宣道會

The Christian and Missionary Alliance

安南國

U. S. A. HEADQUARTERS: 690 EIGHTH AVENUE, NEW YORK,

INDO-CHINA STATIONS: HANOI, TOURANE, SAIGON.

HEADQUARTERS: TEMPORARILY AT WUCHOW, SO. CHINA.

December 28, 1921.

Rev. D. I. Jeffrey,
Tourane, Annam,
French Indo-China.

Dear Brother Jeffrey:

Thank you for your letter of November 27th.

Mr. Chao has returned from his trip and certainly had a splendid time. I believe the Lord really used him in a remarkable way on each of our stations more especially at Cholon of course.

Mr. Dodds left us to-day. He sails for home on the 5th January. The question of his return to the field is of course one of uncertainty, but we are praying that the Lord will direct in all things.

It looks as though I should be leaving for home within a month or six weeks. My plan is to return to China just as soon as possible. The Lord seems to be leading about Mrs. Jaffray's getting a prolonged rest at home, and also the matter of my meeting the Board is one of importance that should be settled at the same time. Possibly the dates of our Indo-China Conference should be postponed until after vacation rather than before. It would not be possible for me to be back for the dates in May, but I can be with you without difficulty, I feel sure, soon after our South China Conference the middle of July for which I hope to return. Before leaving I will write a general letter to you all on this subject, but this is the way things stand as far as I can see to date.

With regard to the appointment of native workers in view of the opening of new stations, you will already have seen my letter to the Committee on this subject. My suggestion was that Mr. Irwin, Mr. Stebbins and yourself should take the matter up and come to the best conclusions possible with regard to native workers for the new stations that are to be opened. I trust that you will see with me with regard to the matter of keeping the standard for a thorough three year Bible Course well in mind. You will find that you are right now setting the pace for the future with regard to the standard of native workers in the Indo-China Mission. It is a strong

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temptation. I know, to hurriedly graduate your students in response to the pressing need in these early days, but I trust that if some of your students have to leave school before their course is complete that you will insist upon their appointment being considered temporary, that it be understood with them that they are expected to return and complete their course in the School. The awarding of diplomas only in the case of the Course having been completed will help you, and help the students also to a real desire to return to the School and finish their course.

In South China in the early days we of course met this same problem, and it has taken us a long time to really recover a high standard of efficiency for our Chinese preachers because of having yielded to the temptation to let our men go earlier than they should because of the pressing need. Further, we have found that to let the average man leave school in the midst of his course, take a year in the work with the understanding that he will come back to school and finish his course, has been most beneficial. The second part of the student's course in such a case is of increased value in that his experience in the work shows him how much he needs his Bible study, and shows him also how his study may be put to practical use in his later ministry. We have had no difficulty whatever in getting our students to return to School. The kick always comes on the other side. They object to the Mission holding them too long in the work, and not allowing them to come back to School to finish their course and graduate.

With regard to the appointment of the various Annamese brethren to the stations which are in need of workers new and old, I am afraid that I can offer no suggestion of value, but I am sure that the Lord will lead you brethren with regard to each case. The members of the Committee, I feel sure, will acquiesce to my suggestion in the appointment of you brethren with authority to assign these workers, including the matter of settling their salary. I hope that a report may be in before I have to leave for home, so that this much can be settled and the new stations go straight forward with their work, leaving further decisions until our next Conference. I am much interested in what you write with regard to each of the Annamese brethren in the School. We must take up the Lord's request in real earnest and pray the Lord of the harvest to thrust forth laborers into His harvest.

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NOT GO! D.I.J

From the general trend of your letter I fear you are inclined to favor too short a course in the Bible School. I would strongly advise you to lay out a good three year course and not recommend short course, except in special cases.

I was very glad to hear of the beginning of the training of Bible women. Miss Frost and Mr. Irwin write that the ladies have about concluded that they will go to Hanoi about the first of the year.

With regard to the money that Mr. Stebbins gave you for your travelling expenses above the $50.00, there is only this I think to say, that your School account should be as distinctly separate from the Tourane station account as it is from Saigon or the Hanoi accounts. If the $50.00 was not enough you should charge the whole amount on your account, and the next remittance should be enough to make it up.

There is one matter further suggested from your letter about which I would like to make a remark. The fact that certain missionary supports a student in School should not entitle him to have the entire say as to where he should be appointed and when. It must be clearly understood by all that the students in our Bible School are under the direction of the Mission. The fact that the supporter supplies the rice etc., for the student does not by any means entitle him or her to any right with regard to his future work. The Committee would naturally of course be considerate of the supporter in such a case, but it would be wrong to allow the supporter to have anything like the privilege of directing the future of the student. The School is Mission property, and the expense of the School throughout is borne by the Mission, the support of the student being a comparatively small item.

I can take a Shanghai cheque without difficulty from you if you wish to forward it.

Wishing you every blessing and with kindest regards to Mrs. Jeffrey and yourself in which Mrs. Jaffray and Margaret join, believe me to remain,

RAJ/M.

Yours in His service,

R. A. Jaffray