

D. J. Jeffrey
kindly show
to ladies
for missionaries only

MISSION ÉVANGÉLIQUE DE L'INDOCHINE FRANÇAISE

(Christian and Missionary Alliance)

IMPRIMERIE DE LA MISSION

WM. C. CADMAN
MISSIONNAIRE

Rue de la Citadelle

Hanoi, le 3rd June, 1924

Dear Fellow-Missionaries,

Owing to a few sentences in a letter just received, I feel that it is only right for me to presume to write a few lines in a general way as to the situation of the mission and its work in this land.

Six weeks ago I sent in an application to the government to ask authorization to publish a Bible Review in Annamese, in my letter binding ourselves to a strictly religious magazine and to a strict observance of the press laws of this country. The official who received me said he thought there would be no difficulty whatever, and the application was merely a formality. Suddenly all the newspapers published the account of the meeting of the "Conseil de Gouvernement." This account was supplied by the delegate from Hue, and in it he wrote absolutely from a political point of view. First he revealed that the government itself was against this review, then he brought out the fact that M. Cadman (of course meaning the mission,--this is the French way of doing things) was a foreign pastor and as such had no rights, that it was not because he was a pastor but because he was a foreigner, that if he was a French pastor nothing would be said. From this he mentioned his personal experiences on his election tour in Annam, saying how he had met twenty-five pastors (!) seemingly like well-trained officers than pastors. Then he mentioned their evil propaganda, then how dangerous it was to have this American invasion under the guise of religious activity, merely a cloak for political activities. Then he called on the government to put a limit on these evil activities, closing by saying that it was best to be frank and open. I quote the foregoing from memory.

This gentleman, M. De Monpezat, is not interesting as to his private capacity, but apparently is a close friend of the Catholic Mission, running for personal popularity by abusing guests within their midst. Unfortunately his official position as delegate carries lots of influence, and his article will without doubt be copied by most of the papers in Indochina, as already done by the papers in Tonkin. His most glaring statement was that our mission had sent hundreds of young Annamese to America. We therefore need to pray that the LORD will protect HIS work in this land. In praying over the matter and asking the LORD the right thing to do it has come more and more clear that it is best to trust the LORD entirely to protect us and the LORD'S work from evil men. Therefore as far as I know no communication has been made to the consuls, but on the contrary let us communicate with the LORD.

During the intervening week odd paragraphs have appeared in the papers revealing a very antagonistic spirit against our mission. There seems to be unanimity in this anti-American feeling, I suppose in order to show sympathy with ~~American~~ Japan regarding the exclusion bill just passed by the American houses.

Last Saturday however the editor of the "Haiphong Courier" under the heading of "Bulletin" and on the first page, felt called upon to again attract attention in a column article against the ~~American and Anglo-Saxon~~ ^{American} political and economic propoganda, quoting freely from a certain old book, anti-Protestant, and several times calling on the government to suppress this work and expel the missionaries. He said this propoganda work had been done very discretely and quietly, and gave as an instance the Gospel Hall in Haiphong, giving its appearance and history.

Now I mention these things in order to put you fellow-missionaries on your guard, and on your knees in prayer. A most determined attempt is being made publicly and privately to injure this mission and suppress this work. So far I have heard nothing from the government officially about the refusal to let us publish the Bible review. But I expect a reply some day.

IT IS MOST IMPERATIVE THAT WE ALL DO OUR BEST TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING THAT OUR ENEMIES CAN CONSTRUE TO JUSTIFY THEIR ATTACKS THAT WE ARE HERE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. The reason as I gave above for writing this letter is because of the following paragraph just received in a letter:

"We need your prayers at this time in a peculiar way. The misconduct mentioned was in respect to the taxes; and, gathering together to discuss this subject in a certain house in their village, these men were surprised by the chief and arrested."

Our enemies will set traps along this line. In a letter received from North Africa, French territory, I was told how that last year a missionary went to a certain village and had a small meeting with nine natives present whom he counted as enquirers. The next time he went there he found they had all been arrested. He appealed to the American consul, but nothing could be done. They were not arrested officially for being enquirers, but for other trumped-up charges. Being in French territory nothing can be done except for us to pray, and pray that GOD will give us increasing wisdom to avoid pitfalls and appearances that may be misconstrued. It is difficult, and I hardly know how to write.

Exaggerated and extravagant statements are going the rounds among the Annamese regarding the school in Tourane. Several weeks ago I heard for example that several young students in Saigon had told their professors that they were going to quit that school and apply to go to the American Mission School where they could study cheaply and then get a position. I asked for particulars and was told that

took place in Saigon and was connected with Sadec work. Of course I doubt the truth of this story, but our French friends do not doubt it for a moment. If it reaches my ears I am sure it reaches the ears of those seeking to oppose the work.

It is very evident that we are, humanly speaking, in a very difficult position. Our French friends cannot believe that we are here only for the sake of the Gospel, and our motives purely altruistic. Even one of our best friends in Hanoi spoke along this line, saying we personally perhaps did not have any wrong motive, but that others behind us had political motives and designs on the country. And this was after many years friendship and knowledge of the work!

The work here in Hanoi has not gone ahead this year. We did have half-a-dozen young men who had asked for baptism and know the Gospel well, but they now seem to have taken alarm and are not coming near any more. Of course to them it means their bread and butter, and knowing as I do the conditions here, I cannot blame them, but simply pray that the truth may govern their hearts and lives.

Now I must come to a close. I have tapped off these lines without any set idea except to try and put you on your guard, and ask for much prayer, especially for the Annam and Tonkin work. In the natural I would not send out so many looks but let things rest for a little while till this present expressed opposition blows over. But then the matter of GOD, of FAITH, comes to me and I feel that it would be wrong to purposely put a damper on the work going ahead even with increased element of uncertainty and danger.

I trust you will understand the motive of this letter and will not think I am putting myself ahead or being presumptuous. I know what is going on, and that a most determined attempt is being made to put a stop to our activities as preachers of the Gospel in this land. Get a copy of the "Courrier de Haiphong," dated Sunday, 1st June, and then you will perhaps realize what I have tried to express above. We went through the same things years ago, and so I know what it is.

With much earnest prayer that GOD will bless this rambling letter, and that HE will help us to be on our guard and realize more than ever that our trust is in HIM,

Yours in the Glad Hope,

W. C. Paul