

The Church in North Vietnam - While factual information is scarce on the situation in North Vietnam, yet a few items have been gathered which were contained in a recent article in Vietnam Today. In December 1962 the International Control Commission toured the city of Haiphong and saw a reasonably good building near a delapidated pagoda with the sign "Tin Lanh" (Gospel Church) still in it. The building was boarded up and apparently not in use. In 1963 the same Commission on a trip to Vinh saw a small church but obviously no longer in use as a church but changed into a warehouse. On another visit to Hanoi in 1963 indicated that the church was still in operation but its pastors had to fulfill their obligation to the state first. Two lower rooms had been converted into a small factory, where they were required to produce a certain number of pieces made from iron rods. Only then were they permitted to carry on their pastoral duties. At that time church attendance was about 120. Over a year ago attendance was still around 50. The pulpit had been removed and curtains hung in order to use the platform as a stage. In addition to services the church was used for many other purposes. No Bibles are allowed into North Vietnam and consequently there must be a great shortage of Scriptures. One pastor is reportedly serving as a chaplain for American prisoners of war. There are an estimated twelve pastors still in North Vietnam but there is no way of knowing how many active churches there might be. Earnest prayer is requested for all Christians who still seek to be faithful to Christ under the extreme pressure.

### GENERAL

Indigenous Vs. Missionary Churches - Bishop Chandu Ray in his December Newsletter calls attention to the phenomenal growth of three indigenous churches in China from 1920 to 1949. These were: The True Jesus Church with 100,000 members, the Little Flock with 80,000 members and the Jesus Family Church consisting of 142 organized communities in eight provinces with some six thousand members. Bishop Ray comments further: "The 1971 statistics show that Taiwan has over 750 foreign missionaries and the mainline churches have 2133 paid workers. In spite of this output more than 60% of the Christians belong to the three independent churches without any missionary personnel or paid workers. The growth in these independent churches is four times more than in other churches. They know the power of the gospel and are not arguing about its purity." Thus the Bishop indicates that the major growth is among the purely indigenous Christian groups. May we not also conclude from this that the Holy Spirit is continuing to work among the Chinese Christians in the underground church of Mainland China in a far greater way than any of us may suppose?

International Fellowship of Evangelical Students Moves Headquarters - The IFES is moving its headquarters from Lausanne, Switzerland to London, where Chua Wee-hian of Singapore will replace C. Stacey Woods as General Secretary. Mr. Woods makes the following significant observation on world trends: "I see two world-wide, contradictory cross-currents strongly flowing: First, there is the rushing torrent of godlessness, sensuality, secularism and violence, which is increasing everywhere. Second, there is what many of us believe may be the final great movement of God's Spirit just before the Day of God's grace ends and the awesome Day of the Lord begins. This is seen most significantly in the tremendous increase in the study of God's Word. Second, in the many movements world-wide, which are being used of God in the salvation of young and old."