

Cambodia

Volume 8

Number 2



YOUTH CONFERENCE ISSUE

Lim Chheong, newly elected President of the National Youth Committee, composed and wrote the following testimony as an assignment for his English class during Youth Conference.



"I came to Youth Conference because I want to study the Word of God which is very interesting to me. It helps me to know the Lord, my Saviour. I can tell other people about our precious Lord.

In Cambodia, there are millions and millions of people who have never yet heard about the true Lord Jesus Christ and who do not love Him. We need many missionaries, pastors, preachers, and many persons to preach the Gospel. I am sorry for the Cambodian people who have not yet received Jesus Christ.

In the Youth Conference, I am so glad to see my teachers and my friends who come from each province in Cambodia. We all are blessed by the Holy Spirit of God and all thirty-five of us are so happy to hear and to study God's Word.

Also, I help to teach the young Christians about the Life of Christ. I am so glad to do that. Praise the Lord! I like to do the Lord's work. Please pray for me."

The Annual National Youth Conference was held June 10-26. The directors for this year were Rev. & Mrs. Joseph E. Doty, with Rev. & Mrs. Bernard D. Dunning as their assistants. We desire through these articles to share with you "Youth Conference-1960."

by Mrs. J. E. Doty

Two reasons caused us to expect fewer students at the National Youth Conference this year. One was the change of date so that it might correspond with the government schools new vacation time. The other, that each young person would be paying his own way, without the help of the Mission or missionaries. We praise the Lord for the 37 young people who came with the sole purpose of studying the Word of God.

The missionaries, national workers, and Bible School students did the teaching and preaching during the two weeks of Conference. Even though each chapel service and evening meeting had different speakers, there seemed to be an unusual connecting line of thought in each message. As a result of the message on the first Monday night, two young men made a decision to attend long term Bible School. After the chapel service on the follow-

ing Wednesday morning an invitation was given to all those who wanted victory over the "old man." About 28 came forward weeping and confessing their sins. Some confessed of having complained, lied and stolen. This was truly the work of the Holy Spirit. Even though the majority of the young people met the Lord that morning, there seemed to be four more holding out on God. The next Friday night, after the message, the Spirit fell and the altar was again lined with young lives seeking God, even the the four young men who held back from coming in the previous service. A Cham boy came forward to be saved. He didn't understand very much about Christianity, being a Mohammedan, but was brought to a clearer knowledge of salvation later by one of our student teachers. There were about six others who came for solvation, most of these from preachers' and other Christian homes. The testimonies afterward were heartwarming as many determined to take their stand for Christ. Sunday morning one of our student teachers brought a message that seemed to culminate all that had transpired during the week. An invitation was given and many responded, thus sealing the work God had done in their hearts with a promise to obey.

It can truly be said that each young person left the Conference with a testimony of having met God. All expressed their desire to return next year. What

could have ended in defeat and tragedy ended in victory and blessing because of the presence and working of the blessed Holy Spirit.

by Mrs. B. D. Dunning

Most of us do not accept the task of teaching English as enthusiastically as we do a Bible subject. This year, unlike the previous year, teaching third year English proved a rich blessing to my own heart. Classes proceeded normally. The last day of class, I felt led to ask the five young students to give their testimonies. This was the first time they attempted an extemporaneous testimony in English. My heart was deeply stirred and the presence of the Lord keenly felt. A report of Youth Conference would not be complete if some of the blessing wasn't shared.

Thay, a young man with a fine solo voice, gave this testimony. "One night when Mrs. Doty preached, she asked me to sing as a solo the song, 'I'd Rather Have Jesus Than Anything.' In that time, I reflected very much. God said to my heart, 'No, you are not the same as you will sing.' I was very sad. After singing, I saw some of my friends wanted to applaud. My heart was more and more sad. They believed that I was happy, extolling my voice. After the message, Mr. Doty invited us to come to the altar. I did

not go but knelt down at my place and prayed. Then God said to me, 'Don't be afraid, you will be the same as you sing, because you have asked Me that which you wanted, and need Me to help you.' I stood up and my heart became glad. Hallelujah! God revived my heart by my voice."

Also in my class were two student teachers. Lim Chheong testified, "Twelve years ago, I received Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I went to Youth Conference for six years, but I have never studied the Life of Christ. This year, I was asked to teach the young Christians about the Life of Christ. For that, I had to study before I could teach the others. Also, I have learned to preach and to lead singing. There are many songs which I like but I could not sing them for when I sang I made mistakes. This year I learned to sing better and to lead the young people to sing too. Praise the Lord! In this year I have made progress."

Dararith was asked to teach the book of John this Conference. He said, "I gladly accepted teaching John for, while I taught, I learned many new things that I did not know before. I praise the Lord for all He has done for me. One night a brother sang, 'I'd Rather Have Jesus.' It was possible that I did not think about the words of the song. I only listened to the voice of the one who sang. God spoke to my heart. I realized that because although I did not think about the words or I did not want to, I was sad.

The Holy Spirit worked in my heart and made me think about my message which I was preparing for the last Sunday morning of Youth Conference. The subject would be, 'Lovest thou Me more than these?' John 21:15. When I went back home, I sat down to finish writing my message. At the end, I wrote the subject, 'Lovest thou Me more than these?' I thought that I would call then for decision by using the subject, but at that time I heard the Lord's voice asking me, 'Do you really love Me more than these things?' I trembled. I cried. I could not continue to write. Finally, I had to confess as Peter did, 'Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee.' I recognized that the Lord wanted to use me to speak to the other hearts but He had to speak to my heart first. I trust that the Lord will help me and use me for I praise Him with all of my heart."

These are just a few of the blessings we were privileged to share during a victorious two weeks of Conference. Our hearts truly rejoice because of answered prayer. For, God dealt with individual hearts, through His Word, as they prepared to minister to others, as they ministered in song, and studied in their individual classes. May this be just a beginning of even greater victories for Christ among our young people in this needy field.

by Rev. B. D. Dunning

Activity is synonymous with YOUTH. Whether for 35 or 115 young people, activity must be planned, aside from the study hours. Services, games, handwork and programs must all be prepared beforehand to keep young minds occupied in things beneficial to their spiritual welfare.

The study hours were capably handled by both national teachers and missionaries. Sports activities produced no problem as there was ample room and equipment to play volleyball, badminton, soccer, table tennis and handball simultaneously. Following custom, the young people had an hour of handwork each day. The girls made blouses, the boys small bookracks to be placed on a table or desk. Each one showed distinct originality.

A service was not planned for every evening, but a few were kept for programs or games. The young people enjoyed preparing a program, religious or secular, by themselves. They seemed to be bubbling over with new ideas. Game night was one time when both students and teachers could relax. Nearly everyone entered into the spirit of fun and laughter.

As we think back over this year's Conference, there were many outstanding characteristics: the small

number of young people who attended, the many spiritual victories, and the spirit of cooperation. From the beginning, we felt an unusual spirit of cooperation which continued to the very end. One first year student had to go home three days early to take a school entrance exam. The father told us later, that the evening she left, she cried and cried because of having to miss three days. Why did she cry? Because, she had made friends with other young people. But, even greater, she had made a friend with the greatest of all Friends, the Saviour of her soul, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, Youth Conference 1960 was shorter than previous years, with fewer in attendance, but the Lord was present and nearly all of the young people gained many victories in Christ. Let us stand by them in prayer that they will continue to grow in the Word of the Lord.

by Rev. J. E. Doty

The final Saturday night feast, bringing to a close two weeks of concentrated study, is a time looked forward to from the beginning of the Youth Conference. It is a very pleasant occasion and time of joy for all concerned. During the two weeks the food eaten by the young people is mostly ordinary. Some-

times, they even endure, especially when the Conference cook misjudges and doesn't prepare enough or fails to make the food right. However, they can always know that at least some of the meals will be real tasty and the big feast will be extraordinary.

Eating can be compared with the spiritual life during the two weeks. There are always some classes and preaching [just ordinary to the individual, perhaps sometimes, even a bit boring. But, there can always be the expectancy of God doing something very special. When the Lord touches an individual young person; and He seemed to have touched the entire 37 participants some time or another during those two weeks, it is like a very special feast to their souls. Those special dealings of and with God were the important feature of the whole Conference, to the souls involved.

The highlight of the Conference, in a more earthly sort of way, is probably the final feast when everything is fixed up special; with name cards prepared by the young people, and special invitations to the commuting teachers, their wives or husbands. Everything tastes delightful and there is plenty for everyone to feast until his heart's content.

Like a good meal is topped with dessert, so this Youth Conference feast was topped with a program to enjoy, largely planned by one of the student

teachers. One of the features of this program was a debate, probably the first they had ever seen run by the rules of public debating. The debate was over the issue, "Should National Youth Conference be for Christian and Nominal Christian Young People Only?" Another surprise feature of the program was a specially translated quartette number, "Looking for the Stone," sung by four of the young fellows. Also, a young person from each of the five years of study gave a five minute speech on these subjects; "Books of the Bible," "Types in the Old Testament," "Why Christian Young People do not Use Tobacco nor Attend Movies," "The Person of God," and "Christ in the Gospel of John."

The program was climaxed by the giving out of certificates to 36 students and one student teacher. And, an award was given to the best all around student in each of the five grades. The one having memorized the most scripture during the two weeks also received an award. The winner had memorized over two chapters of the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew.

This precious time of fellowship with students, teachers and missionaries around the tables and in the program, is one of the experiences that will help attract young people next year.

A few weeks after returning home from Takhmau, several young people were asked to state their thoughts about the Conference this year. Here then are their testimonies, as they have been translated by the missionaries in the various districts.

"Before I went to the Youth Conference this year, I believed in Jesus because my parents did, but now I have personally received Jesus as my own Lord."

Ngouo Vorn
Barai (Kompong Thom)

"I had a very heavy heart because I did not have enough money to buy food above what the railroad ticket cost to go. At that time, I asked Lim Chheong and Sy Seng to pray that the Lord would open the way for me to study. I thank the Lord, He did open the way and I had enough money to go and study the Bible at Takhmau."

Bo
Battambang

"Thank God for opening the way for me to study the Bible at Takhmau for my third year. I am understanding God's Word better and beginning to learn some English too. Praise the Lord!"

Hannah
Kompong Cham

"Everything is different in my life since studying God's Word this year. Formerly I was lazy about church attendance, told lies, spoke unbecomingly,

committed many sins. Now by sucking the nectar of God's Word and obeying it, I have been born again and am a real Christian. Praise the Lord!"

Tang Vake Houn
Skoun (Kompong Cham)

"In past years, many young people like myself, went to Youth Conference just to have a good time and receive large rewards. This, however, was my best year, even though the number studying was less and the prizes smaller. I, along with all of the others, met God in a new way. As a result, I am going to Long Term Bible School in August. Praise the Lord!"

Houv Sim
Takeo

"With joy, I thank the Lord Jesus because this year during the two weeks at Youth Conference, He helped me escape from the power of sin, and gave me a strong desire to read His Word. Praise His Name!"

Chhawn
Phnom Penh

"I was very pleased with this year's youth conference program. The thing that thrilled me most was what the speakers taught me in their messages. This year was better than previous ones because the studies were more varied. I hope that I can study again next year."

Yobal
Kampot

MISSIONARY DIRECTORY

- Rev. & Mrs. L. E. Broley, *on furlough*
Mr. & Mrs. J. Clavaud, *Language Study*
Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Doty, *District Work*
Rev. & Mrs. B. D. Dunning, *District Work*
Rev. & Mrs. D. W. Ellison, *Translation*
Rev. & Mrs. J. P. Ellison, *Takhmau Bible School*
Rev. & Mrs. D. R. Furniss, *District Work*
Rev. & Mrs. M. E. Graven, *on furlough*
Rev. & Mrs. A. L. Hammond, *on furlough*
Rev. & Mrs. W. H. Holton, *Chinese Work*
Miss Lavinia McCart, *Secretary*
Rev. & Mrs. F. C. Peterson, *on furlough*
Rev. & Mr. H. K. Sechrist, *on furlough*
Rev. & Mrs. M. B. Steiner, *District Work*
Rev. & Mrs. H. M. Taylor, *Chairman*
Rev. & Mrs. C. E. Thompson, *District Work*
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Westergren, *Publication*