

God's Wonderful Working in Indo-China

By REV. GEORGE C. FERRY

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13: 8).

How we thank and praise God for that word "forever"! We may not think of God as one person today, and tomorrow as another. He is "the same forever."

I told you the other evening of how a husband and wife were saved. This woman had had no education of any kind. After she began to know the Lord her heart yearned to read that blessed Book. She did not know "a" from "b," nor "c" from "d." Coming to the house one day, she asked if I would pray for her that God would open her mind that she might be enabled to read the Word of God, and be used of Him to give out the blessed Word. There were so many in her village who have never heard the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ, and she believed in her heart that if she could read the Word of God, she would be an instrument in God's hand. We prayed that afternoon with her, and she returned to her home in the distant village. A week or two later as I was passing through that village, I stopped at her house. Again we had prayer that God would open her mind that she could read the Word of God. She asked whether I would stay there for a whole week and stand in prayer with her that God would do this thing for her. This I could not do because I was passing on to another village, but we spent a few hours in prayer that day. I left her; and when I returned the next week, I saw her on her knees before God, crying to the Lord Jesus Christ to open her mind so that she could read the Word of God and go out into the different villages and give out the Gospel of Jesus Christ to her own race, especially to the women. She rose from her knees, and I said to her, "God today is going to open your mind in a marvelous and mysterious way, and I believe God is going to use you as an instrument in His hand." As I opened the Bible to John 3: 16, I had faith to believe that God would hear and answer prayer. All that week I had been praying to this end. She read John 3: 16 as well as you or I would. I stayed

on for a week to hold evangelistic meetings; and while I was there, she started to read that Book from beginning to end. I never saw her stop to go to sleep. She would pause once in a while to get a bite to eat.

A year passed by, and God had used that woman to give out the Gospel and to bring many souls to Him. One day, while she was out in a distant village, a poor old saint of God eighty years old, who had been blind for sixty years, was listening to her as she read the Word of God. She was reading about the healing Christ. This blind woman, the only Christian in her village, said, "Will you take me to the brother's house that he may pray for me that God will open my eyes?" Together they came to the house, and we had prayer. While we were on our knees, God opened the eyes of that dear old lady, and after sixty years of blindness she again saw the light. Oh, can you picture the joy in that woman's heart and life? She went back to her home, and how those villagers marvelled to see that old woman with her sight! It so moved the village that they invited me to come and hold meetings for two weeks. During that time many hundreds gave their hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Is Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever? Has He changed? or, is He the same Healer today that He was nineteen hundred years ago?

Another day, as this dear old saint was out giving the Gospel, and seeing a woman listening who was very ill with consumption, she said, "Do you know that God can heal you?" She brought the sick woman who could hardly walk to the house. They carried her into our home. Again we knelt before the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer, believing that He would hear and answer. Again God touched the body of that woman, and she was healed.

One day while I was home in my study preparing a sermon for the following Sunday, a man came to the door and knocked. I invited him into the house. He would not enter. "No," he said, "I can't come in." "Why can't you come in?" I inquired. "If the village officials knew that I was there, they would put me on that island; they might put you in

prison and perhaps fine you." Not far away is a leper island. We have asked permission many a time to go to that island to give the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But the authorities will not permit us to go there. On that island there are about three hundred lepers who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can see them from a distance from a little sampan as we pass to go to other villages. There they are, some with hands or feet gone, or part of their faces eaten away, and they have never heard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My heart has cried out to God more than once, "O God, let me have one chance to go over there and give the Gospel to those dear people." Beloved, won't you pray that when we return, God will give us at least one opportunity to give them the Gospel before they pass away? When this man said, "They will put me on the island," I knew what he meant. "Come in," I said. One of his hands was wrapped up. "Take off the bandage," I said. He did so. His fingers and thumb had already begun to be eaten away. Perhaps in a few weeks his hand would be entirely gone. I sat down and talked to him about Jesus Christ and what he must do in order to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour. "Yes," he said, "I understand." We knelt in prayer. He gave his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, and then he asked whether I would pray God to restore his hand. As we knelt in prayer, God healed that hand. He went back to his home and showed his hands to the villagers who knew of his condition, although it had not come to the attention of the officials. How they marvelled at the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and again God gave us another village that had never heard about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. O beloved, does it pay to give the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these poor heathen who have never heard it before?

Just before leaving for home, the child of one of our native pastors was taken ill with diphtheria, and life was ebbing away. A dear Christian brother came after me, for I was away. "The child of the pastor is down with diphtheria, and they don't expect him to live," he said, and they asked me to come home to pray for the child. They had called in the doctor, and the doctor had given him up to die. As I reached home, tired in mind and body, I found many Christians there and many unsaved ones. The latter were curious to know if we were actually there

to give Gospels out, or to take the Christians back to America, or to give them twenty dollars to join our church. Again as we knelt in prayer, God restored the life of that child in the presence of the unsaved, and again we had the opportunity to show them what the power of God could do. Again I ask, is "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and

forever"? Does He still heal today. I would not want to go back to the field again giving out His Word if I did not know that Jesus Christ is the same; I know that my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the "same yesterday, and today, and forever."

We used to have our prayer meeting on Saturday night. We started it at seven or seven thirty and continued until about four or five on Sunday morning. The time came when the church was not large enough to hold the people who came. Then we decided to have our prayer meeting every night of the week in every church and in every outstation and in every place where the evangelists were holding meetings. One day while we were having a prayer meeting, including the leaders from the different provinces and villages and outstations—we were spending three days and three nights in prayer and fasting, praying that God would give us an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the different places and villages where the Gospel had not yet been taken—God spoke to our hearts that He would give us new outstations in five different villages where the Gospel was as yet unknown. Since we have come home, we have received word that God has given us those new outstations. In one of the villages the population is almost three thousand, and in another one thousand. Beloved, God today is calling upon you, and the Annamese are calling upon you to pray that within the next three months the power of the Holy Spirit may so work that they will have an ingathering in these provinces. Are we going to pray? Are we going to hold on to God that He will hear and answer that prayer? O friends, let us not be idle these days. God is calling upon us to spend our time in prayer as never before. I know we have duties. I know we have our business to attend to, but let us spend as much or more time in prayer as we give to our business, and then we shall see things done for God.