

Summer - 1950

The
C A I L
of
I N D O - C H I N A

1949-50
Rev. D. I. Jeffrey, Chairman

The Church of Christ in Indo-China is drawn from four distinct national groups--Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian and Chinese, as well as from numerous primitive Tribes.

During the past year there has been encouraging growth and advance in all five areas. More than eleven hundred persons were baptized while hundreds more are interested enquirers.

Due to the unsettled political situation, pastors and missionaries have worked during the year in the face of constant danger from ambushes and grenades, but God in his mercy has spared our lives. The ringing testimonies of those who have come through fiery trials have been the means of strengthening the faith of Believers everywhere. Although large sections of the Vietnamese Field are still closed to missionaries, we rejoice to know that by means of the printed page as well as through the faithful proclamation of the Word by pastors and people, a continual Gospel witness is being given out behind the lines.

As we enter the second half of the twentieth century, the set-up of the Church in Indo-China is as follows:

RECEIVED
MAY 31 1950
FOREIGN DEPT.



Rev. G. Edward Roffe, Regional Chairman

The traditional tranquility of North Laos, the hinterland of Indo-China, has barely been disturbed by even the backwash, to say nothing of the main-stream of international events during the year 1949. On the other hand, the work of the Lord has gone steadily forward with a few events, here and there, of real importance.

Xieng Khouang District Rev. and Mrs. T. J. Andrianoff

For the first time since the war, this station has been re-occupied, missionary language students having taken up residence in January 1949. While no active missionary work has been carried on, the ground work is being done and a building programme is planned. The predominance of tribespeople -- Khamoo, Miao etc, -- presents a real challenge to pioneer vision and endeavour in this region.

Vientiane District Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Gustafson

The death of one national student-worker, the discharge of another, and the transfer of the missionary in charge to field-wide ministries in Saigon, leaving city and district in the hands of missionary language students, combined to effect a very real set-back in this area. This will only be offset in the course of time and under the rich blessing of God in answer to prayer. Here, too, funds have been provided for establishing more permanent and more satisfactory Mission quarters. The pre-war Vietnamese chapel has been derequisitioned and is now awaiting renovation prior to being put into service for the Vientiane group of Believers. (This chapel has now been attractively rehabilitated, services resumed and a formal dedication service was held on April 16. At the same time Mr. Saly was installed and assumed his duties in this district for the vacation period! G.E.R.)

Luang Prabang Rev. and Mrs. G. E. Roffe
 Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Clingen

Under the blessing of the Lord the full-time ministry of missionaries in this sector has prospered throughout the year. Nationals of the Khamoo tribe continue to manifest a real openness to the Message and scores have accepted the Gospel of Grace. In one instance an entire village of some 80 souls has come in; in another, the village chief professed faith, after years of resistance, and thus another village is now listed as being made up entirely of believers.

While the Lao people, whether in city or country districts, continue to maintain a relative indifference, yet there has been a definite and encouraging change from the attitude of former years. Today, no opposition is either felt or experienced; rather there is a certain cordiality and friendliness which prayer may well change to real interest and, eventually, to vital faith as a result of the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

There has been fruit from an unexpected quarter. From among the growing Chinese population in the city of Luang Prabang a few with Christian background have, for the first time, identified themselves with the people of God and quite a number of others have made a profession of faith, until there is a promising group of Believers among the Chinese. There is a definite need for a regular meeting place in the

city, services having been held across the year from temporary quarters. Property must be secured and a church building erected to meet the growing demands of the local situation.

Sayaboury A survey trip was made early in the year into the newly-created province of Sayaboury, formerly a part of the Luang Prabang province. One Christian village is situated here and many who had turned away during the war were won back to faith and fellowship at that time. It was not found possible to locate a missionary in this area during the year but Sayaboury is high on the list of missionary objectives in North Laos. Earnest prayer and adequate financial backing will be necessary to establish a missionary couple in this pioneer province.

Bible School The North Laos Bible School closed its first session in its new location in Luang Prabang late in March and opened again in early October for its second session. Language requirements having been met by the staff, official authorization was finally granted and classes began with 17 men and women from all over Laos, representing many classes, types, and dialects.

The dormitory buildings require further work, although they are habitable. A new two-room class building of simple but adequate design was put up during the year and met a very real need.

Through illness, ignorance, and to some extent by insubordination, the enemy launched a sustained attack on this focal point and much prayer is urgently needed to assure the desired results in this strategic aspect of the work. (The second year of school work ended on March 31st 1950 and the students proceeded to various posts of service, mainly among the existing Christian communities. One family decided that the grade was too stiff and withdrew from school in early February. Several of the others are very promising material but all need divine anointing for effective and fruitful service G.E.R.)

Workers Between sessions of the Bible School the students carried on in the various districts. Their ministry leaves much to be desired but a baptism of the Spirit of God, together with a constantly renewed anointing, would transform these men and women into faithful and fruitful servants of the Saviour. One pre-war evangelist, the only full-fledged although unordained worker in the field, returned to North Laos in mid-year and is doing valiant and valuable work both in the Bible School and in the Luang Prabang district. One and all are the object of the attack of Satan and need to be surrounded by faithful intercession.

Missionary effectives have been increased, at the expense of China, by two couples evacuated from that land and permanently appointed to North Laos. On completion of their study of French at Dalat they will be assigned to language study in North Laos.

Transportation During the year an outboard-powered native boat was put into service on the Mekong River and its tributaries in the Luang Prabang district. Toward the end of the year the long-looked-for four-place plane was delivered to Luang Prabang, where it immediately began its worth-while work of making possible Regional inter-station travel, by reducing the prohibitive amount of time involved otherwise in such travel. (1949 saw North Laos missionaries, in the aggregate, absent from their stations the equivalent of one complete missionary year -- the plane ought to obviate most of this waste in the future!). There is

still need for mechanical equipment, for the work both in Vientiane and in Luang Prabang is seriously handicapped by lack of automotive transportation -- jeep, carryall, car! This need has received Mission approval and the Lord will surely provide.

Translation and Publication Work 1949 saw the completion of the basic retranslation of the New Testament in the Lao language. At present neither personnel nor time is available for the detailed check-work leading up to preparation for printing. In the meantime, Scripture portions and Gospel literature have been produced by photographic and offset process through the good offices of the Scripture Gift Mission and the Bible Meditation League. In addition, stencils and paper have been supplied by the latter group of friends to the Bible School, making it possible to put text-material into the hands of the students.

A booth was secured at the 12th month festival of 'That Luang' at Vientiane and at Luang Prabang. Considerable quantities of Bibles, Scripture portions, and Gospel literature in several languages and in the amount of several hundreds of piasters were distributed and sold to folks from near and far. (In the early months of 1950 a considerable quantity of Gospel literature available in Siamese was translated into Lao and is now awaiting thorough checking and final preparation for printing. We believe this can be done by the offset process in Saigon after being carefully written out by hand in the Lao script. Lack of time and personnel may delay this work until early 1951! G.E.R.)

Studying French at Dalat

Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Tubbs

Rev. and Mrs. M. M. Sawyer

-o-o-o-o-

Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Clingen "Since last Conference, Mrs. Clingen has been actively engaged in an extensive program of Child Evangelism in the city of Luang Prabang. Meetings have been held weekly in our home for the children of our neighbourhood. Weekly services of a similar nature have been held in several nearby villages. Regular S.S. classes have also been conducted.

"Upon our return from Conference, we learned that we could no longer rent our former chapel. For several weeks, meetings were held in the missionary residence but finally another meeting place was secured. Although far from desirable, it has served as a chapel for the past six months. Here several have confessed Christ as Saviour.

"Because of the undesirability of the chapel in question, God has led us out into an extensive effort in getting the Gospel to every part of the city. Hand bills have been mimeographed and each Sunday afternoon a band of Bible School students visits a section of the city where an open-air service is to be held, to give out invitations and to secure a place for the evening meeting. In this way we do not conflict with the authorities who might question our holding street meetings in this Buddhist capital. Hundreds who would not otherwise have entered a chapel have heard the Gospel. Many Scripture portions have also been sold.

"The Annual Christmas services, called a "Boon", were held under our house. This was our first experience in running such a "boon". About 125 Christians from nearby villages and the city proper attended. Everyone pitched in to decorate and prepare for the festival. It was a spiritual feast and a great success. A baptismal service was held in the afternoon when 9 were baptized. A great evening service was attended by many of the heathen who came to see pictures shown via the magic lantern. The testimonies given and the many hymns sung gave evidence of God's Grace and saving power.

"Muong Teng is the center of a Christian Khamoo Community several days' journey to the north of us. I had the privilege of making this trip with our native evangelist, Mr. Saly. Gospel services were held each night of our journey both to and from the point in question. At Muong Teng we had the joy of meeting over 200 believers who had gathered to welcome us. No missionary had ever visited them and they were delighted to meet us. A most profitable week-end was spent with them. We found two chapels in this area and only regret that we were not able to visit all the villages in this vicinity.

"Muong Sai, several days further journey overland and north of Muong Teng has not been visited to date. Last month a former Bible School student from that village came to bring his older brother to the hospital to undergo a serious operation. He is on the mend and if he quits the hospital soon, we hope to return with them to visit the believers in this area. If such a visit cannot be made before Conference, it is hoped that such a trip can be made immediately upon our return.

"Ban Kok Ngio, a Christian village about 15 kilometers from Luang Prabang, has had many visits both by the missionary and Bible School students. A building was recently purchased by native funds and alterations made for a chapel. At the same time the believers have erected a worker's residence, hoping a student-worker will be assigned to this community in April. In a week or two it is hoped that a dedication service will be held at which time a number of believers are to be baptized and a worker installed. This chapel will be used by several other villages in this area. These other villages were revisited by the missionary during the past Conference year; among these Khamoo peoples we are glad to report that several have prayed.

"The entire village of Ban Nong Heo "entered" the Jesus way early in 1949. Several visits have been made by the missionary and the Bible School students during the year as it is within a day's walk from Luang Prabang, accessible by road in the dry season and by river all year 'round. The topic under immediate discussion is the construction of a chapel and a worker's residence in this Khamoo Christian Community. It is hoped that a visit there this week-end will decide some important matters relative to said program.

"Ban Houei Sao is a Khamoo mountain village located near the provincial center of Sayaboury. Mr. Whipple and Mr. Gustafson visited this place last year and it was my happy privilege to pay a visit this year. There are many possibilities in the Sayaboury area and it is hoped that a missionary will soon be stationed there.

"Besides these Communities (in several instances a community represents several Christian villages) we have had the privilege of preaching in villages along the river. The FRANK-ANN (our motor-powered pirogue) has been a means of reaching these villages. All in all, a new interest is being shown in the Luang Prabang district. It is earnestly hoped that this interest will bring forth much abiding fruit."

Rev. and Mrs. T. J. Andrianoff

"In January 1949 we arrived at Xieng Khouang to re-open this station which had not been occupied by a missionary since the war. To our knowledge there are no native Christians in the Xieng Khouang province. Without a native worker and having a very limited knowledge of the language we have been unable to do any evangelistic work other than witnessing at every opportunity. Our time has been concentrated on language study, but with many difficulties. To find a competent teacher has been impossible. However, the chief Laotian administrator has offered to teach us. But, with his many duties he often finds it difficult to spare the time. Therefore, most of the time we have had to study without a teacher. To add to this, we were unable to return to our station until four and a half months after conference, due to the rainy season having begun before conference was over and the lack of transportation to Xieng Khouang during that period. In spite of this, we have passed our first and second language examination and expect to have third taken by June 1950.

"The Lord has given us some wonderful contacts. Among them are the chief Laotian administrator for the Xieng Khouang province and the chief of the Miao tribespeople. The chief Laotian administrator has shown a great deal of interest in the Gospel. Although he has not yet made open confession, I believe he is not far from the Kingdom. He was very pleased to receive the Scriptures and catechism which I presented to him and assured me that he would read them faithfully. He is of the royal family and, although very young, his influence reaches into every village of the province. His conversion will be of untold benefit to the spread of the Gospel in this district. The Chief of the Miao has also shown considerable interest in the Gospel. The Lord willing, we will, in the immediate future, begin weekly trips to different villages to witness. The doors are now wide open, but we know not for how long." (A promising young first-year student-worker went to Xieng Khouang in April 1950. Already encouraging word of his work is being received. There is a steady sale of Gospel literature and a Miao family, first fruits from this tribe, has accepted the Gospel. Other inquirers are reported -- may God, by His Spirit, give bountiful increase as the Seed is sown! G.E.R.)

Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Gustafson

"This past year we have been studying the Laotian language in Vientiane. Besides the responsibility of the district we have held services each Sunday and done weekly visitation among the local Christians. Many hundreds of Scripture portions were sold and much good accomplished for God at the two large fairs held in Vientiane during the year.

"We were able to contact several chiefs of the Miao Tribespeople and received unanimous invitations to preach the Gospel among these people.

"Two trips were made to Saigon for the plane, once to get it and once to take it back for repairs."

Dalat District As we look back over another year we wish to give thanks to God for material and spiritual blessings. At the beginning of the year, and on through Conference, Mrs. Jackson and I remained in the Home for Missionaries' Children. As in former years our time for Tribes work was very limited. But, on July 15, we moved to "Les Ravines"; a small property half a mile below the Mission Compound on the Saigon Road. We are thankful for the 20 years of service in the Home, but we now wish to devote what remains of our missionary career to work among the Tribes, to whom we felt called in 1929.

The members of the Tribes Regional Conference met in November at Banmethuot for a mid-year session. The Vietnamese missionaries to the Tribes were also present. The days we spent in Conference were times of fellowship and refreshing. We thank God for the Tin, Nhuong and Nam families, who labor with us. These divinely called men and women are giving themselves untiringly to the peoples of this hinterland.

"Les Ravines" Toward the end of April we began to move the Bible School. Excavations had to be made in the mountainside for platforms on which to construct the necessary buildings, which would include long-house dormitories, a dining-room, a kitchen, and a guest house. A house for Pastor Nam and his family also had to be constructed. The garage at "Les Ravines" has served as a chapel and classroom. This is our temporary Tribes' Center, but early in 1950 we hope to move to a much larger place that adjoins our Vacation Property, where we plan to establish ourselves permanently.

Koho The Tribes in this district are five in number, namely: Sre, Riong, Lac, Cil, and Ma. They are the aborigines of this section of the country, an utterly neglected race. For centuries they have been called MOI, which means 'savage'. These people are primitive indeed, but they are not savages, though only semi-civilized. The Government is now abandoning the word MOI to adopt the Cham word KOHO. In speaking among themselves the people refer to one group or another by the name of the Tribe, and so do we, but the general term that will be used from this time on is KOHO.

Language We have been working on the language since 1929, when we reduced it to writing and prepared a small grammar. In 1936, the authorities chose to adopt an alphabet that could be used in writing the languages of all the Tribal groups in Southern Indo-China. We were pleased to co-operate, but it meant a revision of our entire work. Now, since the war, Government school teachers have been using a method of their own. Toward the middle of the year, we requested the Director of Schools to form a Language Commission inviting all who were interested to an open discussion of the subject and to draw up rules by which all would abide. A Commission was formed and a meeting was held at Dalat on August 1st 1949. Certain changes were made to which all of us agreed. We were now once more obliged to rewrite everything that we had prepared in the Koho language. This is a task we have not yet completed, but will be worth the extra work.

Translation Work Very few portions of the Bible are in the hands of the people, but many passages have been translated. Our objective is to translate and to print the entire New Testament and parts of the Old Testament.

Bible School The Koho Bible School at Dalat has had the second largest attendance of any Bible School in Indo-China this year, with 27 men and 16 women following the courses of study. Some of the new students came with money to pay their board, which was a great encouragement to us.

There are no fully trained men, so the students are the preachers, and the preachers are the students, which we call, student-preachers. These men, and their wives, attend a course of study at the Bible School and then return to their circuits, where they instruct the people. After a certain time in the district (from six-weeks to two months depending upon the season), they come back to Dalat for more classroom work.

Mrs. Jackson has been devoting most of her time between sessions to the preparing of lessons. She has found the flannelgraph method most advantageous. We have been pleased to see how the students have been able to repeat their lessons when preaching in the villages. Of a truth, the people understand the Gospel better when taking it in through two channels (by hearing and by seeing).

Week-end Work The object of the week-end work has been twofold. We are always anxious to contact forest folk that come to Dalat to work or to barter. Some of the students leave Saturday morning to return in the afternoon. Others leave for two days. They endeavor to witness among the people that work on neighboring farms and plantations, in wood lots, at the stone quarry, in gardens, at the market or wherever the people may be found.

The second reason for the week-end work is to accompany the students. We like to go with them for the joy of service. But more than that, we go with them to show them how to work. We can not go with them all, but we try to go in a different direction each week. In this way, we know what groups are being reached and how.

We are constantly meeting Christians in and around Dalat that are members of jungle churches far and near. On Sunday they worship at "Les Ravines". When in Dalat on the Lord's day, we look forward to this time of fellowship.

Jungle Trips The re-organizing of the work in the jungle, that is vast and very mountainous, has taken considerable time and a great deal of money. The trail equipment we had before the war was lost. Little by little we have been able to replace this equipment and have made several extensive tours. A tent and a tarpaulin were sent from America. Smaller articles of importance have been purchased out here. Good horses were difficult to find but we now have five that have proven themselves on dangerous mountain trails.

Visiting in the villages is a very important part of our work. We meet the student-preachers regularly, and we see the Christians that come to the city, but nothing can replace a visit among the people. If we could drive a car to the villages, our district work would be comparatively easy. But many of the people are peak dwellers and to reach them we have to follow steep, sinuous trails that take us over mountain range after mountain range.

All our provisions and sleeping equipment are packed into baskets that are carried on the backs of men. Our caravan often stretches out

over a kilometer or more, for in addition to a dozen or more carriers, the missionary party is always accompanied by guides, preachers and a goodly number of Christians.

We always try to reach a village before sundown, but if that is impossible, we set up our encampment wherever night overtakes us, or go on with torchbearers until we come to water, which is indispensable for ourselves and for the animals. We never know, when leaving home, just how long we will be in the jungle, but are generally away for a couple of weeks at a time. On arriving at a village, we are not sure when we may leave. We always remain in a place until we feel that our ministry is ended. We seldom stop for a night only and sometimes stay for three or four days.

Christian Villages As among all peoples, Christians in this district live beside their unbelieving neighbors. But I have witnessed something among the Kohos that I have never seen in America, and that is an entirely Christian village. Furthermore, I have gone from one village to a second and on to a third village without meeting a pagan.

French Army Officers, who have spent years in this region, state that they have never seen anything to compare with the transformation that has come to these Koho villages through the preaching of the Gospel. In the place of ignorance, filth and many signs of devil worship, they see a well dressed, open, earnest, clean and happy group of people, with no fetish to be found. A gift, to the visitor, of a chicken with rice and fruit replaces the traditional pagan offering of a jar of rice alcohol.

Chapels The Mission has never given money for the building of chapels in this district. From the beginning of the work, the Christians have been encouraged to build their own places of worship. Adjoining the chapel there are generally accommodations for the preacher and a guest room. We have been surprised to see the originality displayed in their buildings. We have never seen two chapels alike. Not only the plans are different, but the designs worked into the woven bamboo walls are often different. They are unique. Ten new chapels were dedicated this year.

For 20 years we have been witnessing to the Lacs, who live in the 'open country' at the north of Dalat, and for 20 years we have waited for these people to accept the Gospel. Held in fear of the 'big Spirit', that is said to dominate the Lac Tribe from Mount Langbian, the people have not dared to give up their pagan practices. We rejoice to state, however, that in the village of Bon Nor about 150 people have turned to the Lord, who have built a chapel at the very base of that mountain. This is indeed a monument to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Meetings The meetings held in the various chapels by the missionary party resemble our conventions in America. Beginning at dawn, the people gather for prayer. At 9:00 o'clock, they are back in the chapel again to learn new hymns. After a period of singing there is a Bible study for Believers that is always followed by prayer. The afternoon session begins with the learning of Scripture. This is followed by a flannel-graph talk and a children's meeting. Committee meetings and special interviews are held in the late afternoon. In the evening, we gather for testimonies and an evangelistic message. This program is followed in the churches day after day as we moved from village to village. The response on the part of the people is most gratifying, but I often feel

Finally, at the close of the last meeting, we dealt with him alone. He was truly sick of a Chieftain's life of sin---wanted to repent and get right with God. Inviting us to his house, he called his family together and stated in the presence of them all that he now wished to become a Christian. Furthermore, he urged his entire household to join him. They did, and in that hour, the County Chief and his family accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Kneeling around the central fireplace, Krong, formerly hated above all others, helped Tung with his first prayer.

The carriers had already hit the trail and the horses were saddled for our departure, but within a very few moments the news of Tung's conversion had been heard throughout the village. Immediately, another County Official (third in rank), wanted to make a public confession of faith. The sorcerer of Par Somac then chose to forsake his witchcraft to follow Christ. Four groups in 4 sections of the village called for one member or another of the missionary party to pray with them. Within an hour no less than 50 people joined the happy group of Believers. It is evident that Tung's militant attitude against Christianity had kept these neighbors out of the Kingdom. But, with the County Chief now a Christian, the hindrance was removed and the villagers with one accord revealed their faith in Christ.

Needs There are opportunities on every hand. It is a fact that we are unable to take full advantage of the openings about us. We need a missionary to take responsibility in the Bible School, where men and women are being prepared to take the 'Good News' to the tribal groups of this tremendous district. We need money regularly throughout the year to support Bible School students, young people who are anxious to study the Word of God. There is also an immediate need for a large sum of money to enable us to construct permanent buildings at the new Tribes' Center. The time is short but we want to occupy until our Lord's return. May the Lord speak to those who want to enter into active missionary work. Gifts designated for students support or for Bible School buildings are as necessary to the spread of the Gospel as the going forth of a missionary.

Banmethuot District

Rev. and Mrs. Gordon H. Smith
Rev. and Mrs. N. R. Ziemer
Miss C. F. Schon (1950)

Rev. & Mrs. G. H. Smith "We look back upon the year 1949 as one of preparation for a great advance in 1950. It is our custom to make a list of projects that we believe the Lord would have us accomplish during the ensuing months, and as we look over the list for last year, we rejoice to see how He has answered prayer and made possible many advances.

"While hostilities have made missionary travel in many parts of Indo-China not only difficult but impossible, we are thankful that in most of our vast tribal regions there is comparative peace. We are able to go about unhindered except on the borders near the coast. Here in these high plateaus and mountains, the wide open doors beckon us to hasten and establish the Church of Christ while we still have time to do it.

"We are at last experiencing the greatest response to the Gospel message that we have ever known, and, as we have often said, we believe

that this is truly God's time for these tribespeople. There is every evidence that now is the time to push forward and evangelize the scores of tribes still unreached. There is an open-ness of heart and a desire to hear the Gospel. Calls come from all directions for us to preach and send workers. Big Chiefs are offering to build chapels in their villages if we will send them preachers. We are almost overwhelmed with the opportunities.

Manning New Outstations "The lovely new chapel at Dak Song among the Mnong Nong people is manned by two Mnong Freh preachers, whose dialect is similar, and they have been faithfully preaching during the year. Built of termite-proof wood with cement tiles on the roof, it nestles among the giant trees of the forest, its white cross signifying for the first time in this area, the new and living way for demon-appeasers to find peace of heart. School children meet to sing and pray, and contacts with this tribe of semi-wild primitives are being made each day. They are picturesque in their loin cloths, ivory ear plugs, brass ornaments in their hair and coils of brass wound around arms and legs.

"In the first ten days of this new year some of the preachers have sent in wonderful reports already. One man has brought the names of twenty-five new converts with an offering of money from them. In a new district among the Mnong Gar, 60 miles south of Banmethuot, where last year 14 people were clandestinely offered in human sacrifice, our two new workers reported a whole village of 250 turned to Christ. It is most important to have workers stay in such places, to lead the converts on in the Lord. At Plaosiang, among the Bih people, a big chief wrote in last month requesting a preacher, and offering to build him a house to live in. There are five or six villages with thirty or some new converts who have been asking for preachers to help them. Some of these have been ready for baptism for some time.

"We are glad to see nearly all of our preachers decide to tithe allowances, turning back the money into the fund for the support of new workers. Several of the preachers will be supported this year by their congregations, thus releasing funds for further extension.

Leper Work "We have been greatly encouraged at the interest our friends are showing in our leper project. Miss Charlotte Schon, R.N. and another registered nurse from America will be in charge of the medical work. Miss Schon has been in Indo-China for three years and has done valuable nursing at the school for our children at Dalat, and also at the Bible Institute in Tourane.

"In the meantime, the necessary authorizations for this work have been obtained, and we are encouraged by the sympathetic attitude of the Government towards this much-needed undertaking. The land is costing us nothing. It will be eight miles from town on a small stream with a good road leading to the grounds. With the co-operation of the American Mission to Lepers, we expect to erect a clinic building, nurses' residence, dormitory or individual cabins for the lepers, chapel, storeroom, overseer's house, etc..

Great Days Ahead "As we see the wonderful possibilities which lie ahead in the coming days, we are greatly humbled to see how God designs to entrust us with so great a task. The map before us shows great unreached areas, names of many untouched tribes, centers that should be manned by missionaries and native workers, but we have committed all

this to our God with whom nothing is impossible. We are often made to realize that it is you in the homeland who are really doing this work, for many times we feel actually pushed along by some great Force, which, in spite of ourselves and our weakness, is determined now to reach these people.

"Our hearts are filled with praise to God, and thankfulness to you. We trust that you will receive as much joy in sharing this great burden and responsibility as we have ourselves in being here with our dear brown-skinned, loin-cloth tribespeople."

Rev. and Mrs. N. R. Ziemer "The year 1949 has been our first year of active miss-
ionary work among the Raday Tribespeople of Indo-China.

Both Mrs. Ziemer and I have continued our study of the Raday tribal language. In addition to that we have done some translation of the Bible into the Raday language. With the help of our teacher we have translated the books of Genesis, Jonah, Matthew, Acts, Romans, and First Corinthians. These translations will stand in need of further correction for perfection of idiom but it is at least a start.

"The months of July through December were spent teaching in the Raday Bible School. The school was divided into three two-month terms. During that time we had the privilege of teaching the book of Genesis 3 times, the book of Romans twice and a class in Christian Catechism once. Forty-four students were enrolled in our Bible School. One of these, Y Kdlak, was lost through death.

"A Sunday School was started in July in the Banmethuot Chapel with an average attendance for the 6 month period of 92. Both Mrs. Ziemer and I ha_ve taught in the Sunday School.

"Chapel services have been held nightly with but few interruptions throughout the year. I have been preaching on Tuesday and Friday nights since July.

"Thirteen different villages have been visited on Sunday afternoons or other preaching services, resulting in 49 people praying to become Christians. According to our records 218 have prayed and accepted Christ in the Banmethuot area this year. However, this is a conservative number as it includes only those that I have witnessed or have been reported to me directly. It is not inclusive of all the nine outstations where preachers have been stationed during the past year. There have been 145 baptized in this area during 1949 by Rev. Gordon Smith and me.

"The Christmas Conference was attended by approximately 400 Christians with the subject of tithing and self-support being strongly stressed. The people seemed favorable in their attitude and we hope there will be a good response.

"After Christmas the student-preachers returned to their posts of service and eight new outstations were opened. Constant witnessing by resident pastors is now going on in 17 different places including Banmethuot.

"We also wish to give tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Nhuong, the Vietnamese missionaries working with us here. They have done a remarkable piece of work throughout the year in the chapel, in the Bible School, and among the villages."

Pleiku District Rev. and Mrs. T. G. Mangham

"At the beginning of 1949 we had our chapel here at Pleiku, with a few students studying in our Bible School. There were a number of Christians in different villages, but no group meeting regularly. As the year came to a close, we were rejoicing because of the three outstations which have been opened, and where there are small groups of Christians meeting regularly. We have six young men whom we consider as student-preachers. These six have attended two full Bible School sessions, some of them more.

Plei Tomong -- "Through frequent visits by the missionary, Mr. Tin, the Vietnamese missionary, and student-preachers, interest had been stirred up in this village, and a nucleus of eight or ten Christians asked that a permanent worker be placed there. At the beginning of the year it was decided to open an outstation there. A small chapel was built, partly with foreign funds, and partly with help from the Christians and those interested. Nightly services have been held there since March 1949, with an average attendance of between forty and sixty. There are now some twenty-five who have confessed Christ, and twelve baptized Christians in this village. Three new students have come to our Bible School from this outstation. The worker in this outstation has preached in surrounding villages, where many others have prayed.

Plei Kli -- "An outstation was opened here in April, because of the importance of this as a center from which scores of villages can be reached. We have been especially happy because of the whole-hearted interest of the children in the government school there. The people in this section are very eager to hear. One can go into a village, and a large crowd will gather to listen to the message given. However, they have been slower to respond. A number of our students are from this area.

Plei Cu Ti -- "This is another center where the French have a school and clinic for the people. Mr. Tin, through his contacts with the Vietnamese Church, had received gifts, which he wished to use toward the opening of an outstation. A native longhouse was built with funds received entirely from this source, and a new Lighthouse was established the month of December. From first indications, this promises to be one of the most fruitful areas yet entered in our district. There are a number of fine young men who have expressed a desire to enter Bible School.

Pleiku -- "At our station at Pleiku we were faced with the need of Bible School accommodations. The one longhouse, built in 1941, had served as chapel, Bible School, and room in the rear was used for the students living quarters. In October we started work on a new longhouse, located on the Mission property. We built this house to serve as a dormitory for the students whom we have studying at Pleiku. One room was partitioned off in the front to serve as a class-room until better accommodation can be had. The former longhouse continues to serve as a Chapel where nightly services are conducted.

"All of this expansion work has been made without extra help from the Mission. We feel that our work this year has been in getting a framework constructed upon which we are trusting the Lord to allow us to build for His Glory. This has been a year of planting houses and workers in new areas, and we are trusting the Lord for the increase. In all of the work which has been reported, and other duties not given in this report, we wish to acknowledge the consecrated and competent help of Mr.

and Mrs. Tin, our Vietnamese colleagues. They began the work here nine years ago, and because of their understanding of the people, their knowledge of the language and the province, they have been of inestimable assistance in the district, Bible School, translation and every other phase of the work."

Djiring District

Rev. and Mrs. G. E. Irwin

"We praise God for the marvelous way He has blessed here during this past year. From the very day of our arrival the people have shown interest in the Gospel. It has been our special privilege to be located right beside the Tribes' Public School, as a result of which nearly fifty students have regularly attended our services. Many of these students have accepted the Lord and are happy in their new freedom from the bondage of sin.

"One day Mr. Nam, our Vietnamese missionary from Dalat, visited the teacher in this school. It so happened that another Sre teacher from Blao, (about 25 miles from here) was present. Mr. Bling became interested and invited us to talk to the boys in his school at Blao. Here the Lord opened another door and we had a chance to preach the Gospel to another group of needy souls. Immediate interest was shown and we have gone back every Saturday. Fifty-six of the students have accepted Christ. Praise His Name."

Studying in France

Rev. and Mrs. Wm. A. Smalley
Rev. and Mrs. G. Linwood Barney

Pop: 4 million
Rev. D. W. Ellison, Regional Chairman

Kompong Cham District Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Taylor

On the banks of the Mekong north of Kompong Cham lies a village bordered by rice fields. A goodly number of natives gather to hear what the foreigner had to say on the day of his visit. A simple message on "Jesus Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life" was given, as a result of which seven expressed their desire to accept Christ as God and Saviour. An elderly lady among them, mouth filled to capacity with ~~peanuts~~ betel nut, prayed in all earnestness with the others. Although she appeared unpromising, the Lord answered her prayer of repentance in a remarkable way. This poor soul had been bound for years by the grip of dreaded superstition and Satanic power. She did not dare walk under her house or sleep in her bed without abuse from the evil spirits she worshiped. After the service she went home and disposed of her idols and the shelf of sacrifices, also cutting off the ceremonial strings binding her to Satan, which had been tied about her neck, arms and legs. Later she said, "I went home and wanted to pray again giving myself wholly to the Lord, but my mouth was so filthy!" So she spit out her chew through the cracks of the floor, cleaned her mouth with water and then prayed. Later we saw her with cobwebs hanging on her hair. She had been under the house in defiance of the fears of her old life, to gather some precious eggs for an offering to the Lord. On our last trip to her village we found her rejoicing in the Lord. Her husband and a nephew have both accepted Christ and now there are 14 believers in this new center. Praise the Lord.

A dear old lady, 80 years of age, who has been a Christian for years, fell and seriously injured her leg and hip. It seemed apparent to all that she had taken the last step she would ever be able to take. She lay in bed for weeks hardly able to move but determined that the Lord would let her walk again. A few days ago who should walk into our home but this old lady. Although one leg is noticeably shorter than the other she gets about well, praising the Lord. She said if she had not been a child of God, she would be dead three times over.

Battambang District Rev. and Mrs. H. K. Sechrist
 Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Doty
 Rev. and Mrs. Merle Graven (1950)

A young man from the outstation of Chanda Sva was stricken with a violent form of malaria and brought in to the Government hospital in town where he wasted away to nothing but skin and bone. When the missionary visited him, he seemed ashamed of being identified with the Christians. The French doctor who knows a little English, in reply to the missionaries question as to whether there was any hope, replied in just one word 'dead'. Subsequent to that, much prayer was made for his recovery. The young man earnestly sought the Lord in his hopeless condition. Prayer was answered and he began to recover, but still the fever continued. Finally he was able to leave the hospital and was taken to the Mission Compound. Immediately the fever ceased entirely and from a mere skeleton he has now recovered sufficiently to return home. The days of miracles are not over.

Phnom Penh District

Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Hammond
Rev. and Mrs. F. C. Peterson
Rev. and Mrs. M. B. Steiner

Many instances of God's care and protection have been brought to our attention, but the following testimony of a young man who has been a Christian just a little over a year, is so outstanding that it bears repeating. About mid-night one dark night, his hut was suddenly surrounded with armed men and he was ordered to step outside. He obeyed their command and they bound his hands behind his back and then led him off to a lonely place some distance from where he lived. Then the twelve of them with their rifles pointed towards him, surrounded him and began to ask questions. In the first place why was he following the Frenchman's God? Wasn't the Cambodian God good enough for him? With these questions flung at him by men who hold life very cheaply, the Lord gave Phat calm assurance, and this, in essence, is what he told them. "I do not worship a French God, but the true Cambodian God, for there is only one God. The missionaries have come here to tell us about Jesus who died for our sins, and I have accepted Him and now He lives in my heart. You worship your god, but you leave him in a temple far away, and then you go and do as you please. You drink alcohol, steal someone else's wife, lie and cheat because your god can't help you. But our God lives in our hearts that He has made clean, and He is right with us all the time to help us." There were no interruptions while he was giving his testimony, and when he finished, instead of a volley of lead going into his body, the men standing around started to clap their hands! Then they invited him to eat rice with them, and sent him home unharmed. Surely the Lord was with his servant that night.

Siem Riep District

Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Doty (1950)

Kratie District

Rev. and Mrs. Ed. Thompson (1950)

Deliverance from Perils seen and unseen

A faithful member of the Kampot Church was recently delivered from death in a miraculous way. He was traveling in a native bus from Kampot up the mountain of Bokor where he worked, when suddenly the bus was fired upon from three directions. All of the ten passengers were killed immediately except himself and a little boy whom he covered with his own body. The bus driver escaped by throwing himself out of the bus and rolling into the overgrown ditch which paralleled the road and crawled away to safety. After the initial attack these murderously-minded men came out from the thick undergrowth of the surrounding forest and finding the Christian unscathed, tied his hands behind his back with the intention of shooting him immediately. Fortunately in their midst was a man who knew this brother and spoke up in his behalf saying that he was a very good man and most benevolent; so his life was spared and he was released, praising God for miraculous deliverance.

While driving along the main highway about 65 kilometers from Phnom Penh, Mr. Ellison suddenly was fired upon by unseen Issarak or bandits. The first bullet went through the front door passing through two thicknesses of metal and one of glass before tearing a hole through his trousers and the upper side of his pocket in the region of his groin. It failed to penetrate further but left a large red spot on his leg. The second shot was more serious for after piercing the rear side window, the bullet wounded a Cambodian in the forehead causing a fracture of the

skull. Other shots were fired as the car speeded forward to escape unseen foes who must have been hidden in the forest at the edge of the road not much more than seven yards away. The injuries inflicted on the Cambodian necessitated a major operation on the brain which was eminently successful, resulting in a complete recovery. "Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Who delivereth thy life from destruction."

Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Hammond "To date the New Testament has been revised and checked and is now ready for the Press. As soon as the new font of type arrives from France it will be set up and printed. The Gospels of John and Luke and the book of The Acts have been printed and are being distributed by the Gospel Bands. The typesetters are now setting the type for the Gospel of Mark, to be followed by Matthew. The type is set for two tracts but so far they haven't been printed.

"The Old Testament has been revised over half way through the Psalms and checked by the committee through First Chronicles. It is now being copied by the copyist. We trust that the whole Old Testament will be ready by the end of the year. Permission has been given to build the press room and we trust the construction will begin soon so as to have more room for the machine etc.

"We have charge of the children's work in the main chapel in Phnom Penh and trust that the Sunday School can be really organized this coming year. We have been handicapped for room and teachers. So far I have only one assistant for I want the Nationals to take it over. One young man was superintendent but is now out with the Gospel Band. Pray with us that there will be someone to take his place. Thursdays we have the Young People and they have been blessed as we have been taking a study of the Pilgrim's Progress. Now we are making a thorough study of the Gospel of John, memorizing large portions. We are taking a walk with the Lord through this Gospel and are thoroughly enjoying it. The Lord is using it to lead the children to appreciate the Word and to feed upon it.

"Every other Sunday we go to Oudong, a place forty-two kilometers from the city. The outposts from this village of Oudong are closed to us for the present, due to the unrest in the country. At the Colline d'Oudong where we had such large crowds of children who met under the tree, is now in the hands of the Issarakas but we have the promise that as soon as things quiet down again we will have permission to return. But in the village of Oudong we have a chapel. The adults have really refused to come and listen to the Gospel. At first many came and they heard so now they are without excuse. They say when the King of Cambodia accepts the Lord then they will too. A few adults come each Sunday to listen to the Sunday School. Crowds of children attend, often over the hundred mark. The workers there are really doing a splendid work. At first they were so sad that the adults would not come but after talking with them and showing them that the children were precious in the Lord's sight, they caught the vision. Now they are teaching with the blessing of the Lord. It is really thrilling to go there every other Sunday and see the progress in the hymn memorizing and singing. The children can answer many questions of former Bible stories. Several of them have accepted the Lord and some are being persecuted. We are praying that these children's lives will be the means of leading their parents to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Many Chinese children attend too and understand real well. In the city of Phnom Penh I have had the privilege of going to the Chinese school, held in connection with the Chinese church, to teach the Bible once a week. The interest is keen and they enjoy the flannelgraph stories. I teach through an interpreter. Some have accepted the Lord and are so happy.

"Through interested friends and our tithe we have been able to supply twelve workers with flannelgraph materials and boards. Others are begging me to give them some too but I have to turn a deaf ear for the time being. If the Lord leads I shall help others later. Even the adults like to see the Gospel stories told by means of pictures and sit as thrilled as the children. The Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodians do real well with this method of presenting the Bible. It is a joy to see the nationals taking charge and doing the Lord's work so efficiently. Pray for them."

Rev. and Mrs. D. W. Ellison "In January 1949 we terminated our ministry in Battambang where we had labored for the Master during four consecutive terms. Never before had we been appointed to another district, so it was with real tuggings at our hearts that we said goodbye.

"We moved into the unfinished Bible School buildings on Feb. 1st. and for many weeks suffered the inconveniences of dust, lime and workmen trailing in and out. By thus taking up our residence right on the spot we hoped to hurry things to completion and see that everything was finished off right. Alas! we were doomed to real disappointment for the work dragged on and on and much of it was far from satisfactory.

"Right in the midst of a three quarters finished building our Annual Cambodian Native Conference was held. It had been decided the previous year that it should be held in the new Bible School buildings at Ta Khmau. We tried to postpone the date but failed, so everybody had to put up with much inconvenience. However, there was a large gathering attended by believers from all over Cambodia, and a considerable number of local people in the evenings.

"Bible School opened its first session in the new Bible School buildings on July 1st, immediately after our return from Conference at Dalat. There were 13 men and 8 women students making a total of twenty-one. This was lower than the two previous years of School since our return after the war. However we had an increased teaching staff. Besides ourselves we had Mr. Nget Choy as a full time teacher for first year students and Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Hammond and Rev. and Mrs. F. C. Peterson as part time teachers. With the increased teaching staff, the vastly improved plant and the great advantage of a central location for the Bible School, we sincerely trust that we will have a greatly increased student body in the years to come.

"Our Chevrolet Carryall was a wonderful asset for we were able to take loads of as many as 12 students out on Saturdays and Sundays to evangelise in the city of Phnom Penh which is 10 kilometers distant, as well as in many other places near and far. God blessed these efforts and a number of souls were brought to the Saviour.

"We praise God for the opportunity of making known the saving grace and power of our living Saviour to our neighbors. Although so near to

Phnom Penh which was the first station to be opened in Cambodia, we found that these people were living in the profoundest heathen darkness. Mrs. Ellison's nursing ability has been a means of bringing scores to us. These have all been faithfully given the opportunity of hearing of the Saviour and some have come out for Christ. We are believing God to give us a real harvest in our immediate neighborhood. Christmas gave us an unusual opportunity of reaching the crowds who came, with the Gospel Message. The Bible School students presented the Christmas Story in a dramatic way, and two people made a decision for Christ."

Bible School

Number of Students	13 men	8 women	Total 21.
Number of fully self supporting students			2.
Number of partly self supporting students			7.
Number of students entirely supported by the Mission			12.
Number of full time teachers	Missionary		2.
" " "	Cambodian		1.
" part time teachers	Missionary		4.
Number of graduates			1.
Cost per year per student (six months)			\$37.00 U.S.
" " month for entire School			\$250.00 U.S.

Practical work "Every week end all men and some of the women students went out either on Saturday or Sunday and sometimes on both days, witnessing and distributing tracts and selling Gospel portions. Several long trips to Svai Reang and Kompong Chhnang were made, when the students were left in large villages or towns along the road on the outward trip in the morning and picked up in the late afternoon on the return trip. A similar thing was done along the road to Kompong Speu. Students went to several nearby places every weekend regularly throughout the entire school year. Every Tuesday night reports were given and definite prayer and intercession was made for those who had been contacted."

Rev. and Mrs. F. C. Peterson arrived back in Indo-China in the middle of March, 1949, happy to be back after a prolonged absence. Our appointment was to Phnom Penh, so by the end of the month we were established once again in the capital city of Cambodia, a city whose population has greatly swelled since we were last here. Due to the unsettled and dangerous conditions in so many of the country districts, thousands have taken refuge here in the city, thus affording great opportunity to reach those never contacted before. Three meetings a week are held in the Cambodian chapel, plus the prayer meeting held here in the Home on Wednesday nights. A children's meeting is held in the Vietnam chapel on Monday afternoons, with the lesson given both in Cambodian and Vietnam, thus reaching two groups of people. The Vietnam and Chinese churches have their own meetings under the guidance of their pastors.

"Traveling in the district has not been extensive, but we have been able to visit Kampot and Takco a number of times, going on one convoy day and coming back the next. Points not too far distant from Phnom Penh have been visited more regularly, and we praise God for the faithful witness that is being carried on by the native brethren in places where the missionary is unable to go very often. We thank the Lord for the protection He has always given from dangers seen and unseen.

"From the first of July 'till just after Christmas, it was our privilege to assist in teaching in the Biblo School, situated just five miles from Phnom Penh."

Rev. and Mrs. H. K. Sechrist "We assumed responsibility of the Battambang Station as soon as Mr. and Mrs. Ellison transferred the Bible School to Ta Khmau. Under the circumstances we were fully aware that taking over a district supervised by a veteran missionary who had pioneered and evangelized during a period of approximately twenty-five years would definitely not be an easy task. Previous to our coming to Battambang Mr. and Mrs. Ellison had undertaken establishing a children's hostel for the benefit of children residing in the country deprived of the privilege of attending government schools. Taking over the school was a new experience for us. We had to feel our way gradually, but after a year of some testing we are very encouraged with the prospects.

"Another activity foreign to our experience was the short term Bible School which we opened a month prior to our coming to conference last year. Though the attendance was not large yet we followed a planned curriculum which included music, studies in Doctrine, Outline of both Old and New Testament, and an Analysis of John's First Epistle. Four of the students went to study in the Long Term Bible School at Ta Khmau and at present several of them are members of gospel bands ministering between school terms. We praise the Lord for this opportunity of teaching His Word.

"In addition to these activities we made an effort to maintain normal contacts with the Outstations in the district besides the local church in Battambang. We regret to say that after visiting one or two stations, incidents occurred which endangered the lives of the local believers and for their sakes we have abstained from visiting those localities. Nevertheless, a contact with these Christians has been maintained. In other stations we have managed to have regular services with good attendance. A month ago an effort was made to reopen one of our Outstations that has been closed for several years. We trust it will prove more than an effort. However, traveling has become increasingly dangerous because of guerilla activity throughout the province, which means that contact with this post will be rather intermittent.

"We closed the year with a Christmas festival well attended from every area. The church was packed with a considerable audience standing outside. Christmas morning fifteen believers received baptism which rejoiced our hearts."

Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Taylor "Blessed be the Lord,--- there hath not failed one word of all His promise, which he promised---." I Kings 8:56
"May God grant that we shall have faith to believe and reveive His greatest promises for Cambodia and her perishing millions without Christ. The present tokens of blessing are most certainly the evidence of great showers on the way.

"The Kompong Cham District of Cambodia is now covered by two means of transportation, the mission launch "Mekong Evangel" and our car. In spite of greatly increased dangers because of the present strife, there has been a marked increase in the harvest of souls. As many as thirty at one time have received the Saviour.

"Our work has been predominately among the Cambodians, yet we have begun a ministry among the Vietnamese, Chinese, Chams and Steings. New Churches have been established this year among the Cambodians and Vietnamese.

"Our district has eight large rubber plantations, one of which is reputed to be the largest in the world, manned by thousands of Vietnamese, without a witness to the saving Gospel of Christ up to the present time. Our last visit to the plantations gave much cause for rejoicing. After one presentation of the Gospel of Salvation a large number knelt in the prayer of repentance for sin and expression of faith in Christ. They sealed their decision by cutting away the ceremonial strings of heathendom that were tied about their neck and body. The Director of this plantation has promised to build a church for the Christian Cambodians living there. The Vietnamese keep asking someone to come and preach to them. May we soon see this important need met." The story of how God is working among the Vietnamese in the city of Kompong Cham is told on page 45.

Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Doty "We have both told our first series of Bible Stories to Cambodians staying at the childrens Hostel in Battambang. I preached my first two sermons; we both passed our 3rd language exam; used our Jeep for some peculiar errands; did personal witnessing and house visitation and had regular habits of studying the language diligently. We happily ended our old year with expectations of moving to our own station (Siem Riep) in a couple of weeks."

Rev. and Mrs. M. B. Steiner "After having finished our French language course at Dalat, in December, 1948, we moved to the Phnom Penh Receiving Home, arriving there January 15, 1949. Then, on the 1st of February, we moved to the partially completed missionary residence on the Ta Khmau Cambodian Bible School property, five miles south of Phnom Penh. We have been occupying this building jointly with the D. W. Ellisons. Upon our arrival at Ta Khmau, we started the study of the Cambodian language immediately, and with the exception of the time taken for the Field Conference at Dalat, and the Native Conference here, we have been studying language about six hours a day, five days a week. Besides the conferences, Mrs. Steiner stopped studying for about a month because of the birth of our second son, Merrill Ray, who arrived on August 15, 1949. Mrs. Steiner has successfully completed the first part of the language course, having passed the required examination at its completion, and is ready to take her second examination in the very near future. Mr. Steiner has successfully completed the first two parts of the language course, having passed both of the required examinations.

"Because of the language barrier, there has been little opportunity for preaching and teaching among the people, though Mr. Steiner did preach through an interpreter on several occasions and accompanied Rev. F. C. Peterson and Rev. D. W. Ellison on trips to outlying stations.

"At the annual missionary conference at Dalat, in June, 1949, we were appointed to Kampot, a potential missionary station at the extreme southern end of Cambodia. However, during the months since conference, the door to this city has been repeatedly closed to us. We are looking to the Lord to guide us as to a possible change of appointment or a real opening of the doors to Kampot."

Rev. and Mrs. M. E. Graven "Dr. A. B. Simpson said, "An emergency is a situation which will brook no delay." Believing that the situation in Indo-China created an emergency, we were led to ask that our study of French at Dalat be concluded. This request was granted.

"Arriving at Battambang, Cambodia, on January 31, dirty, tired, and very hot, we were indeed grateful to our Heavenly Father for His presence and protection which had attended our way during the 842 kilometer journey through guerilla-infested territory.

"Cambodia with its magnificent coconut and sugar palms, multitudinous rice fields, saffron-robed priests, and copper-skinned natives, made lasting impressions upon our hearts. However, the greatest impression was made as I visited the city of Prey Veng, the capital of Prey Veng province with Mr. Ellison, our regional chairman. We found here a province comprised of 374,000 lost souls for whom Christ died. There is no resident missionary or native worker in this entire area which at the present time is comparatively calm and travel is unrestricted. This condition creates an EMERGENCY! These souls must hear the message of Life before eternity dawns upon their lives. Pray that a missionary couple and several native workers will soon be ministering in this area!"

Rev. and Mrs. Ed. Thompson A Recipe: "You take the Thompsons, an ordinary family from the region of Pennsylvania and place them under the call of God for active missionary service in Indo-China. Season them just a pinch with a few years of pastoral work in the United States. Then, add a few of this world's goods to carry them through a term of service, and bid them a prayerful "Bon Voyage". Allow them to steep for a time in prosaic language studies. Agitate greatly from time to time with the frustration of not being able to speak to apparently eager, Gospel-hungry heathen. Mix them well with veteran missionaries who are splendidly carrying out God's program. Whisk them to their station for a preview of their life's dream - a heathen village turning to Christ. Bake them in typical tropical heat, shaking well now and then in their jeep on washboard roads: Above all, pray earnestly for them.

"This recipe should yield, by the grace of God, many, many precious souls."

Another year has passed and still we cannot report a return to wide-spread peaceful conditions. We can, however, rejoice in the continued faithfulness of God, in His loving kindness, protection and blessing in the churches which we have been able to contact.

God has been pleased to give many encouragements in the midst of disturbances and care-full days. During the year the 'controlled' areas have expanded, making it possible for two more native pastors to have personal contact with the missionaries. These two have brought tidings of those still behind the 'curtain' who are ministering faithfully the Word of Life in the midst of extreme hardship and opposition.

The power of God has been manifested among those whom He has adopted as sons through belief in the all-powerful Name. In answer to prayer a little five-year-old girl was healed of meningitis, to the amazement of the attending doctor and nurses. Another was delivered from mental trouble and is once more praising God for His love and mercy. An elderly man suffered a severe heart attack and lapsed into a state of coma. As the pastor laid hands on him, he recovered and in a few days was working as usual and giving God the glory for such great deliverance.

Haiphong District

Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Van Hine

Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Poole (1950)

The Haiphong pastor reports a steady increase in the number of born again ones. Seventeen were baptized this past year and more than that number are now awaiting baptism. Although the church building is still incomplete, it is housing the growing congregation and the spiritual life is being deepened.

In addition to their regular church ministry, Mr. and Mrs. Van Hine have witnessed with encouraging results to many sick and wounded in the hospitals.

Nam Dinh District

Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson

After months of refusal, permission finally was granted for a native preacher to take up his ministry in Nam Dinh. Many evacuees have found their way back to this large center and once more the work is reviving. The 'controlled' zone now extends beyond Nam Dinh to include one of our largest groups of Christians where the Vietnamese pastor reports sixty-seven new baptisms and a sincere interest on the part of many in the Gospel message.

Pastor Hoang-trong-Nhut's Testimony

"During the past four years, my wife and I, our six children and over two hundred Christians from the Nam Dinh district have met with hunger, nakedness, fears and dangers of all kinds. Our church which was situated near the river where French convoys sailed back and forth between Haiphong and Nam Dinh, meant that we were exposed to shell and gun fire whenever the guerillas attacked the convoys. Although shells often burst around us, we thank God that not a Christian was ever hurt, nor were their homes destroyed, Hallelujah!

"During attacks we were forced to run and hide in bomb shelters, rice fields, or clumps of bamboo. In all kinds of weather and even in the middle of the night we fled with our children and what little we could carry. Sometimes while crossing streams, under a hail of flying bullets, some of us fell from the narrow bamboo bridges. The unsaved about us cried out in terror during these flights, but God enabled us to sing as we ran. 'Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me'. In spite of the noise from falling bombs and bursting shells, we enjoyed the blessing of God as we met each Sunday for worship. Between 1947-48, over one hundred souls were saved. I baptized seventy-two of these and planned to baptize thirty more in the Fall of 1949, but it was then that the French forces came to drive out the guerillas and many of our Christians fled from the scene of battle. Nevertheless, the Name of Christ has been greatly glorified."

Hai Duong District Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Taylor

The work at Hai Duong has been re-opened after several years without a witness in that center. At the special meetings which inaugurated the re-opening, seven accepted Christ. Among this number was a man who had heard the Gospel seventeen years ago, but who tried every other way except the Only Way. Surely we should take courage 'for in due season we shall reap...'.

Hanoi District Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Smith
 Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Mitchell

The Hanoi Church had a most encouraging year. Not more than one-fifth of the actual members have been able to break through the rigid control of the dissidents and return to their homes, but Christians from many other sections have come to this strategic center. There is a deep sense of responsibility among this group and in addition to bearing the cost of the entire upkeep of church and pastor, they are making definite plans to open a second chapel in the city, in an attempt to give the witness to as many as possible.

There are other openings which challenge our faith and we are looking to God for the means to open at least two other main centers which are easily accessible. The destruction of so many towns and villages makes it almost impossible to rent or secure equipment for a reasonable outlay, but we are trusting God to move the hearts of His stewards so that we may buy up every opportunity 'while it is yet day!'

The Word of God is going forth by printed page and verbal testimony. There is a great heart-hunger among the masses and in spite of all the insidious propaganda, God is working. Not many weeks ago an elderly man called on the missionary asking for further instruction in the Word of God. About four years ago he had purchased a Gospel portion which he read and pondered, but because of the internal strife, he had been unable to find either Gospel center or native worker. Through the reading of this Gospel of John he came to a heart knowledge of Christ as his Saviour and immediately set about to win his family and friends. In this isolated spot a little group has been meeting together, reading and re-reading the Gospel portion which brought infinite comfort and joy to them during these trying years.

May God enable us, by His grace, to give the Bread of Life to the needy multitudes of unevangelized Tonkin.

Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson heard the noise of guns, both large and small, we have been afraid. At such times, Ps. 91 and other Scriptures have been our comfort. God has delivered us from every danger. He has kept us from illness. For these benefits, we praise His Name!

"Meetings were begun in our home at the end of 1948. During 1949, we had a worship service Sunday morning and Visual Aid Lessons for children on Thursday of each week. Attendance has not been large.

"The parsonage was repaired and ready to occupy by the end of February 1949. The first application, presented by Evangelist Bang, for permission to come to Nam Dinh, was not granted. In answer to prayer, his second request was approved. We were happy to welcome him, with his family, on October 5th. Three days later, he moved into the parsonage. A week after that we began to hold meetings in the church even though it lacked doors and windows. These were made and put in place before the Christmas service. Pastor Thai, President of the Vietnam Evangelical Church, was with us for that gathering. Having no seasoned Christians, only a few enquirers and no evangelist with whom to fellowship, Mrs. Jackson and I appreciated a visit from Mr. Thai in April and another visit in September. After Evangelist Bang arrived, we began to meet with him and his wife to pray for the work. This meeting is held Sunday afternoon. As former Christians come back, we invite them to meet with us.

"It was not difficult to get acquainted with the people. We soon found that a large part of them, perhaps most of them, are Catholics. No attempt has been made to count those who asked us to teach English. Tracts have been distributed to many of those we met. About twelve Bibles in Vietnam Romanized, French, Chinese and English have been sold or given away besides French New Testaments. Folks have come to our home to enquire from time to time. A few of them wanted to practice on our organ or typewriter. Before the 1949 conference, Mrs. Jackson was busy preparing Sunday School Lessons for the Vietnamese churches.

"Near the beginning of 1949, fifteen or twenty prayed and accepted Christ. Three or four families came. We were rejoicing. They continued to come until we left for Conference the middle of May. While we were absent there was no preacher to visit the friends. Some moved to Hanoi or Haiphong. Two girls married unsaved men because there were no Christian men for them. Fighting has been going on just a few miles away; nobody trusts anybody; everything is unsettled; the struggle to get enough food and clothing is severe; prices are high and business is not good. Many say they are too busy to think about their sins and the need of their souls. We are told that more than we think believe secretly, but are afraid to declare their faith.

"In November, the Occupation Troops began to enlarge the area under their control. As Viet Minh have been driven out, Vietnam Catholic priests have administered the government in many villages and cantons. One of our pastors has served four groups of Believers for the last four years. The members have suffered less than some others. They have food and clothing. New members have been added. This pastor, with a deacon, visited us in December, but they returned to their homes for Christmas.

We have had no contact with other pastors. Some of them are thought to be in great need, having lost all their worldly possessions. Do pray for them!

"Three families arrived in the city in time to celebrate Christmas together. The deacon has now brought his family here to live. Now we have a few former Christians and their children with whom to rebuild this congregation, which used to be fully self-supporting. Can you visualize their problem? To patch up part of a wrecked house in which to live, and to start business with insufficient or no capital.

"Toward the end of the year, a Chinese girl about twenty-two years of age, began coming to the Sunday meetings. She would bring other Chinese girls to the church and, also, to our house to enquire. After a time, three of them prayed and accepted Christ. For a time, they were hindered from coming to service, but just lately, the leader of the group has come back again. Chinese men have come and one bought a Bible, but they do not attend meetings regularly. Please pray that they may come out boldly and become staunch Christians.

"A Vietnamese young man began to enquire before Christmas. He carries a New Testament with him and has a Bible at home. Rarely have we seen anyone so earnest as he in seeking to understand God's Word. Could it be we wonder if he has been sent to observe us. When he has opportunity, he will stay an hour or two asking questions about the Bible. Since he is willing to listen, we are doing our best to give him The Living Word of God. Pray that he may obey God in every detail of his life.

"A Bible Class for adults was started Feb. 21, 1950, using the Sunday School Lesson for 7-11-1948, taken from Amos 5:6-15, 21-24. Six men and five women were present.

"Reports of revival in Los Angeles and Boston make us desire to be quickened ourselves. We have begun to pray for revival here. We hope that soon the four local Christian families will be revived spiritually and will prosper in their business so that they may have time and money to proclaim the Gospel and to support their evangelist. We pray for peace, but until it comes all evangelicals are in grave danger. Please pray for us. II Thes. 3:1,2."

Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Van Hine "The year 1949 has been crowned with much blessing and progress which can be seen in a visible way. We are no longer in a temporary mat shed but in the church which still needs to be completed. We thank the Lord the walls are up, the roof on and windows in, to keep out the cold wind we get at this season. May He send us what is still needed to finish the Haiphong church building. The services are increasing in numbers each week and souls are being saved continually. When we consider the seriousness of the situation that surrounds us, it is nothing short of a miracle to have these encouraging results.

"Recently, we held a baptismal service when seventeen Vietnamese took this forward step. We must tell you about one of the men who was baptized, a former official. He is seventy or eighty years old and had tried every religion in the East but none of these satisfied him. His heart was still seeking peace when one Sunday morning in the bamboo shed he heard the message of Christ and His atoning work and gave his heart to the Lord. We see a definite change in him. He goes everywhere witnessing that the Lord not only gave him spiritual life but new

physical life as well. He is really an inspiration to us and to many who come out to the weekly meetings.

"The baptismal service would not have been complete without Ba Cu Duc. She is a former school teacher and is now seventy-two years old. She walked twelve kilometers to attend the service. She can only come a few times a year because of the distance, but in her village where she lives all alone, she is a shining light for the Lord. We can only visit her occasionally. There is frequent fighting in her vicinity at night but she is without fear as she prays and communes with her Lord.

"While the reconstruction work was still going on at the church during the summer, a sudden storm arose and the lightning flashed across the darkening sky. There was a crash as a thunder bolt struck the church. The workmen, knocked unconscious with five of them remaining in that condition. They had to be rushed to the hospital where they were given treatment but none died, for which we praise God. We pray as we meet in this unfinished edifice, that the Fire of the Holy Spirit will come down upon us all, consuming that which is not to His glory and convicting the unsaved of their sin. Please make it your prayer too.

"We were anxious before the end of the year to get to our former station along the frontier at Langson. I had made one trip there this past summer with the Chaplain for Tonkin and the Chief of the Chaplains for Indo-China. The trip was a profitable one, contacting the Christians isolated in that territory. We did not know how we would find the church but to our amazement it was in excellent condition. This is really a miracle with so much destruction all around. Most of the Christians are held behind the iron curtain. Nelly and I were ready for the second trip, up bright and early before day break and were at the airport waiting to take off. From the radio tower a message was delivered that no planes could land in Langson. We were disappointed but also knew the Lord was leading us, as it was getting "hot" along the frontier and this does not have reference to the weather! The first opportunity we have, we want to try and go again, so pray we will be able to make it and be kept safe.

"Because of the evacuation of missionaries in certain parts of China, Haiphong is having the privilege of Mr. and Mrs. Poole's ministry among the large Chinese population. You may remember our request for prayer for this aspect of the work and will rejoice with us that our colleagues are now here to take over that responsibility.

"Nelly keeps busy in the work among the Vietnamese and French. She makes regular calls at the hospital to visit the wounded. The cases are numerous and varied, they are the same as you would find in any base hospital during a war. Some are very pathetic. They should not be neglected so she takes them special things that they like, such as flowers from our garden, cool orange drinks, sandwiches and cookies. There is always an opportunity to witness and pray with them. The results are encouraging."

Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Taylor "The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm"(Nahum 1:3). "For thou hast been a --refuge from the storm"(Is.25:4). "In these days of turmoil and uncertainty, how privileged we are to have a Shelter in the time of storm. With civil war raging on all sides of us and with the time allotted to us to proclaim the Gospel seemingly dwindling before the advance of a false political ideology, we can thank God that not one missionary has been engulfed by the storm. We know not how long we will be permitted to stay, but we want to be faithful to the ministry committed unto us as long as it is ours to do. These seem to be the days when the "Kings of the East" are being prepared for the last great conflict of the ages by the Enemy of Souls. God keep us faithful as His Return for His own draws near.

"For us, this past year has been a busy, but much interrupted time of applying ourselves to the study of the Vietnamese language. We are grateful to God for the marvelous way in which He has raised up Lois to full health, for truly she is a living answer to prayer. Because of her condition at birth, we were forced to spend 5 months at Dalat, but you should see our little girl now; she is the picture of health. In November of '49 we moved here to Hai Duong, a stronghold of Romanism, that in past years has proved to be a very difficult center in which to work. A series of meetings lasting but 5 days started the work off, and seven prayed. Now, two months later, it seems that only one of these, and he a blind man has been really faithful. These are trying days, for we are not able to express ourselves satisfactorily in the native language, but we are trusting that the coming year will see rapid strides in our efforts to overcome the language barrier. This work needs much prayer and patient waiting for the expected results. At times it seems a bit discouraging but the power of God can work here as well as in places where the Gospel is more readily received. We would appreciate an interest in your prayers for this work, and for our own lives, that they might be the examples that they must be to reach the hearts of these people. In this province there are approximately one million souls for whom the Lord shed His Blood, yet we are not allowed to go more than four or five blocks from our residence. These "other sheep" in the outlying villages must be reached, but the civil strife prevents it. Pray for us, for the work, and for the Lord's will here, for "he hath His way in the storm..."

Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Mitchell "For the past year we have been here at Hanoi studying the Vietnamese Language. Last Conference we were appointed to go to Son Tay but we find that everything there has been destroyed and it is impossible to find a house. A short time ago we made a trip to the city of Ha Dong to look over the situation there. Many of the buildings have been destroyed there also, but we found one building for rent that would make a very good chapel with living quarters upstairs. However it would cost about 80.000 piasters to repair it. This amount would be deducted from the rent, so no rent would have to be paid for several years. A few kilometers from Ha Dong there is a little group of Christians, about 70 adherents, who have been meeting in one of the homes. If a chapel were opened in Ha Dong this little group would be glad to come and worship the Lord there. We feel that this is a great opportunity and challenge! Pray that soon we may be able to start making plans to take the Gospel of salvation to Ha Dong!"

Rev. J. D. Olsen, Regional Sub-Chairman

Tourane District

Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Olsen
Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Sawin
Miss C. P. Schon

The past year has not been one of spectacular advance, but rather one of concentrated effort to maintain and consolidate the already existing work. In this we have not been without some success, for in spite of war conditions under which most of our work is carried on, not a church or work has been permanently closed during the past 12 months. Two church buildings, however, have been demolished. The congregation of one of these is carrying on in a private home, hoping and praying for the day when they will be allowed to re-build their church.

Two outstations were opened in connection with the work at Cau Dat, near Dalat. At one of these a chapel has been built.

Two years ago, during a military operation, the church at Thu-Bon was totally destroyed. The pastor and his family were evacuated to Tourane and the Christians were scattered over the surrounding region. Six months ago one of our younger pastors felt the urge upon him to re-open this work. Finding favor with the chief of the military post there he was able to secure the use of the only brick house still standing in the village and commenced services. The Christians gradually returned, and for several months the work progressed satisfactorily. Then a new attack was made on this outpost. The whole population, including the Christians, fled, abandoning for a second time their homes and possessions. The pastor and his family remained in the village. But later the pastor was arrested and kept imprisoned for nine days. These are the conditions under which much of our work is done, and they are far from easy!

During the past year we have been able to keep in touch with the workers in the V. M. sector south of Tourane. In October, I secured permission from the military authorities for some of the men to visit Tourane. Six of the workers were able to come. It was a great joy to see them and fellowship with them. All of them had spent over five years behind the 'bamboo curtain'. Their reports of trials, testings, hardships and want, and of God's wonderful deliverances were moving and inspiring to hear. They reported that the work has been carried on in spite of great difficulties, souls have been saved and churches strengthened. Due to the political situation, both workers and Christians have suffered much. Food and clothing are scarce and the cost of living is sky high. Thousands are suffering from malnutrition, malaria, dysentery, boils, and other tropical diseases. The wives of several of the workers are ill. We have tried repeatedly to send them medicines but usually without success. We have been able to send some clothing from the relief barrels, but we have been unable to obtain permission to send medicines or anything new.

To describe the conditions in this part of our district, I can do no better than quote from a letter written by one stationed there. He writes:-

"Last month we received the relief money and the cloth you sent. We deeply appreciate your help and thank the Lord that you were led to think of us in these days when so often we find ourselves at the end of our own resources.

"Three years ago God called us to this place. By His enabling grace, most of the older Believers are standing firm in the faith and about ten others have been added to their number. Since you yourself have worked in this province, you know how the hearts of this people are blinded by the power of darkness and how stubbornly they refuse to accept the saving grace of the Gospel of Christ. The present political situation makes it more difficult than ever to reach them. Atheism and materialism are on the increase everywhere, and, as Paul says, 'the mystery of iniquity doth already work'. It is saddening to see this spirit of unbelief in spiritual realities taking hold of so many. Outwardly some still have a certain regard for virtue, but inwardly and by their actions they reject it. This makes the preaching of the Gospel to the unsaved doubly difficult. Pray that, like Elijah, Jeremiah, and Paul, we may be filled with God's holy fire; for only thus equipped may we hope to draw men's hearts to God."

He further relates how his whole family of nine have been afflicted with a very malignant type of boils. This malady seems to be contagious and is sweeping the country. He says:-

"In this region people are afflicted with a very contagious disease which develops into malignant ulcers and supurating sores. These ulcers appear on the legs, feet and toes, eating away the flesh, and in some cases the toes even fall off. Many have spent thousands of piasters for medicines but with little relief. My wife has several of these boils on her foot, and I have one on the leg near the knee as big as a silver dollar. All our children have had them, too. They are exceedingly painful. In addition to all this, the climate of late has been very hot and sultry, causing increased suffering to thousand. All around us we hear the pitiful moans of the sick. Right across from our chapel there lives a man who is covered with ulcers, one of which is about five inches in diameter. He suffers excruciating pain most of the time, and his moans and cries can be heard day and night. At times it seems as if the pit had been opened and the smoke of the torment of the damned is belching forth. It is often more than we can bear!"

"Oh the pain and sorrow all around us! Death stalks through the land in broad daylight. There are nights when it is impossible to sleep. Then I kneel before the Lord in prayer. But at times even prayer seems impossible. Then all I can do is to weep and cry: 'Oh, Lord, how long, how long!' Please pray for us!"

This letter speaks for itself. It depicts pretty accurately the conditions under which our workers behind the 'bamboo curtain' are laboring. They surely need our prayers.

Bible Institute The Vietnamese Bible Institute was re-opened on September 11th with an enrollment of 51, an increase of 16 over last year. We thank God for these young people who in spite of these dangerous days dared dedicate their lives to the proclamation of the Gospel and to the work of bringing back the King. Some of them attended school before our internment in 1943 and have spent over five years in active service as student-preachers. These have all seen war at close range. Some have had to flee from their homes and churches several times, losing everything they possessed, but thankful to be able to escape with their lives. These experiences with all the dangers they involved, have left many weak in body and weary in mind. As most of them have nothing, they depend on the school for all their support. As the need for workers is

very great, we felt led to accept a larger number of new applicants than at first planned. This has increased our monthly expenses by thousands of piasters beyond our visible resources. However, we are sure that we acted in the will of God in accepting them, and feel certain that He will meet our added needs.

Hymnal Beside the District and Bible School work, it has been the privilege of the writer to serve on a committee which has been preparing a new hymnal for the Vietnamese Church. This work is now finished and the manuscript has been sent to the States to be printed by the off-set method. The book has been prepared by hand; all music has been copied by hand and the words written in with the typewriter. This laborious method of producing this book has been made necessary by the Mission's lack of printing facilities. We are depending on our friends at home to help us defray the cost of printing.

Bible Revision With the work of the hymnal out of the way, the committee has now taken up the work of revising the Vietnamese New Testament. This work was started several years ago, but was interrupted by the missionaries' internment in 1943. Though the first translation of the New Testament is on the whole quite good, it seems the time has come for a thorough revision. We covet the prayers of all our friends for God's special blessing upon this most difficult undertaking.

Relief During the past year, thanks to the generosity of our friends in the U.S., we have been able to distribute over 30 barrels of clothing and several thousand piasters among our needy churches. This ministry is still greatly needed.

The total membership of the Vietnamese Church in this district is 3,283, of which 198 were baptized during the past year. There are nearly four hundred enquirers. Sunday School work has suffered greatly because of the war. Only 8 churches report a continuation of this work. The offerings have kept up fairly well, over \$6000 U.S. having been given during this year.

Reviewing the present situation in the work, we find much for which to praise God, and also some things which cause us great concern. We praise God that the voice of the Gospel has not been silenced, that it is still proving to be "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth". We also thank God for the faithful work done by our Vietnamese pastors and preachers, oft times under most impossible conditions. Large regions of this district are still battle fields. The region immediately dependent on Tourane has of late seen heavy fighting. At one point the location of our little church was the very center of the fighting. For days the battle surged back and forth, and during this time the pastor and his family of six were obliged to take shelter in a trench built in the back of their house. We are glad to report that this family is safe and that the pastor is determined to remain at his post as long as it is possible. Much prayer is needed for the continued protection of all the workers stationed in regions immediately affected by the war.

As we ponder the dark problems of the future and realize the evil possibilities inherent in the present situation, we are strangely comforted by two verses in one of Bishop Bickersteth's beautiful hymns:-

"Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne."

"Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death and all its power."

Rev. & Mrs. J. S. Sawin "1949 found us assigned to the study of the Vietnamese language. Being situated at the busy station of Tourane, there were many things to occupy our time each day. Five mornings each week, Mrs. Sawin has been busy with the children of the Bible School students, teaching them Bible accounts of the life of Jesus, helping them memorize verses and learn hymns and gospel songs. Since the departure of Miss Schon for Banmethuot, she has also assumed the responsibilities of ministering to the sick and afflicted. This is a wonderful ministry which was so near to the heart of our Lord. Some of the children like to keep coming after the sickness is healed as they like the pills taken with sweet milk.

"The first semester of the school year, I took my turn on Friday mornings in the chapel services for the students. I discussed the general theme of "experiential righteousness" with the students, using that expression as a synonym for what we usually speak of as the sanctified life. I also contrasted this term with "positional righteousness", or justification. We emphasized the point that confession of "positional righteousness" is meaningless unless one is willing to go on unto "experiential righteousness". Our hearts are burdened for those to whom God has sent us that we may both by precept and example demonstrate to them the righteousness God wants to impute to men and wishes men to practise in daily experience."

Miss C.P.Schon "The past year at Tourane has been very pleasant. I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to study the Vietnamese language and pass my 4th and 8th month exams. Daily clinics were held for the students and local Christians. Mrs. Sawin and I enjoyed our work with the children of the students, teaching them songs and memory verses and telling very simple Bible Stories. Teaching English to 10 of the students opened an avenue of fellowship with them which I enjoyed very much."

Nhatrang District Rev. and Mrs. B. R. Houck

"The past year has been one of progress in the work of the Lord. Together with our Vietnamese pastors we continue to press forward to that day when the last soul shall be won, the Bride completed, and the Bridegroom shall return.

"Due to war conditions most of the country area is still closed to the messengers of Christ. Nevertheless, the pastors report an increase during the past year in all phases of the work, with more than eighty baptisms and more than two hundred having prayed.

"Two groups of Christians have been re-organized. The one at Ninh-Hoa has just completed their new church building. This now gives a total of nine church groups in this district, being ministered to by five pastors.

"Children's meetings are being held in most church areas with a weekly attendance averaging more than one hundred and twenty-five. One group in Nhatrang alone has about forty-five unsaved children plus adults who listen regularly to the Gospel message given with flannel-graph. During the past four months nine children of this group have prayed.

"Last fall a Short Term Bible School was held in Nhatrang with the help of Rev. and Mrs. D. I. Jeffrey and two Vietnamese pastors as teachers. In spite of difficult travel conditions over forty students gathered for the term of study. The pastors have given enthusiastic appreciation of the work done, and have expressed the hope that another S.T.B.S. may be held this year."

D A L A T

Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson
Rev. and Mrs. D. I. Jeffrey
Rev. and Mrs. Jean Fune

Home & School

Miss K. E. Mack
Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Dutton (District work)
Miss A. A. Heikkinen
Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Moseley
Miss E. M. Owens
Miss B. M. Bowen
Miss M. L. Chandler (1950)
Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Evans
Rev. and Mrs. M. M. Sawyer
Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Tubbs

Language Study

Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Revell

Studying in France

Welcome China Missionaries Six experienced couples from our China Field have joined our ranks during the past year. These greatly needed and much appreciated reinforcements have rendered invaluable service in the Dalat Home and School and among the thousands of Chinese populating the large cities of Hanoi, Haiphong, Cholon and Phnom Penh. Three families are valiantly tackling new languages with a view to taking up work among the Laotians and Vietnamese.

Gospel Literature

In addition to a large shipment of Bibles and Scripture portions received from the British and Foreign Bible Society, we have been most grateful for the Gospel literature sent us for free distribution by the Scripture Gift Mission of London, England, and Messers John Ferguson and Julius Stone of the United States.

With the help of consecrated translators, contributors and office staff, we have mimeographed and sent out monthly issues of a Vietnamese Bible Magazine, "The Gospel Torch", a young people's magazine, "The Dawn", as well as numerous booklets and tracts. This has been made possible by regular shipments of paper from the Bible Meditation League of Columbus, Ohio.

During the latter half of 1949, Mrs. E. F. Irwin and Mr. Huynh-Minh Y of Saigon, followed Mrs. R. L. Jackson in the preparation and distribution of Sunday School literature for the Vietnam fields.

Towards the end of 1949, after five years of inactivity, our Missic Gospel Press began to function once again, this time in its new location at Dalat. Fifteen thousand copies of the tract, "What is the Gospel", by D. L. Moody, and two thousand copies of the Catechism have been printed (on Bible Meditation League paper) on the small press. The large second-hand press bought by Mr. Cadman two years ago arrived toward the end of 1949. After much effort and patient working it started operating a few weeks ago, turning out its first booklet in Vietnamese: "Truth and Error".

The next few weeks and months will see the Press busy on Mr. Olson's "Topical Text Book" and other Gospel literature.

We are greatly handicapped by lack of funds. Five thousand dollars is urgently needed to erect a suitable Press building. We are carrying on for the present in very cramped quarters and without adequate personnel. We should have at least four more experienced men, typesetters and a bookbinder. This is the only Gospel Press serving 20,000,000 Vietnamese.

Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Dutton "Although the greater part of our time is now given to the work at the Home and School for Missionary Children at Dalat, yet, our hearts are encouraged by the good progress being made by the Vietnamese churches in this area. A new chapel has recently been completed at Ninh-Hoa, some 30 kilometers to the north of Nhatrang. Several months before we left Nhatrang for our new appointment to Dalat, I had the joy and privilege of visiting Ninh-Hoa by car--going in a military convoy. Three local Vietnamese workers went with me to help contact the Christians and to seek to re-establish the work. The ambulance attracted much attention because of its silver color and its large letters in black, "MISSION EVANGELIQUE--HOI TIN LANH"; thus we were able to gather the Christians together quickly. They were so happy to have the first visit by a missionary since 1942, and prepared a feast for us at noon. At the close of the meeting there were eight souls who accepted Christ. The supply of tracts which we had taken along was gone in ten minutes. The Believers met to re-organize the work and decided to meet regularly each Sunday for prayer and Bible study even though no worker was available to live there. They pledged generously towards the eventual support of a full-time worker. The former chapel, in the center of the military post, was in bad condition. Hence they hoped to rent or build a chapel in a better location. In the few months that have passed since then, their prayers have been abundantly answered. A lovely little Church building has now been finished on a piece of land given by one of the Christians. With monthly visits from the preacher at Citadelle, this work is forging ahead, keeping the Gospel torch in that area lighted.

"A second chapel has been erected at Lac-Lam, an out-station of the Arbre-Broye church. A goodly part of the materials and work was given by the few Christian families living there. The Dalat church and several of the missionaries have also helped by gifts of money and roofing. The location of this Church is ideal, being in the center of a large farming community. We are praying for and expecting a real time of harvesting for Christ in this valley.

"The Dalat Church is giving an effective witness in the city and also has a real missionary vision. They are supporting a tribes evangelist working full-time at Dalat, a tribes-family working in their own village, and the Y. P. are sending enough to support a student in the Bible School at Pleiku, among the Jarai people. Besides these spiritual projects, the Christians have given generously to improve the church building and to asphalt the drive way leading to the terrace around the church. Truly we can say from the depths of our hearts--"The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad!"

Miss Heikkinen "What a responsibility the Lord has placed on us here at Dalat in the care and teaching of the missionaries' children. I would personally shrink from assuming the task if the Lord had not given His unfailing Word on which to stand. He has never failed. Praise Him!"

"My work has been ^{the} teaching of intermediate and upper grades with an additional class in French. The daily routine of classes and nightly preparation for the next day have not quelled the spirit of adventure and have permitted the joy of seeing the achievement of definite goals. Dalat School is again finding its stride."

Miss Owens "Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite" (Psalm 147:5). "I praise the Lord that He has proved Himself over and over to us here at Dalat as the inexhaustible source of wisdom and understanding. Every day has brought new evidences of His love and care, and of His ability to solve every problem that confronts us."

Miss Bowen "Faithful is He that calleth you who also will do it" I Thess. 5:24 has been God's promise to me since the hour that He called me to the foreign field. This, my first year on the mission field, has proved the power of that promise."

Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Moseley "The one and a half years that we spent in China, and the nine months passed here in Dalat have been a wondrous spiritual adventure. The hard realities of spiritual conflict, which can be successfully met only in the power of the Holy Spirit and by a careful walk according to His Word, have stimulated the great discovery--that nothing is more practical and invigorating than whole-hearted spiritual living. To see theory you have been brought up in turned to reality, and to see the delicate wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit unravel the most complex problems, is adventure of the highest order, and we rejoice in our association with you in these things."

"We think Indo-China is great; we are delighted to be here, and are most grateful for the way everyone has been so cordial in everything."

Miss Mack "As for God, his way is perfect;...Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and I will sing praise unto thy name". The past months have been those of adjusting to the variety of duties in the office at Dalat. Although the opportunity for language study has not been realized, this important matter has been committed to Him, who doeth all things well. Amid the uncertainty of these days, it is wonderful to lean upon His Word, "He Goeth Before"!

Rev. & Mrs. Jean Fune Mr. Fune writes: "It was a joy to land again in Saigon after such a long absence and we were glad for the warm welcome given to us. It happened to be the night before Christmas and so we arrived in time to bring our Christmas present: the gift of our lives to the service of the Lord and the Church of Christ in this land. A week later we all came to Dalat and after a short time I flew North to visit our former station: Sonla. It took a long time to get the "permis de circulation" to Lai Chau first, hoping to go down to Sonla by the road as I had been advised. The plane finally left but a cloudy sky prevented us from landing and

after almost three hours in the air we landed in Hanoi again. The next day we could not go because of heavy rain in the Lai Chau district and the third day a message came to forbid all visitors to Lai Chau who did not have an official mission... The first 4000 Chinese Nationalist troops had arrived and were keeping the authorities so busy they did not want any more visitors at the time.

"I then asked to transfer my permit to Sonla, and finally was able to go. The plane landed at Na San airport some 25 kilometers from town. The road was not opened that day so I slept at the Camp. The Officer in charge telephoned to the Conseiller who came for me the next day in his Jeep. I was his guest all the time I was there. The road to the airport is open only twice a week.

"I found Sonla a new town and was amazed at the amount of work that has been done since the return of the present regime. Militaries of course are the main occupants of the Center but there is a Conseiller, a Fr. Doctor, four Fr. women, wives of some of the officers. The native center is three times larger than it was before.... All the villages I inquired about have been burned once or twice since we left. The Tais have suffered great losses but they do not react against the infiltrations in the province. In the last two years these infiltrations have been quite accentuated...the road is cut up to 60 kilometers beyond Sonla and occasionally used when open by military convoys. All supplies are brought by plane. The cost of living is very high.

"I found our house in good repair...but occupied by the military. All trees in the back yard have been cut down to make room for bamboo houses for the men. The Governor of the province was also living in our house but has now a private residence.

"It is not impossible to return...with a delay of six months we could get our house back but our activity would be very limited since it is impossible to go more than a few kilometers away from the Center. Dien Bien Phu would be a safer place just now but the housing problem would be a serious one. The door is closed but it is not locked and could be reopened if we are willing and able to pay the price. However we cannot be too insistant for we realise the present situation may not permit it. It is not improving. We want to be where we can be most used in the short time we have to work. We do not forget that the heart of several of our missionaries here is in China, just like ours is at Sonla, but they are here because they can better serve.

"I was glad to find one of our christians who was delighted to see me again. Our "boys" have not been heard of for a long time. All we know is that their village has been burned and they have been taken like many other Y.P. to march with the V. M. (Whether voluntarily or by force we cannot tell). There are a number of Tai soldiers and students in Hanoi and also here at Dalat. We have found the son of the former Governor and the son of our former language teacher. They study here at the Lycée. We will continue to pray for our Tais and hope the way will open for them to have the Gospel.

"Coming back from my trip North I was introduced to the needs of the press and have been doing my best to organise and supervise the work of carpenters and printers. The press is looking into the future, trusting that the Lord will again use it in the ministry of the printed page, the silent preacher who finds its way into the home even where and

when living preachers cannot go. The press needs are pressing.....the King's business requireth haste."

From Mrs. Fune comes the following encouraging word:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" Eccl. 9:10
"For the past few months it has been my privilege to be able to assist Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson in the work of the Koho Bible School here at Dalat. During the first 5-week term, I helped behind the scene, in the preparation and arrangement of materials such as flannelgraph, pictures, note books, etc. Then came a 10 day session for the deacons and christians.

"I am happy to say that during the last regular session I have also helped with the teaching, doing so through interpreters. Along with the Bible instruction given by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Nam, and Mr. Sol, we have given some teacher training followed by practical work.

"The christian parents have been asking that the preachers teach their children to read and write. Very few live close enough to attend the government school for the mountaineers, the majority are 2 and 3 days away in the mountains where no schools exist. Thus, this term we have made the humble beginnings of "School" for the children. We have used the preachers' children for observation and practice lessons, dividing them into two groups. The subject which lent itself the most easily to bridge the gap between the Biblical and Secular teaching was that of "Morale" or Ethics: the duties of children in the home, in the school, and with their playmates. In place of the usual proverb given at the end of the lesson for memory work, it was very easy to find Bible verses to establish each truth. For example, Honour thy father and thy mother..., Children obey your parents..., Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good..., the Golden Rule, etc.

"Considering the possibility that these children may sometime have the opportunity of attending the government school, we borrowed the complete Course of Study as issued by the French Government for use in all the schools of the P.M.S.I. (Populations Montagnardes du Sud-Indochinois) We endeavoured to instruct the preachers how to begin and conduct their classes as they go out these next 5 weeks, even to giving them some lesson plans in Koho. Over 20 men will teach part-time, 3 days a week in their home church and spend the remainder of their time in evangelistic work divided among the churches on their circuits. They will teach Catechism, Arithmetic, Reading (double time), "Morale", Writing, and Bible Stories. We have stressed that giving out the Gospel is the most important, that teaching is only secondary, and, that it is being undertaken primarily for the purpose of reading the Word of God. In the classes there were 35 men, divided according to previous instruction, 22 women, and 29 children (school age), total 86.

"We praise the Lord for preserving the lives of a number who were dangerously ill. We commend these workers to you for your prayers as they and their families trek out and up the mountains several days away to resume their service for the Master."

"1949 in Cochin-China (South Viet Nam) has been a year in which the Lord has again and again revealed Himself as 'an ever present help in time of trouble'. Guerilla warfare continues, and our preachers and Christians are often under suspicion from both sides. A neutral position is hard to maintain in times of civil war. We cannot take a clear-cut stand, for we have church^{quite} everywhere in areas occupied by both sides; and also in some places where one side is master by day and the other by night.

Crops are harvested along the main highways where there are forts every two or three miles, and near some of the larger centers which are well protected. Even then it is sometimes a hazardous undertaking as farmers are sometimes killed and crops stolen or destroyed. But back in the interior where a lot of churches are located, many rice fields have had to be abandoned. The consequence is that many of the people in this one-time rich granary of South-East Asia are poor; and rice, the Cochin China staff of life is dear. The cost of living has sky-rocketed; it is at least fifty percent higher than it was at the beginning of 1949. Moreover, the country is full of bandits. And all these things combine to make it hard for the pastors and the Christians.

"There is scarcely a week that the missionaries do not hear that some prominent Christian, often a preacher or pastor, has been robbed. Only yesterday we heard that our senior Vietnamese pastor, who was re-tired from active service, was travelling from Saigon to Cantho by bus. The bus was attacked a few miles out of Cantho. The passengers had to throw themselves on their faces in the muddy ditch for there was considerable firing between the guerillas and the soldiers from a nearby post. The guerillas were eventually driven off, but not before they had taken all the baggage. The bus was patched up and our pastor arrived in Cantho in a sadly bedraggled condition. He had lost everything but considered himself fortunate to escape with his life.

Not long ago a young Christian was shot on the street in Saigon. Early in the year an old man, an elder in one of our interior churches, and the father of three of our preachers, was deliberately shot in front of his home in the country. Two of our pastors were kidnapped. In answer to much prayer, one has been able to return home after being held away back in the country for several weeks. The other, together with one of the deacons of his church, was taken later. They are still missing; no one knows for sure whether they are alive or not.

With such uncertain conditions, one would not be surprised if the Church were at a standstill, or even if there had been a real setback throughout the year, but this has not been so. There has been a drawing nigh unto God, particularly on the part of the workers. There has been a deepening in their spiritual life, and an influx of new Christians. Four hundred and fifty-three were baptized during the year, and many more have accepted the Lord but have not yet been baptized. The Vietnamese pastor in Saigon, in a Sunday morning service not long ago, urged his people to be diligent in witnessing for their Lord. He said these are days of exceptional opportunity. This city of Saigon-Cholon has mushroomed into a great metropolis. The influx of refugees has swelled, normally about five hundred thousand, to nearly two million. The suffering and loss which these people have experienced, and the uncertainties of their lives have given them a readiness to listen to the Gospel of a

God who is 'an ever present in the time of trouble', and who alone can assure them for eternity. The pastor said, "Now is our opportunity while the troubrous days are still with us. When peace and safety comes, their hearts will turn again to the things of this world. Let us give them the Gospel while their minds are detached from the things of the world and open to the things of God."

"Before the revolution in 1945, there were 65 churches in Cochin China; now there are 46. The lost nineteen, are not nineteen congregations disintegrated, but nineteen church buildings destroyed or so situated that they cannot be used under existing conditions. The Christians are still faithful, and for the most part are temporarily united with some other congregation, but this means that many cannot attend services regularly. They are often twenty or thirty miles from their church, but when we meet them from time to time, we find that their faith remains firm. Many of the church buildings where services are still being held have been damaged in the fighting. Only a couple of weeks ago, I was in one of our country churches where a short time before a bullet had come through the wall on one side of the building and lodged in the window frame on the other side. Fortunately no one was injured, but the pastor had arranged a barricade of sandbags on one side of his living-room behind the church proper, where his family can sleep in safety on the floor.

"Five church buildings have been rebuilt during 1949, and three more are in the process of being rebuilt. At least twenty-five others need to be rebuilt or rehabilitated. The Christians have done much sacrificial giving to accomplish what has been done. We need to pray that all that is necessary for the rehabilitation of their church buildings will be provided, for, from the human standpoint, nothing will do more to build up the Church in Indo-China than to have these Gospel light-houses open again.

"Not long ago we were greatly encouraged by a visit from Vietnamese gentleman who had been saved not in Saigon, nor in Cochin-China, but in England. He had been a Lieutenant on a French naval vessel, under the Vichy Government during the World War. His ship had been captured near Madagascar, and he was taken to England, where he later joined the French free forces. He was in England four years and during that time found Christ in a little chapel in Bristol. Now he is back in his homeland with a bright testimony and a great desire to tell his people about Jesus, the Saviour who means so much to him.^a

"One of the students who returned this year for his final year at the Tourane Bible School was much burdened for his father and mother who were not Christians. He had been serving in one of the interior churches, but when it was time for the school to open, he went back home to get ready and to say good-bye to his folks. There, he and the pastor of his home church prayed together very much for the conversion of his parents, but when the time came to leave, the family was still unsaved. A few weeks later the pastor planned to visit the old couple, and he and his wife felt led to spend a day in prayer and fasting before going. During the visit the father was still unwilling to yield, but the next Sunday he with his wife and youngest daughter came to church to make a public confession of their acceptance of Christ as their Saviour. A couple of months later the old father was taken violently sick, and the preacher was called to visit him before he passed on to his eternal home, for everyone thought that recovery was impossible. The pastor felt led ..

to pray for healing and while he prayed the old man regained consciousness and sat up, saying he felt much better. The preacher had to go on further into the country to make another visit. When he returned in the afternoon, he found the old gentleman entirely well and witnessing to a crowd of visitors of how God had healed him. When our student's other sister, who had thus far obstinately refused to become a Christian, saw this, she broke down and joined the rest of the family in following Christ."

Saigon (Receiving Home & Business Agency) Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Whipple

Receiving Home "Our guest book reads as an interesting tale (to be told and not published.) From the Banmethuot jungles, Mr. Gordon Smith's name appears as guest number one. Shortly after that from Dalat came Ruth and Ed Thompson and from Djiring Harriet and George Irwin, to greet Mr. and Mrs. I. R. Stebbins from America.

"There are no pages skipped in this guest book, for almost immediately the school children arrived from Dalat on their way to their homes in Laos, Cambodia, Siam and Indonesia. And, we'll not forget how they waited on the downtown opera steps for dear old Dodge to pick them up.

"From China we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Holton and Mary Francis. Mr. G. E. Tubbs was busy with his camera and we had a pretty smile all ready, not for the camera, but in greeting the Tubbs family three.

"And thus, we glance over the pages of our interesting guest book. From the jungles of Banmethuot the tale started, from China, it continued, from Siam, from Paris (the Fune family), from San Francisco (the Stebbins) and New York (the Undheims on their way to Siam), from Los Angeles (the Tolivers of the Go Ye Mission to Indonesia) and far off Cotabato (Ruth Ziemer), came these guests, to dear old "329", bringing color, adventure and never a dull moment.

"Our very exciting visitor came almost directly from New York City, the Home Secretary, Rev. H. E. Nelson in person. He talked to us of "cages" and nuoc mam and showers, and we quite understood, for "329" holds within its walls many secret emotions of where West meets East!

"In all, we numbered some 125 guests. You have guessed it, have you not. We were not all here at the same time. "329" still boasts only eight possible bedrooms and five baths (almost like the ASAMA MARU with twelve washbowls to fifty-nine people and one hour's fresh water supply daily). But we always manage somehow and when for a few days we number only two, we are sure something has happened. Emptiness eats the heart out.

"WE ASKED FOR, money, for badly needed redecorating job for the annex and pantry.

"WE GOT, nothing! Guests still notice cracked ceilings and cobwebs.

"WE SPLURGED OURSELVES to three florescent lights which yields an "ok!" from the guests.

"If our guests have enjoyed their visit at "329" these past months, we their happy servants have more than enjoyed their happy fellowship."

Saigon
Business
Office

REPORTS: From September first to March fifteenth.
Monies spent in round figures, 675,000 piasters.

FOR: trailers, jeeps, refrigerators, stoves, and,

FOR: corks, film, ink, accordion cases, box chocolates (that went to Dalat) couscous, baby swing, bikes, and,

FOR: transfers of freight, baggage from boat to shore to missionaries residences, as well as from shore to boat to America, and also, from truck to truck, or truck to truck to boat (really and truly)

MADE: Plane reservations from "Timbu cotoo" to "Shangrala" for all who asked and did not ask. Cancelled some reservations too!

VISITED: SIPEO as much as the Commissaire du Port, and received as kindly by both.

THE DODGE: Practically self-pilots itself to Tan Son Nhut and back, but we go along to blow the horn for traffic and to spread out the carpet of "Welcome" to all our fine guests.

WROTE: Around 350 letters of which the general business letter sent heads the list. For letters written to missionaries on the field, Dalat received the most not counting letters written to the Chairman's office. Laos and Cambodia come next with a close tie.

SENT: Around 150 telegrams.

This means that only some 15 letters were written a week which does not seem to be a fair excuse to burn the mid-night oil, but we did it just the same.

WE: Thoroughly enjoyed serving our fellow-missionaries. Everyone has been gracious to our mistakes and very kind in their response to this office.

"Follow after the things which make for peace and the things wherewith one may edify another," we are instructed. The chairman's request for such a "report" is herewith submitted, and only because we "follow after."

Cholon (Chinese work)

Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Holton

Giadinh District Rev. and Mrs. I. R. Stobbins

"It is five months since we arrived back in IndoChina after an absence of eight long years, that to us, seemed like an exile from the land we had learned to love. We left this country when it was called French Indochina and returned to find it had been organized into three independent Nations; Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This does not include the million or more tribespeople hidden away in the jungle.

"We are now settled in our home after a four months wait during which time we searched for a dwelling place in MyTho, an interior city of Cochinchina and then at Giadinh, a suburb of Saigon. We returned with much assurance in our hearts that God still has a work to be accomplished in these nations, and particularly among the 20,000,000 Vietnamese, more than half of whom are still without a knowledge of Jesus Christ. Can it be that the heart of God is satisfied with the small harvest of 50,000 Vietnamese that have been saved since the beginning of the work in 1910? Providentially five new missionary couples have come to Vietnam and are studying the language. Is it not possible that God is preparing the missionaries and the National Church for revival and a great harvest of hundreds of thousands of souls? Indications are that God is willing.

"We are glad to welcome Mr. Thao as Pastor of the Giadinh church and are already working with him and planning for the official opening on April 16th. When the Lord provides a car we will be able to get out in many different directions. It is a great joy to be among the Vietnamese people once again and especially to be associated with Pastor Thao who I was permitted to lead to Christ 28 years ago."

Cantho District Rev. and Mrs. P. E. Carlson

"For the year 1949 we give humble thanks to God for His goodness in preserving our lives and for giving us various avenues of service during these troublous days. It is a joy to work for the Lord in any capacity He sees fit, provided only that His presence is real as we carry on. We have felt him graciously near to us all through the year as we have met Him daily in private worship as well as in our public ministry.

"Due to dangerous travel conditions our work has been confined largely to our station at Cantho, although we did have the privilege of visiting and preaching at Cailay, Omon, Thanh Loi and Vinhlong several times.

"At last Conference, we were appointed to work on the editing of the Bible Dictionary compiled by the late Rev. W. C. Cadman. Part of each forenoon and afternoon has been given to this tedious work, and, up to the present time, we have gotten only to the letter 'g'. But it is a work, we believe, which is destined to be much appreciated by our workers in days to come. All to whom we have shown the manuscripts have expressed admiration and have encouraged us to stick to it and get it finished for printing as soon as possible.

"Aside from bringing several series of messages to the Cantho Church, I have been working with a men's chorus and a mixed chorus. Mrs. Carlson has held a weekly class for the women and another for the girls as well as the regular Sunday afternoon children's meeting. The latter has been a real blessing, both attendance and interest growing as the

flannelboard lessons are portrayed. The record attendance was 180, more than two-thirds of these being children of unsaved parents. Much flannelboard material as well as old Christmas cards and old clothing has been received from America and distributed to the preachers in the district. We believe the flannelboard may play a large part in the evangelization not only of the children, but also of the adults in this district.

"The year 1949 has also seen the birth of a new institution - the Dorcas Society. It is composed of the girl's and women's classes of the Cantho Church for the present, but we hope the idea will grow. These women wanted to do something practical for the Lord's work and decided they could accomplish this best by way of the needle. Their first project was to sew blouses and sarongs for the wives of our tribes' workers in the mountains around Dalat. These gifts have not only been much appreciated but have served to strengthen the bond between our Vietnamese churches and the missionaries they are helping to support among the tribes.

"Because of threats, rumours and sporadic attacks on the town of Cantho, many of our townspeople have decided to seek safer surroundings. Among those who have evacuated are about 500 Christians of this church. We are praying the Lord to stem the tide of discouragement that has resulted. The curfew still rings at 8 P. M., thus precluding the possibility of evening meetings for the unsaved. However, the seven faithful Gospel teams organized last year are still doing their visitation each week. The report of the chairman of these groups states that 797 persons heard the Gospel through this personal work, and while only 23 accepted the Lord, the Seed has been quietly sown and a loving interest shown, that cannot fail to bring fruit in the Lord's own time. Books to the amount 583 piasters were sold by these teams.

"Our most far-reaching work was done, perhaps, through the two short term (six weeks) Bible Schools held during the year. The young men and women, about fifty in number, who attended these schools came from church groups all over Cochin China, and were given fairly thorough courses in Genesis, Dispensations, Christ in the Tabernacle, Heart of John's Gospel and Music. Letters from some of the pastors indicate that the six weeks in the S.T.B.S. have borne fruit, and several of the young men have now gone on to our main Bible School in Tourane for further training.

"Living in Cantho, the Capital of the West, has enabled us to feel the pulse of Indo-China from the political standpoint. During the year our hopes have risen and fallen a number of times as Guerilla warfare has seemingly stopped only to be renewed more fiercely than ever. In spite of brick forts, built as closely as a kilometer apart, and often with a sentry every five hundred meters, busses are attacked with impunity and often set on fire, while passengers are robbed and baggage looted. The bandits, or Vietminh - your guess is as good as mine - have often driven all the passengers before them into unknown parts. Sentiment against Americans seems stronger than ever and we are told that if we should be held up on the road we would probably be taken as hostages - a prospect which causes no glee. But what an opportunity to trust the Lord for His sustaining grace!

"Few people in this section seem to feel that peace is just around the corner, and there is a surprising lack of enthusiasm for the treaty

giving Vietnam independence within the framework of the French Union. Certain elements of Marxists doctrine have been taught faithfully, and accepted by perhaps a larger portion of the population than most of us suspect. The idea of collectivization of farm lands seems to appeal to many; indeed, this has already been put into practice on a fairly large scale in Vietminh territory.

"Our principle concern with this doctrine, of course, is its affect upon our Christians and preachers in those areas where they are exposed to it day after day and month after month. I have been surprised and chagrined to learn to what degree the Communist ideology is received by some of our Christians, even preachers. It is plain they do not understand it in all its implications, especially as it affects religious liberty. We are praying for wisdom and courage to set them right on that aspect of it.

"All is not darkness behind the bamboo curtain; however. We have some encouraging reports that indicate that God is working, and that souls are hungry. One church, whose pastor had died some six months ago, had had regular meetings for prayer and Bible study each week, nor did they forget to take up the regular offering. They have been pleading for a worker, any worker, and when the Cantho pastor finally paid them a visit at Christmas time he received a most bewildering welcome. The church committee had arranged a Christmas program which lasted until midnight! By this time there were over a thousand people in attendance, mostly non-Christians, and they demanded a sermon. There was nothing for the tired pastor to do but comply and he 'gave them both barrels' until 2 A.M. News from other groups within the Vietminh lines also indicate that when the true Gospel is preached, an interested audience will not be lacking. May God help our preachers in those territories to strike while the iron is hot.

"What is the outlook for 1950? The possibility of holding evangelistic meetings is still rather remote and we must face the prospect of even greater restrictions. Our program for the Cantho district, in view of the possible shortness of the time in which to work, is two-fold -- Short Term Bible Schools and preachers conferences. If we can deepen the lives of our preachers and increase their zeal for evangelism, much will have been accomplished even though we missionaries suffer the fate of our colleagues from China. And if we can train a large group of lay-workers in the fundamentals of the Gospel, we will have laid the ground-work of a movement that will continue to send forth the message of saving grace in spite of all restrictions."

Buying Up Opportunities Missionaries have been alert to seize opportunities to witness to strangers who have crossed their borders. This is illustrated by the following testimony from Rev. Harry Taylor, Kompong Cham, Cambodia: "Last Sunday a week ago, January 1, 1950, we started meetings for Vietnamese in the city. We hold them Sunday afternoon in the chapel downstairs on the ground floor of our house. Bob Ziemer, on a visit from Banmethuot, preached the first sermon and four accepted the Lord. A young Tonkinese lad who was saved about four months ago, translated for him from French into Vietnamese." A couple of months later Mr. Taylor wrote saying: "This lad, Bui, has been zealous in witnessing and instrumental in winning many of his brethren. Bui has a good knowledge of English, having worked in the American Consulate at Hanoi some years ago. I speak in English and Bui translates for me. The interest in the Gospel message is wide

spread in the city, the number of Vietnamese Christians increasing with most every service. This new church is begging for a preacher and has promised half of his support from the start. May God grant that this opportunity for a wide, full and unmolested ministry, shall not go unmet."

Word comes also from Siam that many Vietnamese in that country are being reached by our missionaries. Rev. John Perkins writes: "One Vietnamese family at Ta Baw has thirteen members. They are all Christians. Here in Udorn, there is a teacher who used to be a clerk in the Governor General's office in Hanoi. He comes to see us once in awhile and speaks English quite fluently. In fact, he is teaching English to the Colonel at the barracks. The last time he was here, we gave him a New Testament. The other day I met him and he said he was delighted with this Book. He understood it and it made him feel good inside. We are praying that God will save some Vietnamese here and use them to win others."

From Rev. Paul Johnson of Surin, Siam, comes this request: "I have had it on my heart to write you for some time and ask if you have a good supply of Vietnamese tracts. We have several hundred Vietnamese right here in the city of Surin, and in other places in Siam they have thousands. Several of them have been very friendly and a few of them have come to the services but they do not understand enough Siamese to know what it is all about. I would like to be able to place something in their hands that would be a clear witness to them."

Spiritual Refreshing The visit of our beloved Home Secretary, Rev. H. E. Nelson, from February 27th until March 12th, has brought untold blessing to the Church of Christ in Indo-China. During the Cambodian Conference at Ta Khmau, many sought the fulness of the Holy Spirit with much contrition and confession of sin. In writing of these meetings Mr. Ellison said: "I have never seen such breaking down of hard hearts and stubborn wills. Some of our most outstanding Pastors and Evangelists were at the altar. Mr. Hom of Kompong Cham was so overwhelmed that I had to help him first to a seat and then to a bed in one of the dormitory rooms. It was wonderful to see these men and women getting through to God with strong crying and tears. May this be just the beginning of even greater things here in Cambodia."

Most of the Vietnamese Pastors and Christians who attended Mr. Nelson's meetings at Saigon, Tourane and Hanoi were similarly blessed. They sought and received the spiritual quickening they so urgently needed. We were reminded again of the outstanding conferences of the past, when, with few exceptions, entire audiences were mightily moved upon by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you Mr. Nelson If you had been "listening in" on the testimony meeting at Tourane, you too would have been deeply stirred as scores testified to new spiritual life and blessing received for both soul and body.

Pastor Thai, president of the Vietnamese Church said feelingly: "I came to conference, Mr. Nelson, determined not to accept the presidency again as the responsibilities and trials of the past ten years have been too great. But yesterday as I lay stricken in body, unable to attend the meeting, the Lord showed me that I was resisting His will. As I yielded He met me and took my burden."

Pastor Hi of Saigon, and vice-president of the Vietnamese Church:
"My heart has been filled with bitterness but God met me here and has
filled me with His sweetness."

Pastor Huyen of the Tourane Bible School and Editor of the Bible Magazine: "Thank you, Mr. Nelson, for establishing a mourner's bench. I found a bottle of medicine there and drank it, it was 'the Joy of the Lord' and it works."

Pastor Luyen of Haiphong: "I came to conference full of complaints and murmurings. My heart is now filled with the Joy of the Lord."

Bible School Student: "I had studied the Truth of Holiness in the book of Romans here in School but I had never understood or experienced it until last night when the Lord revealed Himself to me."

Pastor Lieu, the one who organized a church in prison years ago in Nhatrang: "I had stumbled over others and a root of bitterness had sprung up in my heart. But it has all gone after last night and now I am so happy I don't know whether I am in Heaven or on earth."

Pastor To of Tourane: "I was sick and discouraged when conference opened and had made up my mind that I would refuse to stay on any longer as the pastor of the Tourane Church. My heart was greatly blessed by Mr. Nelson's first message, then deeply stirred by the second. After the third message I yielded to God's will. Now I am willing to stay or go, anywhere, just as the Lord leads. I thought I needed a few months vacation but now Christ is all I need, for body and soul."

"Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord;
Once it was the feeling, now it is His Word;
Once His gift I wanted, now, the Giver own;
Once I sought for healing, now Himself alone!"

A. B. Simpson