

# Harvest Time in FRENCH INDO-CHINA

By Rev. David Mason

**S**EVERAL new chapters of the Acts of the Holy Spirit have been enacted in French Indo-China during the year 1926, writes our Field Chairman. If some of those who have been thinking and preaching that the age of miracles is past could have been with us, they would have seen things that would make them know that the Christ who worked in Matthew's day is working still today. We have seen with our own eyes, and heard reports from every station, of how the sick have been healed, the insane restored, demons cast out; but best of all and the greatest miracle, 1,355 men and women who have been living in heathen darkness and superstition have been saved and transformed, born again, changed from darkness and bondage into the glorious light and liberty of the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely, "The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; the heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory."

From Pnompenh comes the story of a drunkard Cambodian who, entering into the chapel, fell at the feet of the missionary saying, "Madame, I love Jesus." The Cambodian evangelist took this drunkard to his home and there had the pleasure of seeing him and his wife kneel and confess that they were miserable sinners. They were truly converted, and an unhappy home has become a happy one. They have been completely delivered from the desire of strong drink.

From Cantho comes the report of another drunkard saved, and at Vinhlong two more were redeemed. Gamblers have been set free from their lives of shame; opium smokers have believed and have been born again in the Spirit of God.

A young Mandarin entered the

chapel at Haiphong to inquire what kind of a doctrine was preached in such a place. He was convicted of his sin and of his need of a Saviour. He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and has become an earnest child of God.

From one of the outstations of Hanoi, the conversion of a sorcerer has been reported. He has been baptized and received into church fellowship.

From other parts comes the word of Christians healed of cholera and cancer. In answer to the earnest prayers of an Annamese evangelist insane people have been restored. Two women were also healed of tuberculosis, and others delivered from demon possession. Wonderful manifestations of the healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ have been made known in this field, to the glory of God!

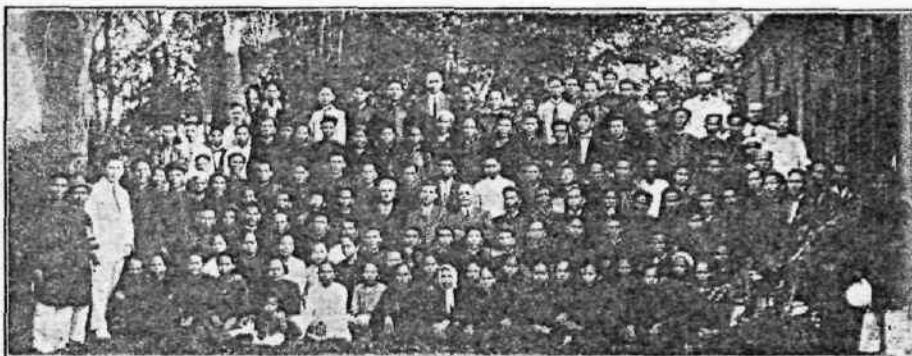
In Cambodia the missionaries have undertaken the most important work of translating the Scriptures into the language of the people. The Gospel of Luke was translated and published in 1925, and Mark has been published this year. John and the Acts are ready for the press, and the translation of Matthew and Genesis will soon be completed. It is only four years since work was begun in the kingdom of Cambodia. Some said that we were setting ourselves to an impossible task, for the Cambodians are a proud and bigoted race among whom Buddhist fanaticism is universal. But with God nothing is impossible; and in this short time, He has raised up seven churches in that land, and there are in all nearly one hundred and fifty Cambodian Christians. The offerings of the churches of Cambodia during 1926 have amounted to

420.99 piastres, an encouraging amount.

The blessing of God has been also very manifest in the work in Cochin China. Although our missionary staff has been small, God's presence has been real, and the advance in the work marked. Nine hundred and fifty-nine new converts have been baptized, increasing the total membership of the twenty-one more or less fully organized churches in this Province to 2,731. The offerings of these churches during the year have amounted to 11,456.04 piastres.

Four outstations have been opened in Annam during the year 1926. Two of these have developed into organized churches where the Christians have provided their own chapels and are paying their local expenses. One of the others had to be closed in August owing to Catholic opposition. A Christian in the village of Locthanh gave us land, and other Christians in the vicinity raised the money to build a chapel there. The blessing of the Lord rested upon the work. All of the services were well attended, and not a week passed but several men and women gave their hearts to the Lord. Then Satan got busy. Enemies of the Gospel took advantage of an unfortunate circumstance to get out an injunction against the man who gave the site to us, restraining him from using the place for religious propaganda. We were forced to close the chapel, but believe that the interruption is only temporary. It has been a testing time for the Christians, but they have stood true.

The other new outstation is at Kheso, in the foothills of the mountains, about twenty-five miles west of Tourane. At the Native Conference, held in Tourane last February, a young Annamese Bible School student volunteered to take the Gospel to the Mois. He was appointed to the tribes people living in the mountain jungles west of Tourane. God wonderfully opened the way



Speakers and Official Delegates at the Annamese Native Conference Held at Tourane, March 5-13, 1927

before him, and the church at Tourane provided the means to build a chapel at Kheso, a well situated centre where these people can come to hear the Gospel. He reports that God has blessed his message, and four have already accepted Christ as their Saviour.

Tourane is still our only main station in Annam. This is due to the fact that an old law has been interpreted as restricting foreign property in the two Provinces of Annam and Tonkin to the Roman Catholic Church. We have, however, been tacitly permitted to open a number of outstations in these Provinces. Today there are six organized churches in the Province of Annam, and four other outstations where regular services are conducted. This does not include Loc-thanh, the outstation mentioned above as being temporarily closed, but where there is a fully organized congregation of over two hundred Christians.

There are in all 1,197 Christians in the province of Annam, of whom 297 were baptized during 1926. The churches of this province have raised a total of 1,874.81 piastres for the Lord's work during the year.

Tonkin is the most populous province in French Indo-China. It contains over eight million souls who need Christ, but we have only three organized churches there: Hanoi, Haiphong and TuNhien. These have a combined membership of 173 baptized Christians, who have contributed 571.42 piastres to help in the great work of spreading the Gospel among their fellow countrymen. The same restrictions apply to Tonkin that have been noted as hindering the work in the Province of Annam. In Tonkin we have two main stations, one at Hanoi and the other at Haiphong.

At Hanoi we have also our printing press that is doing so much for the evangelization of French Indo-China. The great accomplishment of this year has been the publication of the entire Bible in Annamese. This is perhaps the first time in the history of the Christian and Missionary Alliance that our mission has translated and printed the Bible in a foreign tongue. It has been a long task. Our missionaries have been working on it since early in 1917; but, oh, what a joy it has been this year to give the people the Word of God in their own language! A second edition of the Gospel of Luke in Cambodian, and a first edition of the Gospel of Mark have been published. There has also been a steady stream of tracts and booklets in Annamese, Cambodian and colloquial character, flowing from the press room. It has been this Christian literature that has prepared the hearts of the people for the Gospel message and has done much to

enable us to see the encouraging results that we can report this year.

Much excellent work has been done in conjunction with the British and Foreign Bible Society in colportage work. The arrangement is that the Bible Society supplies the books and pays the salaries of the colporteurs, but the mission has the direction of the men. Ten full-time colporteurs have been employed, besides the volunteer workers and Bible students. Six hundred Bibles, 2,100 New Testaments, 36,000 Scripture portions and 110,700 Christian books and Gospel tracts have been distributed. Seven new mis-

sionaries joined the staff on this field during the year, one new main station being opened and ten new outstations; 1,355 new converts have been baptized, which makes a total of 4,250 baptized Christians in thirty-six organized churches. These church members have contributed to the work 14,333.26 piastres, which is equivalent to \$7,882.93 United States dollars. Out of this number ninety-one students are in training, preparing themselves to preach the Gospel. "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and his wonderful works to the children of men."

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