

to Dec 11
Saigon, December 5, 1924.

Rev. D. I. Jeffrey,
Tourane, Annam.

Dear Ivory:

Thank you for your letters of November 17, 23 and 24, which I found waiting for me on my return from Sadec Monday.

I have read carefully this new law re schools in Indo-China, and do not think that it will be difficult for us to conform to the regulations for both the Bible School and the Primary School. The wording of the law in several places would seem to me to indicate that the Government had us in mind when the regulations were formulated and were trying to make it easy for us. Our Society would come under the heading of "Associations et Congregations religieuses enseignantes autorisées aux lois en vigueur dans la Métropole" end of Article 2.

I hardly think that it will be necessary to take up this matter with the Resident in Tourane, and it might complicate matters. This papers says that the man to whom the documents are to be addressed is the Resident Supérieur at Hue. We were going to see him about the student colporteurs when I come to Tourane for Native Conference. We can take up this other matter too at that time. I will come up some time before the Conference, probably on the "Chili" which sails from here about January 10. This will bring us within the three months notice which seems to be accorded to schools requiring to report, but which have been in operation before these regulations were passed. If there are any further developements, let me know. I suppose that you have a copy of the law. If not write me and I will make a copy of this and return the original to you.

We were suprised to hear of the difficulty that you have been having with Mr. Thai. You certainly did right in sending him back to Hanoi. The devil seems to be pounding away trying to find some loop-hole to get at us. But Praise the Lord "He that is with us is greater than all that can come against us"

I do not understand your parable about the "building a tower" which has involved a shortage of 57.18 piastres, but you say a statement is following by registered mail. This will likely reveal the mystery.

I note that Hi's mother has been annoying you. I do not know what to say to your request. Hi only gets ten piastres per month, and the work that he does does not justify our giving him any more. This does not allow for his sending much home. His mother is an old "sponge", before he came down here she used to support him, now she wants to get his money. I think that it was because he knew that she would worry the life out of him, that he did not want to go back with Curwen. I will be in Sadec again the twentieth of December, and will ask Hi if he wants to send something to her. If he wishes to send her five piastres, and I have no doubt that he will be willing to send that much to her, I will let him pay it to me one piastre per month. Do not give the old lady anything in the meantime. Hi is a good kid, but I have not much sympathy for his mother.

I note your decision to stay on in Indo-China until school closes before leaving for furlough. It is a great relief to me to hear this decision. It has been on my heart for some time, but I hated to ask it of you. It will certainly be very much better for the school, and will help us out all round.

Your proposition too about not using the first year men also meets my hearty approval. It is a big mistake to send out half-baked preachers. No matter how brilliant they are, one year in Bible School will not make preachers of them unless they have been Christians for a long time before entering the school. My experience with Thay Do has demonstrated this. It is pitiable sometimes to listen to what he serves up to the people. He has a good heart, a pleasing personality, plenty of worldly wisdom but is sadly lacking in Bible knowledge. Chanh is worse. I have a suggestion for next year which I will pass on for you to "chew on" until Committee meets. I suggest that we use no one who is now in school except the seniors, that we return all the one year student preachers to Bible school next year, and that we hold the older men like Dinh, Long, *Dinh* Quoc, Khanh (Battambang), Thai (Faifoo) where they are. The seniors now in Bible School could replace the one year men now on the stations, and next year we will graduate no one. This will give us a strong native staff on the stations next year when we are sure to be extremely short-handed for foreign workers. Dinh is doing exceptionably good work at Sadec, Long is doing the same at Chaudoc, and from all reports the same is true of Khanh at Battambang. I was at Phnompenh and find that Te is really doing good work there. Hammond withdrew what he had said about him, ^{or rather did} and said that he had been doing much better. The Church at Phnompenh seemed to be a very healthy one, and there were fifteen or twenty new members who had recently come in. However Te still holds to his determination to resign, but says that he will finish his year first. Pray for him that God may have His way with him.

We were very sorry to hear of Mr. Huong Thuong's death. He was the old man at Ngoc Tran, was he not? I had a letter from Thai saying that he and Thay Thua went to the funeral in a sampan and had difficulty in getting under the telegraph wires. You must be having an unusually wet season. We are enjoying wonderful weather here, neither cold nor hot, and just enough rain to keep everything looking fresh.

I received a telegram from Mr. Jaffray yesterday saying that he is turning over the books, and that I am to receive them from the steward of the "Angkor" which arrives here December 10. This means I suppose that neither he nor Miss Marsh are coming down. I will have to cipher the system of book-keeping myself. I will be glad if all the stations will send me a memorandum of the balance in their station accounts December 1 after November's expenses are paid, and also a memorandum of the amount required monthly to keep things going.

There is not much news to pass on so I will close with best regards from all to all./

Sincerely yours

Frank