

Aug 27 1950

The Lord sends His servants forth with the command, "Go ye" followed with the precious promise, "Lo, I am with you...."

Last week it was necessary for me to go to Nam Dinh. Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson had been urging me to come for some time. It was my privilege to minister with them in an area which is gradually getting back to normal as the people return from liberated territory. It was also necessary to see the authorities regarding various important matters.

It had been a rainy week and the floods hindered the small planes from taking off. When they did, only a few passengers could go. Rather than wait several days, the president, Mr. Le van Thai, Pastor Hoang Trong Nhut and I were anxious to get to Hanoi for a committee meeting, so we decided to go on a commercial truck. The road between Nam Dinh and Hanoi was being officially opened for civilian use that day. It was an important event and there were many in the streets to watch the first convoy of 19 trucks leave for Hanoi under heavy military escort. The road had been cut for several years.

We had only gone eight miles when we came to a huge hole the length of a truck made by the Viet Minh the night before. Everyone got busy filling it with stone and dirt but the truck soon bogged down in the mud. This tied up the convoy and the enemy in a village surrounded by bamboo trees only a few hundred yards away, suddenly opened fire on us, killing two soldiers and seriously wounding one with a bullet in the head. The convoy troops immediately went into action, taking fifteen minutes to silence them.

While this was going on, Mrs. Van Hine in Haiphong was led to pray for me. At 9:30, she felt so burdened that she stopped her work and prayed for half an hour. It was exactly at 9:30 when the fighting commenced because I remember looking at my watch to see how long it would last. Thank God for coming through safely. It does pay to pray!