

THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE  
Box C, Nyack, NY 10960

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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT I

MAR 31 1975

FILE

March 27, 1975

Dear Friend,

Here are two copies of the updated summary and background of the experience of the Alliance in Viet Nam as affected by the war.

We are encouraging as many of our people as possible to write to their United States senators and congressmen. A specimen letter could be something like the following:

Dear Senator Javits;

This letter is written to express deep concern on behalf of the Americans who are held captive in Banmethuot, Viet Nam. Seven of these people are missionaries and have not been heard from since the city fell in mid March.

Will you please use your good offices to register this concern on our behalf to the State Department, the International Control Council and other agencies who are responsible in such matters.

I feel we should press the North Vietnamese for the immediate release of these people and the guarantee of their safe conduct to an embarkation point with every humane consideration.

Sincerely yours,

(your name)

We must not underestimate the effect that writing such a letter has. In your respective congregations over the weekend, encourage your friends to write in this vein, or as they may care to express it, so that in addition to our praying, we will have had a share in what is humanly possible to do.

I am giving you two copies of this material, one for your own use and one to hand to your pastor or to share with others whose prayerful concern will be expressed in such a communication as mentioned above.

R. W. BATTLES

RWB:mr

(It is understood that we are not suggesting that everyone write to Senator Javits. This is only a specimen letter. Each one should write to his own senator or congressman.)



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## The Christian and Missionary Alliance

NYACK, NEW YORK 10960 • CABLE ADDRESS "PAROUSIA" • PHONE (914) 353-0750

### PRESENT SITUATION AT BANMETHUOT, VIET NAM - MARCH 1975

When the massive offensive of the North Vietnamese forces began to build up in early March, there were nine Americans and two Canadians at Bannethuot. Seven of these people are missionaries:

Mrs. Archie Mitchell (Betty)  
Mr. Richard L. Phillips, Ph. D.  
Mrs. Richard L. Phillips  
Rev. and Mrs. Norman Johnson  
John and Carolyn Miller (not C & M A)

Since there has been no contact with any of these to our knowledge and since Bannethuot has now fallen to the North Vietnamese forces, we can only presume that these seven people are being held by the North Vietnamese in Bannethuot or somewhere in the vicinity.

There are 490 Christian and Missionary Alliance churches in Viet Nam. There were 58 missionaries in Viet Nam at the time of the attack, all safe and accounted for, except for the seven mentioned above.

### BACKGROUND

The Christian and Missionary Alliance began to minister in Viet Nam in 1911. At times during the sixty four years of Alliance ministry in Viet Nam (formerly a part of what was known as French Indo China) the missionary staff was approximately one hundred. This would have represented about ten percent of the overseas staff and financial disbursements of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

### PREVIOUS C & M A CASUALTIES

The North Vietnamese killed the six missionaries listed here in the TET offensive that began January 29, 1968:

Rev. Robert Ziemer  
(his wife, Marie was wounded  
but recovered)  
Rev. & Mrs. Edward Thompson  
Miss Ruth Wilting  
Miss Carolyn Griswold  
Mr. Leon Griswold (father of Carolyn)

At the same time, Betty Olsen, R. N., and Hank Blood (missionaries), and Michael Dennis Benge of Hoppner, Oregon, a USAID man, were taken captive.

After his release by the North Vietnamese, Michael Benge, in an interview at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington, D. C., on March 15, 1974, gave a detailed account of the deaths of Hank Blood and Betty Olsen on the captive trail.

1 9 6 2 - FIRST CAPTIVES

On May 30, 1962 three of our missionaries were taken captive by the Viet Cong from our leprosarium at Buno Ia Ana, approximately 14 kilometers from Banmethuot:

Dr. Ardel Vietti  
Rev. Archie Mitchell  
Mr. Daniel Gerber  
(Mennonite)

\* \* \* \* \*

The acute concern for the people at Banmethuot can be understood in light of our sad experience with the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese forces dating back to 1962 as noted above.

Here is the bleak picture of heartache:

Two in captivity for 13 years.

Eight dead in the TET offensive  
that began January 29, 1968.

Seven captive missionaries in  
Banmethuot now, plus the five  
year old daughter of Millers.

Betty Mitchell taken captive  
13 years after her husband.

We are urging all agencies and the media to use their influence and authority to work for the release of the captive missionaries.

In accordance with the terms of the cease fire agreement concluded in January 1973, we urge the International Control Commission to secure from the North Vietnamese the guarantee of safe conduct for all of them to a point of embarkation, with every humanitarian consideration and all speed.

RWB:mr  
3/27/75