

Fall, 1957



Your missionaries in Viêt-Nam met in Conference at Dalat in May.
The ministry of Rev. T.G. Mangham, Sr. was a great blessing to the Conference.

The Call of Viêt-Nam, Fall 1957
is sent to you thru the courtesy of:

Rev. Jm. Sawin
Wheeler Hallage
Terrace, Mr.
Nizack, N. Y.

KIM LAI AN-QUAN - SAIGON

THE CALL OF VIET-NAM



The Gospel Boat
(see page 4)

THE VIET-NAM MISSION
of the
CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

The Call of Việt-Nam is issued by the Việt-Nam missionaries of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. It comes to you as a gift from the missionary whose address is noted on the back page. Its purpose is to acquaint you with the work of the Lord in Việt-Nam and to solicit your prayer and support.

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* Note : Language Students



Rev. Lê-van-Thai

**IMPRESSIONS
of AMERICA**

Rev. Lê-van-Thai, President of the Vietnamese Evangelical Church, has just returned from a sixty-day visit to the United States. Even after his long journey, forty-eight speaking engagements and twenty-nine discussion sessions, he was still in good physical condition. For this fact, Brother Thai, (pronounced «tie») gave God and the prayer backing of the Church full credit.

At an evening service at the Nguyễn-tri-Phuong Church, Saigon, Mr. Thai gave some impressions of his trip. Special sessions with more than one hundred pastors and with larger groups of Christians are to be held later. This will be profitable as well as interesting because Mr. Thai gives evidence of having absorbed a great deal.

An anointed spirit and a sense of humour is a good combination. Mr. Thai revealed both as he spoke to the group at Nguyễn-tri-Phuong. In Honolulu the Immigration Inspector had asked with what group he was associated. When Mr. Thai replied, «The Christian and Missionary Alliance», the Inspector said, «You are fortunate, the Alliance is a small society, but a very good one».

Welcomed by Mr. Hazlett at San Francisco and put up at Simpson Bible College, Mr. Thai was told to make himself at home. In the morning he heard a bell and by the time he had reached the dining-room and collected his eating utensils a good deal of the food had disappeared. «Home was never like this», thought Mr. Thai, but he soon got his stride and enjoyed the American way of eating.

Directing his remarks to prospective students, Mr. Thai warned them that they must be prepared for a different kind of life. In America everyone works hard and likes it. At Nyack, Mr. Thai wanted Mr. Phu to go somewhere. «I'll be there», Phu replied, «but not just now. I have to mow the lawn». «Imagine it, said Mr. Thai, «Phu pushing a lawn mower up and down!» Students washing dishes, baby-sitting and what not are all new to an Asian visiting America.

Then Mr. Thai testified to fellowship, spiritual hunger and blessing. On that plane there is no difference between Americans and Vietnamese. The Billy Graham campaign moved him deeply. Council was a time of deep joy and helpful study. The men at Headquarters were kindness personified.

America reports that Mr. Thai was a blessing over there, while Việt-Nam-replies that through him the church over here has received fresh vision. Mr. Thai's trip has resulted in increased understanding and cooperation between mission and church, and a sense of our oneness in Christ.

Mr. D.I. Jeffrey

WITNESSING on the WATERWAYS

The southern half of South Viêt-Nam is flat, fertile land, criss-crossed by canals. With the exception of a few main roads, these canals are the « roads » of the south. Along these canals lie countless hundreds of villages and tiny towns — inaccessible except by boat, hidden and UNEVANGELIZED.

One such village was Cai Ke, the birthplace of Mr. Giao Tra, an earnest Christian and a deacon in the Cantho Church. He longed to take the Gospel to his village, but for many years it had been unsafe to go there, for that area was in the midst of Communist-held territory. During this last year he made three trips in, witnessing and selling gospels. Still he prayed and longed for the day when the evangelistic band could hold meetings there.

About this time, God gave us an amazing answer to prayer, providing us with a boat, which would accommodate the evangelistic team, and provide a place to eat and sleep while traveling the waterways. Thus God prepared and opened the way for us to go to Cai Ke.

Upon arrival, the loud speaker was put up in a tree-top, and from the deck of the boat we played, sang and preached the strange new Story of the Cross to the shy, curious crowd which had gathered on both banks of the canal. Picture them as they listen: old feeble men, mothers with fretful babies, young men, children trooping home from their little school — almost all in the faded black garments which are the garb of the poor country people.

We preached near the market place and at several places along the banks. Everywhere there was the same interest. By the end of the services five people had prayed the penitent's prayer, evidencing a sincere desire to follow Christ, and there were many inquirers. Lately a second trip was made, and more services held. Two more were saved, one was an 82 year old lady. Mr. Loc, the pastor at Vinh Long, will be visiting there every month. Mr. Giao Tra has donated land on which to build a chapel. It is hoped by Christmas to have a chapel built and a church established.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Revelle

Preaching at Cai Ke



Building the Church
of Jesus Christ on

“BUDDHISM'S HOLY GROUND”

The province of Kiên-Giang (formerly Hà-Tiên) is the westernmost province of South Vietnam. On the map it is but a small pie-shaped area, adjoining the Cambodian border on the west, facing the Thailand Sea on the south. There are several reasons why Hà-Tiên is of special interest both to you and to us. It is called « the place of the celebrated pagodas », and is known throughout the country as a stronghold of superstition and Buddhism. There is one other compelling fact which causes us to yearn over the province of Hà-Tiên. It is the one remaining province in South Viêt-Nam which as yet has no church — a whole province without one place where the Gospel is preached. Think for a moment of what that means.

It was decided to make special effort to open the city of Hà-Tiên (pronounced *Ha-tee-in*), the capital of the province. Let Mr. Thau, the district evangelist, tell the story in his own words:

« As usual, we had to present our papers to the government authorities. The Chief of the District received us cordially, and introduced us to the Head of the Information Service, who gave us permission to use a sort of Community House to preach to the people. He also informed us that the people were ardent Buddhists, and that certainly there would be no one who would follow our religion. We replied that we had come in response to the Lord's command to 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature', and in that way we would pay the debt of love to our own people.

(Continued next page)

The first gospel meeting in the city of Hà-tiên



A New Field of Service

Communism, sickness, and circumstances had shut the door to China and elsewhere for seven long years. Now, once more we are to go forth and put to use the language of a distant land. It is both a new experience and an old one. We had gone, years ago, to Kwangsi, China, for an eight year term during the war torn days of that suffering land. We left it again after a few years of a second term when, just before the communists took over, the Alliance missionaries were all evacuated. Now we are to find out how a missionary feels who knows a foreign language, but not a word of the language of the land to which he is sent! This one month's time has been sufficient to report that it is indeed an altogether different experience! Pray with us that God will be pleased to make use of us among the many thousands of overseas Chinese in Việt-Nam.

Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Fowler

FLASH !

In one year the Christian in charge of the Saigon Church Book Room has led over 70 people to Christ. One of them, Mr. Do (doe), a school teacher and refugee from North Việt-Nam, is now working full time in the Bible Correspondence Course office.

« Buddhism's Holy Ground » (Cont'd.)

That afternoon we went up and down the streets in the car, inviting the people through the P. A. system to come to the meeting that night. The place was packed and crowds stood around the outside of the building — about two thousand people present. During the day we would take turns preaching in the market and also go by two's up and down the streets witnessing, and giving out tracts from house to house. We set aside one evening to deal with the government people and intellectuals, meeting in one of the high schools.

As a result of the meetings ten souls were saved. We sold 870 piasters worth of books and passed out over one thousand tracts. The testimony of one old man of seventy-seven, who came to the Lord, deeply moved us. For a long time he had sought the right way, but never found it. Never had he burned a stick of incense or paper money (for the dead) or bowed down to any idol. Now at seventy-seven he had at last found the Truth, and was fully satisfied. Truly in the midst of « Buddha's holy ground » the Lord has prepared a people for His name. Hallelujah! Praise our wonderful Saviour!

We hope to make Hà-Tiên similar to a « Key City Project » at home. We are sure that the Lord has « much people » in that city and province. Will you by faith and prayer help us claim them for Christ?

Mrs. J.H. Revelle

THE REWARD OF PERSISTENCE

Patience and persistence finally bring their rewards. We have tried for twenty-five years to take the Gospel to the province of Quang-Tri, located just below the 17th parallel. Satan succeeded in thwarting repeated request for permission to go to these 250,000 people. Then two years ago the New National Constitution guaranteed religious liberty. Recently in two visits to Quang-Tri we were not even received by the Chief of the Province, but the Lord intervened, and in June, on the third attempt, permission was granted.

A large Gospel tent had been prepared which would accommodate 500 people. Within twenty-four hours, after a site was obtained, the tent arrived. Mr. Thuc, the evangelist for the Central District, gave the first message that evening, using a loud-speaking system. Crowds

of people came to these meetings each night. The Enemy became aroused, and soon a Buddhist tent was set up about 300 feet from our tent. Another religious group took over the town with a huge festival. They set up tall paper arches with hundreds of lights and paraded with lighted torches. As they passed by our tent they could not help but hear the singing of the children, who had come to learn the choruses taught by our Young People's worker.

The first night of this festival, it looked as though not many would come to our service. After giving out tracts and talking to small groups, who were inquiring about the way of salvation, we had a service. It wasn't long until people began to arrive, and Pastor Mieng, a real man of God, began preaching. Soon the tent was packed out, as the crowd listened to the gospel message. From the Buddhist tent came the sound of beating drums and gongs, and from the street the chanting of prayers. From our loud speaker went forth the songs of praise to God, and a burning message of love to the lost. At the close of the service two young soldiers were saved. During nearly three weeks of meetings twenty-one believed. We should have remained longer, but we lacked workers and funds for this great task. We have seen the birth of the first church in Quang-Tri — a wonderful answer to prayer. Pray earnestly that more churches will be born in this province.

Mr. and Mrs. I.R. Stebbins



NEWS FLASHES

Miss JOHNSTON and Miss MACK are teaching English in three classes in the Hoa-Hung and Nguyễn-tri-Phuong churches in Saigon. The Bible stories and flannelgraph lessons are already bearing fruit. Many of the young people have found Christ and attend the regular church services.

Mrs. E.F. IRWIN writes that in August a Sunday School Institute is planned for the Tourane area in order to study and promote the work of the Sunday Schools.

We thank God for word from Mr. I.R. STEBBINS of the good tent meetings in Huê, resulting in greatly increased attendance at the services in the Huê Church.

Mrs. OLSEN continues to be a blessing in her ministry teaching the women's meetings at Dalat, and teaching music to the missionaries' children in the school.

Mr. and Mrs. TRAVIS report that in a two day trip in the district they preached each night to more than one thousand people who seemed very responsive and eager to hear the message of the Gospel.

Mr. C.E. Carlson, former missionary to China, will soon be arriving to take over the work of the American Church as Mr. Sawin returns for furlough. We are most grateful for the sincere interest and financial help of the American Community Church. They are currently helping with the Key City Project at Hà-Tiên and purchasing beds and dining-room furniture for the Orphanage at Nha-Trang.

Mr. FITZSTEVENS is on a two weeks trip with the evangelistic team of the Bentre area. Latest reports are that at Giong-Luong, in unscheduled meetings, 15 have prayed and desire to build a church.

Messrs. HENRY and TOM STEBBINS are making a trip among the coastal islands near Huê, to survey the area and make an initial contact with the Gospel among the fishing people there.

We thank God for the good number of new missionaries that have come to the field since the last issue of *The Call*. They are: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bordreuil, of Ales, France; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Henry, of Hamilton, Ont.; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stebbins, of Nyack, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Collins, of Peterborough, Ont.; Mr. and Mrs. Garth Hunt, of Regina, Sask.; and Mr. Dale Herendeen, of Los Angeles, Calif.

You Hold The
Answer to

WHAT SHALL THEY READ ?

The Church of Jesus Christ must face this question as we think of the people of Việt-Nam. The statement in the Scripture, « Blessed is he that readeth » carries great meaning for those who learn of the love of God and salvation through Jesus Christ by reading a gospel tract or booklet.

One has said, « The prelude of any movement to reach a mass of people is a barrage of literature ». Business firms do this all over the world today, and their business is growing.

The early ministry of the mission was largely effective in Việt-Nam because colporters opened the way with tracts, books and gospel portions. Where this method was used, today there is a strong and growing church.

The production of the Saigon Press increased over 120 % in 1956 as compared to the year before. With your help, we hope to make 1957 a year of greater increase in the production of literature.

The present tract production, to keep ahead of our urgent needs on the field, calls for printing 50 thousand copies of a tract each month. As we observe the increase of evangelistic activity by pastors and missionaries, we are going to need in 1958 at least 100 thousand copies of a new tract each month. To accomplish this requires an increase of your prayer and faith together with us.

But such an increase is only part of the press program. There must continue to roll off the presses a great quantity of sale books for the unsaved. During the past year three were put into circulation, and a fourth is being prepared. Of this type of material there should be no let up, for remember, there are in Việt-Nam.

11 1/2 million people that can still be reached

40 thousand are now Christians

1 missionary society

1 press is responsible for providing literature.

Your answer to the question of « What shall they read ? » will help to determine whether a literate people will learn of Jesus Christ or will partake of only the husks of communism, materialism and false religions.

Mr. and Mrs. B.R. Houck

FLASH !

Since June 1st Mr. and Mrs. Royce Rexilius have been assisting in the Press, in preparation for assuming full responsibility in January 1958. Mr. and Mrs. Houck will thus be free to help in the radio work until their furlough in March.

A NEW SAIGON READING-ROOM and GOSPEL CENTER

It has been truly marvelous in our eyes the way God has led us to this new Gospel Center on Truong-minh-Giang, one of the busiest thoroughfares in Saigon.

Pastor Phai of the large Saigon Tabernacle has been trying for four years to get a work started in the Truong-minh-Giang section of Saigon, but without success. We had seen the new market go up in this area and had often looked longingly at the attractive two-storied apartments around the market, hoping that sufficient funds would come in so we could rent one of them for a reading-room and chapel.

The day I returned from conference I asked one of the Saigon Christians to help me house-hunt by starting to look in the Truong-minh-Giang area, especially around the market. I thought perhaps we could live up-

stairs and use the downstairs in one of these apartments for a reading-room and chapel. This Christian returned with the disappointing news that there wasn't an apartment left; they had all been sold at a very high price. But just a block beyond the market, in an even better location, there was a two-story building nearing completion which this Christian evidently overlooked. That is where we are now located. Our three-room apartment is above a large reading-room and Gospel Hall which seats up to one hundred. Meetings have been held here every night for over two weeks with many decisions for Christ.

Three nights a week we are concentrating on the Youth of Saigon. Hundreds of young men and women are being attracted to the reading-room and to the meetings because of Bible classes and messages given in English, with either a missionary or Vietnamese translating. We are most grateful for the valuable ministry of Messrs. Rexilius, Phillips and Shelton on these three nights. Five mornings each week meetings are held for the neighborhood children.

Passers-by cannot fail to see the neon cross and Gospel Reading Room sign. Many hungry, seeking souls have already stopped to inquire. We need much prayer that those who hear the Gospel and pray may be truly born again and filled with the Spirit of God.

Mrs. D.I. Jeffrey



PRAY YE THEREFORE...

New Churches :

That the new converts at Quang-Tri, Hà-Tiên, and Cai-Ke may be encouraged in the Lord and strong churches may soon be established in these places.

That the tent campaigns to be held at Sia and Truoi may see many souls saved, and churches established there.

Workers :

That the new missionaries may be anointed for the difficult task of language study, and that God shall use their lives and ministry during this time.

That the second year Bible school students will be blessed and used as they begin their two years of practical service before returning for their final year at school. Pray that this experience shall be spiritually profitable to them and the means of opening up new churches.

Conferences :

That God shall grant a time of real revival during the annual General Church Conference to be held in Vinh-Long in November.

For the second Southeast Asia Conference to be held in Vinh-Long in January. Representatives from 10 Alliance mission fields will be present.

Physical Needs :

For three year old Dougie Collins, who was stricken with a serious leg ailment soon after arriving on the field. Pray for his complete and speedy recovery.

REPORT OF ORIENT CRUSADES

We in Orient Crusades are happy for the opportunity to assist the Alliance missionaries and the national church in Việt-Nam. A Christian leader recently remarked that he had made a tour of fifty-two countries, and the greatest challenge of all was Việt-Nam. We are thrilled to work for God in this harvest field.

Arriving here last February, we are continuing to lay the foundation which Warren Myers began in advancing the ten-month Bible Correspondance Course in Vietnamese. There are now about 3,000 people enrolled. Three Vietnamese workers have been trained to correct and grade the lessons. In May Mr. and Mrs. Bob Phillips joined our number and are replacing Warren Myers as director of the correspondence course.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Shelton