

Blessing in Annam

In a personal letter our chairman of French Indo-China writes:

God is greater than all that can come against us. There was some trouble between the village officials and the man who had given us the land for one of our recently opened chapels. The officials got out an injunction against him, demanding that the chapel be closed. Some of the higher officials, who were Roman Catholics, took advantage of the occasion to send criers through nearly all the villages of Quang-nam Province, and even in other Provinces of Annam, saying that Protestantism was forbidden, and that we were forbidden to preach any more. They said that the Annamese were forbidden to be Christians, and that anyone who came to the chapels, or even talked about the Gospel, would be prosecuted. These proclamations were sent to our Annamese evangelists and church officials, but nothing was sent officially to the Mission.

I was in Cochin China when the trouble commenced, and naturally the brethren thought it would be better to close up the country work until I came home. However, the chapels, with the exception of the one where the trouble commenced, were only closed one Sunday. When I got back to Tourane we prayed about the matter and decided to quietly reopen everything except this one chapel. We did so, and nothing happened. I believe that the Christians are stronger for the testing time. Since then I have seen the Governor-General again and he has reiterated the verbal and unofficial permission that he had previously given me to

quietly carry on the work of evangelization in Annam.

Praise God for three hundred new converts baptized on the Tourane station and outstations in the province of Annam. This, as compared with one hundred and seventy-six baptized in 1925, shows steady progress in the work. The offerings too are most encouraging. About eighteen hundred piasters have been contributed by the Christians here, and they have built three new chapels during the year, one of them for the Mois in the foothills of the mountains. Praise God for these manifest tokens of God's working in spite of trouble! But please continue to pray for the Protectorate of Annam. The persecution only emphasizes the precariousness of the basis on which we are working. We have no official authorization to work except in the city of Tourane; indeed, we do have an official prohibition. But some of the higher officials are well-disposed toward us and they give us what they call a "tolerance speciale"—these words are near enough to the English that you will understand what they mean. We have powerful enemies in the Roman Catholic Church and in heathen prejudices, but, praise God, He is Victor, and we know that He who has begun a good work will continue it. Pray that we may have Divine wisdom and that the Annamese Christians may continue to become more and more zealous in "gossiping the Gospel." Such a spirit has been the secret of progress of the work here, and my earnest prayer is that this spirit may continue to rest upon us in ever increasing measure.

Loc Thanh
Annam