

BANMETHUOT STATION AND DISTRICT -- NARRATIVE REPORT

FOREIGN BUREAU 3

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1966

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." -- ~~Matthew 28: 20~~ *Act. 2/27/67*

This report actually covers only the last half of the year 1966 because Mrs. Ziemer and I did not return to Banmethuot from furlough to begin our fourth term of service until the 16th of July. God has blessed and enabled us although adequate living quarters were not available for us until November. By that time the three former Bible School rooms at the rear of the Raday Church were renovated and made into an apartment that is comfortable for us at the present time. A new permanent house was begun for the Phillips family in November and this promises to be completed in the spring of 1967. Then we, too, shall be able to return to our former living quarters.

A six-month Bible School session was begun in October with 9 students enrolled. Six of these are men and three are women. Divided by tribes this group is made up of five Raday, two Mnong, one Jerai, and one Bahnar tribespeople. One of the young men will be graduated in the spring. Aware of the fact that a number of Christian lay people were desirous to study the Scripture but could not attend daytime classes in the Bible School, I scheduled a night class twice weekly for working people. There are fifteen students enrolled who have been attending for the past three months. We have been studying the life and letters of the Apostle Paul. Of those enrolled eleven are members of three church committees.

By faith the Raday workers have started an Extension Fund that has resulted in the opening of two works during the year. One is located at Buon Ho and is under the leadership of Mr. Y-Siok, the first Raday graduate from the Nhatrang Bible School. The other is at Buon Kram under the leadership of Mr. Y-Ngok. The plan calls for a gradual decrease in subsidy grant from the fund as the extension work grows. At Buon Ho there have been steady reports of rising interest and new converts. At the Christmas celebration 25 souls were baptized as 200 people assembled.

Pastor Y-Ham, the District Superintendent, has reported over 117 baptisms in the Banmethuot district during the year of 1966. Actually the above figure was reported just over the Christmas season. It does not include other figures accumulated during the course of the year. A real hunger seems to be evident among the Raday tribal people and many have been responding to the Gospel message. During the last two months alone over 150 school children have prayed after attending weekly meetings provided for them at the Raday Church.

After several years of accumulating funds for the erection of a new church building for the Raday, the Banmethuot pastor and congregation broke ground for the new structure in the month of November, and the actual construction is now under way. No help by grant or loan from the mission is being made to this congregation. The cor-

nerstone was laid in a special service on November 29th at which time our chairman, Rev. T. G. Mangham, and the National Church President, Rev. Mieng, were present. During special meetings held at this time God the Holy Spirit used Mr. Mangham's ministry to bring decision to eleven young people for Christian service. Four of these were pastor's sons who said they must serve the Lord. The choice was made very deliberately with the knowledge that financial realization in the ministry is often very small. Evangelist Barry Reed of New Zealand also ministered at one service during these meetings as well as at a very successful series of meetings in the spring. His meetings resulted in several scores of decisions being made for the Lord.

Despite the continued stress and tension caused by warfare and the presence of enemies in the surrounding area God has continued to work in the salvation of souls.

Regular English services have continued to be held each Sunday at two American military compounds. A large share of the funds received in offerings at these services is being used toward construction of the new Raday Church building.

The book of Exodus has come off the press this year and the proofs for the book of Isaiah are now being read. This work was done by the Bible Society. Mr. Swain together with Pastor Y-Ham have continued work on the revising of the first rough translations of other Old Testament books.

As the year comes to an end we are looking forward in faith to a great New Year of blessing before us.

Respectfully,

N. Robert Ziemer

Banmethuot, Viet Nam