

# THE CALL OF INDO-CHINA



1951

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# THE CALL

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INDO-CHINA



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# THE CALL

## A PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME

Rev. D. I. Jeffrey, Chairman

Although 1950 did not see the end of hostilities in Indo-China, constant efforts were made to achieve unity and to restore peace. The Alliance Church continued to minister on an entirely non-political basis but we were not neutral in our labors to promote godly living, unity and peace. Many evidences of God's direct and providential care accompanied the preaching of the Gospel.

We learned anew that the development of the Church is not a matter of human wisdom but wholly a growth by spiritual experience. This truth came with fresh emphasis to our hearts a few months ago in Laos while reading the following poem by Annie Johnson Flint.

### LET US GO ON

«Some of us stay at the Cross,  
Some of us wait at the Tomb,  
Quickened and raised together with Christ;  
Yet lingering still in its gloom;  
Some of us bide at the Passover feast  
With Pentecost all unknown —  
The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place  
That our Lord has made our own.  
If the Christ Who died had stopped at the Cross,  
His work had been incomplete;  
If the Christ Who was buried had stayed in the tomb,  
He had only known defeat;  
But the Way of the Cross never stops at the Cross,  
And the Way of the tomb leads on  
To victorious grace in the heavenly place  
Where the risen Lord has gone.  
So let us go on with our Lord  
To the fullness of God He has brought,  
Unsearchable riches of glory and good  
Exceeding our uttermost thought;  
Let us grow up into Christ,  
Claiming His life and its powers —  
The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place  
That our conquering Lord has made ours ».

— Annie Johnson Flint.

Scripturally the year's work illustrates the fact that God continues to visit the nations, «to take out of them a people for His name». Missionaries were unable to minister directly in large areas of Vietnam

but in spite of this, hundreds found the Way of eternal life. A constant stream of Gospel literature has been prepared by means of mimeograph and press and widely distributed. The building up of personnel and equipment will make it possible to do much more in the coming year provided we have financial assistance. The re-issuing of the Vietnamese Bible Magazine under the able editorship of Pastor Huyen brought many letters of appreciation. On the part of the Vietnamese Church and the Mission there is a better understanding of each other's problems, making us definitely conscious of a deepening unity in Christ. All through the Field there is a hunger in the hearts of God's people to be true to Him and to live well-pleasing in His sight.

In *Cambodia* Evangelistic Bands have witnessed effectively even when conditions were not too peaceful. This seed sowing in addition to regular Bible School, translation, press and other activities of the Church has resulted in a healthy expansion. Only a shortage of missionaries and finances has prevented the opening of additional stations in Cambodia.

In the Xieng Khouang area of Laos 15 villages and more than 2,500 inquirers disposed of their fetishes to accept the Way of the Cross. This movement has been

sharply contested by Satan. One village returned to their fetishes and requested the return of their sacrificial drum, through the influence of witch doctors. Another group is waiting to see how others make out before they decide to follow Christ. Every effort is being made to reach out among the Meo and Phou Theng villages and to train workers by Short Term Bible School courses.

A very important step in Church administration has been taken in the Tribes area where a simple Church Constitution is being prepared. Steps are being taken also to prepare for the ordination of pastors from among the tribespeople. Up to the present the only ordained men have been Vietnamese pastors who are missionaries to the Tribes. Another great step forward was the ordination of seven pastors in Tonkin at the North Vietnam Regional Conference just before the Vietnamese New Year. Previous to that, other groups were ordained in Central and South Vietnam.

We are constantly reminded when traveling by air over Indo-China that seventy-five percent of our task is unaccomplished. Our aim is to go on and we are convinced that «A people for His name» includes a far greater representation than has yet been consecrated to that Name from the millions of people and scores of tribes in this country.

## NORTH LAOS

Rev. G. E. Roffe, Regional Sub-Chairman

Throughout the year 1950 rumors were rife of impending trouble threatening the relative calm of North Laos; but the months have come and gone and the fears of many have not materialized. While it has been true that District travel has been restricted in much of this area, yet the missionaries have been able to carry on as outlined herewith:

### Reinforcements

Rev. and Mrs. M. M. Sawyer

Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Tubbs

In September Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer and family reached Vientiane and, after an unavoidable delay of four weeks, they proceeded by Mission plane to Luang Prabang where the Lord had graciously provided a house for them. They have already been introduced to the intricacies of the Lao alphabet and its corresponding sounds and are eager to make progress in mastering the language. In mid-December they were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Tubbs who, at the end of the year, were still in Vientiane but with the hope of soon getting under way for Luang Prabang where a house would soon be ready for them, too. May the rich blessing of God rest on these folks who, after years of language work in China and at Dalat, now face many more months of difficult study in preparation for Gospel ministry in Laos.

### Vientiane District

Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Gustafson.

Vientiane is a clearing station for all North Laos and the home

here is more than taxed to capacity as missionaries and families go and come to and from school, Conference, etc. This puts considerable burden on the resident missionaries and definitely hinders their language study. The pre-war Vietnamese chapel was requisitioned and, after renovation, was formally dedicated by the Regional Sub-Chairman in April. At the same service Mr. Saly was installed, assuming duties in this district which he ably carried on for a period of five months among the Lao people. Following Mr. Saly's transfer to Xieng Khouang, the missionary in charge assumed the responsibility of the regular services and reports that the Lord is working in the hearts of the group of believers in the city. Some contact has been made with tribespeople who have been seen on the streets from time to time. One or two of these have prayed and have returned to their villages with the Message and with Gospel literature.

Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Gustafson write: «Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,... that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain... (John 15: 16). The Lord has done many wonderful things here in Vientiane this year. Just a year ago we were getting established in the old chapel building and not too many people were coming out to the services, but now the chapel is full. Our Prayer Meetings are being well attended also, for which we praise the Lord. The Holy Spirit is working in a mighty way in the





hearts of the believers. Many backslidden Christians have confessed their sins and have been reinstated into the family of God. During the year we have visited the sick and in the Name of Jesus they have been healed.

«A few Laotians and Chinese have been saved during the past year, and we praise God for this hand-picked fruit. In our Children's Meetings young Laotians have given their hearts to Christ and the interest shown by others is very encouraging. It thrills our hearts to walk through the villages and hear the boys and girls singing 'Jesus Loves Me' as they play. May the Holy Spirit firmly plant the seed in their young hearts.

«This year the Lord led in making special visits to some of the high Laotian officials and in giving them Gospel portions after telling the Story of Jesus.

«This year there were three large fairs where we had big booths in which we sold and gave hundreds of Scripture portions in the Laotian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Siamese, French, and English languages. We stayed up late each night telling the Story of Jesus to thousands. At the fair during Chinese New Year, our booth was surrounded by gambling stalls which drew great crowds and God blessed the witness given with men finding Christ. May the Lord of the Harvest give the increase.

«From time to time the Meo and Yao tribespeople come into Vientiane from the mountains about 80 kilometers away. Though unable to visit their villages we have invited them to our home to tell them about

Jesus. During the Christmas season two Yao tribesmen accepted Christ. They returned to their village to tell what Christ had done for them. We covet your prayers as we continue to contact these tribespeople.

«The future? It is 'as bright as the promises of God'. We hope to obtain land near the market place where we wish to build a Chapel in memory of Rev. Franklin Grobb and we will use the old chapel as a Sala for the tribes people.

«Two Meo tribesmen came to the house and we spent a morning with them telling them about Christ. Before they left they accepted Him as their Saviour. These men came from 80 kilometers to the northwest and are the first of the White Meo to find Christ. Prayer has been offered for these folks in this region for a long time and now there is an opening. These men armed with Gospel portions have gone back to their villages with the joy of the Lord in their hearts and as one said: 'Teacher, when I have read these books and understand them I am going to teach my people'. All praise is given to God! Hallelujah!»

#### Luang Prabang District

Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Clingen

Here, too, conditions have restricted missionary activity throughout the district, although it has been possible to minister to a number of groups that are not too far from Luang Prabang City. In one of these Outstations a fine chapel was made available and a workers' residence erected. Special dedication services were

held in April, making this a meeting center for several village groups in that area. In another Christian village a chapel and workers' quarters were built and many inquirers in these villages were baptized during the year. One hasty trip was made early in the year to a remote group of tribal believers in the neighbouring province of Sanaboury. Other and more distant groups were not visited. Plans to do so had to be cancelled when hostile forces were reported active in those areas.

#### Xieng Khouang District

Rev. and Mrs. T. J. Andrianoff

Initial seed-sowing was accomplished during a few months prior to the war by the efforts of resident missionaries and student workers.

This past year, under the ministry of another student worker, an unusual work of the Lord has occurred as hundreds of tribespeople manifested an interest in the Gospel. First, the Meo and then the Khamoo (of whom there are already hundreds of believers in the Luang Prabang district) turned to the Lord until the resident missionaries, themselves language students, sent out a call for help. Mr. Saly was flown up from Vientiane on September 1st and two student workers were flown over from Luang Prabang toward the end of October leaving Bible School in mid-term.

For over two years, messages, either preternatural, or supernatural had been reaching these people through their sorcerers, and concerning the Gospel that would soon be brought to them.

When the simple hearted student worker arrived and assiduously spread the Good News abroad, he was swamped with invitations from village after village to come and destroy their fetishes. Thus, after a score of years in North Laos with only a few hundred converts, there are now, in this one area alone, more than 2,500 inquirers. This may well be the beginning of the Lord's answer to the prayer that has been on your heart and on ours during the past years. We stand in awe and wonder at this work of the Spirit Whom Holy Writ likens to the wind which «bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof but canst not tell whence it cometh and wither it goeth». There is no accounting for this phenomenon from the human standpoint; it is distinctly a work of divine grace.

Rev. T. J. Andrianoff writes: «We thank God for His working in Xieng Khouang this past year in 'ways past finding out'. In the beginning of 1950 there were no native Christians throughout the vast territory of the Xieng Khouang Province, and at the end of 1950 we have the pleasure of reporting that there are approximately 2,500 who have turned from the worship of evil spirits and made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. These are among the three leading races in this Province — the Meo, the Phoo Theng, and the Phooeun. The majority, almost 2,000, are among the Meo.

«This great turning to God began back in April when a first year Bible School student came here to do colportage work. He was faithful in going to the many



villages with his testimony and basket full of tracts and Gospel portions. After spending several weeks among the Phooen with no converts, a Mèo sorcerer became very interested in the Gospel. Before long, he accepted the Lord and, being over-joyed in his newly found Saviour, took this student worker to all the nearby Mèo villages that they, too, might hear the Gospel. As a result, they came to the Lord by the hundreds. They were very easily led to the Lord because the Holy Spirit has been preparing their hearts for some time. The Mèo have actually been waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus Christ their Saviour. They have legends dating back hundreds of years and prophecies as recent as two years ago, which told them that at this time their true God would be revealed to them, who would save them and deliver them from evil spirits, making them a great nation. Similarly, the Holy Spirit had been preparing the Phoo Theng, for their sorcerers also had revelations of God coming to Xieng Khouang and driving out the evil spirits. As a result they, too, have been turning to Christ by the hundreds. Also we have been invited to the Thai Dam (Black Thai) who have a settlement of 4 villages with an approximate population of 1,000. They, having heard of these miraculous conversions among both the Mèo and the Phoo Theng, wish to be delivered from the fetters of the evil spirits. Nai Saly has gone to them to explain the the salvation of Christ Jesus.

« At present, our greatest hindrances are the lack of workers and the lack of funds. With our

present staff of one fully trained and two partially trained workers, we cannot efficiently take care of those who have already made a profession and, therefore, cannot consider evangelizing other villages. And, we have thus far invitations from one Phoo Theng and 5 Mèo villages to come and lead them to the Lord. The Lord willing, with the coming of Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Clingen, we will shortly have a Short Term Bible School here. Twenty, mostly young men, have already applied to attend. Our prayer is that God will choose many of this group to become workers among their own people. We are also praying that God will supply the funds to run the Short Term Bible School and to send out those whom He will 'call out' for His service».

### Bible School

Rev. and Mrs. G. E. Roffe  
Rev. H. S. Clingen

The second term of the second session of the North Laos Bible School, situated in Luang Prabang, came to an end on March 31 and the student workers were sent out to various districts for vacation ministry. Most of them were stationed in Christian communities and were responsible for circuits, as well as for itinerant ministry, preaching the Gospel among the heathen. With the exception of one unmarried man, who was dismissed, they returned to school when it reopened in July. Before long, one couple that had given much promise, decided to leave school and, in mid-term, a second couple left. These were all upper-class

students and their going leaves our ranks sadly and seriously depleted. The only other upper-class man remaining was then sent over to the Xieng Khouang district, along with a second-generation Christian from the lower class, to minister in the emergency situation that arose over there.

Mr. Saly, instead of returning to teach in the Bible School, was also sent over to Xieng Khouang and it became necessary to call upon Mr. Clingen to assume a share of the load in the school. He and Mrs. Roffe did most of the teaching through the last four months of the year. By the end of 1950 classes were drawing to a close and the students were looking forward to resuming their district ministry. Earnest prayer is requested that this ministry be Spirit-filled.

### Translation and Literature

A number of selected pieces of Gospel literature have been translated from the Siamese, with a view to having them published in Lao. This work awaits thorough checking prior to printing. A second copy was made of the entire manuscript of the New Testament and this has been sent home for safe keeping, as a measure of precaution, while waiting time and opportunity to get this material ready for printing. Again, booths were secured at the Twelfth-month Festival in Luang Prabang and in Vientiane and, this year, Xieng Khouang was added to the list of cities. Advantage was taken of this annual occasion to present the Message through the printed page to the thousands of people who gather

in the main centers for the festivities.

As so often in the past, the Bible Meditation League has generously and efficiently come to our help. In addition to providing liberal supplies of paper and stencils for putting text material into the hands of the Bible School students, this group has made it possible for us to have other literature reproduced by the off-set method. In this way, the initial chapters of *Genesis*, leading up to Abraham, were made available to be presented along with the Gospel according to Matthew, which introduces Jesus Christ as the son of Abraham. A hymnal of 135 hymns, put out by the Swiss Brethren Mission of South Laos, and containing a number of hymns of our own translation, was also reproduced by this method and in an enlarged format. These latter items reached the Field late in the year and we sincerely thank God — and the League — for this splendid addition to our stock.

### Transportation

Two jeeps and one baggage trailer were made available to the missionaries of North Laos. Mr. Clingen, in Luang Prabang, and Mr. Gustafson, in Vientiane, purchased these items in Saigon and returned to their stations after Conference with this needed equipment. Mr. Andrianoff's jeep has rendered yeoman service in Xieng Khouang but is now definitely «fatigued», as the French say, and should be replaced at the earliest possible moment.

A disappointing series of mishaps kept the North Laos Noré-

crin plane out of service until late June. From then on, however, it has proved its worth in an unmistakable manner. It has ferried missionaries in to their stations, when other means of transportation were either lacking or definitely dangerous and time-consuming. It has transferred workers to new responsibilities under similar circumstances. It has enabled the missionaries' children to reach home on vacation soon after leaving Dalat, instead of being delayed for weeks en route. Even a slight accident, occurring on the rough Xieng Khouang field, was a blessing in that it required the Regional Sub-Chairman to remain in the area for six weeks (until parts were parachuted and repairs effected) enabling him to consult and collaborate with the resident missionaries there at a time when they needed help to cope with the problems arising from the rapidly increasing number of believers.

Altogether, during the year 1950 the plane has made 42 flights (41 of them in the last six months of the year), flying a total of 66 hours. It has rendered valiant and valuable service to the hard pressed group of missionaries and workers in this remote section of Indo-China.

Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Clingen write:

«Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice!»

«It is with grateful hearts and much rejoicing that we look back over a year of varied ministries and prepare to report on them. Surely the Lord has 'done great things for us whereof we are glad!'

«Before starting back to the mountains of North Laos after last annual Conference, it was our joy to purchase a new jeep. This much needed means of transportation was a direct answer to prayer and without soliciting funds from home, we are delighted to report that the Lord has once again honored faith and the car is practically paid for.

«Once again the Lord showed us that He directs in our 'going out' and our 'coming in'. After a most exciting and somewhat dangerous trip from Saigon via road and air, we arrived in Vientiane safely where we found our way blocked for several weeks. Our ministries in this capital city were very limited but with time on our hands, we were able to give ourselves to the ministry of the Word and prayer. Subsequent to our stay in Vientiane, we have seen over and over again that this ministry has paid great dividends!

### Luang Prabang

«Bible School — Upon arriving in Luang Prabang, it became our responsibility and great privilege to assist in the North Laos Bible School. The subjects taught were: Acts, Christian Doctrine, Parables, Homiletics, and I Corinthians. During the class sessions and chapel services, we came to know the students and better understand their spiritual problems. Our experience in the school reassures us that the only way we can possibly reach the untouched multitudes of this great mountainous Mission Field is by means of the native worker — well trained in the Word of God.

«Until the first part of December 1950, the regular ministries of the city work fell upon our shoulders. Weekly Prayer Services, Children's Meetings (one for the children of Christian parents and one for the children of non-Christian parents,) and regular Sunday Services were conducted. Perhaps due to the political situation, our Chinese following fell off considerably but with the arrival of a Chinese-speaking missionary, it is hoped that new interest will be created and the work already begun will increase to the glory of God.

«As soon as we arrived in Luang Prabang we were able to put our jeep to good use. It had come up river ahead of us so was awaiting our arrival. Not only was the jeep used to get supplies from the river boats, but it was the means of connecting the city with the airport. When the new missionaries came, it did invaluable service in getting them settled. Too, we were able to visit one of our main Outstations at Ban Kok Ngio. To this village we also had the privilege of taking Mr. Jeffrey on the occasion of his visit to Luang Prabang.

«Shortly after our return from Conference, we visited our Christians at Ban Nong Heo by means of boat, the «Frank-Ann». Several trips were made during the year and on two occasions we had the privilege of baptizing some two dozen believers. During his visit with us, our Field Chairman also made this trip but on our way home a gear 'gave out' and we had to revert to the typical Laotian 'poling', getting home well after 10:00 P.M.

«At the Christmas season Mr. Sawyer and I made a trip into the mountains to visit some villagers who had been asking us to come to cast out their spirit fetishes. What a joy it was to rid three homes of the devil-worship paraphernalia and to offer the prayer of faith. Surely the children of the mountains, even those around Luang Prabang, are waiting to see the power of the Lord in their midst.

### Short Term Bible School

«When it was decided that we should come to Xieng Khouang to assist in the great movement here, it did not take us long to make the move. In fact, less than one hour after leaving the air strip at Luang Prabang, we were rolling the jeep out of the plane and packing the back-end in preparation for our ride into our new home town. Suitable quarters had been found for us and in a couple of days after our arrival we were 'moved in'.

«Our first S.T.B.S consisted of 18 students; 15 Mèo, 2 Phou Teng, and one Lao. The school lasted for six weeks and the following subjects were taught: Christian Doctrine, Christian Conduct, Singing, Life of Christ, and Scripture Memorizing. Never have we been so thrilled and challenged as when we taught this group of splendid young men. All of them were found eligible for baptism and show promise of being the future leaders in the great work here in the Xieng Khouang Province.



«The second S.T.B.S. had 10 students enrolled; 6 Phou Teng and 4 Mèo. This course was of three weeks duration and the subjects taught in the first school were repeated.

«Our work in Xieng Khouang was not limited to the teaching of a S.T.B.S., although that was our main business at hand. When the missionary in charge of the station was in the district, it fell our happy lot to assist in conducting the Sunday services. The accordion proved a great help in the singing and general interest. What a thrill to see hundreds of former devil worshippers meeting to worship the true and the living God!»

### Summary

«Early in the year one semi-official worker lost his life at the hands of insurgents. Toward the end of the year the order came through to evacuate a certain section of the French population from border provinces, including Xieng Khouang. Disappointing and unexpected accidents marred the initial phases of missionary aviation in North Laos. Serious defection from the ranks of Bible School students will have an ultimate effect in the eventual worker.

There has been steady growth throughout the entire Field and astounding growth in one particular area. May God enable us to work while it is day, for night cometh when no man can work.»

G. E. R.



## CAMBODIA

Rev. D. W. Ellison, Regional Sub-Chairman

«Emmanuel, — God with us». «If God be for us who can be against us?» «Fear not little flock for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom».

The pattern of 1950 in the Cambodian Field has been very similar to that of the previous year. The year began with the sending out of two Evangelistic Bands, continuing of the Bible School and ending with the graduation of two students. Praise God for the reopening of two Mission Stations and two Church Centers during the year, for the beginning of the Cambodian Gospel Press, for written Government authorizations for our churches and chapels and for an all time record number of missionaries on the Field.

### Siem Reap

In January 1950, Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Doty, who had commenced their language studies at Battambang a year ago, moved to Siem Reap accompanied by one of the Evangelistic Bands consisting of five men and one woman. This proved to be a most auspicious time; for Dap Chhuon, one of the great Issarak Chiefs, had just made his submission to the King and had been appointed with his soldiers to keep the peace of the province. Thus we were able to reopen this great province at a time when it was peaceful for the first time in many years. Mr. Doty set aside his language study for a time and gave himself earnestly to the task of taking the Band out in his jeep visiting far and near, contacting all the

little groups of believers throughout the province; and at the same time acquiring considerable practical facility in the language. Seventy-five people were led to the Saviour by this particular Band during the four months they operated in this District. An excellent start was given to the work and the little groups of Christians regathered after years of isolation. Just before the close of the year, the Regional Sub-Chairman and family made an extensive trip through the province visiting all the groups of believers. It was refreshing to see a number of new believers amongst the old. However, the Church is still in its infancy, the groups are small and widely scattered and much care and attention is needed.

Rev. J. E. Doty writes, «It was marvelous how God worked to bring our teacher to salvation. He had been in the Buddhist priesthood eight or nine years. When he came to work for us, his hair had not yet grown out long enough to comb. He had not been in Siem Reap very long, when one evening, two men with pistols ordered him to go with them. They took him to the forest. We praise God for the way He delivered him from the hands of his would-be killers. He was afraid to stay, and afraid to take a bus to Phnom Penh, for they promised to take him again if he did not find 1,500 piastres to ransom his life.

We are very thankful for his fear of returning to Phnom Penh by bus. He did not leave the



property for a month. A barber came and cut his hair at double the usual cost. The night he was frightened, instead of solving his problem physically, I endeavored to show him how very, very hopeless he was in his present religion, and showed him how he might have hope in Christ. The following Sunday, from fear of staying on the property all alone, he went to church for the first time. He not only heard about Christ during our studies of the day, but he seriously began to study the Word of God every evening. He seemed to realize the fallacy of his own religion, but the cost of accepting Christ seemed too great. Then Mr. Ellison visited Siem Reap a couple of weeks before Christmas, and he brought with him, Kru Chhoy, the Bible School teacher. Kru Chhoy spent many hours explaining the Word of God to our teacher. He finally got to the place where he reckoned the cost of not accepting Christ greater than the cost of losing all his old friends. On December 18th, he gave his heart to Christ. The next morning, he told me how clean and light he felt inside. He quit the use of tobacco which he had habitually used since childhood. His face took on a glory shine, revealing the joy and peace in his heart. His fears subsided and he testified boldly before a crowd the Saturday night before Christmas, and he also requested baptism, which he received on Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day, we had the privilege of baptizing ten Christians. One lady was first contacted by the Evangelistic Band and later led to Christ by a Christian of her community. She

soon quit her betel-nut chewing, bought a New Testament, and attended services regularly. Some months later, her husband also gave his heart to Christ, at which time I had the privilege of praying with him. He soon quit his tobacco and manifests a real change of heart. I did not see the woman before her conversion, but as for her husband, his face has taken on a new kind of light. One woman baptized was 69 years of age. Another was a man 58 years of age who used to be a high priest in a Buddhist Temple».

### Battambang

Rev. and Mrs. H. K. Sechrist have been in charge of this District during the year with Rev. and Mrs. M. E. Graven engaged in language study, and living in one of the former Bible School dormitories. Neither missionaries nor national workers have been able to visit much in the interior of the province and five Outstations have been without regular services or pastoral care. The Church Center of Moug and the Outstation of Chandoer Sva have been the only places outside of Battambang City where the Church has been able to function more or less normally. Praise God for His gracious keeping throughout a troubled year. The children's Hostel, under the circumstances, has been about half its former size, but has continued to exercise a wholesome influence. Problems common to such institutions have arisen during the year, but those in charge have been able to help these young people who will eventually, we trust, become

pillars in the Church and possibly future pastors and evangelists.

Recently God graciously answered prayer for a Chinese woman who was very sick with pneumonia. The missionary prayed laying hands on the burning forehead, but as he closed in prayer, suddenly she became cool. When visited the next day, she was practically well, and the following Sunday she was back in Church.

Rev. H. K. Sechrist writes: «Reporting for the Battambang area, we regret to say that our missionary activity was limited to certain areas. In Battambang City we carried on as usual but had to change the evening service to an earlier hour to avoid exposing church members to a certain amount of danger after nightfall.

Some trips were made, however, and on one occasion while witnessing and preaching in a small village, I came across a hostile man. At the time I was speaking to a group in the village this man approached and told the people not to listen to me. This approach did not ruffle my spirit any but I ventured to witness to him and offered him a tract. He disdainfully waved it aside and replied sarcastically that he could not accept a religion that permitted the slaughter of animals. Bolstering up my courage a little I walked up to him, put my hand on his shoulder, slipped the tract in his pocket, and asked him pointedly which was the greater sin: to kill an animal or kill a man? Without saying a word he rather sheepishly edged away and withdrew from the scene drawing some laughs and comments from the crowd.

Several villagers came to me immediately afterwards and said: 'Your God does help you, doesn't He'.

Knowing we were to be transferred to Ta Khmau and having undergone several attacks in Battambang, we rather looked forward to the peace and quiet of Ta Khmau Bible School life. Shortly after arriving here we were rather surprised to hear rifle fire not very far away. The Ta Khmau Bible School is just another of the Lord's miracles. Were it other than the Bible School for all of Cambodia, it no doubt would have been burned down months ago. We are looking forward to the new term to begin in a couple of months, anticipating some hard work together with a joyous time in the Lord as we take up a period of service here. Do not forget to pray for us and the Bible School students».

### CENTRAL DISTRICT AND PHNOM PENH CITY

There are three Districts included in this section. The SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT has a population of 570,000 people. During the past few years we have had Vietnamese pastors located at both Kampot and Takeo, but both have transferred to other places leaving the Churches to Cambodian preachers who speak Vietnamese. Both these provinces have been unsettled during the past year and missionary visitation and oversight has been at a minimum. Nevertheless the witness has been maintained. While several Christian families, members of these two Churches have moved elsewhere to earn

their living, others have found the Saviour and the work at Kampot, especially, should soon be self-supporting.

The population of the SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT is 576,000 people. At Svai Rieng, Mr. Put has continued as part time evangelist, maintaining the witness in this town and province. The work is greatly handicapped by the fact that there is no chapel and the worker's little thatch home is situated in a spot which is covered with deep flood water for several months each year. Nevertheless, this little group supplied us with four of our Bible School students during the past year. At Prey Veng, the Cambodian Government actively assisted in obtaining a house suitable for a chapel. Pastor Sok has been transferred from Battambang to open up this work and to be leader of the Evangelistic Band which is to work in the District during the next five months. We trust that ere long souls will be saved and a strong church established.

### CENTRAL DISTRICT

We praise God Mr. Peterson has returned to the Field much improved in health, while Mrs. Peterson carried on the work during his absence. In the City, three chapels have been maintained for Cambodians, Chinese and Vietnamese. Church Centers at Kompong Speu and Oudong have been continued although the workers have been attending Bible School at Ta Khmau and went each weekend to their respective spheres of ministry. Several Outstations have been visited regularly and others occa-

sionally by either missionary or national workers. Children's work has been carried on especially in the city by Mrs. Hammond and others. At Kien Svai, a number of children have given their hearts to the Saviour and show a real interest.

### Translation, Press and Publication Work

This year has been outstanding in what has been done in this all-important department. Rev. A. L. Hammond has continued to work most efficiently on the translation of the Old Testament and has reached the end of Ezekiel.

The Gospel Press has been authorized by the Cambodian Government and a Press building erected on the Phnom Penh Compound. A small reconditioned press has been purchased, as well as a paper cutter. To date 8,000 copies of the Gospel Summary, Catechism, 'Our Great Salvation', and about twelve tracts have been printed. Earlier in the year 10,000 copies of the Four Gospels and Acts were printed on a local commercial press although the type was set up by the Mission Press. Praise God for a good supply of literature all in revised versions. The three Evangelistic Bands will be hard at work by the beginning of 1951 traveling in five different provinces endeavoring to quickly place in the hands of the people the Living Word of God which is able to make them 'wise unto salvation'.

### Bible School

The Bible School has just completed its 4th year since the war and its 21st year since it was

founded in 1924. Twenty-one students finished the school year at which time two men received their diplomas. Several others had begun but did not continue right through and a few special students, for the vacations from government schools, were enrolled.

### Kratie

In February 1950 Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Thompson were assigned to language study at Kratie after having completed their course in French at Dalat. One of our most promising Cambodian preachers was appointed to help them. An Outstation at Kbal Chuor, 12 miles north of the town which had been started in 1929, has been reopened. One family had remained faithful down through the years and now quite an encouraging group has gathered for regular Sunday services. In the past Mr. Chhuon, the preacher, has proved quite successful in getting Christians to tithe, and we trust that before long strong self-supporting Churches may be established in many places in this province. Before the close of the year 1950, one of the three Evangelistic Bands began working this District and we trust that it will prove a great blessing to the work.

### Kompong Cham

Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Taylor have continued to give spiritual leadership in this great District throughout the year, traveling extensively, and helping with opening of Kratie. They have held Women's and Children's Meetings and weekly meetings for the prisoners in the jail. The Mission boat, 'The Mekong

Evangel' has been transferred from Kompong Cham to Ta Khmau where it is hoped that it may be used in conjunction with the Bible School during the coming year. Good work has been done among the coolies of the rubber plantations in the province and quite a number have been brought to the Saviour.

During the past year, a Vietnamese pastor, Mr. Khanh, has been transferred from Takeo to Kompong Cham to take care of the growing work among the people of this race. The immediate results have been very gratifying. Pastor and Mrs. Khanh have shown much initiative and already the Vietnamese Church at Kompong Cham is almost the size of the Cambodian Church. Praise God for this rapid growth. This past year the first Annual District Conference was held and a District Committee and Chairman were elected. This same procedure was followed in both Battambang and Phnom Penh Districts later on. The combined Cambodian and Vietnamese groups have been working actively on a Building Fund to provide a church home for this growing work.

Two church centers at Roka Kong and Kompong Thma have continued to minister the Word in populous centers in this District. The work among the children in these centers is particularly encouraging. Roka Kong has a small group of very earnest Christians and is a real lighthouse along the populous banks of the Mekong. The challenge of many towns and large villages, throughout the District of Kompong Cham, sounds out loudly, and particularly because a limited num-



ber of national workers prevents opening them up to the Gospel.

Rev. and Mrs. M. B. Steiner write, «The year 1950, was spent mostly in language study at Ta Khmau. We were both happy to have reached the stage before the end of the year where we could preach short sermons, or tell Bible stories using flannel-graph. This new year finds us still westling with the complexities of the Cambodian idiom, spelling and pronunciation, but it is also a year which is presenting us with many and varied opportunities for using that which we have already learned. We are now installed at Kompong Cham and have the responsibility of getting the Gospel out to the towns and villages of the two Provinces of Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom.

We are finding it a real joy to work with the three Cambodian preachers and their wives, and with Mr. and Mrs. Khanh, the Vietnamese workers. They are very kind and helpful as they listen to us leading Prayer Meetings or Women's Meetings and are not a bit shy about correcting our language mistakes. Just now an Evangelistic Band of four Bible School students is working out of Kompong Cham. They are living in a large room under our house. Now that we have a more dependable car, we can take the whole Band and the local pastor, Kru Hom, out to many of the villages and towns to preach the Gospel, sell Christian literature, and distribute tracts. We are finding this work very interesting, and it is a real joy to explain the way of salvation to some benighted soul who has never before heard the Name

of Jesus. We have had the blessed privilege of seeing several Cambodians saved since our arrival here two months ago, but how we long and pray for a real old-fashioned outpouring of the Spirit of God in convicting and saving power.

Here, in Kompong Cham, we are planning to buy a lot in order that we may build a church. Will you not pray with us that this worthy task will soon be accomplished, that every need might be met, so that there will be a shining lighthouse for the glory of God in this needy city? Pray for us».

### Chinese Work

There are two Chinese workers in Cambodia. In Phnom Penh City there is an organized church which is practically self-supporting. A Children's Primary School is conducted in conjunction with this church with three full-time teachers. During the year Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Holton from Saigon spent six weeks working among the Chinese and visiting every Mission Station. They were able to reach many of the Chinese Schools in all of these districts and hundreds of children and young people heard the Gospel. We covet earnestly a Chinese-speaking missionary couple for work among the many thousands of Chinese in Cambodia.

### Instances of Healing and Deliverance

There have been numerous cases throughout 1950 of God's gracious answer to prayer in healing the sick. From Kompong Cham comes this report: —

«The faithful and earnest wife of one of our elders was seriously ill and death seemed likely. The church united in prayer and the Lord heard and delivered. Though her illness was of some length, she is again an active member of the church. Praise God!»

On one occasion two of our missionaries met an Issarak chief who came upon them carrying a grenade in one hand and a dagger in the other. He was intoxicated, and seeing his appearance and weapons, we felt immediately our need of divine protection. We talked with him for some time about the Lord Jesus, salvation, the second coming and future judgment, all the time keeping our eyes fixed on his weapons. It was with great relief that we finally were able to take our leave from this forbidding personage.

A man who had heard the Gospel but refused to believe, was traveling by bus towards the City of Phnom Penh. The bus was stopped by a band of armed robbers. Everybody was relieved of their money and possessions, but when they came to this particular man, they denounced him as a foreign spy. Although he did not believe in the Lord, he called upon Him in his heart to help and deliver. God answered prayer and the robbers left him unmolested, and today he is an earnest believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the second largest town in the Kompong Cham District, the missionary was walking along the street praying that the Lord would lead him to some hungry

heart. Going from house to house and from store to store giving out tracts and witnessing, he came upon a young man who was quite well educated. He was the son of a well-to-do Cambodian who was a zealous Buddhist. The youth was impressed with the message and bought several books. On the next trip to this town, he accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. He is a promising Christian and we trust will prove to be the opening wedge for the evangelization of this large town. Pray for him.

### Prospects

Never before have we had such freedom as far as the Cambodian Government is concerned. On the other hand, conditions in large areas of the Field have been unsettled. At Christmas time, the French turned over officially all the government functions to the Cambodians. This has resulted in bringing in several big Issarak chiefs. It is too soon to say whether a united Cambodia will result from these submissions but it is to be hoped so. With the international situation so ominous, we cannot tell what may develop in the near future, but we want to be faithful to our trust and to build wisely so that the Cambodian Church may stand the test of the strenuous times which lie ahead. Most of our Christian groups meet in rented chapels. Battambang has the only church building. Church buildings are most urgently needed in Phnom Penh City and Kompong Cham. May God enable us to meet the challenge of our time and to faithfully serve our generation till Jesus comes,



## TRIBES

Rev. H. A. Jackson, Regional Sub-Chairman

## Dalat

Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson.

The words of David Brainerd often come to mind when reviewing the past year.

He wrote: «I stood still and watched God work». Often we have been forced to just stand still, and watch, and wait, while God fought and conquered for us and for our workers. Our hearts have often been hushed in His presence as we have watched Him perform what had been to us an impossibility.

## Tribes Center

The Lord has done a marvelous thing for us in giving this new Tribes Center. We came into possession of it in March. Mr. Jackson began excavating and building immediately and by July 15, we moved into our new quarters.

The Center is often like a bee hive of activity between school sessions as well as when classes are being held. The tribespeople never travel alone. Often half a village come in together to the market to barter rice for salt and other necessities. Naturally they come to the Center for the night. They often nearly crowd us out. Preachers come and go frequently. Christians bring in their sick. There is nearly always a large group here from some section of the district which gives us a most valuable opportunity for direct contact with village Christians who are so inaccessible otherwise.

## Bible School

As in former years, the Bible School has taken second place while the care of the churches has been given first place. This has been necessary because most of the Christians are very young in the faith. They cannot read and therefore depend entirely upon their preachers for spiritual nourishment.

There have been five sessions of Bible School held this year, or twenty-two weeks altogether with fifty-two students in attendance. There are three distinct departments in our school, which are: the regular Bible School, the Preparatory Department and the Model School.

We have re-arranged the curriculum and are hoping to graduate nine senior men within a year. A few courses that have been added to the curriculum will be given as refresher courses later on to the older men.

## District

**Tribes** — The Chils are the largest group and the most inaccessible. They have hidden themselves away in the high mountains. They are a people totally neglected and almost unknown until now.

— The Riongs live along the mountain slopes and reach down nearly to the Djiring level.

— The Mas also live on the mountain slopes and reach down past the Djiring level and on over to Banmethuot.

— The Kodus live on the other side of the mountain and run into the Chams who dwell in the foothills.

— The Lacs, who are found on this level, are the most fanatical in their worship of the spirits.

**Churches** — There are 27 student-preachers who are responsible for all the work at the Center and for 25 churches and meeting places in the villages. Seven new chapels were dedicated this year.

The Christians number a little over 2,000 and the candidates for baptism who follow a special catechism course preparatory to baptism, about 125. There have been very few baptisms this year owing to the fact that we had to cancel the Annual Christmas Conference at which time there has always been a large baptismal service.

**Jungle Trips** — In October Mr. Nam and I, with a few tribesmen, went on an extended trip to visit a section of work we had never been able to visit before. We found seven organized church groups, entirely the work of our student preachers. Four little churches were built and dedicated last year and three more this year. Between 60 and 70 people expressed a desire to become Christians and asked to pray with us.

We were received everywhere with warm hospitality and real joy by tribespeople, many of whom were hostile and fanatical spirit worshippers just six months ago. We were especially impressed by the devotion of these new Christians to their preachers and by their earnest and sincere desire to learn all they can of God and His Word.

It was a real grief to all of us to find one village had abandoned their little church and had gone back to sacrificing to the spirits. This was because the preacher was sick and had returned to his village where he could be cared for. We had no one to replace him and we could not leave our duties here long enough to go to visit them. The people, so young in the new Way, felt abandoned and went back to the only thing they knew. They have taken on new life and courage now that another preacher has gone to live and work among them.

One of the churches we visited while on this trip is in a village where five months ago no one had ever heard the Gospel message. Nearly the whole village accepted Christ the first time they heard of Him. They left off planting rice for one day to listen and were begging for more when darkness closed in around the village that first night. The next day they were ready to beg the young student-preacher to remain with them and before the week was up they had already begun to build a chapel for the worship of God.

The instrument God used in this instance is a young man who stood true through a great trial and whose sorrow was turned to great joy and blessing. As I watched Krong C guide and direct this large group of new believers and saw the great joy on his face, my heart sang over and over again, «He gives me joy in place of sorrow, He gives me love that casts out fear, He gives me sunshine for my shadow and beauty for ashes here».

Perhaps right here is the place to mention the faithful and

efficient help both Mr. and Mrs. Nam give us in the tribeswork. They are a talented and consecrated couple, abounding in the work of the Lord. The tribespeople love them and have perfect confidence in them, and will listen to any counsel they feel to give. Mrs. Nam has been helping in the Bible School. Mr. Nam has taken over much of the responsibility of the district work in addition to ministering to the village Christians who have made a well-beaten path to his front door. He also teaches two and a half hours in the Bible School every day.

### Special Meetings

The dedication of the new Bible School building and the Tribes Center was a time of rich blessing and marked the consummation of the hopes and aspirations of many years. Each village church sent a delegation and the large school-chapel room was crowded to its utmost capacity with crowds of people grouped outside. The preachers requested the Christian gongers to come in from various villages to welcome the guests in true tribal style. The gongs called us to worship and then filled the air with steady clear rhythm as we chatted in groups around the grounds after the service.

A most impressive ordination service was held in our school-chapel room the following week. Two Vietnamese missionaries to the tribes and one Vietnamese worker were ordained to the ministry.

Since we had to cancel our plans for the Annual Christmas Conference, we decided to plan

a Christmas program that each preacher would be able to repeat in his village church. The Lac Christians, who live nearest to us, asked to attend this service. Other Christians came in to escort the preachers and their families home, so before we knew it, we had over 400 jungle people milling around the grounds. They all came prepared to stay a night or two! We could offer them no hospitality other than fresh water to drink and wood for their fires, but they thanked us with beaming faces for allowing them to make their camps under the trees around the House of God. Since so many had come to the Center, we quickly planned a three-day Conference. During the two days that followed, there was a baptismal service, closing exercises for the Model School, the Christmas program (which had to be given twice so that all could hear it) and a Communion Service.

The special meetings that mark the greatest and the most important step forward were the Christmas Conferences held by the preachers in their own village churches. Each preacher selected from the full program he had learned so thoroughly here at the school and began drilling the children of the village. They conducted a three day conference that centered around the Christmas program.

These conferences came at the time when the crops had been gathered in, the time when there is always much feasting and drinking and worshipping of the spirits in the heathen villages. Preachers and Christians alike have made it known that from now on they would like to have

a combination of harvest festival and Christmas Conference each year. Instead of one big Conference here at the Center, there were at least eight conferences this year in the village churches.

### Publications

A primer has been prepared and 1,000 copies printed and distributed. The Gospel of John has been revised and 1,000 copies mimeographed and distributed. Galatians has been translated and 1,000 copies mimeographed. Booklets: Psalm 23 with illustrations, Psalm 1 with illustrations, and the complete Christmas story.

### Church Organization

There has been need for much reorganizing and the first steps have been taken by re-electing an Executive Committee and committing much of the responsibility of the district work to them. They are showing much ability and real understanding as they meet and work out the problems of the district.

An Inter-Tribal Committee is drawing up a Constitution which will be submitted to the government authorities with a request that they recognize the Tribes Church of Indo-China.

### DALAT — MODEL SCHOOL

Mrs. Jean Funé

Matthew 18: 14 « Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish ».

Last year we reported, in connection with the Short Term Bible School, the beginning of a 'Model School' where the Koho preachers are instructed

not only in religious subjects, but also in the fundamental secular ones, where they observe and practice teaching under supervision. This was undertaken simply because, as yet, nothing has been done for these groups of mountain people in the way of education.

We are happy to report progress. There have been four sessions since we began the Model School, and there will be another, D.V., beginning in March. Between sessions these men teach the lessons they have been taught here the previous session. They bring their pupils' exercise books with them the next time they come in order that I may check their work. The joy of it is that these children who have been accustomed to frittering away their time, occasionally jiggling the baby tied on their back to keep it from crying, now go to school — baby and all — still take time out to comfort the baby when it is unhappy, but in the meantime they are learning hymns, Scripture verses, Catechism, Bible stories, reading, writing, arithmetic, hygiene and ethics. The attendance here is usually about 40 children. In the jungles there are 14 schools being carried on by our men with some 300 children enrolled.

Records show that up to Christmas time, among the preachers' wives, their children and a few younger men, 26 persons had learned all 44 memory verses, 13 others had learned 30 or more, 15 others 20 or more. This does not include the 27 older men who learned them all as well. Back in the jungles 63 have learned 30, verses 65 others have learned 20. They are encouraged by the mounted



colored Bible pictures given as rewards for each 10 verses recited.

Please pray that the Word of God will be hidden away in their hearts and will bear fruit in their lives; that from among them the Lord will call out many for His service who will be «stedfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord».

### Banmethuot Station

Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Smith

On the first of January 1950, we closed the Bible School and sent out the 30 students and their wives into a radius of a hundred miles in all directions, to tell the Good News of the Gospel to their own people. We missionaries also made out an itinerary and visited as many places as possible.

We drove in our truck with an evangelistic party to the Mngong Gar tribespeople in the mountains sixty miles away. These are a wild, neglected tribe, poorer and dirtier than the Radays with big discs of ivory or wood inserted in their stretched ear lobes. Their thatched bamboo longhouses are built right down on the ground with no windows, just a low door at each end by which to crawl inside. We visited six or seven of these villages and placed three student preachers to work among these people.

We next visited among the Mngong Rolum people of the Lake Daklak region. Krun and Brong, two of the Mngong workers had led a group of 30 Christians in Sheep village to build their own chapel, and we had a happy dedication service there. We spent two weeks at different times with the Chil people in the Buon

Krong and Buon Hngo district, visiting 20 villages. We helped to dedicate a fine new chapel at Guon Krong and the Christians at Buon Hngo and Buon Ja began work on chapels of their own. There are now a hundred Christians in that district.

We also saw a work begun among the Bih tribespeople in the Plaosieng area. The district chief there has become a Christian and is a great influence in his 13 villages. Four Bih Christians were able to enter the Bible School this year.

On February 1st, 50 of the Banmethuot Christians drove out with the Ziemers and us, fifty miles west to dedicate the pretty new wooden chapel at Dak Song. This is the headquarters for the evangelizing of the Mngong Nong, Mngong Prang, and Mngong Preh tribes. Forty of these wild, jungle people sat on mats on the floor of the new church. Great ivory ear plugs dangled in their ears, their teeth were filed off and some of the chiefs had bunches of red yarn pompoms held by brass skewer-like ornaments in the knobs of their hair. Brass wire was wound tightly around their legs and arms and their clothing was just a few rags.

The Mngongs sat spell-bound listening to the flannelgraph stories and they gaped in wonder to hear the singing of hymns by so many voices. They all expressed a desire to follow Christ, but were still fearful that the demons might be angry. Since then twenty or thirty children from the Government school near the chapel have been meeting frequently with two Mngong preachers, and can recite Bible verses, sing, tell the Gospel story, and pray. Many

villages have been visited and there are over 30 Christians in this new center now.

In March, God gave a revival at the Tourane Conference under the preaching of Mr. Nelson. Mr. Nhuong, our Vietnamese pastor, came back filled with the Holy Spirit, and as he recounted the blessings of God at Tourane, to our Banmethuot Church, they rose one after another weeping and confessing their sins and seeking God for a holy life. The meeting lasted from nine a. m. until three p. m.

### Leper Work:

We are greatly encouraged in our project to establish a model leprosy settlement. Such a work is a big undertaking. Finding a suitable site, obtaining the land, securing Government authorizations, cutting the jungle and clearing it, planning for the buildings, etc., took many months to accomplish.

Miss Charlotte Schon, R. N., arrived in Banmethuot in March and began the study of the Raday language. From August to November she was in Purulia, Bihar, India, taking special training in leprosy under the world-famous leprologist, Dr. Ernest Muir.

At the end of the year we began accepting patients, and brought them in from their villages in our truck and trailer. The saddest part was having to leave so many behind for lack of accommodation. These men, women, boys and girls for whom we have room are happily enjoying clean quarters, new mats, warm blankets, good food, and good medical care. Miss Schon admin-

isters the new sulphone drugs, and binds up their open sores each day. The patients are engaged in making gardens to augment their food supply.

### The Plane:

The loss of our Stinson plane in 1949 was a great blow to us, but good friends at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago kindly purchased a new Piper Pacer plane fully equipped and it reached us in November. We have found it even more useful than the Stinson during these days when road travel is so dangerous.

### Christmas Conference, 1950:

Our Banmethuot Chapel and housing facilities were taxed to the limit as many hundreds of Christians from various tribes in and around this Raday center met for a four-day Conference at Christmas time. The Lord was truly in our midst and the tribespeople met Him. There was a baptismal service when 127 tribespeople followed the Lord in baptism.

One whole day was given over to the organizing of the Tribes Church of the Darlac Plateau. The Christians elected their own President, No. of the Daklak Chapel, a secretary, a treasurer, and two counsellors. Great steps toward self-support were also made at the Conference. The Banmethuot Church became self-supporting during the year. The salary of the President of the Tribes Church is being paid from the tithes of the native workers. The Christians of Buon Tuor pledged the full support of their worker there. Half a dozen other church groups pledged half the support of their preachers.



Following the Banmethuot Christmas gathering a three-day Conference was held with the Mnong Christians in the Daklak Lake chapel, 32 miles away. Four hundred Christians met with us, and 57 Mnongs were baptized at this time.

Altogether, the year 1950 has been one of great advance in the firm establishing of the Church of Christ. Over a thousand inquirers prayed in a dozen different tribes and dialects around the Banmethuot area. With our force of 47 workers entering 1951 with a spirit of wide-spread conquering for Christ, we believe that the coming days will see an even greater increase in the work. We give God all the praise for His goodness.

### **Banmethuot District and Bible School**

Rev. and Mrs. N. R. Ziemer

The year of 1950 has been definitely a year of advance in the evangelization and establishing of the Church among the tribespeople of Darlac Province. In January 1950 there were 17 Out-stations being manned by 29 student-pastors working out from Banmethuot. Now in January, 1951, at the closing of the six-month Bible School session there are 27 Out-stations being manned by 38 tribal student-pastors, and evangelistic team composed of two other students and directed by Pastor Nhuong.

At the beginning of 1951 there are 13 of the 27 Out-stations that already have their own chapels. Of this number 7 were built and dedicated during the year of 1950. At the other centers daily services

are still conducted in the longhouses of the believers. It is hoped that more village chapels will be constructed during 1951. Of these 7 chapels, 6 were constructed with no outside help, all materials and labor donated by the Christians of the villages.

The chapel at Buon Puan was built this year despite much opposition from the unbelievers, as the student-pastor sought to prove the power of God by constructing the chapel on a site and with materials that had formerly been entirely connected with the worship of evil spirits.

The Lake area has been open and the native workers there have done a fine job throughout the course of the year. Y No, who is now President of the Raday Tribal Church, has been permitted to have weekly services in nearby Government schools. Consequently practically all the students profess Christianity now. One of the teachers, Y Het, followed the Lord in baptism in the month of February. At the beginning of 1951, ten of the twenty-seven Out-stations are in this Lake area. Much of this territory is populated by the Mnong tribespeople.

During the year 5 baptismal services were held at which time a total of 255 souls followed the Lord in this testimony of their new-found faith.

The Bible School was in session from July 4 until the end of December. Two groups comprising 35 men and 27 women were enrolled. Three missionaries together with two national workers, Pastor and Mrs. Nhuong, made up the teaching staff. Courses were taught in the Gospel

of Matthew, the Gospel of John, the Epistle of Romans, Parables of Jesus, Practice Preaching, Doctrine, Hygiene, Old Testament Stories, and for the women, Old and New Testament stories with flannelgraph, reading, writing, and sewing.

Translation work was carried on as time permitted. The Gospel of John has been printed in Raday by the British and Foreign Bible Society and is now ready for distribution. The manuscript for Matthew is ready for publication after being carefully examined by a committee of three, read and studied in mimeographed form by over 35 students. The New Testament in Raday is ready for revision.

We were privileged to be visited by Rev. H. E. Nelson, Home Secretary of the C. & M. A., and his ministry was a definite blessing to all who heard his messages. During the Christmas Conference, especially after the service at which one of the missionaries spoke, God the Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of these people. There was strong crying with tears as many sought God for the fulness of His Spirit and were satisfied. Others confessed wrongs of various sorts with the desire to leave them. Some severed the ties of evil habits and left pipes and tobacco at the front of the chapel. Others were burdened and wept for the salvation of their unsaved ones. Truly God worked in a wonderful way. We feel the beginning of a real moving toward God in this tribal area, and we trust that in His will these young churches may be thoroughly established in the faith of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### **Pleiku District**

Rev. and Mrs. T. G. Mangham.

As we look back upon this past year our hearts are full of thanksgiving to God for His rich blessing in the Pleiku District.

New Outstations have been opened; the first printed Gospels have been received and are being sold; new Christians have been baptized, one of whom was a village chief; and many have prayed for salvation.

A district chief, who at one time prayed in our Pleiku Chapel, came to visit us. He asked us to please send a preacher to the people in his district in order that they might learn about Jesus. We had no money to build a chapel, so we told him that if he could persuade his people to build a long-house chapel, we would send a preacher to teach them. He then added: «I do not want money, or even salt to pay the coolies to build the house, all we want is your promise that we will have someone to teach us when the house is finished». Swallowing tears of joy, we agreed, and the district chief went away happy. Praise the Lord for the great hunger God has placed in his heart.

Our Bible School is also very encouraging. We now have nine couples and four single men studying with an enthusiasm that thrills our hearts. They have heeded the call of God and are eager to get out into full time work. We are certain that only by the training of many native workers can we ever hope to see this vast territory evangelized, for there are many, many villages tucked away in the forests that have never heard the Name of Jesus.

Our ten year old Pleiku Chapel fell to the ground during a fierce windstorm this past winter. At the time it seemed to be a terrible tragedy, but the Lord knew we needed a new meeting place. We now have the new chapel, but this time it is built on the ground instead of on stilts. Here, hundreds of coolies, from scores of villages are reached, for the Jerai in this district come to Pleiku to pay their taxes, and they spend the

night in the government coolie house right next door to the chapel. Services are held every night of the week and only eternity will reveal what has been accomplished through these nightly meetings that are so well attended. We are praising His Name for we know the Lord is blessing the work among the needy Jerai tribal people, and we are looking forward to an even greater harvest this coming year.

### "PRESS ON"

If you find Life's road is rough,  
And the climbing's getting tough,  
Do not say, "I've had enough!"—  
But PRESS ON.

Wouldn't do to sit and whine,  
Just be wasting precious time,  
Keep a-smiling — that is fine! —  
And PRESS ON.

Can't you hear the Master say,  
"Come, follow me" along the way?  
Most certainly you may  
Sing, and smile, and pray —  
And PRESS ON.



## NORTH VIET - NAM

Rev. J. J. Van Hine, Regional Representative

### Haiphong

Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Van Hine

We have come to the end of another year, and it is time to take a spiritual inventory. The Word instructs us to 'remember', to look back and see what the Lord has done. His goodness and mercy has been with us. His promises have been made real in many ways. His power has been manifested. His grace revealed in many lives. We praise Him for the work that has been accomplished and that it could continue for another year. There might be more difficult days ahead in the unseen future, but the same Lord gives the same promises and He will bring forth the same results as we trust Him to do the 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think'.

During the year a goodly number of souls have been saved and sick bodies have been touched. Two preaching places have been opened. Some workers have returned from the other side. Their testimonies of God's keeping power in the midst of danger are inspiring, not alone thrilling in the proper sense. They have experienced fiery trials and the joy of the Lord has brought them through victoriously. It is difficult to explain or fully realize the testing and suffering the Church is going through.

In the midst of confusion that surrounds us, there is also joy. A Christian came to visit us with his wife and four children. Up until that day, they only had one child. During the uprising in 1945 when trouble started here after the war, this

family lost their three children. Since that time, they had been trying to find them. We likewise did everything possible to locate them. Recently, he heard they might be in a certain area. He went there in dangerous territory. With the help of the Vietnamese Governor of the Province and local troops, they found the three children in three different villages. It was only then that he had learned the children had been sold. In order to get them back he had to pay five thousand piasters for each one and this he did. They were so excited when they came to visit us that they could hardly contain themselves. It brought before us in a vivid way the love of our Heavenly Father and the love of the Saviour Jesus Christ who bought us with a sacrificial price.

We have seen the Lord manifest His power and solve problems that were most difficult. A preacher coming from the other side was put in prison. His name was the same as the man they were looking for. Much prayer was offered for him and God in a marvelous way released him. He told us how he was sustained in prison with quietness and confidence that only the Lord could give. He said it had enriched his spiritual life. Another preacher who had returned with nothing of this world's goods, gave his testimony about the keeping power of the Lord, how his needs were met when everything looked utterly hopeless. He also had a soul saving ministry under adverse conditions. Our God is the same and



still works miracles in many hearts and lives.

It is interesting to hear how the Christians are carrying on the work in remote places. A deacon was able to get into the city for a visit which was a mutual blessing. It was touching the way he told how he was the only man that remained in the village while the others had to go with the opposite forces or flee. He remained at the simple bamboo Church, got the women and children together for prayer twice a week and read to them the Word. He is a very faithful old man.

A Christian in another area told how his center was attacked on Christmas Day. He remained with his family in the house, reading the Bible when soldiers came in. Seeing the Bible on the table, they said, «This is a Christian family» and left them alone. A few days later hostile troops came in and burned his house. He told us with a radiant face: «I guess Christians have to be detached from the world and be poor to stay close to God».

The Nam-Dinh and Hai-Duong stations have been evacuated as a precautionary measure and the ladies sent to Dalat while the men carry on their ministry in Hanoi.

In spite of closer hostilities around us, the work continues as usual. On Christmas Day, the Haiphong Church was dedicated. The Christians have made great sacrifices with their giving to help supply this need. The services were well attended with renewed interest among the young people and in the Sunday School.

We still have the door of opportunity wide open in this limited area of North Viet Nam; may it remain so. God's power is not limited, as we join in prayer for the salvation of souls in this war-torn land. There has been advancement during the past year with much encouragement, but we are expecting greater things during the coming year.

### Nam-Dinh

Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson  
For over four years Pastor Nhut has been at Hoanh-Nhi. Since December of last year he has made several visits to Nam-Dinh City. This year he planned to hold Christmas services at two Outstations as well as at the main Church. The parsonage and the Church building have been rebuilt. It was hoped the work would be completed before the Christmas celebration.

In March of this year, a Christian went to inspect the Church building in Thai-Binh City. The walls and roof were in rather good condition, but all the woodwork had been removed. At present the Church is occupied as a military post, but it will be vacated when the Vietnam Church in the Northern District requests that it be returned. It is not safe to place an evangelist and his family there at this time. The latest report is that there are nineteen Christian families in Thai-Binh Province.

Tien-Hai, in the Province of Thai-Binh, is a bright spot in a dark picture. Mr. Tho and his father were saved some years ago. In their village they have been earnest witnesses for Christ.

Mr. Tho received much blessing when Rev. H. E. Nelson, our Home Secretary, preached at Hanoi. A recent letter states that he has won seven others in the place where he works. They meet for family worship morning and evening and on Sunday. He is overflowing with joy and thanks to God. He also wrote of an old man and a boy who love God's Word. Often they read the Bible all night long and still want to read more.

Ha-Nam and Ninh-Binh Provinces used to belong to Nam Dinh District. In 1942, there was an evangelist and a chapel in each province. After trouble broke out at the end of 1946, the evangelists left and went to live in villages where there were believers. During 1950, conditions became so difficult that the evangelists came to Hanoi or went to work in some other province.

Nam-Dinh City was our home for two years. We were unable to visit an Outstation but were busy in the City work. It took about a year to gain the confidence of the people. We were glad to be there to greet the former Christians when they returned from their roaming in the country. If fighting breaks out in one village, the helpless people flee to seek a safer place. Not long ago, an elderly woman, almost blind, came to Nam-Dinh City. She told us she had been wandering for four years. During that time, she had stayed in sixteen villages. She was very happy to be back in God's house and meet some fellow-believers. She praised God for the many deliverances He had granted her.

Before our 1950 Conference at Dalat, we had refused to teach

English, but when we returned last July, we agreed to teach on condition that the students would attend the services on Sunday morning and on Thursday afternoon. At the close of each service, I read to the students from John's Gospel and asked each one to read in turn. Then I explained the meaning of the words and part of the spiritual truth in each verse. Each class period was opened and closed with prayer. A verse often suggested a topic and we would turn to other Scriptures bearing on the same subject. As a result of these classes, about twelve young men and boys professed to trust in Jesus. Through the young folk we were beginning to contact people of the middle and upper classes. The outlook for the future was good.

December 14 to 20th I made a visit to Nam-Dinh and found the work going forward. The Christmas service at Hanoi was a great encouragement to me. About one hundred and seventy young people and children were there. If each one in that group would yield his life to Christ, the Holy Spirit could work wonders toward the evangelization of North Vietnam. Will you pray?

### Hai-Duong

Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Taylor

Two months after our return to Hai-Duong from last Conference, we had to leave because of the military situation. Thus we can report but little first-hand information as to the progress of the work. During the two months, we saw a change of pastors and a number of people saved.

Hai-Duong at present is an important military center, thus



the city is filled with soldiers. This presents a real opportunity as well as a challenge, for soldiers are constantly attending the services. May the Lord use the Hai-Duong Church to lead many of these needy ones into the light of the Gospel, so that as they are scattered among the villages, the Gospel can be spread. We still have not forgotten the ten thousand villages of Tonkin, though circumstances force us to be away for the present.

### Chinese Work, Haiphong

Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Poole

When the plane that brought us from Hongkong landed in Haiphong, we were happy in the thought of getting started in definite work for the Lord again. Although we had been told that we could not expect to be able to stay in Haiphong for more than six months until we would have to evacuate, we have been here more than a year and while the future is still uncertain, we thank God for the blessings of the past year, and trust Him for what lies ahead.

At the time of our arrival the Overseas Chinese Christian Church of Haiphong was holding three meetings a week, a Sunday morning service, a Sunday School of one small class, and a mid-week Prayer Meeting. Now on each Sunday we have a morning Worship Service, two Children's Meetings, a Sunday School of three classes, an English Bible Class and an evening Evangelistic Service. Through the week we have two meetings for the Chinese refugees in the hospital, a Bible Class in Chinese, a Young People's meeting, a weekly Prayer Meeting, a meeting

given entirely to singing, and a Children's Meeting. Twice in the year we have had special meetings consisting of a Daily Vacation Bible School and evening Evangelistic Meetings carried on simultaneously.

In more than one sense it has been a case of 'scattering' the good seed. The Sunday morning Worship Service and one Children's Meeting are held in the meeting place of the French Protestants. The Bible classes, Young People's meeting and singing are held in our home, while the evening Evangelistic Service and the Sunday School as well as the special meetings are held in one or another of the Chinese schools. One Children's Meeting is held in the Chinese hospital and another in a private school. The mid-week Prayer Service rotates among the homes of the Christians.

This 'scattering' of the seed has its advantages, but it will not be difficult to see that one of our greatest needs is a suitable meeting place where the harvest from the 'scattering' of the seed could be 'gathered in'. Many attempts have been made to secure such a place, and a couple of near successes scored, but failure usually came because someone else offered much more money than we could pay.

The Overseas Chinese are not usually classified among those who are deeply interested in spiritual things, and the 50,000 of Haiphong are no exception. Then, too, since it is advisable that only the meetings in schools should be held at night, while all the other meetings must be held in the daytime, it is impos-

sible for many to attend who would like to come.

The Sunday morning attendance averages somewhat over fifty, and we believe interest is steadily increasing. The Tuesday Chinese Bible Class averages about ten. Several of the older members have testified to being greatly helped at this class. The Young People's Meeting averages fifteen and often more. These young people not only have been taking in God's Word for themselves, but have added new life and spirit to the Worship Services and Evangelistic Services by their hearty singing; they have also been a great help to Mrs. Poole in the Daily Vacation Bible Schools and are now beginning to take an active part in the Sunday afternoon Children's Meetings.

Through the kindness of the principal of one of the Chinese schools, we have been able to obtain two big rooms for our Sunday School and the attendance is around fifty. The Sunday School gives promise of good progress, and we hope that the place will soon be so crowded that it will be difficult to find space and teachers for them. In addition to the Sunday School, about a hundred

children hear the Gospel message every week. These are practically all from non-Christian homes. The D. V. B. S. and Evangelistic Meetings, though handicapped by having to be arranged according to opportune time and available meeting place, have been well attended, and although decisions have been few, our hearts have often been encouraged by the interest and attention of many who attend.

Our appointment also includes Hanoi. However, we have only been able to make five visits during the year, the longest covering two weeks.

We may say that our relationship with the Chinese Church has been that of helpers and always under the direction of Pastor Quoc and the Chinese Committee. We have greatly enjoyed the sympathetic comradeship of Pastor Quoc during the year in which we have worked together.

Please join us in prayer that we may be able to obtain a room suitable for meeting in the Chinese district of the city, and above all that God may meet our greatest need, the need of a real Holy Spirit revival in our midst.



## SOUTH VIETNAM

Rev. E. F. Irwin, Regional Representative

## Saigon

Rev. and Mrs. E. F. Irwin.

The year 1950 in South Vietnam has been one of progress in spite of constant difficulty. Satan has attacked the Church from within, but she has not succumbed, and is stronger and larger than a year ago. «But thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ». The Christians have suffered attacks by hostile forces, losing their homes and possessions. Levies of one kind and another are continually being made on the produce of the farms, and most of the members of our interior Churches are farmers. Many of them live at a distance from the military posts where our chapels must be located for safety's sake, and they are often forbidden to attend services. Consequently, the congregations are sometimes small and the offerings insufficient. The pastors do not get enough to meet their needs, which has caused discouragement and dissatisfaction at times.

A new Church has come into being at Giadinh, where Rev. and Mrs. I. R. Stebbins are located.

There are now 47 Churches in South Vietnam and 14 Outstations. There are four missionary families: Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Travis at Cantho, Rev. and Mrs. I. R. Stebbins, and Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Sawin at Giadinh and Mrs. Irwin and I at Saigon; we also have 51 faithful pastors and evangelists — three more than last year. We can say of them as Paul said of his ministry: «In perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the

heathen, in perils in the city». A pastor from a nearby town was telling me just the other day that some of his congregation had had to flee from their villages, and that he was caring for them in his Church and parsonage. They are finding ways and means to support themselves as quickly as possible, but in the meantime the burden falls on the preacher.

The membership of the Churches has increased by 1356 during the year and of these 397 were newly baptized.

We were greatly encouraged a few weeks before Christmas, when an old elder from the An-Thai-Dong Church called on us. An-Thai-Dong is a Church that was razed to the ground and its congregation scattered. The elder said that he had been a member of the Church and when the building was destroyed, he had located as many of the Christians as he could. About 40 of them have been meeting regularly in his home for prayer and Bible study. During the last year 12 new converts had been added to their number. He said that as soon as it was safe enough for a preacher to live there, they were ready to rebuild the Church. This is probably true of other places where the Church building is gone and the congregation scattered, but where we have not yet been able to contact the Christians.

Not long ago I was sitting in the courtyard of the Saigon Church with the pastor and two deacons from inland Churches who were visiting in the city. One of them told how his pastor

had a short time before been traveling by bus and had a large sum of money with him. Bandits attacked, and robbed all the passengers except the pastor, but somehow they missed him and he got home safely without any loss. The other deacon told a similar story of Divine protection. And back and forth they told story after story of the goodness of our Lord. The joy of the Lord shone on their faces as they talked. The pastor remarked over and over again: «Chúa gin giũ, Chúa gin giũ» which means, «The Lord protects, the Lord protects».

## Giadinh

Rev. and Mrs. I. R. Stebbins

«Be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is». Mrs. Stebbins and I moved into our home in Giadinh last March, which is about one mile from the city of Saigon and five miles from the Saigon Church. Civil war and the war for independence has caused much suffering among the Christians in Cochin-China and hundreds have had to flee their farms and take refuge in Saigon. Then, too, over one million and a half unsaved refugees from the interior provinces have fled to Saigon for safety from the constant fighting. It is probable that there are actually over 3,000 baptized Christians scattered all over this city of 2,400,000 people. Our large Tabernacle at Saigon can seat about 800 people and thus the Vietnamese Church is greatly burdened with the problem of a Church home for the many Christians. Giadinh immediately became an answer for the Christians who were living in

this area. Mrs. Stebbins started a Sunday School for their children with 50 in attendance. Then meetings were started for the women and from ten to fifteen women meet weekly for Bible study and prayer. Wednesday evening and nightly Evangelistic services had to be discontinued because of unsettled conditions. In spite of this great handicap the pastor, Mr. Thao, organized a witnessing band of two groups, one of men and one of women and each Sunday afternoon they go forth into the surrounding villages distributing tracts and witnessing to the unsaved. God has blessed their efforts and at Christmas time 29 souls were baptized and received into this newly organized Church. The Christians have gathered in some five thousand piasters for their new building. In answer to prayer, the Lord has supplied a large sum toward this project.

The work is growing steadily, as seen in the Sunday School which has now been organized with seven classes, and a weekly enquirers group. A Young People's Society has been organized with twenty-five in attendance, most of whom are Christians and their leader is the son of an early convert. Mrs. Stebbins has given much time to a sewing class for women who have used old clothing sent from America. Many of our Christian families have been provided with clothing in this way.

It has been possible to contact some of the Churches in the interior and we have greatly enjoyed the fellowship. At Vinh Long and Sadec we were so glad to see the steadfastness of the Christians. Our Churches on the



whole are vigorous and standing true to Christ, in spite of constant peril to their existence. Some Church buildings have been abandoned or torn down but the Christians continue to meet for worship. It has been heartening to see Churches under construction and the Caolanh Church reopen.

Mrs. Stebbins visited among the wounded Vietnamese soldiers who received tracts and Gospel portions, and we feel that this work has been a real blessing.

An English service has been opened at Saigon for the many American and English speaking people and the meetings have been blessed by a fair attendance. It is our privilege to speak occasionally to the folk who gather.

«The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad».

### Giadinh

Rev. and Mrs. J. Sawin

One's opportunities and responsibilities in metropolitan Saigon particularly and Cochinchina generally, are many and varied. For example, if one remains in Saigon for a Sunday, the following could be and often is the schedule for the day: Sundry School, Giadinh; Worship Service, Saigon, plus Children's Service during the preaching; English Service, 11:00 - 12:00; afternoon Young People's Meetings both at Saigon and Giadinh at the same time, — Mrs. in one and Mr. in the other; Evening Service at Saigon. However, from time to time one of us or both visit one of the many churches within seventy-five miles of Saigon.

We have had a wonderful opening in Cholon and are now able to conduct Children's Meetings in the Chinese Church for the Vietnamese children. These children need much prayer as they have practically grown up on the streets in Cholon. With the help of the Lord they have shown more and more interest in spiritual things, and really want to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. They now have more respect for God's house and God's people, and we trust that the Lord will continue to lead them on and teach them His ways. We will appreciate your prayers in their behalf, also that the door will soon open to enter into their homes and witness directly to the parents instead of trying to reach them indirectly through tracts, etc., given to the children. We are interested in having a Vietnamese work started in Cholon since the pastor of the Chinese Church has offered their church for this work when it is not in use.

Thursday afternoons there is a regular meeting for the children at Giadinh where they learn to sing, quote verses they have memorized and then listen to the flannelgraph Bible lesson. We have rejoiced in being able to help out in the Young People's work both at Saigon and in Giadinh. The young people in Saigon meet on Saturday nights for choir practice and then on Sunday afternoon for their regular meeting, followed by another choir practice. At Giadinh the young people meet on Sunday afternoons only.

Friday afternoons are given over to the Women's Prayer Group, also at Giadinh, where

about eighteen women gather to pray, testify and read God's Word. These women are devoted to the Lord, and their earnest prayers have been responsible for the saving of many souls. It is not unusual for them to bring in another woman that they have dealt with personally and who has a desire to be saved. These women uphold in prayer by name all the missionaries that they know and ask the Lord for blessing, health, strength and a Holy anointing for each one. We praise the Lord for such Christians as these. This is truly one of the most precious services of the week.

Being located in Saigon has also given us opportunity to visit some of the Churches in the District and observe the faithful pastors in difficult times and how they have grown spiritually. These folk in the country districts are always so glad to see the missionary come, and may the Lord bless them all and keep them true in this difficult time.

We do not want to neglect to say that we have been glad for opportunities to help out in the English services which are held each Sunday morning in the French Protestant Church. Mr. Irwin is the pastor of this work, and calls on various missionaries in the greater Saigon area, or visiting missionaries to fill the pulpit each week. There is also a group of American men stationed at the M. A. A. G. (Military Advisory Assistance Group) who wished a Bible study hour each Wednesday night. Mr. Sawin goes out to Cholon each week for this meeting. These men have been former Sunday School teachers, Church workers and laymen in the Churches at home in various denominations, and have a keen desire not to neglect the study of God's Word while out here in a foreign land.

We have been glad for these opportunities to be used in His service this past year and are looking forward to a new year, new opportunities and new responsibilities.



## CENTRAL VIETNAM

Rev. J. D. Olsen, Regional Representative

## Tourane

Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Olsen.

«Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness. And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as a shadow or a great rock in a weary land». (Isa. 32: 1,2).

During the past year 35 national workers with their wives, and three missionary couples have had the privilege of telling Vietnamese about the King who some day will reign over this land and the whole earth in peace and righteousness, and who now is willing to be to all who trust Him, a hiding place and a covert from the wind and tempests of sin and judgment. The outward results of this year's work are not spectacular. The true results are only known to God. Out of 47 Churches, only 18 were able to report. These reported 512 inquirers and 185 baptisms. The total number of baptized Christians in the district is 3,184.

The Central Vietnam District is over 1000 miles long, and has 6,000,000 people. Among this great multitude there are only 37 organized Churches and ten organized groups. Most of the organized Churches carry on Sunday School work, but only eleven reported on such work, showing a total enrollment of 721 scholars. In the larger Churches such as Tourane, Nha Trang, Dalat, Phan Thiet and Phan Rang, young people's work is also a part of the regular Church program.

## North of Hue

The Churches in the sector north of Hue have had no contact with us for years. The first and only letter from that sector was received last spring. The writer is a former preacher who of late has been living at Ha-Tinh. His letter tells of the work there and in Vinh. The church building in Vinh is still standing, but the congregation is scattered all over the province. The Church building in Ha-Tinh has been burned. The Christians have gathered material for a new Church, but as far as we know it has not yet been rebuilt. The Christians meet periodically in the home of a former worker, who supports himself by buying and selling at the market.

## Hue

This year the Hue Church purchased a piece of land. The need for a Church and parsonage was met by repairing the building located on the property. During the past year there were only five baptisms, but these were hand-picked fruit.

## Tourane Station

Tourane is our oldest Mission Station in Indo-China. The first missionaries arrived here in 1911. A Church was soon born, and for four decades the ministry and influence of this Church have been a very potent factor in the spread of the Gospel throughout Indo-China. Over forty workers have gone forth from this Church. Most of these are still in active service.

In addition to the regular worship and evangelistic services, there is a well organized Sunday School with 160 pupils, a strong young people's group, and a very earnest witnessing band which goes out once a week to witness and to pass out Gospel tracts. During the year, 147 people prayed and 67 were baptized. Most of these are from a village six kilometers from Tourane, and are the converts of a man who came to the Lord about three years ago. This man, whose name in translation means Purity, was soundly converted and has become one of the most earnest witnesses for Christ in his region. When Mr. Purity accepted Christ he was used by the Lord to lead souls to Jesus. In his village there are today over eighty professing Christians. There was a revival in his village during the year with 37 converts ready for baptism. Before a baptismal service could be held, Mr. Purity was taken and interned by the hostile forces. Word has been received from him in which he praises God for His goodness to him for keeping him, and for supplying his needs both spiritually and physically. His only concern is the welfare of his converts which he left behind. Let us pray for Mr. Purity and these new converts.

## Phong - Thu, Truong - An Thanh-Quit, Thu-Bon, Faifo

The Churches in the region immediately dependent on Tourane, such as Phong-thu, Truong-an, Thu-bon, Thanh-quit and Faifo, have all met rough weather during the past year. These Churches have

suffered more than others. But to them, too, Christ has been a «hiding place», a «covert», a «rock».

Twice the pastor of the Phong-thu Church has been arrested. The last time he was kept imprisoned for six weeks and through much prayer, he was finally released.

Last June, two most earnest Christians, a brother and a sister, and members of this Church, were arrested while on their way to market to sell cotton. Shortly after their arrest, the attitude and prayers of these two Christians as they were led forth to their death so moved those who witnessed their execution that they all wept aloud.

Twelve Christian families in Churches in this region have had their homes reduced to ashes twice and suffered the loss of all their possessions. But in spite of all this, the Christians and workers in these Churches, like the church in Pergamos, have held fast His Name, and have not denied His faith.

## Tam-Ky to Tuy-Hoa

The twenty-one Churches in this region have many adversaries. We have had reports from seven of them, and what they dare tell is meager. We do know, however, that there is a growing opposition to the Gospel. We praise God for the many of our workers and Christians in this region, who are standing true to Christ, and who are faithfully preaching the Gospel of salvation in spite of many trials and much persecution. All reports show that there is much sickness among the people and an increasing



lack of the necessities of life. Some of the workers have gone through special trials.

On June 27, 1950, the Church and parsonage at Thach-ban (near Tuy-hoa) were destroyed by hostile forces. The pastor and his family saved their lives, but lost all their possessions. Even their Bibles and hymn books burned. This worker and many others have gone through deep waters. Yet they have remained at their posts. With the help of special relief funds, the Thach-ban Christians have been able to put up a bamboo building for a Church and a simple shelter for their pastor's family. And so this Church and its pastor in their affliction and great poverty are continuing to give an effective witness to the power of Christ to save and to keep.

#### Phanrang Church

The Phanrang Church conducted special evangelistic meetings in June, which were unusually well attended; also another series of meetings were held in September. The results of these meetings were 100 decisions for the Lord. Of these twenty-one have already been baptized.

Yes, praise God, in these days of trouble and anguish in Vietnam, many are finding Christ to be indeed «a hiding place from the wind... a covert from the the tempest... a shadow of a great rock in a weary land».

#### Vietnamese Bible Institute

The Commencement exercises of the Vietnamese Bible Institute for the term 1949-50 were held on April 23rd. Nine men received their diplomas. Most of

these are now serving the Lord in Churches, holding forth the Word of Life amidst confusion, sorrow and death. We wish all our friends could have attended our Commencement exercises. The messages the students brought were good and the singing was excellent. It is most gratifying to note the remarkable progress made in singing. For the Commencement program the students presented mixed choruses, quartettes and duets.

The new session of the Bible Institute for 1950-51 was opened the first week in September, with 54 students in attendance. Of these, 12 are young single girls. This is the first time since 1942 that we have been able to accept single girls. We hope that this nucleus of girls may be the beginning of a full-fledged Bible School for single women.

The Bible Institute faculty comprises at present four Vietnamese and two missionaries. God's blessing has been manifested among the student body. Most of the students are earnest and hungry for spiritual things. Though the future is very uncertain, we hope that the Bible School may be permitted to continue its ministry of training workers for the Vietnamese Church. At the end of this term, we hope to graduate 15 young men. Pray that as they leave school in May doors of effectual service may be opened to all of them, and that multitudes through them will hear of the King, our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### New Missionaries

In October we had the joy of welcoming to the Field and to

Tourane Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Revelle and their two boys, Jackie and Ronnie. We thank God for these additions to our force, and pray that God shall greatly bless them as they pursue the study of the Vietnamese language, in which they have already made good progress. Mr. Revelle is also helping by teaching English to some of the students in the Bible Institute, besides carrying on a regular preaching ministry through an interpreter.

#### Bible Revision

In addition to Bible School and District responsibilities, it has been the writer's privilege of continuing to help in the revision of the Vietnamese Bible. The Committee charged with this responsibility is made up of three missionaries, Rev. R. M. Jackson, Rev. I. R. Stebbins, and the writer, and two Vietnamese brethren, Mr. Ong-van-Huyen and Mr. Tran-van-Dong. The latter brother was also a member of the original committee that translated the Bible into Vietnamese over thirty years ago. The work of revision is progressing, and we hope to complete the New Testament this year.

We rejoice in God's promises, and His assured presence and guidance encourage us to face problems and overcome difficulties which often seem insurmountable. We are led to believe that the Lord will not let us or any of our colleagues be removed from this land until our task in Vietnam is done.

#### Nhatrang

Rev. and Mrs. B. R. Houck.

A survey of the work done by the nine Churches of this district shows a definite increase in baptisms, inquirers, and adherents over that of last year. Incomplete reports indicate that there were over three hundred inquirers with over sixty baptisms. Regular adherents in five of the Churches total nearly three hundred.

Because of the regular increased attendance in Nhatrang a new building project has been launched. This Church has been self-supporting for a number of years.

The Phan Rang Church has shown a real spirit of joy in the work of the Lord. In six months they have had over one hundred inquirers. Two series of special meetings have been held and the Church has gone forward from a two-thirds self-supporting basis in 1950 to full self-support as of the first of 1951. For these evident advances we are truly grateful to our God.

The Phan Ri Church has been repaired with half the funds coming from the native Church. The repairs were completed just in time for the Christmas program to be held there. The Ma Lam group, comprising nearly the entire village, has constructed a very attractive and roomy Church building.

The need in two areas — Ma Lam and Ninh Hoa — is for a shepherd of the flock in each Church. The present non-resident pastors are seldom able to visit for lack of regular transportation.

The missionary also has been hindered from visiting the entire district because of language study and travel restrictions. The accessible places have been visited several times with great mutual encouragement being manifest.

The Short Term Bible School was blessed in its ministry to thirty-five students representing five of the Churches. The spirit of cooperation with and understanding for the aim of broadening the work evangelistically has increased the enthusiasm of the Church members as they see that this is their work and they can do it for the Lord. Students have gone home to help in teaching Children's Meetings, tract distribution, and witnessing bands.

But with all of these accomplishments we dare not permit it to salve our missionary conscience or lessen our labors for the Master. Only a small corner of the great harvest has been touched in this Southern Section of Central Vietnam. Several thousands of the nearly two million have received a spoken or printed witness; but only hundreds have heard the call of Christ and given themselves to Him. This is a challenge to the Church of Jesus Christ and we must pray for the evangelization of these people.

#### Dalat Press

Rev. and Mrs. Jean Funé

«Then were the king's scribes called at that time... and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to lieutenants and the

deputies, and rulers of the provinces... unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language... So the posts... went out... being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment». Esther 8: 9-14.

In the above verses we have perhaps the first instance recorded in the Bible of the translation of the king's message into every tongue in the kingdom. The King's message must be known, read, and obeyed by all.

In our great Field of Indo-China we have come to bring the King's message. It has been and is being translated everyday into different languages and the printing presses make it available, not only to a few chiefs and secretaries (scribes), the educated — but to all.

As we come to the end of the year in this new ministry, we praise God for what he has done. Though we felt crushed at the idea that we could not return to Tonkin, though strange circumstances led us to this work and it took us a long time to finally be persuaded to accept it as from the Lord, yet peace came to our hearts and we gave ourselves fully to this assignment. We do rejoice in the faithfulness of God and our hearts overflow with thanksgiving every time we can send «the posts on fast horses... hastened by the King's commandment» loaded with new cases of books carrying the King's message. Time is short and they must go fast while doors are still wide open.

From last Conference until the end of 1950, the Press published 6,576,800 pages of tracts, booklets,

plus receipts, programs, etc. Thousands of French tracts have been received from America, England, Belgium and France. These have, for the greater part, been sent to the Regional depôts.

As this goes to press we are informed that the price of paper has doubled and for some qualities it has tripled during the last couple of months. Paper has become scarce, too. We, therefore,

appreciate all the more the help received and rejoice to know that a supply is on the way. We are particularly grateful to the Bible Meditation League of Columbus, Ohio, and to Mr. John Ferguson of Detroit for their supplies of paper and thousands of tracts. We appreciate, too, the Gospels, Testaments and tracts sent from the Scripture Gift Mission.

#### “HE GOETH BEFORE”

Dark is the sky and veiled the unknown morrow!  
Dark is life's way, for night is not yet o'er;  
The longed-for glimpse I may not meanwhile borrow:  
But, this I know, HE GOETH ON BEFORE.

Dangers are nigh, and fears my mind are shaking!  
Heart seems to dread what life may hold in store;  
But I am His — He knows the way I'm taking;  
More blessed still—HE GOETH ON BEFORE.

He goes before! Be this my consolation!  
He goes before! On this my heart would dwell!  
He goes before! This guarantees salvation!  
HE GOES BEFORE — and therefore all is well.

J. DANSON SMITH







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