

NARRATIVE REPORT PLEIKU STATION  
JARAI DISTRICT 1966

Praise God for His mighty acts among the children of men. 1966 has been a year of extensive growth and building. It seems that everywhere one goes now to preach the Gospel in the Pleiku area someone wants to believe. There seems to be a new and open attitude toward hearing the Gospel that we have not experienced here before.

One of the most important developments in the Jarai area of Pleiku district has been the completion of the new church building. Construction began at the end of 1965 in that the church parsonage was finished and the pastor was in residence there before Christmas of that year. It was hoped that the new church could be completed by the end of dry season (June 1966) but labor problems, scarcity of materials, and high prices held up construction and finally halted all work in July. We had planned to build the church for #300,00 piasters (3,000 U.S.) but now we had spent all that and had not built higher than the walls. Mr. An, a Christian builder from Banmethuot, was in Pleiku about that time building the new hospital for VNCS. When he finished that work we asked him to help us. This he did and thank God, for Mr. An took over the work and finished the job without charging the church one cent! He kept a record of his laborers daily wages and we paid them monthly. The work was completed in November 1966 and the church was dedicated Dec. 4, 1966. The total cost of the church and parsonage was 830,000 piasters (\$8,000). The church now owes a total of 133,000 piasters (\$1,300). The American service chaplains and men gave liberally to help out the church in this financial crisis. At the back of the parsonage is a very nice guest house which was given to the church by the government of Viet Nam and USAID, Its value is about 200,000 piasters.

There were two outstanding times of blessing during the year. One was a youth conference in September in which Jim Livingston, Orrel Steinkamp and Rev. Mieng were special speakers. The other was Barry Reeds crusade in December. During the Barry Reed meetings 55 prayed for salvation in Pleiku, 4 in the Plei Doch area and 20 prisoners of war raised their hands for prayer. The elected Jarai delegate to the National Assembly, Y-Blim, prayed for salvation the week before he left for Saigon to fulfill his office there. Total additions to the Pleiku church this year were 215 and the new building has been filled at every service. The above figure does not include those in prison which I mention now.

Five Christians were arrested December 17, 1965 for political reasons and placed in a local prison. We asked for permission to meet with them in jail and this was granted. Every Saturday at 5 p.m. we preach in this jail. There have been as many as 750 men crowded into this small place. The response has been exciting. Twenty-five Vietnamese have become Christians and one of them has led a relative to Christ since being released. Between 200 and 300 tribesmen (Raday, Jarai, Bahnar) have believed and we are beginning classes for them in the prison. These men are from villages all over the central highlands. <sup>T</sup><sub>h</sub>  
The potential here is unlimited! Pray for these men.

There has been steady growth in the Plei Mrong treatment village but I will leave that for the Leprosarium report.

The Vietnamese church is growing. Sixteen came forward during the Barry Reed meetings. A new group is started at Le Canq is growing rapidly.

During 1966 two tracts and the illustrated "Life of Christ" were published and are being distributed. Revision of the New Testament continues but has been slow.

Christian American servicemen gave materials, money, and time to erect a warehouse on the mission property that is proving to be a real useful addition to our physical plant here.

We are very grateful for Dr. Leuz and the medical staff of the new VNCS hospital. They have taken a very large load off the missionaries' shoulders enabling us to do more in the areas of our calling and giving better <sup>medical</sup> help to the church and to unbelievers. We sincerely hope that they can finish their inpatient wards in the near future as a much needed addition to the medical care they now offer.

We are very grateful also for the work of the II Corp Army chaplain, Capt. Hien. He has helped to get our other pastors into the Chieu Hoi program areas, hospitals, and other places here in the city. He is also able to minister to the North Viet Nameese prisoners of war.

Mr. Sang has done an outstanding job this year with the Jarai youth choir. Their music is a real blessing to the church and a real credit to Mr. Sang.

Now if you really want to know what the missionary does, I'll tell you. He meets or takes people to airplanes, and helps people buy radios in Hong Kong or Singapore. When not otherwise occupied he can be found under the car or repairing lights, plumbing or washing machine or generator, etc.