

WHAT CAN BE DONE:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINISTRY TO THE CHURCHES IN INDOCHINA

The time has come for us--the churches in Asia--to consider some of the ways in which we can encourage the churches in Indochina. The Christian Conference of Asia has visited the countries of Indochina several times, and has projects which it carries on there. Where are the evangelical churches in Asia? Why aren't we trying to help and encourage the churches and people of Indochina? Doctrinally we are much closer to the churches in Indochina than is the Christian Conference of Asia. There is much that the evangelical Asian Church can do. We would like to offer some suggestions:

1. Our most obvious channel of help is prayer. Because this is obvious, we must guard against viewing this task lightly or handling it superficially. Materials are available to enable people in our churches to pray more knowledgeably. The booklet, Life After Liberation; and a monthly prayer letter, the Mekong Prayer Fellowship, provide concrete up-to-date information about Laos. For Kampuchea there is the Cambodia for Christ prayer letter. The EFA can supply addresses where you may request these materials.
2. We can visit the churches in Indochina. It is far easier for citizens of some Asian countries to visit Indochina than it is for passport-holders of most Western nations. While there, we can encourage the Church, and we can demonstrate that the Christian Church is not a Western phenomenon. Visitors to Indochina should plan their visits in close coordination with the churches in the

Indochinese countries to be visited, and work out clear, mutually acceptable objectives of the visits.

3. We can seek creative ways of exchanging our personnel with Church personnel in Indochina.

4. We can invite, sponsor and seek ways of helping Christians from Indochina to study in Bible schools and seminaries in our countries.

5. We can make our theologians available to provide theological training on a rotating basis much following the model set up by Austrian theologians for Eastern Europe.

6. In many of our countries we will find that citizens of the countries of Indochina have come to us. They may be studying in our universities, or be in our countries for some other reason. We can locate and reach out to those citizens of Indochina and befriend them, opening opportunities to share the gospel with them. These people are likely to be influential leaders in their countries in the future.

7. We can share our resources with Indochina and the churches and people there; to include:

- Finances
- Personnel
- Materials for leadership training
- Publications and literature, including magazines and other periodical publications
- Provide invitations and scholarships for Indochinese Church leaders to attend Christian conferences in Asia

8. We can write letters to churches in Indochina from churches in Asia, thereby providing them encouragement.