

For immediate release
To The Yakima Herald

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Letters have recently been received from the Reverend Eugene Mc Graw, former pastor of the White Swan Methodist Church and missionary to the Yakima Indians. Mr. Mc Graw, now living in Singapore, has resumed his work as Methodist missionary to Malaya, from where he returned to the U. S. in the spring of 1942, following the invasion of Malaya by the Japanese.

He describes his visit to Sibur in Sarawak, Borneo, with Bishop Edwin F. Lee, Methodist bishop for Malaysia: "Quite a number of the pastors and about 150 church members were down at the dock to welcome us, not to mention a thousand other spectators, for this was the largest ship to come to Sibur in many years, and the first steamer since the war ended. The mission bungalow where we will live was damaged, but has been repaired somewhat, and is not too bad. The Japanese installed flush toilets in the house!"

Mr. Mc Graw returned with Bishop Lee to Singapore and will remain in Malaya until after the annual conference in August. Then he will go to a permanent assignment in Borneo. In a letter to his wife, who with their two children will soon join him in Malaya, Mr. Mc Graw writes: "Bring everything you can think of that we will need for from 6 months to a year and clothing for all of us for last two years. There is nothing here that does not cost twice, sometimes four or even 10 times what it does in the States. Eggs are 28¢ each, shoes \$1.75 a pair, the cheapest cotton cloth \$8 a yard, canned milk 40¢ a tin (and \$1.40 a tin in Borneo)."

The most recent letter, dated from Penang July 10 describes Mr. Mc Graw's trip upcountry through the Malay peninsula on a mission building inspection tour. Visits with his former Chinese and Indian friends there have been a thrilling experience. Many have suffered many hardships and a few of his intimate friends were executed during the war. Friends have entertained him lavishly. As an

example, Mr. McGraw was embarrassed to observe that one Chinese friend paid out \$20 for a dinner in his honor, a price he could ill afford.

He describes the damage to the mission bungalow he formerly occupied in Sidiawan, his former station. "Our bungalow is in very bad shape - no screen wire, the roof very bad, the house completely looted of everything. Even all plumbing and every scrap of electric wire and fittings have been looted. Contractors estimate for repairs and paint is over \$10,000.

And the Anglo-Chinese School where Mr. McGraw had been principal and which was used during the war as a Japanese garrison: "The main damage to the school is loss of all electrical equipment, tools, furniture and book room stock. The school buildings are almost intact."

One teacher managed to save the Bible Mr. McGraw's mother gave him, also his typewriter, and three of Mrs. McGraw's Harvard Classics. A servant of the McGraws suffered much in unsuccessfully trying to save some of their possessions from the Japanese invaders.

During Mr. McGraw's White Swan pastorate he taught in Yakima Valley Summer Youth Institutes and spoke in a good many churches of the Yakima Valley.

He is a graduate of Earlham College and Oberlin Theological Seminary and holds a certificate in social work from the University of Southern California.