

INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

7 Tran Cao Van, Saigon

April 1 to September 30, 1966

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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT 5

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OUTREACH OF THE CHURCH

Hundreds of men, military and civilian, have passed through the doors of the International Church in the past six months. At every Sunday service, morning and evening, visitors register their presence. Increasingly we have folk attend the church who heard of it from a chaplain, pastor or friend before they ever came to Vietnam. The invitational brochure, "Welcome to Saigon", has been mailed to scores of churches and servicemen's centers across the United States.

Most encouraging of all are letters that arrive almost weekly from those who found Christ while in Vietnam or who dedicated their lives to Him. The influence of the Gospel continues to reach beyond Saigon to remote outposts in the Republic to bring inspiration and guidance to many, many people. We can only say, "To God be the glory."

ATTENDANCE

Morning attendance has not increased measurable in the last six months. The turnover is constant. As new men arrive others leave for the States. The monthly average has been as low as 185 and as high as 209 per Sunday. Sunday evening attendance seems to be increasing. Normally there are 60 to 80 present.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the present time we have seven classes in our Sunday School with a total average attendance of 64. This includes a class in the Korean language taught by Mr. Willy Hahn and the Adult Class which continues to show growth and interest. A high school class is added when the young people from Dalat Missionary School return for vacation.

One of the most profitable Bible Schools in the history of the International Church was conducted for two weeks in August. Mrs. Vern Betsch was director and was assisted by fourteen teachers and workers. Total enrollment was 86 with a daily average attendance of 69. The children decided they would raise 10,000 piasters to purchase an organ for a small and needy congregation near Saigon. Enthusiastically they brought more than 15,000ps--enough for the organ plus shipping charges from Hong Kong.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

A Tuesday Bible Class is conducted in the parsonage adjoining the church building. Attendance averages about 16 and those who come are eager for the Word of God. This affords opportunity for Christian fellowship and growth in the Lord. In recent weeks we have been studying some of the better known Psalms of David.

For those who desire to come an hour early (7:00 p.m.) taped sermons of Dr. A.W. Tozer and other outstanding preachers have been played.

YOUTH CENTER AND GOOD NEWS SCHOOL

We welcome to the Youth Center and the International Church Reverend and Mrs. John Fitzstevens, recently returned missionaries to Vietnam. John and Esther are working in close harmony with Reverend and Mrs. Nguyen Hau Luong in the Youth Center and Good News School. Each semester there are more than 550 Vietnamese enrolled in English classes. The faculty is composed mostly of missionaries although others who know Christ as Saviour and who can give at least two evenings a week in this ministry would be welcomed. The bi-lingual service each Saturday night is increasing in attendance. Pray for this evangelistic effort and encourage Vietnamese nationals with whom you are acquainted to attend.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The following have been received as associate members:

April, 1966

John Nolan
George Zimmer
John T. Shepherd

June, 1966

Jerry L. Boss
James T. Quinn
Ralph D. Meyer

August, 1966

James P. Jarrett, Jr.
Robert R. Glover
Ralph M. Leighty
Danny Joe Medlin
Yi Kwang Cho
Chang U Yong

BAPTISMS

Two immersion baptismal services have been held in the past six months, both using the facilities of the Trinity Baptist Church on Cong Ly. We are happy to announce that a memorial baptistry will be constructed within the next few months on our own property. This is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Thaung Tin of Asian Christian Service.

April 10, 1966

Richard John Dottery
Ronald Dewar Howard
Fred W. Irvine, Jr.
Danny Joe Medlin

August 14, 1966

Alfonso C. Hildreth
James Paul Jarrett, Jr.
Kent Douglas Scholander

Two infant baptisms were conducted in the church on Sunday, August 21st. Command Chaplain T. V. Koepke officiated. Those baptized were:

Robert Paul Franklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester O. Franklin
Vuong Quang Timothy Tuan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vuong Quant Ti

THE BOOK SHELF

The service rendered by the Bookshelf is invaluable. Well over 10,000 piasters of Bibles and books are sold each month. We are encouraged by the interest of our congregation in reading good literature. Miss Nell Lundahl has given much time and effort serving at the Bookshelf and keeping it well stocked.

CHURCH MUSIC

We have a faithful choir under the excellent direction of LTC Ralph M. Leighty. This good man, with heavy duties in his own field of engineering, gives thought, time and leadership to the choir every Wednesday and Sunday. The choir is now preparing for a Christmas Cantata to be presented Sunday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. Col. Leighty's tour of duty ends in December. He will be greatly missed.

We are indebted to Virginia Steinkamp for her faithfulness at the organ. She and Orrel will return to the United States in November for a year's furlough. This means two important positions in the ministry of music must soon be filled --choir director and organist.

OUTSIDE MINISTRIES

In addition to pulpit ministries at the International Church I have had numerous opportunities to proclaim Christ throughout the city in Vietnamese churches, in youth services among both the Vietnamese and Chinese. I have also assisted chaplains on occasions. In May, Mrs. Cathey and I had the unique opportunity of visiting Laos to speak at the Annual Conference of Alliance Missionaries. While in that country I flew to a remote Mao Tribes village high in the mountains and preached in a little thatched church through two interpreters.

In the past few months the Vietnamese Government has invited the Mission to produce English religious radio programs which will be aired over one of the Vietnamese stations in Saigon. With the assistance of several of our missionaries I have produced six programs. We will announce the time and station where these may be heard as soon as broadcasting begins.

IMPROVEMENTS IN CHURCH PROPERTY

It is most unfortunate that early rains in May forced us to go through another rainy season without the roof repaired. Work was begun, but had not progressed far enough to provide protection from the heavy downpours we have had the last few weeks. Be assured that as soon as the dry season arrives the roof will be repaired. You will also note the new handrail on the main stairway.

LOOKING AHEAD

As God reminded Joshua there is much land to be possessed. There are many within this city and the influence of this church that need spiritual counsel and help. By God's grace and with the faithful support of all of you we shall hope to see greater victories in the months ahead.

- * We challenge those with homes to become better acquainted with servicemen and invite them into your home. This can be most appreciated as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- * We urge you to take an active part in the Sunday School. You are needed in the adult class. Let us see an increase here. You are also invited to the Tuesday evening study.
- * Ask God to make your life effective in reaching others for Christ. Become acquainted with good Christian literature--books and tracts. Begin to use these wisely and prayerfully. In the words of Paul you can become an evangelist.
- * Continue to support the church financially. There is a sense in which every dollar given to the Church goes to missions. The repayment of our loan is in reality a repayment to Alliance Missions. Give generously, give sacrificially and encourage others to give. Our Lord said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
- * Pray for the pastor. No man can in himself do the work of the ministry. Even Moses required Aaron and Hur to "uphold his hands" in prayer. Mrs. Cathey and I count you partners in this great work.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon M. Cathey
Gordon M. Cathey, Pastor