

For several years, at the Chinese New Year season, we have held a Deeper Life Conference for the young people of all the Chinese churches. But this year, due to war conditions, the young people were not able to make their annual trip to the Dalat Tribes Center. They were keenly disappointed. What was to be done to take its place? It was in July when Rev. Philip Teng came to Viet Nam as a speaker at the Vietnamese National Church Conference that arrangements were made for three days of special meetings for the young people. More than 300 attended the conference with great blessing to their hearts and encouragement in the Lord.

Saturday night youth meetings at the Chinese church are geared especially for those interested in learning English. Each week a different missionary speaker presents a simple, brief gospel message in English, translated into Chinese. This is an opportunity for evangelism. However, it does have its drawback in that many young people are afraid to enter a church because of parental opposition. This is one of the main reasons why the Student Christian Fellowship came into being and why meetings are held in a home. From this starting point it is our purpose to have leading young people from each of the Chinese churches attending our Tuesday meeting to make personal contact with interested youth and draw them into the local churches. We give praise to the Lord for those who have been helped in this way.

For most of the year we have had a group of Christian American servicemen attending regularly our Saturday night meetings. On several occasions they have participated in the service in providing special music or giving testimonies. On three occasions our entire youth group has been invited to the US military base to hold a gospel service in their chapel. The Chaplain reported that the only time his chapel was full was when the young people came, for they drew a crowd--the men enjoyed hearing them sing. A missionary presented the salvation message, directed especially at the American servicemen. We feel this unusual ministry has had a dual purpose: providing an outlet of evangelism for our Chinese youth to unsaved American men, as well as proving to them the results of the gospel ministry in a foreign land as evidenced in the lives of Chinese Christians. A strong bond of love and fellowship in Christ has developed between these Christian American servicemen and our Chinese young people through these Saturday night meetings.

Young people chosen from the choirs of the Chinese churches, forming a united choir, presented two sacred concerts during the year--at Easter and Christmas. Many Americans were not aware of these special occasions so missed hearing the fine presentation of one of John Petersen's Easter cantatas. On December 22, a special presentation of the Christmas concert was given for American military men. Despite our inability to advertise it widely, a large group of men came. Their response to the fine singing was very enthusiastic. These concerts offer unusual opportunity to present the gospel in message and song to a large audience.

Upon the departure of Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Fowler for Hong Kong and Rev. and Mrs. Michael Meadows (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) for furlough, the English Bible teaching ministry at William Ling Chinese-English High School became my responsibility. I have taught at this school for more than ten years. The principal was anxious for me to teach all the first year classes, but time did not permit me to devote nine hours a week to this opportunity along with my other duties. A schedule was worked out, mutually agreeable with the principal and myself, whereby I taught an hour a week of English Bible to the four second-semester first-year classes, a total of 250 students. This is a required course, and the students are given an examination twice a semester. From these classes come many of the young people who attend the Student Christian Fellowship. If time and strength permitted, opportunity to have a similar teaching ministry in other Chinese schools could be mine.

In early June I took over the sponsorship of the Student Christian Fellowship from Mr. Meadows. Each Tuesday noon students from more than six Chinese high schools gather at the Inter-varsity Evangelical Fellowship headquarters for a time of evangelism. This affords opportunity for Christian students to bring unsaved classmates to hear a salvation message, as well as to plan and have charge of the meetings. To see signs of growth in new Christians, interest upon the part of believers to reach unsaved youth with the gospel and some come to a definite experience of the new birth as a result of these meetings are a source of real encouragement. Attendance is low at the time of school examinations, but averages between 40 and 50 with as many as 100 coming for special occasions. We need earnest prayer for the working of the Holy Spirit in young hearts

through the ministry of the Word.

This entire youth ministry needs a missionary couple to contact eager, questioning young hearts and win them to Christ.

Junior Young People

In June the second junior Youth Camp was held at Tung Tau, with 100 teenagers in attendance. Helpers were insufficient, so it was necessary to double up in responsibilities. Even pastors had to help in the kitchen preparing meals. Despite the handicaps, the young people were greatly blessed. Not only will it be a lasting pleasant memory, but we are sure it will result in eternal rewards.

This is my second year to work with junior young people, a new age group new to me. It requires a great deal of time in Bible study preparation to teach them, in personal contacts with them, planning with the committee for our meetings, and going out in visitation with them on Sunday afternoon to the homes of our absent members. Between 15 and 20 regularly attend our Sunday morning meetings (8:00-9:20) preceded by a time of prayer together for any who can come early. To me, it is one of the happiest ministries I have, for it is a delight to see growth in the Lord in the lives of some of these 14 and 15-year old young people. They have many pertinent questions that demand proper answers. I count it a privilege to have been invited by the church to share in this ministry.

SAIGON CRUSADE

When the churches of Saigon area united in a city-wide crusade in April, the Chinese Christians were happy to share in this effort. Shortly before the opening night more than 100 young people and adults participated in a door-to-door distribution campaign of invitations and gospel literature. Two nights of the crusade the Chinese language was used with a good response to the message. The united choirs of the Chinese churches provided special music on several occasions.

DEEPER LIFE MEETINGS

Early in July, following Rev. Philip Teng's ministry at the National Church Conference, he was able to hold a week of meetings at our church. There was excellent attendance for the early morning services (6:30-7:30 a.m.) as well as for the evening

messages. To us, it was the most outstanding event of our church calendar year because the working of the Holy Spirit in our midst with far-reaching results, and this despite the fact that we had no time to prepare advertizing.

BAPT I SMS

April 9 and August 14 baptismal services were conducted with 19 candidates following the Lord in this memorable experience. Among this number, the majority are young people who come from non-Christian homes (4 are students from William Lin High School). Not only so, but parents have greatly opposed the faith of these young people. Despite this, they were brave enough to take part in this service and even invited their relatives to witness their testimony of faith in Christ as Saviour. We are impressed with their firm faith and need to pray much for them.

BRANCH CHURCH

Two years ago, at our tenth anniversary, we made clear our aim to spread out in preaching the gospel. At that time we had no money nor workers to help in this effort. At the beginning of 1966 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kean came to us from Hong Kong. Every effort was put forth to locate a suitable piece of property for a new church. In April two adjoining sites were purchased. Construction of the buildings were in progress. Due to inflation and innumerable construction hindrances we still have only one of the two buildings available for use. However, at Christmas time a start was made beginning with meetings for the neighborhood children. During the year there have been at least two occasions when a door-to-door visitation program in that area has been carried on.

C HURCH CAR

Four years ago the local congregation purchased a small car for use in church work. Later it was realized the car was too small for practical use. At the end of 1965 a down-payment was made on a new Ford Van, more suitable for church needs, and delivery of the vehicle was taken at the end of March. Just after it arrived, the government announced a raise in import duty to 300%! We praise the Lord for enabling us to receive the car in good time to escape the exorbitant rise in price, or we would not have been able to purchase the vehicle.

DISTR ICT MINIS TRY

Several times during the year Pastors Kaan and Leung together with Mr. Peter Kaan

and some of the other local pastors have made trips into country areas south of Saigon where there are large groups of Chinese. Meetings have been held in the homes of believers, in market areas and in Chinese schools. During the long summer school vacation several of the church young people went with the pastors to hold a Vacation Bible School in a Chinese school in Bentre, which has a Christian principal. This ministry has resulted in the salvation of souls and encouragement of believers. Chinese Christians attend the services of the local Vietnamese church. In Soctrang a zealous Christian is very active in the local Vietnamese church and serves as translator in the services for the Chinese who attend.

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE SCHOOL

During the year two sessions of special studies were offered to interested believers of all the Chinese churches. In both sessions there was an enrollment of over 80 young people and adults. Each Friday evening, from 7:30-9:30, covering a period of three months in each session, six forty-minute classes were held. A student could select as many as three courses of study in one evening.

This was the second year for these special courses, taught by Chinese pastors and missionaries, including Bible Doctrine, Old Testament Types of Christ, Personal Evangelism, New Testament Outlines, Sunday School Methods, I Corinthians, Music, Visitation and Church Organization. A few courses were completed in one session, while most of them were continued in the second session. Plans for this school include a five-year course (two sessions a year) after which a diploma is given to students who successfully complete the required course of studies. Already this school has proved a real asset in strengthening the churches as well as better preparing young people for entering seminary.

LOSSES IN CONGREGATION

This year we have had great losses in our congregation. First, among our young people we have had more than ten taken into the armed forces. Working conditions have resulted in others being sent to various parts of the country. Our church board lost two members when they with their families left Viet Nam for other places. Poor health necessitated the transfer of Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Fowler to our Hong Kong field. Thus

we have had more losses in numbers than what we have gained through our baptismal services. At we look to the Lord to enable us to soon fill in the gap left by these going from among us.

HOME OF BLESSING

Early in the year construction of the new Home of Blessing began. Immediately prices of materials began to soar with the result that the total cost of the building is much more than originally planned. Despite many crises, the building program continued without having to stop for lack of funds. We praise the Lord that the first unit, a 3-story building, 46 meters by 8½ meters, has been completed. In God's own marvelous way, He has provided for all our needs.

The second unit is under construction (Kitchen, dining room, storage rooms) and will be completed within a short time--a one-story structure. On December 29 our little family of 15 boys and girls joyfully moved from their cramped, dark quarters to the lovely, spacious new site. Plans are to receive many more needy boys and girls into the Home as the Lord directs our way to those whom He would entrust to our care.

Liberal and sacrificial gifts have been given toward this project on the part of our local church members as well as those of other Chinese churches in the city. They have contributed half of the total cost of the first unit. We also gratefully acknowledge the generosity of American servicemen who have assisted greatly with gifts of money and in many practical ways in this building program. Friends in America, formerly serving in Viet Nam, as well as Chinese Christians there, have had their share by sending gifts from time to time. No funds have been solicited, but God in His own way has moved upon hearts to want to share in this expression of Christian love. For all of this we praise Him!

CHILDREN'S WORK

Sunday School attendance has dropped some during the past year, for two reasons: poor transportation (our church rents a large school bus, since many of the children come from great distances, but often time the driver did not appear on Sunday morning or was late) and insufficient home visitation. Most of our Sunday School teachers are young people and their only time to visit their pupils is on Sunday afternoon. This is the time for their weekly AYF meeting, which makes it almost impossible for them to do any visiting.

Our Sunday School Committee, recognizing the need and the problems faced, is seeking ways to solve them.

With the departure of the Fowlers for an extended rest in Hong Kong, the weekly meetings at the Chinese Bookroom were discontinued for lack of personnel to have charge of this ministry. Regular Saturday afternoon meetings have continued at the On Dong Bookroom garage with very good attendance, averaging about 50, with many of these children coming each week. A few of the children have come regularly since the meetings began seven years ago. None of the boys and girls come from Christian homes, so this is an opportunity for reaching these young lives at a formative age. Some of the children have indicated a desire to know Jesus as Saviour, and doubtless have had a real experience of salvation, but opposition from superstitious parents is very strong.

Two Vacation Bible Schools were held. Attendance at the church school was less than in previous years (only 90) but with only a few exceptions, all of the children attended every day for the two-week period. The other school held in the On Dong garage was of a week's duration with an attendance of 20. Pray that the Spirit will accomplish a great work in these young lives as a result of the ministry of the Word in these efforts among children.

FINANCIALS

The financial record of the church during the past year shows signs of the Lord's blessing. In addition to caring for the salaries of Pastor Jonathan Kaan and family and Mr. Peter Kaan and family, there has been the rental and utilities for Pastor Andrew Leung and family, the Peter Kaans and also providing for the church utilities, where the Jonathan Kaan family lives. The Ford Van was purchased, the new church site as well as caring for the many other needs of a growing church, ending the year without any deficit. Rejoice with us in what God has done!

BOOKROOM

Ministry in the literature field has not had as wide an outreach as I had hoped, due to lack of time to devote to this important area and insufficient personnel. Our sales lady, Mrs. Ting, has very capably and faithfully carried on with very little help from me. We have tried to enlarge our scope of material, making available to both

believers and the unsaved all the good Christian literature that Hong Kong publishes.

1 of our material must be shipped down to us, and poor mail service in this country hinders from fully achieving our objective. Supplies are often held at the local post office. On two occasions I went personally to sort through hundreds of unopened mail sacks, spending half a day on each trip and helped to haul books! Yes, the project was successful for I was able to locate more than 30 packages of our literature, some that had been lying there for almost six months. Seeking to solve this problem, Mr. Paul Bartel obtained special postal permission in Hong Kong to ship parcels to us in large mail sacks, containing only our material and clearly marked with my address on the sack tag. On a large shipment which reached here in early October, the mail was delivered to me in dribbles, and part of it has not yet been received. And all of this after paying a higher rate of postage. I am hoping that some arrangement can be worked out whereby the local authorities will conform to international postal regulations, delivering material to us intact.

With the change in the exchange rate, the selling price of all our material was adjusted accordingly. Despite the rise in prices, books and supplies sold throughout the year as well, if not better, than previous years. We are the sole agent for all Sunday School supplies, hymnals, monthly periodicals (BIB LE MAGAZINE, YOUNG COMPANION, DENGTA, etc.) and most Christian literature to all six Chinese churches in the city, as well as to interested Christians in outlying areas. At best, our Chinese Christian population totals around 2,000--a pitifully small number compared with the more than 500,000 Chinese here in this city, and more than a million throughout the country. Considering our small Christian community, we do quite a volume of business in the course of a year.

Early in August the Lord brought into being a desire I have had ever since the opening of our Bookroom about ten years ago. Each Wednesday and Friday evening from 7-9:00 p.m. the store is open, ready to serve Christian and unbeliever, alike. We are also anxious to serve any American servicemen who may pass by, for we have a supply of English books as well. Enthusiastic young people have taken over this responsibility, and are doing a fine job. In a period of five months, through to the end of the year,

we sold more than 29,000 piasters (\$248 US) worth of material. We are convinced that this evening ministry, at a time convenient for many people, is well worth while. Not only have sales increased by this amount, but we are sure many lives have been enriched through reading good Christian books and periodicals that were purchased because the store was open at a time convenient for them. Our total cash sales for the year (including the amount above) came to 321,596 piasters (\$2,748 US).

This literature ministry should have a wider outreach by taking on another Bookroom worker to advertize and make contacts with schools and shops for DENGTA, COMPANION and CHILDREN'S FRIEND magazines. A missionary should devote full time to this literature work to do the job properly in having a greater outreach among the thousands of Chinese in Saigon.

All glory to God! Great things He has done among the Chinese in 1966.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Arnold
Elizabeth Arnold

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CHINESE BOOKROOM SALES REPORT
December 31, 1966

	<u>Yearly sales (Day)</u>	<u>Quantity</u> (Night) (Reported total sales)
Bibles	43,743	17
Hymnals	11,691	15
Tracts	3,196	650
Evangelistic books	2,066	10
Theological books	3,012	27
Devotional books	2,173	27
Inspirational books	7,772	24
Biographies	11,329	23
Children's books & novels	22,020	54
BIBLE MAGAZINE	7,127	1
DENGTA MAGAZINE	34,219	12
YOUNG COMPANION	2,140	1
CHILDREN'S FRIEND	2,297	1
LIFE MAGAZINE	1,706	1
HAPPY CHILDHOOD	6,715	1
Calendars, Christmas cards, Posters	46,661	445
Novelties	27,285	50
Sunday School literature	57,246	
	<u>292,398</u> piasters	<u>29,198</u> piasters (sales total)

TOTAL CASH SALES, 1966: 321,596 piasters (\$2,748 US)

(Of this figure only 3 English books were sold; we hope to
do better in this area in 1967.)

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Arnold
Elizabeth Arnold