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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 1975

SOURCE: Henry Paasonen, ←
director of communications
International Headquarters
The Christian and Missionary Alliance
Nyack, New York 10960
↓ close up
Tel nr: 914/353-0750

Bangkok Oct 30 1600 Hours
New York time Oct. 30 0500 Hours

The five missionaries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance detained in Viet Nam since the fall of South Viet Nam arrived today in Bangkok, Thailand. They were in a group of 50 persons released by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of Viet Nam after being held for eight months.

The C&MA missionaries--Rev. & Mrs. Norman Johnson, Dr. & Mrs. Richard Phillips and Mrs. Betty Mitchell--were met at the Bangkok airport by Dr. Nathan Bailey, President of the Alliance, and by Dr. L. L. King, Vice President in charge of Overseas Missions.

Joining them at plane side was Mrs. Mitchell's seventeen year-old daughter, Geraldine, a student at the C&MA school for missionaries' children at Penang, Malaysia.

"How good to be back!" cried Mrs. Mitchell in tears as she joyfully embraced her daughter. The mother was still wearing a blue print dress she had worn while serving at the Alliance leprosarium in Banmethuot, South Viet Nam.

Also in the group, arriving on a Royal Laotian Air flight from Hanoi, were two missionaries of Wycliffe Bible Translators--Mr. & Mrs. John Miller and their six year old daughter, LuAnne.

Dr. Bailey reports that all the missionaries appear to be in good health. He said, "There is no holding them back! They are in great spirits, and we praise

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October 20, 1975

The Christian and Missionary Alliance

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the Lord for His mercy."

The missionaries were taken by bus to the C&MA center in Bangkok for rest and medical examination. They are expected to return later this week to their families in the United States and Canada.

Information is still being sought on three other missionaries taken captive in May 1962 when a party of Viet Cong raided the Alliance medical facilities at Banmethuot--Rev. Archie Mitchell, the hospital administrator and husband of Mrs. Betty Mitchell; Dr. Ardell Vietti, a medical missionary; and Mr. Dan Gerber, a medical assistant.

Dr. Bailey said, "We are continuing to press government officials and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees concerning these missionaries. Mrs. Mitchell reports that officials in Hanoi have disclaimed any knowledge of her husband or any other missionaries."

The C&MA members released today were in Banmethuot, South Viet Nam in March 1975 when military forces moving into that area seized the town. In the following months, reports were received that they were being held in the Pleiku Province of South Viet Nam. There had been no previous communication with them until today.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance has been active in humanitarian and missionary work throughout Viet Nam since 1911. A world-wide missionary society and evangelical church denomination, it was founded in 1887 and today has a church constituency of over one million ^{people} ~~persons~~ in the United States, ⁱⁿ Canada and ⁱⁿ 41 other countries.

← DATE: October 29, 1975

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director of communications
International Headquarters
The Christian and Missionary Alliance
Nyack, New York 10960

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Tel nr: 914/353-0750

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The five missionaries of the Christian and Missionary Alliance detained in Viet Nam since the fall of South Viet Nam arrived today in Bangkok, Thailand. They were in a group of 50 persons released by the Provisional Revolutionary Government~~ex~~ of Viet Nam after being held for eight months.

The C.M.A. missionaries --- Rev. & Mrs. Norman Johnson, Dr. & Mrs. Richard Phillips and Mrs. Betty Mitchell --- were met at the Bangkok airport by Dr. Nathan Bailey, President of the Alliance, and by Dr. L. L. King, Vice President in charge of Overseas Missions.

Joining them at plane side was Mrs. Mitchell's seventeen year-old daughter, Geraldine, a student at the C.M.A. school for missionaries' children at Penang, Malaysia.

"Oh, Lord, how good to be back?" cried Mrs. Mitchell in tears as she joyfully embraced her daughter. The mother was still wearing a blue print dress she had worn while serving at the Alliance leprosarium in Banmethuot, South Viet Nam.

Also in the group, arriving on a Royal Laotian Air flight from Hanoi, were two missionaries of Wycliffe Bible Translators --- Mr. & Mrs. John Miller and their six-year old daughter, LuAnne.

Dr. Bailey reports that all the missionaries appear to be in good health. ~~She said, "There is no holding them back! They are in great spirits, and we praise the Lord for His mercy."~~ ^{in a telephone call to Nyack,} "There is no holding them back! They are in great spirits, and we praise the Lord for His mercy."

MORE

The missionaries were taken by bus to the C.M.A. center in Bangkok for rest and medical examination. They are expected to return ^{later} this week to their families in the United States and Canada.

Information is still being sought on three other missionaries taken captive in May 1962 when a party of Viet Cong raided the Alliance medical facilities at Banmethuot --- Rev. Archie Mitchell, the hospital administrator and husband of Mrs. Betty Mitchell; Dr. Ardell Vietti, a medical missionary; and Mr. Dan Gerber, a medical assistant.

Dr. Bailey said, "We are continuing to press the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees concerning these missionaries ^{government officials and}. Mrs. Mitchell reports that officials in Hanoi have disclaimed any knowledge ^{of} ~~about~~ her husband or any other missionaries."

The C.M.A. ^{members} ~~missionaries~~ released today were in Banmethuot, South Viet Nam in March ~~1975~~ 1975 when military forces moving into that area seized the town. In the following ~~several~~ months, reports were received that they were being held in the Pleiku Province of South Viet Nam. ~~There~~ had been no previous communication with them until today.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance has been active in humanitarian and missionary work throughout Viet Nam since 1911. A world-wide missionary society and evangelical church denomination, it was founded in 1887 and today has ~~approximately 1500 churches in the~~ has a church constituency of ^{over} one million persons in the United States, Canada, and in ⁺¹ other countries.

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October 30, 1975

SOURCE: Henry Paasonen, director of communications
The Christian and Missionary Alliance
Nyack, New York 10960
Telephone number: 914/353-0750

The five missionaries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance detained in Viet Nam since the fall of South Viet Nam arrived today in Bangkok, Thailand on a United Nations chartered DC-3 flight from Hanoi. They were in a group of fourteen persons released by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of Viet Nam after being held for eight months.

The C & MA missionaries--Rev. & Mrs. Norman Johnson, Dr. & Mrs. Richard Phillips and Mrs. Betty Mitchell--were met at the Bangkok airport by Dr. Nathan Bailey, President of the Alliance; ^{by} Dr. L. L. King, Vice President, ~~in charge of~~ the Division of Overseas Ministries; and by Mrs. Mitchell's seventeen year-old daughter, Geraldine, a student at the C&MA school in Penang, Malaysia.

A large party of officials--including the ambassadors of the United States, Canada, Australia and the Philippines--were also there to meet them. Newsmen, photographers and television camera ^{men} ~~crews~~ surrounded the missionaries as they came off the plane.

MORE

As Mrs. Mitchell joyfully embraced her daughter, Dr. Phillips exulted, "We arrive not somehow but triumphantly!" Dr. Bailey and Dr. King report that *

Also arriving on the same flight from Hanoi were two missionaries of Wycliffe Bible Translators--Mr. & Mrs. John Miller and their six year-old daughter, LuAnne. Dr. Bailey reports, "Our people are all well," They had received good treatment in Hanoi and were even taken on sightseeing tours. But their requests to visit the Protestant church in Hanoi were denied.

They had been in Banmethuot, South Viet Nam in March, 1975 when military forces moving into that area seized the town. Dr. Phillips said today that it was then, as their captors led them away, that the thought, "Not somehow-but triumphantly"--first came to him; They were detained in Phan Dinh, Pleiku Province, South Viet Nam. Each of them was required to work in the fields and received 50

piastras a week to purchase food. The missionaries attended indoctrination classes but took every opportunity to witness of their faith in Jesus Christ.

On August 15 they were taken by covered trucks on an eight-day journey to Sanh Tay near Hanoi. The missionaries were not told they would be released till Tuesday of this week.

After their arrival in Bangkok, the missionaries were taken to the C&MA center in Bangkok for rest and medical examinations. Mr. & Mrs. Johnson stayed at the home of the Canadian ambassador.

Mrs. Mitchell is expected to travel in a few days to Penang, Malaysia, for a stay with her daughter. The other missionaries are planning to return to the United States and Canada early next week.

Dr. Bailey will be travelling to attend the Servicemen's Prayer Retreat in Bessersgarden, Germany. Dr. King is expected back in Nyack on Monday.

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that this is the first time he came in contact - indoctrination

They did so insistently

he explained that is the title of a book by Oswald Smith. under primitive conditions in the following six months, for a pay of

after speaking with the missionaries, confirmed

appears to be every one in remarkably good health. in better condition than we thought

tell

The hard work, malaria, and physical illnesses which began to deplete their health

They remained under their treatment

over the next nine weeks and leading up to their release, they were well treated and well-fed and received some medical care.

expected stay at taken

plans

she has spoken she is planning expecting

name

the Johnsons

Servicemen's Prayer Retreat in Bessersgarden