

# Report of 1918 Indo-China Conference.

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P. 39 A. W. APRIL 12, 1919

We would commence our report by humbly acknowledging the loving-kindness and tender mercy of the Lord, and saying with the Psalmist, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness."

As we review the work of the year that is gone, we feel that by His grace we may say that we have a "good report." Steady progress has been made. There is no desire on the part of any of our missionaries to take unto themselves any glory whatsoever, but with one heart and with one voice, we would ascribe all glory to Him who died that these millions of souls, to whom we are endeavoring to bring the gospel, might have everlasting life.

## The Time Is Short.

One thought seems to be uppermost in the heart of all of our missionaries as they are diligently and faithfully pursuing the daily round of their duty on their Mission stations. The

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to give the message of His wonderful gospel to as many as possible ere He returns. When we look over this field, its immense size, nearly a thousand miles from north to south, and over three hundred miles at some points from east to west, its five provinces with over twenty million souls, our hearts are almost overwhelmed with the gigantic unfinished task. When we look at our little staff of nine missionaries, only four of whom can speak the language, and two of these leaving the field for further this year, we say with the questioning disciple of old, "What are these among so many?" But we remember that He who increased the five barley loaves and the two small fishes, and miraculously fed the multitude, is able to work wonders today on an infinitely larger scale than when He was on earth. He said, "It is expedient that I go away," and "Greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto my Father." We are encouraged again as we study the plan of God for the ages, and know that it is His will in this dispensation that

the witness of the gospel be given to all the nations of earth, and that from among these nations He is calling out a people for His name, so that in the glory above, the praise of His wonderful grace and of His glorious redemption shall be sung by "every kindred and tribe and nation and tongue."

## Progress.

Lest by looking upon the vast region still unoccupied our hearts became discouraged and dismayed, it is well for us to note with praise to God the definite progress that is being made. Looking back seven years since this work began, we can praise Him that whereas then there were no Christians in the land, that is, none as far as we could tell, and no regular witness of the pure gospel being given anywhere throughout Indo-China, now Christ is being preached regularly in Hanoi, Haiphong, Tourane, and Haichow, and sixty-one converts have been baptized into Christ.

Whereas, seven years ago we had no property in the possession of the Mission, now we have a property both at Tourane and at Hanoi. Furthermore, comparing statistics of 1917 with those of the year that has just closed, we may note advance in

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In 1917 seventeen baptisms were reported, while twenty-one are reported for 1918. The total membership at the close of 1917 was forty-two. At the close of 1918 there are sixty-one members. The number of inquirers has increased from fourteen at the end of 1917 to thirty-one at the end of 1918. The total contribution of our church members during the past year amounts to \$50.00 gold, almost double that of the previous year. The value of our Mission property at the close of 1918 is U. S. currency \$8,134.00.

## Conference.

From November 12-16 our missionaries met in conference at Tourane. Four senior missionaries, namely, Rev. and Mrs. Cadman, Rev. and Mrs. Irwin, and five missionaries, Miss M. E. Foster, Miss M. J. Hartman, Rev. J. D. Olsen, Rev. R. M. Jackson, and Rev. I. R. Stebbins, were present.

The week spent together in conference was a time of real blessing, not only from the standpoint of prayerfully considering new plans for the future of the great work before us, but also in real soul-refreshing Christian fellowship with one another in definite Bible study, in prayer, and in praise.

## P. 40 AW Appointments. APR 12 1919

Miss Hartman remained in the work at Tourane, Mr. Jackson returned with Mr. and Mrs. Cadman to Hanoi, while Messrs. Olsen and Stebbins were appointed to the opening of a new station in Saigon. We went forth from these conference days with deeper assurance and stronger purposes to live and work for the Master.

## Tourane Station.

The story of the Tourane Station during the past seven years is a most interesting and inspiring one. The beginning of every work in a new field is always difficult. No messenger of Christ ever set foot on the enemy's territory, presenting the gospel of liberty and salvation in the power of Jesus' name, without meeting stern opposition. But thank God that the promise given to Joshua may be claimed by every missionary of the Cross today, "No man shall be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life."

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have had the joy that even angels would covet of leading many souls to the Redeemer. Once the difficulties, caused by the peculiar circumstances of the war, were overcome, the Lord certainly revealed Himself in their midst. The meetings for the past two years have not only been very well attended, but have always been marked by the presence of the Lord in power to save, and souls have continually been brought to Christ until at the present time they have fifty-one members in the church and twenty-five inquirers. Fifteen new members were added in 1918.

The Lord has certainly raised up a capable Spirit-filled Annamese preacher to administer the Word to this church. He is at once an able and a humble worker. The fact that he has been educated in the old school and reads readily the Chinese characters gives him access through the Chinese Bible to the whole Word of God, as well as to much helpful literature in the Chinese written classical language. For example, he gave a series of messages on the Lord's second coming, taking the chapters of our book, "The Return of the Saviour" in Chinese and translating them into Annamese, thus drawing and holding the interest of a large audience and pointing many to the Lord Jesus.

## Outstation.

Mr. Irwin, in addition to the regular meetings held in the central chapel at Tourane, also conducts evangelistic services at the outstation chapel at Haichow several times a week. The call is coming from villages outside of the Tourane city

limits asking that our Mission go to them with the gospel story. Some of these are even offering to build a meeting-house and bear all the expenses themselves, asking only that a preacher be sent. The difficulty at this point, however, is that the French Colonial Government has not yet removed the restrictions placed upon Protestant missionary work in Indo-China, so that we are confined to those parts of the country which are actual French possessions, and forbidden to preach Christ in the vast regions which are considered only a Protectorate of the French Government. May we ask that Christian friends ere they read further in this report lift up their hearts to God in earnest prayer that by His mighty power He will open a wide door for the gospel message to the whole of Indo-China. The hearts of rulers are in His hands as the rivers of water, and He turneth them whither He will.

Mrs. Irwin's work among the women and children of Tourane has been honored and blessed of God. Both in Tourane and Haichow there is a prosperous Sunday School of over one hundred children, and who can tell what the results from this seed-sowing may be! Miss Foster has made good progress in the study of the language during the year, helping also as far as possible in the work. Miss Hartman arrived on the field in November, and has made a good start in her language study. Friends at home, we feel sure, will remember each of these faithful workers in prayer. Much depends upon the prayers of God's people at home for the success and blessing of the work of the missionaries on the field.

## Hanoi Station.

Considering the fact that the work in Hanoi is only two years old, it is remarkable what splendid progress has been made. Mr. and Mrs. Cadman have given a large share of their time and strength to the all-important work of the translation of the Scriptures. They have completed a revision of the four Gospels, the Acts, and the Epistle to the Romans, also the Book of Genesis, and these are being printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and circulated among the people as fast as possible. Heretofore, the Scriptures distributed in Indo-China have been almost entirely Chinese Scriptures, but the rising generation of Annamese, educated in the French schools, is being weaned away from the Chinese character, and is being taught the "Quec Gnu," that is, the Annamese language Romanized, so that the Gospels now published in the "Quec Gnu" is having a wider circulation, and especially among the younger generation of Annamese.

Our printing plant, though small, is doing good service in the sending forth of gospel tracts. These silent messengers go preaching the gospel where the human voice is forbidden to preach. Eternity alone will reveal the results in the salvation of souls.

A store in a splendid location in the heart of the Annamese business section of Hanoi was rented a year ago, and opened as a street chapel. It is particularly noticeable that the class of people who attend the services are of a rather superior and intellectual type. Large and attentive audiences have listened to the gospel message from Mr. Cadman in our street chapel, and much seed has been sown. Ten precious souls have already been gathered in as a nucleus for the Church of Christ in Hanoi. Several of this number are men of very considerable

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