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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
Conference Year 1964 - 1965
Viet Nam Field

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT — CONFERENCE YEAR 1964-1965

VIET NAM FIELD

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare that He hath done..."

"For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried..."

"We went through fire and through water: but thou hast brought us out into a wealthy place." Psalm 66:16, 10, 12.

No greater joy is afforded a missionary than that of "declaring what He hath done." It may seem to some that God has retired from the field of action in Viet Nam, and that men are plunging unrestrained along a broad way of devastation, despair and death. I am certain no year has taken a greater toll upon the people of this land than the one just past. Natural disaster combined with deepening shades of war to spread suffering, privation, threatenings and death. But in the midst of it all, God has been at work.

Governmental instability, political unrest, religious strife culminating in open street fighting, noisy and destructive demonstrations, have been the order rather than the exception. All of this has resulted in a badly deteriorated situation throughout the country areas.

The year of the dragon proved to be one fraught with natural disasters. Of major significance in the recording of developments during the twelve month period, were the devastating storms and floods throughout several provinces in the central area. Death came suddenly to over 7,000 people; certainly the darkest hour of the year. But for a few weeks the entire populace was united in an all-out effort to bring relief and succor to survivors who had lost everything — probably the brightest and most successful effort during the year.

With the above conditions as a back-drop, let us take a closer look at "what He hath done." Progress has been experienced in spite of serious problems. Opportunities have abounded, despite opposition from within and without. The Spirit's working has been manifest even though Satanic workings have been fierce. The grace of generosity was displayed on the one hand, while the Church suffered financial need because of worsening economic conditions in the country areas. There were triumphs, but also testings.

Internal problems have been the cause of grave concern to the Church leaders. Desire for money, position and political influence motivated various individuals who united in an effort to bring about a revolution within the Church. When this proved unsuccessful, there was the threat of a split of serious proportions. God over-ruled, and by year's end, the result had been the with-drawal from the Church of only two official workers. There is still a very small group within the Church who continue to stir up trouble. Unfortunately, another mission (The Church of Christ) has tried to exploit this situation, giving some financial backing to the dissident group.

Approximately 50 churches were affected by the typhoons and floods which struck the central coastal region. It has been wonderful to see the other churches in the southern part of the country raise the equivalent of approximately three thousand dollars to assist their Christian brethren to the north.

The economic situation of those living in country areas has become increasingly difficult. This has resulted in a further decrease in giving for the needs of the Church, including pastors' support.

Tried as silver is tried — this continues to be the experience of the Church. Can we recognize that, though the instrument used is satanically inspired, God, the Supreme and Almighty One, is in control of the situation? He will cause the wrath of men to praise Him. Though He allows His children to go through fire and through water — yea, He leads them there — His divine purpose is to bring them out into a wealthy place of spiritual blessing and maturity. Highlighting the blessings enjoyed during the year were the Pastors' Conferences in the month of October. God met many hearts. Dr. K. C. Fraser and Pastor R. P. Chavan ministered with special anointing. Eternity alone will reveal the full impact upon the Lord's work.

STATION AND DISTRICT MINISTRIES

The Church is organized with four districts. Missionaries are assigned to work within these district boundaries. We will first look at the work following these divisions. The Vietnamese and Chinese work is divided along territorial lines, whereas the Tribes District is ethno-linguistic in character. Its churches are mainly located in the territory of the South-Central District, though it stretches both north and south into the other districts also. Some stations, formerly occupied, still remain closed because of insecurity, and others are vacant because of our limited personnel. In spite of mounting danger, increasing travel restrictions and resultant frustrations, the missionary staff has continued to exhibit a dedication and commitment to the task entrusted by our Lord.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Saigon is the hub of this district. Within the city there are 13 churches and groups directly related to the National Church organization. Three other Chinese churches and the International Protestant Church (English-speaking) work in close cooperation. One of our primary goals in the city is that of church extension. As we work with the existing churches, we want to encourage, inspire and challenge them to bring about the birth of new churches. We continually remind ourselves that here within the boundaries of one city we find one sixth of the total population of the country.

One new church was formally organized during the year. Four new church buildings were completed, including the International Protestant Church and Youth Center. Also, another church remodeled and expanded its facilities. The oldest and largest Vietnamese church in the city has constructed a three-storied education building behind and attached to the present church, at a cost of approximately 1,500,000\$ plasters.

The Lord has given opportunity for ministry in prisons, military camps and hospitals. The largest military hospital in Viet Nam affords a tremendous challenge. A weekly evangelistic service is held there, attended by from 400 to 600 pajama-clad men. Daily visitation in the wards by various missionaries is an effective follow-up. A regular evangelistic ministry has recently been started at a very large military induction center. Thousands of young men have heard the message and received Gospel literature before going to the battle-fronts throughout the country.

Cholon is the Chinese city within greater Saigon. Practically all of these people are citizens of Vietnam, but retain their identity as a minority. There are four organized churches and two outstations. Only one of the churches is directly connected with the National Church organization. The others are all under the leadership of men who received their training in Alliance Bible Schools, and there is a very close spirit of cooperation. Our missionaries have opportunity for ministry in all these groups. Twenty new converts were baptized in the one church which is organizationally an integral part of our work. This church, through the vision of the pastor, undertook to establish an orphanage called, "Children's Home of Blessing." Doubtless the interest in such a project springs from the fact that Rev. Jonathan Kaan himself was an orphan and found Christ in his "adopted home." This work was begun in May with eight children, and only the promise of Faith. God has provided and all financial needs have been met.

The English-speaking community of the city continues to grow. To meet this challenge, plans have been in the making for several years for the construction of facilities to house the International Protestant Church. The two significant developments in this work during the year were the arrival from the States of a full-time pastor, Rev. G. M. Cathey and family, and the completion of the lovely new building. Mr. Cathey assumed his pastoral duties on September 13, 1964, and the new church facility was dedicated on November 22nd. Interest and attendance have rapidly grown in all parts of the church program.

Four cities south of Saigon had resident missionaries before last conference. Two of the four families left for furlough, and insufficient personnel dictated the closing, temporarily at least of the stations at Rach Gia and Mytho. Visits to the country areas have been almost eliminated. However, the missionary finds more opportunities at hand than can be effectively met. Of strategic importance is the ministry of counseling and prayer with the pastors who so faithfully man the churches. We trust that this will bear fruit and be a stabilizing influence in a Church feeling the pressures of Communism. Jail services in Cantho are still conducted weekly, and during 1964, the number of believers was increased by 123.

Illness necessitated an emergency furlough for the Collinses, and there was no one available to replace them at Cantho. This leaves the entire section of the country south of Saigon with only one missionary couple. Approximately one third of the country's population lives in these provinces.

It is reported that many of the country churches have no young men left at all because of conscription by both the government and the Viet Cong. An outreach in evangelism by the Vinh Long Church at a place called Nga Tu has borne much fruit. Seventeen families have prayed. Weekly meetings have been started as the prelude to organizing a branch church. Also at Vinh Long a Youth Center program with a direct evangelistic approach has been initiated and is reaching many officials and students.

SOUTH-CENTRAL DISTRICT: Missionaries were located at six different stations within the territorial limits of this district. However, at only one place was their assignment to Vietnamese district work. Nha Trang is the center of the district. The influence of the Bible School is making an impact on the local area. The Youth Center continued to function with a very limited program. A student from the Bible School works with the missionary.

Churches and groups of believers in the resettlement villages are showing more and more maturity. The resettlement program has been discontinued, but many opportunities still present themselves in the developing villages.

The Dalat Church, one of the strongest in the district, has gone through severe testing because of internal problems. The National Committee had to intervene, and the pastor has been instructed to move. The Church is divided, and there still has been no settlement of the issues. Much prayer is needed.

Missionaries assigned to tribes-work, but located in cities within the geographical boundaries of this district are always concerned for the Vietnamese churches, and give as much assistance to them as possible.

It had been expected that Tuy Hoa would be re-occupied as a mission center after conference. However, shortage of available personnel made it impossible. Subsequent developments have indicated that the Lord had His hand in the plans. The entire province, with the exception of the city itself, has been practically inundated with Viet Cong occupation. Here, as in many other places in Central Viet Nam, churches in the country areas have experienced terrible pressures from the Communists.

Phan Rang was harder hit by flood waters than any other place in this South-Central area. The greatest devastation took place farther to the north. In Phan Rang, the church itself was not seriously damaged, but the Christians suffered severe loss. Several hundred people died in this valley, but there was no loss of life among the Christians.

NORTH-CENTRAL DISTRICT: The months of September and November brought a series of tropical storms of varying intensity. High winds and flood-waters rising at a phenomenal rate destroyed entire communities in different localities. The churches sustained inestimable material loss, as did all those living in these areas. In spite of all the trouble, the blessing of the Lord gave joy and contentment to His servants there.

Seven stations were occupied by the missionaries within the geographical area covered by this district. Five of these represent Vietnamese station and district responsibilities and the other two are tribes stations. Danang (formerly Tourane) is the district headquarters. Road travel throughout the area was even more restricted than in previous years.

As a result of the devastation caused by the flood, about 50 families, particularly from the Khanh Binh and Thu Bon areas, have sought refuge in Danang. A tract of land has been secured where it is hoped these refugees can be resettled. If this plan is carried through, they will make a substantial addition to the An Hai Church, organized about the first of the year. The small group at An Hai, with assistance from the mother church in Danang and the Mission, erected a small, lovely building. This is the second of the two new churches that have been the out-growth of the main church in Danang. The other group, which met for several months in rented quarters, has purchased a strategically-located house. They have a regular attendance of between 60 and 70, and show real promise of continued growth.

Lying to the north of Danang City and extending to the 17th parallel, are two provinces, Thua Thien and Quang Tri. Hue, the ancient cultural center of the entire country, has resisted thirty-five years of evangelistic effort. A recent tent campaign has proven to be one of the most successful ventures ever undertaken in this city. Permission was obtained to erect the Gospel Tent in a public park on a prominent corner of two main streets. The local congregation began early morning prayer meetings some weeks prior to the opening service, and these were continued right through the three-week-long campaign. The Christians experienced a revival of their spiritual lives, and more than 50 prayed for salvation.

Activities at the Youth Center in Hue have continued. Through English classes and evangelistic services, an endeavor has been made to reach the university students with the Gospel message. Converts are led into the fellowship of the local church as soon as possible. Evangelistic services are held each month in the local prison with about 200 to 300 in attendance. As a result of this ministry, 30 have prayed. At the Government Cadre Training School for tribes students, a wonderful open door has been set before us. Regular evangelistic services held for these young people from all tribal areas throughout the country have resulted in about 25 of them turning to the Lord. An unusual opportunity was afforded the pastor and missionary in Hue when they were invited to speak to those living and studying at the Benedictine monastery. Through the generous gifts of a Christian layman serving in the U. S. Aid program, land was purchased just out from the city of Hue for the development of a youth and tribal vocational training center. The goal is to train Christian laymen in technical skills and as effective witnesses. The project is independent, but closely related to our work.

Quang Tri remained without a missionary during most of the year. Not until November were those who returned from furlough actually able to move in. During February they moved out again because of the matter of security. There is no established work in the city. There are three small churches in country areas, but because of Communist infiltration, only one of these is easily accessible. A location has been secured in the city where a reading room has been opened in order to have an established witness. It is hoped that this will result in a Christian group, and eventually a church. Dong Ha and Hai Lang are two government administrative centers where it is hoped work can be undertaken also.

The Communists have returned in force to the Quang Ngai province. Christian groups in the fishing villages that experienced the working of God's Spirit resulting in a "people's movement" two or three years ago, are now under terrible pressure. (The Christian faith has been branded as "The American Religion.") Those who have refused to cooperate with the V. C.s have been threatened as enemies of the people, and some have been killed. Others have yielded to the coercive measures exerted on them. Many have fled from their villages to seek refuge in the government-controlled towns. Six resident pastors have had the oversight of Christian groups meeting in twelve different villages. Many of the Christians are forbidden to leave their villages, thus making church attendance an impossibility. Some have lost members of their families who have either been killed or forcibly abducted by the enemy. Since January 1962, seven Christians have been taken from the Duc Pho church, and it is now known that four of these have been killed.

Does all of this mean retrenchment? No. The church in Quang Ngai City has plans for the opening of a branch church about ten miles out from town where there is presently a group of believers. Land has been secured and a request made to the district committee that a young man be assigned as pastor. They also are desirous of opening a reading room in the city, and are prepared to support a man to supervise this work, if funds can be made available to secure the needed location.

The report from the work in the Binh Dinh Province reads much like a repetition of those from other areas. Warfare and fighting go on continually, and too often success is reserved to the Viet Cong. The missionary writes, "The only bright spot left is the true Church holding forth the Word of Life as a glorious torch in this idolatrous world. How glad we are to have a little part in His work through the Church." A new church was opened in the south-west section of the city of Quinhon in the center of a rapidly expanding refugee area. Thousands of people have moved here to escape Communist control. The main church in Quinhon continues to grow under the energetic leadership of its fine pastor. Thirty miles to the north, at Dap Da, a new building is under construction. Refugees are fleeing to this town and many are enquiring and finding the Lord. During the Christmas holidays, 18 adults were saved. They cleaned house of all idols and ancestor altars, and Christmas

morning brought twenty-two children to be dedicated. Twenty others who had been converted earlier, were baptized the Sunday after Christmas. Farther north, at Bong Son, the young pastor is carrying on practically isolated, since Communism has taken over the country round about the town. He has been captured twice by the Reds but was released in answer to prayer. The pastor at Trung Ai, where a love-new parsonage has been built during the year, tries to work a vast district where there are now three churches. An effective means of evangelistic witness has been carried on at the market places where farmers from the surrounding areas bring their produce for sale. By means of the loud speaker and tract distribution, thousands have heard the message.

TRIBES DISTRICT: Seven stations were occupied by missionaries assigned to tribes work. There have been some remarkable evidences of the Spirit's working in different places. The "people's movement" among the M'Nong has continued where the number of believers now exceeds 1,300. The witness of some of these has carried over into the Stieng area, where about 95 have turned to the Lord in one village. In the Dran Valley scores have followed the Lord, and for the first time we have seen a significant break among the Chru tribespeople. Contacts made through the Leprosarium treatment program have resulted in the establishment of churches among four diverse tribal groups.

RADAY — Banmethuot has been the storm center for racial tensions between the tribespeople and Vietnamese. An attempted armed revolt was quelled after some initial bloodshed. The leaders fled rather than submit to the government forces. Hundreds have followed them, and rumors and speculations as to the final outcome are many and ominous. This condition creates deep feelings that are also apparent in the Church. It calls for earnest prayer that God will baptize His Church with His divine love that will overlook all racial boundaries and see the Church as One⁵ Body that must work together in unity.

At the end of 1964, including the District Superintendent, there were 24 pastors and student-preachers serving the Christian community of the Banmethuot Raday and M'Nong area. These workers are located at 24 village centers and a number of them also serve other Christian groups located in outposts other than the center in which they live. One Raday preacher was ordained to the ministry on August 2nd, Pastor Y-Ta Hmok of Buon Tong Ju. Pastor Y-Ngue of Banmethuot and Pastor Y-Krun, a M'Nong, were also ordained at an impressive service during the Tribes District Conference at Dalat in April.

The missionaries have devoted much time to translation and the preparation of manuscripts. Work on the remaining Old Testament books is nearing completion.

KOHO — It was possible for the missionaries in the Dalat area to travel quite freely during most of the year. In fact, during the Christmas season, visits were made to every church except one. The approximately 1,300 believers of Phuoc Luong (THE BAMBOO CROSS) finally had to move to yet another location to escape mounting pressures and continual threats from the V.C.s. Government assistance and relief help have been granted as they begin again to establish a new life in the Dran Valley.

In the village of Da M'rong, the number of believers has increased to over 1,200, divided into three church groups. This place is only accessible by military helicopter. Young people from all the churches have been encouraged to go out witnessing every week-end, sometimes visiting again and again villages which are slow to respond. As a result, new groups of believers are found here and there. Young people's conferences held in different parts of the district have proved to be a great blessing.

The Short Term Bible School for the Koko-speaking people is located at Dilinh. It is also a preparatory school for those who will later be entering the main Bible School at Dalat. The school sessions serve also as a means of instructing young Christians in the Word. It was possible during the year to have four sessions or terms of study, with a total enrollment of 297. There were eighteen graduates. Twenty who had previously finished their work here, went to Dalat to continue their Bible training. Another profitable undertaking was the five-day deacons' conference, attended by the elected leaders of many church groups. Two new branch churches were opened during the year, and the congregation at Dilinh is assisting with the support of the two student-workers. In this area, 102 baptisms were recorded among the tribes churches. Praise God for the four new churches which were

established, and for the three churches built. Among the new Christian groups of the Red Tassel Maa, there has been strong pressure exerted by the Roman Catholic priest. Medicines and relief goods have been used as enticements to draw some away.

Dran was occupied by a missionary for the first time in 1964. Previous work had been carried on by a Vietnamese couple who had evangelized extensively, and also made a good start in translating materials into the Chru language. The Vietnamese National Church also sent a worker to this area, who is supported from their missionary fund. All of the fourteen preachers in this area are still in training as Bible School students. During the past few months, there were five new churches dedicated and 50 baptisms. There is a combined total of 1,500 adult believers who worship regularly at seventeen different chapels. Until recently most of the believers were Koho-speaking. The Lord has begun a work among the Chru tribespeople, and there are now about four hundred of those who have turned to Him.

In the Dran Valley, vast and beautiful, the door is open to full Gospel evangelism. Much moving and resettlement has been required of the Valley's inhabitants, due to a huge dam project and also more appropriate security measures. These moves have resulted in the rapid spread of the Gospel through the very active witness of the Christian tribespeople. A peculiar witness to the Spirit's working in this area has been the recent conversion of several famous witch-doctors. Formerly shrewd and wicked, these men are now using their influence to convince many of their followers to change from their superstitions and believe in the true God of heaven. There are a few villages in the heart of the Chru country where much witnessing had been done, and it appeared that a decision to turn to Christ would be the next step. However, while still contemplating this decision, the villagers were "bribed" by the French priest with clothing and food. His teaching does not interfere so seriously with their former practices of sorcery and anamism.

RAGLAI— Hoa Trung, where there were only a half dozen Christians two years ago, has a fine group numbering over two hundred. Formerly in a very poor location, they have fared much better since moving to their present village site. God blessed them in their poverty, and now they have a nice new village and a lovely chapel. Sadness came to them when their devoted spiritual leader, a young man of their own village, died of typhoid. There are now five active and strong church groups among these people.

JERAI — Two mission stations are occupied within the area inhabited by the Jera Tribe — Pleiku and Cheo Reo. The work has gone forward slowly. The church at Pleiku has enjoyed good attendance during the year and has plans to build its first church home in 1965. A new short term Bible School building was constructed on the Mission compound just before the end of the year. Evangelistic witness has been concentrated in villages near the province center. Results have been most promising in Plei Chuet, where they dedicated a small bamboo church building in November. There are also a few believers in Plei la Nhol, Nhao, Ring De, Dong Bao and Roh. The witness given at the leprosy treatment village of Plei Mrong has resulted in the establishing of a Christian group there. Two years ago a man from this village went to the Leprosarium. During the intervening months, he listened to the Gospel, and was recently transferred back to his village where he continues on treatment. In December he accepted Christ. Because he has had the advantage of more education than anyone else in the village, he becomes the logical leader for the fifteen believers there.

Significant developments at Cheo Reo have been as follows: At Plei Tomak where a leprosy segregation village has been established, there has been a good response to the Gospel. Twenty-five have been added as new believers, and they meet daily for communal worship in addition to the weekly preaching service by the missionary. Weekly or twice-weekly classes and preaching services are held in two other villages where the groups of believers continue to grow. A young people's group meets weekly for Bible study, singing and fellowship. Also recently children's meetings have been organized. In October there was a three-day Bible conference for the Christians throughout the province.

BAHNAR — The missionary still is not able to live at Ankhe, but many Bahnar villages can be reached from Pleiku, where two families are assigned to work in the Bahnar language. Meetings were held weekly in the villages of Kon Chrah, Bia, Wau, Plei Dolol, with the definite goal of seeing Christian groups established. The number who responded at Plei Dolol has continued to increase, and they built a small meeting house during the year. Leprosy clinics are held monthly in the villages of Dolol, Holuk

and Roi Mang, and a Gospel message is always given. A number have prayed in each place. We are reminded that time is running out. A large task is yet before us in this corner of the harvest field. With 80,000 Bahnar scattered in hundreds of villages over the provinces of Binh Dinh, Pleiku and Kontum, we have only one unorganized church and a few small groups of believers. Somehow evangelism must be pushed into all accessible villages.

MNONG — The number of those who have followed the Lord has been doubled during the year and now numbers over 1,300. There is only one Bible School graduate who is an itinerant preacher to five different groups. The other many groups have been shepherded by two elders, Huh and Mbrul. A new, simple chapel was dedicated in the village of Buk So, where there were listed 113 believers, during the month of October.

KATU — A group of 70 Christian refugees living on the Mission compound at An Diem has recently built a nice, cement church building. It has not been possible to establish contact with any other of these Katu people.

BRU — Security conditions have continued to deteriorate, but the Vietnamese worker is able to carry on his ministry among these people. Christians from several villages come to the center at Khe Sanh to meet each Sunday. A new church building is under construction.

STIENG — One young man from this tribe is attending Bible School at Nhatrang. The missionary has not been able to return to this area after furlough as had been hoped. A group of 95 are reported to have turned to the Lord in one village as a result of contacts made from one of the leprosy segregation villages. The Vietnamese worker has a regular ministry to this group.

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

BIBLE SCHOOLS — Our three Bible Schools have each enjoyed a good year, but enrollment has been down.

NHATRANG (Vietnamese) — Of the students in the last year's second class, all were placed in the work for their two years of practical training. Eight of the fifteen first year class returned to the school in September for their second year course of study. The second year class included ten women students, all of whom are married to fifth year students.

Coming for their first year of study in September were eight men students and six of the wives of the second and fifth year men students. Swelling the present enrollment to fifty-two were eighteen men who had completed their two years of practical work, and had returned for their fifth and graduating year.

Reasons for the small enrollment given by the Rev. Ong-van-Huyen, School President, included first of all the compulsory military draft law. The National Church is passing through a very difficult period in her history, not only because of the present political situation, but also because of internal difficulties. Lack of finances is a strong reason for several others who could not apply for enrollment.

There were two changes made in the faculty during the past year. The Fishers left on an emergency furlough due to health reasons. The Houcks who had been teaching part-time at the school, left for furlough. Additions to the faculty have included the Revelles and the Sutherlands. The Rev. Pham-xuan-Tin spent nine months taking further studies at Moore Theological College in Australia.

A new outreach of the school is the correspondence courses now being offered. These are first of all the required course in Bible, Practical Theology, Church History, and Theology for all student pastors, and are under the direction of the school faculty. In the past year however, requests have come from youth in various areas of the country, asking for another kind of correspondence course. Lessons in Ephesians, Missions, and Practical Theology have been sent, and this ministry shows signs of becoming quite fruitful and of use to the National Church.

Outstanding throughout the past year has been the work of the Children's Evangelistic Committee. During each week-end children's classes were held in the immediate vicinity of the school, as well as in the city of Nhatrang and outlying areas. Each week-end in this manner, a combined total of some 600

children have been reached with the Gospel. Many decisions have resulted from this ministry. The climax of the children's work done by the students came at the Christmas rally when some 600 children flocked into the School church for the meetings.

Because of the present situation in the country, many have expressed the opinion that to have an enrollment of 52 during the term 64-65, is in itself a miracle. Every student enrolled in the school is a cause for praise, as are the morale and the studious attitude on the part of many of the students. Much prayer is needed that God will call out qualified Christian young people who will hear and obey His call and enter the Lord's service.

BANMETHUOT (Raday) — The six-month session of the school was begun in August 1964. The student body was not large, but all students were selfsupporting. The entire student body numbered ten. Two of these were Mnong laymen who studied only part of the time. In addition, four of the students' wives attended special classes for the women.

DALAT (Koho) — From July until Christmas two sessions of Bible School were held. The first with 25 families, represented 22 villages and six tribes. The second session had 34 men and 29 women representing 33 villages and seven tribes. Nine were young men without churches. Ten workers from the Dran Valley attended for the first time. They had completed Short Term Bible School in Dilinh.

SUMMARY

At its March meeting, the Executive Committee took action to discontinue Mission support for the evangelistic teams. We are still interested in evangelism, and I trust we shall continue to budget as much as in the past for this purpose, or even more if possible. The recent tent meetings at Hue are convincing evidence that the larger cities, even those that have been unresponsive in the past, are ripened fields where a harvest is waiting to be gathered. Can this Conference take the initiative in laying out goals and guidelines to be suggested as an effective program in full cooperation with the National Church? I was much impressed by an article in the *EVANGELICAL MISSIONS QUARTERLY* (Volume I, No. 2) titled "A Bridge for Church Building." Perhaps the Conference would desire to appoint a special committee to study this question and bring proposals to the floor for discussion.

Radio presents one of the greatest challenges and finest opportunities for evangelism still available to us. A number of problems have been encountered during the past year, especially from the standpoint of personnel. The studio now has adequate and high quality equipment. It should be possible to produce all of the programs required, if the personnel problems can be solved.

Two missionary families were moved from their stations at Quang Tri and Quang Ngai during February. The question of security was an important factor in both cases. Areas have been kept under close study, but thus far it has not been considered necessary to move anyone else. Our entire missionary family continues to look to the Lord for the three who still are held prisoner. Dr. Ardel Vietti, Rev. Archie Mitchell and Mr. Dan Gerber are in His hands. We believe that they are being used of Him. Perhaps we will never know just how severe have been the fires of testing, and how deep have been the waters through which they are called to pass. We are confident that He will keep them victorious in spirit, and will bring them back to us and their families at His appointed time.

The Foreign Department, acting on the recommendation of the School Board, moved the Dalat School to Bangkok, Thailand in April. The further deteriorating situation here would indicate that the decision was a wise one. Eighteen missionaries moved with the School, bringing our field effective to the lowest number since 1961. Those serving on the staff are still considered members of our Conference, and we are glad that some are present. I believe it would be most appropriate for our Conference to send cabled greetings to those not able to come, and also to our sister Mission in Thailand for the fine cooperation their personnel have given our "displaced" colleagues. Mr. and Mrs. Ingram were requested by the chairman to assume the responsibility for the over-sight of the school property.

I have requested the preparation of separate reports covering (1) Leprosarium, (2) Literature, (3) Radio, and (4) International Church and Youth Center. I wish it were possible to have separate reports from all parts of the Field. I have chosen only those which are distinctive in nature and are of general interest to all.

CONCLUSION

We are especially grateful to the Alliance Constituency who, in addition to providing the regular budgeted needs and many specials for approved projects, also responded so generously to the appeal for flood relief, and the Dalat School Emergency. Representatives of the Mennonite Central Committee have continued to work in close cooperation with us and have channeled much assistance, financial as well as material, to the Church. Personnel serving under Overseas Crusades, Navigators, I. V. F. and O. M. F. have shown a wonderful spirit of cooperation. The contribution to the Lord's work by the Bible Societies is greatly appreciated. The Bible Meditation League sends monthly amounts in support of our literature program. Free radio time provided by the Far East Broadcasting Company greatly enlarges our outreach. Other organizations, churches, and individuals have given valuable assistance by prayer and financial backing.

How marvelous to recount what He has done! How wonderful to have a share in His work! Through times of testing and days filled with trouble, He has led. Opportunities still abound on every hand. The challenge of needy hearts causes us to beseech Him that He will continue to work mightily, and effectively in the year ahead. Our efforts alone will not suffice. Oh, that we might see His arm stretched forth in the midst of the spiritual struggle until the full accomplishment of His purpose!

"O, it is hard to work for God,
To rise and take His part
Upon this battle-field of earth,
And not sometimes lose heart!

"He hides Himself so wondrously,
As though there were no God;
He is least seen when all the powers
Of ill are most abroad.

"Or He deserts us at the hour
The fight is all but lost;
And seems to leave us to ourselves
Just when we need Him most.

"Ill masters good, good seems to change,
To ill with greatest ease;
And, worst of all, the good with good
Is at cross-purposes.

"Ah! God is other than we think;
His ways are far above,
Far beyond reason's height, and reached
Only by childlike love.

"Workman of God, O, lose not heart,
But learn what God is like;
And in the darkest battle-field
Thou shalt know where to strike.

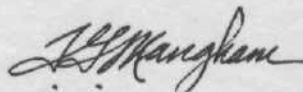
"Thrice blest is he to whom is given
The instinct that can tell
That God is on the field when He
Is most invisible.

"Blest too is he who can divine
Where real right doth lie,
And dares to take the side that seems
Wrong to man's blindfold eye.

"For right is right, since God is God;
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin."

Frederick William Faber

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T.G. Mangham, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

T.G. Mangham, Jr., Chairman.