

1957

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## Recommended Citation

Elder, Martha (1957) "Can Communism Possibly Out-Promise- Promise?," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 36 : No. 14 , Article 6.  
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol36/iss14/6>

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# CAN COMMUNISM POSSIBLY OUT-PROMISE— PROMISE?

by *Martha Elder*

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“What can Communism possibly offer if: (1) American agricultural technology is working to show people how to produce the food they need; (2) if teachers are on the job, working to foster education; (3) if ministers are preaching a faith in God and a gospel of hope and good will.”

Promise, Inc.—a name unfamiliar to you, perhaps. Almost two years ago Dr. Pak-Chue Chan of the Iowa State College Hospital originated this organization, dedicated to halting the march of Communism.

## **Chans Forced to Flee Communists**

Dr. Chan was himself a victim of the methods and devices of Communism. In February, 1949, Dr. and Mrs. Chan were forced to evacuate the hospital which they had built in Canton, China, to escape the Communists who occupied the city a few months later.

Dr. Chan states that China fell victim to Communism because the people were hungry, illiterate and without hope. The United States had failed to fill the needs of China, he said, and the Communists claimed they could do so. It is this situation that Dr. Chan challenges the American people to improve.

Promise, Inc. is dedicated to the idea that love, kindness and giving is the way to solve the present international problem.

## **ISC Students Join PROMISE**

A group of students at Iowa State became interested in Dr. Chan's proposal early in 1955. These students formed a non-profit organization independent of church or government control. In May, 1955, Promise, Inc., directed by a board representing churches, student groups and service clubs, was born.

By teams of farmers, teachers, nurses, and ministers, the organization hopes to reach lands which Communism has not yet overrun. Teams will be made up of young Americans and a corresponding number of trained workers from the area being served.

The efforts of each team will be directed toward building a model rural community on previously undeveloped land. Activities will center around an agricultural station, a school, a church and a medical center.

As the program is extended and the number of teams increases, it is expected that they will work under the supervision of agricultural, veterinary, medical and engineering specialists.

The American members of each team will be engaged on a short term basis. After two or three years they will turn over their responsibilities to local residents—either the team-mates with whom they have worked or others who are prepared to carry on.

## **Need \$250,000 to Send Team**

Right now the target of the organization is to raise \$250,000—less than the cost of one wing on a modern bomber plane. This amount of money, the group feels, should be sufficient to buy undeveloped land and send the first team.

This first unit will probably be sent to Formosa, the Philippine Islands or Thailand. Contact has been made with Formosa through Dr. Andrew Gih, Chinese evangelist and close friend of Dr. Chan. Dr. Gih reports that plenty of land is available and that Promise will have the full cooperation of the Formosan government.

Many plans and adequate funds are still needed, but offers from young people volunteering to serve on the teams have already been received.

The Iowa Jaycees have adopted Promise as a state project for 1956-57. Plans for models of the buildings which Promise proposes to build are being drawn by members of the Department of Architecture at Iowa State.