

The ancient Kingdom of Annam was composed of three of the five states that now make up the French Protectorate in Indo-China. These three states are Annam, Tonkin, and Cochin-china. The people and their language are one; they follow the same customs and worship according to the same religions.

From Cape Cambodia, the south, to the northern boundary of Tonkin it is 800 miles by the overland route. Annam itself is 600 miles long and all of its twelve provinces border on the sea. Its area is 46,100 sq. miles and has large and fertile valleys that produce abundant harvests of rice each year.

Cochin-China has an area of 22,000 sq. miles. Although the territory is small, still the harvests are large. This is due to the excellent system of irrigation.

Tonkin is 360 miles wide and has an area of 46,400 sq. miles. Here are found immense forests of valuable timber, and also rich mines and fertile valleys.

The total area of these three states is 120,500 sq. miles and the population is 20,000,000. The area is almost equal to that of the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio; while the population exceeds that of the above three states.

The Annamese belong to the Southern Mongol family as their language, laws and customs prove. They have not reached, however, that stage of civilization to which the Siamese, Chinese and the Japanese have attained. They have adopted the classical writings of the Chinese and in other ways resemble them, but they do not possess the ability and integrity of the Chinaman. While they may not be reckoned as low as some of the African tribes, yet they are a neglected people and Annam is today one of the largest unoccupied fields.

Furthermore, it is a field open to the Gospel. The Door of Opportunity stands open. We have prayed for all un-reached fields and asked the Lord to enable His ambassadors to cross the borders of the unoccupied territory. Prayer has been answered in Annam. The greatest obstacles are removed and the land lies before us. Some workers have entered and some work has been begun, but it is nothing when compared with the vastness of the field and the great task to be accomplished for Christ. Think of the number of workers who have lived for years on the borders of other unoccupied lands. For a long time a large band has waited patiently on the border of Thibet, around Afghanistan and outside some political divisions of Africa. In Annam the need of lost souls is just as great as in other fields. God's valuation of a soul is not measured by our racial distinctions. When a soul comes to God to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit through the Blood of Christ our social standards are unrecognized, for God reckons all nations to be of one blood.

But there is one thing of supreme importance that should be recognized. It is God's Providence. When the Pillar of Cloud moved the people also moved. God is today walking among the nations and it is our duty to follow Him. When God in His wisdom closes one door and opens another, should we not follow His Providence and concentrate our efforts in the place of His Choice? When the enemy's line weakens at one point we should direct the battle there. Yesterday we urged the concentration of forces in China, Korea and Uganda, but today the enemy's line is broken in Annam and an oppor-

tunity is given for the Church of Christ to take the conquering Gospel to this ancient Empire, so long closed to the Truth.

The Annamese, as a people, are in a state of transition. They have lost their national independence. Their political aspirations are apparently dead and their hearts are filled with longing. Might it not be that if they could hear of Jesus Christ, the Desire of Nations, that they would accept Him and say, "Lo, this is our King?"

In order to approach a little closer to the needs we might look at the state or political division known as Annam. Its twelve provinces have a population of between six and eight millions, so that we may reckon about 600,000 souls to each province. Think of this great multitude. Imagine yourself as one worker there. How large a parish would you choose? How many preachers and colporteurs could you direct and how large a district could you visit each year? Would you be willing to be responsible for a parish of 100,000 souls? If so, you would have five others in your province with parishes as large as your own. At this reckoning Annam itself would call for sixty workers and several thousands of dollars with which to build sanitary homes.

Can you picture this great multitude lost and guilty before God? Can you see them standing at the Judgment Bar on that great day and hear them say—No man cared for my soul. Perhaps you say—God will pity the heathen. Yes, verily He will pity them, but what will He do with us if we do not pity them and make some sacrifice to relieve their darkness and woe? God does not expect more than you can give, but He does expect something from you. Are you willing to give Him what He asks? You may have a well body, a strong mind and some talent that He wants. Will you give it to Him for Annam? Consider the privilege that is given to accomplish some enduring work which shall not be burned up. Think of the noble work to be done. There is the acquiring of a new language, preaching, teaching, opening chapels, organizing churches and helping in many ways to mold a nation for God. Or perhaps God has blessed you with earthly store, great or small. Will you let Him direct as much for Annam as He desires? Let us bear in mind that funds are essential and that if you do not stand by us in this ministry we shall be hindered on the field.

Again, you may be confined to prayer alone. Will you let Him burden you with intercession for Annam? I do not mean a two minutes' mention of the field daily, but a prayerful waiting upon God on behalf of the work, the workers, the people and as many details as the Holy Spirit brings to you. One sister has written, saying that she feels called to spend most of her prayer time for Annam.

Remember, brothers and sisters, God is calling. He is presenting to us an opportunity. It is a sad fact that opportunities sometimes pass and we again urge you to help us to preach the Gospel in Annam.

"Light obeyed increaseth light;
Light rejected bringeth night.
Who shall give me power to choose,
If the love of light I lose?"

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