give financial support. IM is grateful for you in carrying this treasured tradition into the twenty-first century. Through White Cross gifts, you provide urgently-needed supplies and financial support for International Ministries global servants' ministries around the world. We hope you enjoyed reading some of the precious documents from the founding years of White Cross.

For White Cross information today visit:

<https://www.internationalministries.org/white-cross/>