

Three Present Facts about Annam.

May 13, 1916 WILLIAM C. CADMAN.
A. W. P. 105



FACTS ARE FACTS! Many and diverse are the methods used to controvert them. That two and two make four, and the sum of two sides of a triangle is greater than the third side, are undeniable and unassailable truths, and thus are facts. Today, as I am writing this in far-away Annam, my heartfelt desire is to help God's children in the homeland realize three present facts about Annam which are just as incontrovertible as those mentioned above.

1. The FACT of Annam's Urgent Need of the Gospel. It is estimated that there are upwards of twenty millions of people in French Indo-China, or as it is commonly called, Annam. And what is their condition almost nineteen centuries after the Saviour's last command? In view of the imperativeness and definiteness of this command, it would be perfectly logical to assume that these millions of people had had a good opportunity to hear and accept the gospel. But, on the contrary, it is but a few years since missionaries of the true gospel came to tell these "other sheep" of the salvation freely offered to all men.

Again, as we think of the portentous world events of today, we realize that our Saviour's return is very imminent. Therefore if Annam is to be evangelized and some called out to meet Him, then the need is assuredly a pressing one. The urgent need of Annam's millions for the gospel is thus a very apparent fact to all true disciples of Jesus.

2. The FACT of Annam's Closed Door to the Gospel. A short time ago it seemed that the words of the apostle Paul, "A great and effectual door is opened unto me," could well be applied to this hitherto closed land, although it might also have been said, "There are many adversaries."

After many years of expectant waiting, the Alliance missionaries succeeded in gaining a foothold in Annam. A missionary home in Tourane was established; regular gospel meetings were held in the city and surrounding villages, and last summer a forward step was taken by opening a new station in populous Tonkin. Four months ago, by order of the government of French Indo-China and professedly for political reasons, missionary work was stopped in Tonkin and, two months later, in Tourane also.

Today we are face to face with a momentous fact: the "great door and effectual" has been closed, and the "many adversaries" are temporarily triumphant.

3. The FACT of Annam's Need of the Omnipotence of Prayer. In the Word of God we read of many marvelous instances of the power of prayer. How our souls are stirred and encouraged as we read of the prayers of Daniel resulting in the subduing of kingdoms; of the prayers of Elijah governing the natural laws, and of the prayers of the "Church" causing the miraculous release of Peter from prison. Have we not also seen this same power manifested in our own and other lives through prayer?

Having made futile appeals to the "powers that be," we yet do not despair. It is true we are confronted by our own impotence, but it is ever true also that "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." We more than ever realize that the right to appeal to the "Higher Power" is always our

privilege. We can never appeal in vain to Him in whose sight the nations are but "as a drop of a bucket."

It is an undoubted fact that it is only through the omnipotence of prayer that the millions of souls in Annam will once again have an opportunity to hear the soul-saving gospel.

Such, very briefly, dear reader, are the three present facts about the work of God in Annam. Do they not constitute a striking challenge to God's children to take up the gauntlet on behalf of these gospel-destitute people?

As I have been penning the foregoing, my heart has been lifted up to God in prayer that these facts may be borne home to the hearts of all His children in every land and clime. If these facts are truly realized, a mighty volume of prayer will ascend to God; and the resultant fact will be that the "great door and effectual" will be speedily "opened" once again.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God."

before R. A. J. came down.
Was there March 1?
Oct/Nov. - stopped in Tonkin } estimate
Dec/Jan " " Tourane }

May 13, 1916

June 17, 1916

1915

Annam

During the early part of the year the prospects of our new Mission in Annam appeared unusually encouraging. Besides our first station in Touraine, steps had been taken for the opening of the work in Hai-phong and Hanoi, much larger and more important centers. But during the summer suspicion unhappily fell upon our missionaries owing to sensitive conditions due to the war as possible German spies. The kind and effectual intervention of the American Consul saved them from serious consequences, but their work was suspended and they were obliged to leave with the exception of Touraine where the missionaries were permitted to remain but not to engage in active work for the present. Mr. and Mrs. Hosler have, therefore, returned on furlough, and Mr. Birkel has retired for the present from the mission. Mr. and Mrs. Cadman, Miss Russell, Miss Morgenthaler, and Mr. Irwin continue at Touraine pursuing their studies and preparing for future work when the opportunity returns. The firstfruits of the mission have already appeared in six native Christians and three baptisms, and Mrs. Cadman has written in a recent paper a graphic picture of "Our Ba," one of the new converts who is already a witness and a worker. With the close of the war it is hoped and believed that these promising openings can be immediately occupied with an outlook of hopeful opportunity. Our latest advices are to the effect that a recent visit by Mr. Jaffray to Annam has been successful in removing most of the

difficulties and suspicions, and that the work may be resumed at an early date. Let us not forget to pray for this great land of more than 20,000,000 people, whose only missionary agencies at present are the humble beginnings of our Alliance Mission.