

1926
Call, no. 19
p. 7

Vietnam

Aug 6 History

The First Annamese District Prayer Conference

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On arriving at Mytho, September 13, the writer found everyone on the Mytho compound as busy as a bee, preparing for the first Prayer Conference of the Church in Cochinchina. Faces were shining with joyful anticipation of the three days of delightful fellowship together before God's face. Mr. Ferry, the pastor, an excellent organizer, and his able native evangelist were found in every place receiving and welcoming the delegates from far and near-by churches. Exclamations of pleasure were continually heard as deacons and members of one church met those of another. One felt at once that truly we are all one in Christ Jesus. They seemed to become good friends immediately. For the first time, they were meeting those with whom they will one day spend an eternity.

There were about three hundred delegates present, and it was a blessing to see how well they were entertained and cared for. Native hotels had been rented and an Annamese cook had been secured to cook for this large Christian family. Everything went off smoothly, and expenses were fully met. Many of the preachers went, fearing that they could not afford it, as it was understood that everyone should go trusting God for his expenses. Offerings were taken up in the churches, and when the expenses were gone into, it was found there was sufficient money to pay all the expenses of each preacher. One preacher did not come and their were nine piasters over, which would have met all his expenses had he had the faith to trust and come.

The conference was a Bible Prayer Conference, and every missionary, colporteur and preacher was on the program; that is to say, each had some part to take, so that he could feel that the success of the conference depended as much on him as on his brethren. Each day; three hours were given to Bible Study, three hours to prayer, and one and a half hours to

praise and testimony. The messages brought were a progressive study of God's Word to us about prayer. Each message brought the prayer urge, and everyone earnestly sought the face of God during those three days of precious opportunity. The delegates came with hungry hearts and they were not disappointed, for they were unfaintly found on their knees at all hours of the day. It was blessed to hear the rising volumes of prayer that at times ascended from this earnest gathering. Definite requests were held before God for the entire work in French Indo-China, and already there have been definite answers.

It was a *Native* District Prayer Conference, and each day had its native chairman, who presided over the day's meetings. The missionaries rejoiced to see the anointing of God's Spirit on these godly Annamese as they entered into each day's program with eager, earnest, thirsty hearts. Throughout the meetings there seemed to be a spirit of praise on the people and there was much earnest, urgent prayer that God would revive backslidden hearts and give added blessing and much wisdom for the entire church.

The missionaries advised and helped, and tried to keep in the background as much as possible, for our work in French Indo-China is to pray for and establish an *Annamese Church, led and taught by its own native leaders*. We used to think of the Annamese as our helpers, but God is showing us that they are His chosen leaders, and that we are, like Paul, sent out here as missionaries, to teach them the Gospel, and to ordain pastors and elders throughout the native church.

A.W. August 6, 1927
page 522