

I Pet. 2:4,5 "Come to Him, our living Stone, the stone rejected by men but choice and precious in the sight of God. Come and let yourselves be built as living stones, into a spiritual temple."

1966 has been a year when building has occupied a large share of our time. A chapel was built and dedicated in the leprosy village of Plei Tomak. The Jerai church in Cheo Reo having begun its building program just two years has accomplished its first objective, that of the pastor's house; and this year has secured all the cement blocks necessary for construction, the wood for framing and windows and the roofing materials. A well has been dug, providing sufficient water for construction. The church lacks now only the funds necessary for the erection of the building and its furnishings.

But the Bible speaks of Living Stones, spiritual temples. These are not made from brick and mortar, wood or rock; but with materials far more precious - hearts and lives, dedication and service. In this live of building the Lord has given an increase. Over the past year 24 Jerai have confessed their need of Christ, turned from their worship of evil spirits and turned to the true God. We have seen God begin to work in the lives of the Christians here, giving them a concern for their own people. The children's and teen-ager's groups of the church have volunteered to help with the village evangelism program on Sunday afternoons. Several families here in town have expressed their interest in the Gospel as a result of talking with their Christian neighbors. The church board voted to increase the pastor's salary and submitted a request to the district committee that the church here be declared self supporting. This was approved.

The children's classes have continued to grow. From 30 last year the group now numbers 60. The children regularly lead their own services and contribute to the work of the church by their offerings.

An Area 25 kilometers to the east of Cheo Reo was closed to us for a period of time due to the Viet Cong activity. On one trip to this area the Jerai pastor was stopped on the road by a group of V.C. After questioning him and examining his Bible and hymn book, they instructed him to return to Cheo Reo. In the last few months regular weekly trips have again been made to this area to visit a group of Christians living there.

The Leprosy work has grown slightly over the past year; the segregation village of Plei Tomak has increased as a few new patients have come to us. An animal husbandry program of rabbit raising has been completed as all families of the village succeeded in raising their own rabbits - thus providing themselves with an additional source of protein. In May of this year 800 refugees from the Thuan Man district were brought to Cheo Reo for relocation. This is a district where we formerly had a leprosy outpatient clinic. In response to a request by our province chief we did a

leprosy check of these people and found 50 suspects. Further examination of these fifty were made and most were placed on treatment. To date more than one third of the total refugee group have drifted back to their mountain villages and out of contact with us.

The Vietnamese Christian group of Cheo Reo conducted a special series of services in October. The speakers, two Vietnamese pastors and Mr. D. F. Irwin, brought messages encouraging the hearts of the believers. The number of Christians has not increased over the year as the modest gains have been offset by the transfer of other christians in government work to other areas. Four Vietnamese christians as well as eight Jerai christians followed the Lord in baptism this year.

Other services have occupied portions of our time. Weekly English classes have been conducted for Vietnamese, Jerai school teachers and province officials. This ministry, although at times wearisome, has provided us with many opportunities for witness and resulted in the church receiving favorable treatment by the government.

Jerai language lessons have been taught each week for the last three months to a group of newly arrived Korean doctors, an American special forces team and other Americans who work directly with the tribes people.

English services were held each week of the year at the American Military compound. As there is no chaplain to serve these men, this has been our ministry the past four years. A group of the men came each week to our home to practice hymns and prepare special music for the Sunday morning services. Over twenty Bibles have been sold to the service men, and it was our privilege to baptise one of these "soldiers in Christ". The fellowship we have enjoyed with some of these men has made this ministry an enjoyable one. Many of them have said that their association with us and the church has made their tour of duty more meaningful for them.

A year has come and gone, and with it opportunities; some bought up, some missed. But to the church of Christ have been added some living stones. We believe that the Lord has worked and the spiritual temple is more stable

With the end of the year comes Christmas, the most important day to the Christians here. Christmas comes but once a year. And most of us who build platforms, cut ferns, sew costumes, prompt children, most of us say we are glad it comes but once. But one villager upon viewing the colored lights, the costumes, listening to the choir and the message of the pastor, exclaimed "Christmas is wonderful! Let's not have it once but twice a year." The Vietnamese church was packed out, the Jerai program was held outdoors to provide enough room. And to the more than 300 people that viewed the programs the choirs sang, "O come, O come and behold Him born King of Angels. Come and adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

Our prayer is that more will answer the call, "O come to Him, Our living Stone, and let yourselves be built as living stones into a spiritual temple.

Respectfully submitted,