

A Visit to the Moi Tribes of Indo-China

(A free translation by Mr. Pruett of an article written in Annamese by Mr. Hoang-Trong-Thua, native pastor of the Tourane Church.)

Monday, February 23, 1925, I caught the 2 p. m. train at Tourane and went to the village of Nam-o. Arrived there, I went to the home of Mr. Xa-Sau, a Christian, and had the opportunity of witnessing the Gospel to a doctor, who, though

an unbeliever, listened gladly. At 7 p. m. many people came in to inquire concerning the doctrine, and at 9 p. m. one woman believed on the Lord.

Tuesday

The next morning I and Mr. Sau and a coolie started out by boat. About 9 a. m. we arrived at the village of Pho-Nam and entered the house of Mr. Cáu. I preached the Gospel to many people there, but no conversions resulted. At 2 p. m. we left Pho-Nam and walked till 5:30 p. m. before reaching the country of Khe-So. We stayed there and preached the Gospel with all our strength and afterwards a man believed.

Wednesday

On the morning of the 25th, about 7 a. m., two Mois came to hear the Gospel, but did not believe. Then I found a man who could conduct us up to the Moi tribes. At 9 a. m. we started climbing the mountain path, which was rugged and steep, and after three hours we arrived in the vicinity of Vuc-Nhiêu. To ascend this mountain, one had to go around the mountain's base, and across a smaller mountain. At times our narrow, steep pathway led us close to a little mountain stream that dashed turbulently downwards; in some places, if one had made a false step, he would have fallen a thousand feet; and once, we were terrified to see a tiger's footprints, and the spot where he had lain. However, we trusted the Lord to lead us in safety and peace.

While climbing the mountain we met two Mois whom I asked to conduct us to the house of Mr. Chanh Tong Moi, called Moi Tuu, in the region of Khe Canh. Although Mr. Tuu was not at

home, we entered, and preached the Gospel to the Mois present. (The absent host and the visitors were strangers to each other.) Shortly after, Mr. Tuu re-

turned, and on seeing me, said, "Good-day, officer, where are you going?" I replied, "I am not an officer, nor do I speak of the government; I am a preacher of the Good News concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, and I declare this doctrine to you in order that you may know God, believe on Him, and be saved." Then they said, "We know nothing." "You know how to drink water, don't you?" I asked. "Yes." "Who makes the water that you

drink?" He didn't know. Then I said, "He who makes the water you drink, is God, Who also is the Creator of all things. You eat, drink, and use the things that God has made, and still you don't know Him; besides which, you worship the devil and commit many sins; that is why you have to suffer so much now, and after death, your soul will have to endure eternal punishment."

Then I asked, "Do you know that you have a soul?" "No." I then pointed to his altar and asked, "Whom do you worship there? You worship dead people, do you not?" "Yes," he admitted. Then I explained to him that every man has two natures, physical and spiritual, and that the soul, after death, must either go to heaven or hell, which latter is an awful place of eternal torment in fire, sulphur and brimstone. Pointing to the fire, I said, "Do you know heat?" "Certainly," he replied. "A sinner's soul," said I, "must endure indescribable anguish in the abyss of great fire, whence none can save. But God, in His great love for us,

gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus, who came down to earth to die on the Cross, where He poured out His blood to save all men from hell." "Do you want to go to hell?" I inquired. "No," he said. Then I urged him to accept the grace of God in the Lord Jesus, and flee the wrath to come.

As I regarded the crude belongings of the Mois which revealed their deplorable state of ignorance, I turned in prayer to the Lord, asking Him to save them from their sins and bring them to the knowledge of Himself. Then, as I continued to talk, their faces began to show some signs of the dawning of light upon their darkened intelligences, and after a short while, they talked together gravely for a long time in the Moi language. Then Mr. Tuu said, "I'd like to believe, but I haven't any money, so how can I?" "I have no need to take your money," replied I, "I only desire that you believe in, and come to the knowledge of God and the Lord Jesus." "We wish to believe on the Lord," he then declared, "so, what must we do?" "If you believe on the Lord now," I said, "you must kneel here and pray, and God will save you." Then I knelt down upon the ground, and every Moi present did the same, and I lifted my voice to God in prayer.

After my prayer, Mr. Tuu instructed the Mois to pray, he praying first and they repeating his words. The men could thus pray, but the women couldn't. I then said, "Let all the women repeat after me, and I said, "Dúc" (honorable), and they said, "Dúc." I said, "Chúa" (Lord), and they all said "Chúa." I said, "Tròi" (Heaven), and they all repeated, "Tròi." Then I said, "Dúc Chúa Jésus," and they all with one voice repeated the words clearly. Praise the Lord! My heart was greatly moved and, as I examined the faces of the others, they too seemed to be stirred; so I asked, "Do you now know the Lord?" To which they replied, "We know the Lord is in our hearts, and we are full of joy." Afterwards, they brought their children to be consecrated to the Lord. Six people were converted there.

After that, the house on one side asked me to come over and pray with them that they might be saved. Five more people there followed the Lord. The other houses had not yet returned from work, otherwise, they too would surely have believed. We left about three o'clock, and they all came out to bid us farewell. To see their beaming faces was a positive de-

light! One man among them asked me to come over to his house and pray with his family and relatives. He then led us to the home of Mr. Phu Rua, in the region of Vuc Mieu. Here eight more people believed in the Lord, and we prayed with them. In the evening, the chief came over, inquiring, and he too was converted. We slept there overnight.

At 4 a.m. I arose, prayed, and then we had breakfast. Scarcely had we finished eating, when there came three more Mois to us for prayer. Then we produced the "Heart" booklet and showed them the pictures therein, explaining how the heart of a believer differs from that of an unbeliever. Having also some Gospel Summaries we gave one with a heart tract to each person, for they had said, "We believe on the Lord, but still know very little, so for fear that we forget, please give us something to remember by." Then I exhorted them to always pray, and all would be right. I gave them the books simply as a souvenir to keep them from forgetting, for they couldn't read.

At 6 p.m. we started down the mountain, the Mois accompanying us some distance. Their faces were glowing with the joy that was in their hearts. They said, "Whenever you come up here, we would love to spread a feast for you, but we cannot, for we are very poor, having neither chickens nor good rice." "I do not care for that," I said, "I only want you to know and follow God." Then I added, "Why are you poor?" "For a long time," said they, "we have had no rain, and everything is dying." "That's the result of your sins," I said, "and because you did not know God nor pray to Him. But now, you must continue to believe in and pray to God and He will bless you both now and hereafter. I also shall pray for you." And after a few more words, they returned and we continued our way. Shortly after, it began raining, and we knew that it was the Lord who was manifesting His power in blessing the Moi country; and we praised Him.

After traveling all day by boat and on foot, we arrived back about 5 p.m. at Nam-o, where we were to spend the night. There were three more people who prayed that evening. On the morning of the 27th, I took the train back home, with a heart full of peace. Praise the Lord! There were therefore, on this trip, 23 Mois and 5 Annamese who believed. Praise the Lord for evermore!

- Friday

A.W.
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