

Langson, Tonkin.
French Indo China.
October 9, 1936.

Dear Mrs. Rees,

I am indeed very sorry to make you wait so long for an answer to your good letter of July 17th. It is very easy to make excuses but I will not take that road. Instead, I will humbly apologize for this long silence. It is true I have been away a lot, out in the district, but this is not going to be a loop hole.

You have been exceedingly kind to send us 146.89 french francs and wish you will thank every one who had a part in this lovely gift. It is being put into the Church Building Fund which still has a debt of \$200. We are definitely praying the Lord will take this burden from us and we know you are praying too, plus cooperating with your gifts from time to time. We certainly do appreciate them as they go directly into the work. May the Lord richly bless everyone of you as you give to make His Name known to lost souls. Continue to pray for us, beloved.

As I explained in a previous letter, we were able to finish the Church through the Lord sending a man to us who sells all building material. He said he had known us for several years and we were honest, so could pay for the material used when we received the money. We had been praying the Lord would do this, not saying a word to anyone, when this man came to us, so took it as the Lord's will. He is open to the Gospel, but has not yet yielded. Thus we are able to have a place dedicated unto the Lord instead of renting a native house. However, as mentioned above, there is a certain amount still unpaid, but through prayer and faith it will come in.

Mr. Jeffrey our Chairman, came to dedicate the church and also the French Pastor in the Capital at Hanoi, came for the inauguration service. All the French and Native officials were present too on that memorable Sunday afternoon, September 13. It was a fine opportunity to witness to them and we noticed many who were greatly impressed with the service.

In the last letter I did not mention how sick I was after my trip to Binh Gia. To make a long story short, I was poisoned but where I got it, I do not know. The military doctor came five times to see me in twenty four hours and said the dose was not enough or too much. I told him I believed it was the Lord who saw to it that I did not pass away as I was not far from it. It is the custom of these tribal people to poison someone during the fifth and sixth luna months and if they succeed, they gain merit with the gods and have a plentiful harvest. They did not gain that merit when they tried it out on me because God took care of His unworthy servant.

I am leaving shortly for Binh Gia where the Lord is working. Already twelve tribesmen have yielded their lives to the Lord. I have to walk there which takes me two and a half days. Would some of you Sunday School boys like to go on one of these trips with me? In a certain sense you do go on these trips with me, because you pray for us and also give.

Tomorrow I am leaving for Cao Bang and as it is already late in the evening, I must hasten on with this letter.

Esther is now with us after being in school at Dalat since June. Dalat is nearly 1200 miles from Langson, so you can well imagine how happy we are to have her home again. The Lord has watched over her and given her good health for which we praise Him. She is now much taller and brown as a chestnut.

You no doubt have the two "Calls" that were sent recently containing much news from this field, so I need not repeat. The work is encouraging but we are still looking for a still greater ingathering of souls before the Lord returns as it looks His coming is not far hence. May He find us all faithful in the task He has given us to do.

During a week of special meetings in the Langson chapel, three souls gave their hearts to the Lord and come out regularly now to all the services. Four others are ready for baptism the end of this month and I expect to baptize five in Cao Bang this coming Sunday. The soil is so hard here in Tonkin, but the seed faithfully sown is bearing fruit and some day there is going to be a great harvest of souls.

Mrs. Van Hine, Esther and I join together in sending you our kindest greetings and christian love. We also wish to be remembered to all the dear ones in the Tabernacle. Tell them how we appreciate their faithfulness in praying for us daily before the Throne of Grace.

Your representatives for Christ in Indo China,

Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Van Hine

P.S. Mr. & Mrs. Shien are happy in the Lord's service, doing fine work, and in good health. They wish you the Lord's richest blessing.

J. Van Hine