

REPORT ON MISSIONARY ENDEAVOR OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
OF VIET NAM

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." This is the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. The Evangelical Church of Viet Nam has co-operated with The Christian and Missionary Alliance Mission in the proclamation of the Gospel to the Tribal people of Viet Nam's central highlands. The Evangelical Church provided the personnel whereas the Mission provided the financial support for these people. This working arrangement began in 1931.

However, in 1956 the Mission discontinued the above program, and considered the Vietnamese pastors serving among the Tribal people of the highlands as Bible translators and teachers in Bible Schools. Thus, we in the Vietnamese Church, looked upon the evangelization of Tribal people a closed door to us, for how could the Church, while confronted with the serious war situation, possibly support Vietnamese missionaries, or even one missionary family?

After a period of reflection and prayer, the Vietnamese Church saw that missions is the life of the Church. The Church cannot live with blessing if it does not engage in missionary work. Missions is a great work, a heavy responsibility, but at the same time it is a great privilege to the Church. Thus, during the annual National Church Conference, June 15-19, 1962, action was taken to establish a Committee on Missions. From that time God

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moved upon the hearts of the Vietnamese Christians to give sacrificially for the support of missionary work.

In order to begin its missionary program, the National Church Committee, during its meeting in August 1962 appointed Rev. and Mrs. Nguyen-Hau-Nhuong to go to Vientiane, Laos to minister to the Vietnamese and Laotian residents. Praise the Lord, during three years of ministry Rev. and Mrs. Nhuong have been used of God among the Vietnamese and Laotian population of Vientiane. The Vietnamese church in Vientiane has made much progress and has become self-supporting in that they support the pastor. Rev. and Mrs. Nhuong have learned the Lao language, though they are not yet fluent. They have begun to teach Scripture and hymns to the Laotian children. It is our hope that in the near future our Committee on Missions can send another Vietnamese pastor to serve the Vietnamese church in Vientiane so that Rev. and Mrs. Nhuong can begin to evangelize among the Lao people exclusively and be in the real sense of the word missionaries.

The National Committee on Missions vigorously raised money and many of God's children were deeply moved, thus the National Committee during its meeting June 2-6, 1964 was able to approve the following: that Pastor Phan-van-Minh be sent to the Chru Tribe; and Pastor and Mrs. Huynh-van-Kiem be sent to the Cham

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Tribe at Phan Rang. Thank the Lord, the work among these two Tribes has progressed and many have turned to the Lord. Because the Cham Tribe was large and also very unresponsive to the Gospel, the National Committee during its meeting June 9-12, 1965 appointed an additional worker, Ta-Xu, to work among the Cham people at Phan Ri. Also in this meeting Pastor and Mrs. Ho-Hieu-Ha were appointed to work among the Mngong Tribe at Quang Duc. Thank the Lord, many Mngong have turned to the Lord and a church is being built to seat 1,000 people. Presently the National Church supports 5 missionary families, one in Laos and 4 in the central highlands of Viet Nam.

Though the situation in Viet Nam is difficult, and dangerous, the work of missions continues. In southern Laos there are two provinces which have many Vietnamese people. In the cities of Savannakhet and Pakse there are about ten Christian families. These Christians are very discouraged and thirsty for the Word, and are really like sheep without a shepherd. Thus, the National Committee during its meeting January 24-28, 1966 moved to send a Vietnamese missionary couple to Savannakhet to minister to both the Vietnamese and Lao people. This couple will leave for Laos the first part of July 1966.

In the future, the Vietnamese Church hopes to send workers to northern Thailand in the two provinces of Udorn and Nong Khai.

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The Vietnamese Church has heard the voices of a multitude of people from many places calling out "No man careth for my soul"; and the voice of God calls us, "My sheep have gone astray."

The missionary program of the National Church is still in the stage of infancy, and is in great need. We hope that this Conference will intercede for us that we may surge ahead in getting the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

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