

## ANNAMESSE CONFERENCE

The Fourth Conference of Annamese workers and lay delegates was held in Tourane March 6 - 13 inclusive. The principal purpose of these Conferences has been for spiritual fellowship and to enable the workers to report concerning the work in the various outstations and churches. It had no real legislative power and the officers elected by it had no special function except at Conference time, with the exception of three having been chosen the previous year to sit in an advisory capacity with the Mission Executive Committee upon invitation from the latter.

The services of the Conference were earnest, spiritual and helpful. During prayerful consideration as to the best means for developing the Annamese church, it seemed best to us to suggest that the Conference this year elect an Executive Committee of five members, one of which should be a layman, this Committee to have executive power in dealing with things concerning the Native Conference, self-supporting church, and other work which might be taken over by the Annamese church as their responsibility apart from Mission funds. This Committee and the Mission Executive Committee of five would meet together as a Joint Committee for consideration of those things which concerned both the Annamese church and the Mission. The following officers were elected by ballot of the Conference, fifty-three Annamese delegates voting:

Chairman: Thai Thuu

Vice Chairman: Thai Dinh

Secretary: Thai Tiep

Treasurer: Thai Long

Other member of Executive Committee: Thai Le van Long

Two Assistant Secretaries: Thai Khanh and Thai Phan  
(without membership on the Executive Committee)

In some portions of French Indo China the official board of the church are afraid to meet in session unless the missionary is present lest they be arrested for holding Committee meetings not authorized by the government. For this and other reasons it seemed best for the Conference to take action regarding incorporating the Annamese church so that it could have legal standing both for the necessary local and general business sessions and also for the holding of church properties, etc. Hence, after consultation with the leaders of the Conference, it was decided by the Conference that they would seek to incorporate this year. Earnest prayer is requested concerning this for it will mean much for the furtherance of the church in French Indo China if the government grants papers of incorporation, thus recognizing the church as an organization. In this way entrance can probably be secured into portions of Annam and Tonkin, which are now closed to missionary residence and where permission is not yet granted for native work.

The expenses of the Conference this year were met by offerings of the Annamese churches and offerings taken in the Conference itself. The taking of the offering to meet the deficit in Conference expenses was quite like an Alliance convention offering at home in spirit and in results. After cash and pledges amounting to 75 piastres had been received, one woman gave 20 piastres, a young man a wrist watch, another man gave 10 piastres, and a lay delegate from Cambodia gave 10 piastres to buy the wrist watch and went back to his seat and presented it to the young man who had made it a gift for Conference expenses. It was all done very simply and unostentatiously and the hearts of all were melted at the goodness of God displayed in the

offering. Twenty-one piastres were still needed to complete the amount required and the Daian church pledged this sum.

Early Monday morning, March 14, the Conference delegates left by busses for their homes or places of ministry, some having to travel a thousand miles before reaching their destination.

Heretofore the money raised by the Annamese churches for Conference expenses had been handled by the Mission Treasurer and all bills paid by him. At the recent Conference a Treasurer was elected and hereafter the offerings of churches and individuals toward Conference expenses will be sent to the Annamese Treasurer and all expenditures will be made through him.

Executive Committee. Though it was understood that the action concerning the Annamese and Joint Executive Committees must be ratified by the Missionary Conference and by the Board before being finally authorized, yet it seemed important for the new Committee to meet in session with the Executive Committee of the Mission for consideration of appointment of Annamese workers and other important matters concerning the development of the church. The Joint Committee meeting was held March 14 and 15, Mr. Irwin the Mission Chairman being chosen Chairman of the Joint Committee.

Reports from the different stations and churches showed that the following churches were then, or would become by July 1927, fully self-supporting and needed ordained men as pastors, if available: Tourane, Faifoo and Daian in Annam; Mytho, Cantho, Sadec and Bentre in Cochin China. Several of these churches had expressed a choice as to pastor and this was considered in the making of appointments by the Joint Committee. Only men who were deemed eligible for ordination, if passed by the Ordination Committee in May, were considered for these churches. The Chairman of the Annamese Committee and of the Annamese Conference, Thai Thua, was the only ordained man in the Mission at that time. He was appointed as a travelling Pastor Evangelist to promote growth and development of the church, especially in Tonkin and Annam throughout the year, though the self-supporting churches in Cochin China may require considerable attention from him. Two men to be ordained were appointed to teach in the Bible Training School. The workers in the provinces of Cambodia and Tonkin asked that an experienced worker should be assigned to each of those provinces as travelling Pastor Evangelist, but none were available for this purpose.

In order that the members of the Board may have as full a part as possible in prayer ministry for the development of the work in this important pioneer field, I attach therewith a list of the churches, stations and out-stations where Annamese or Cambodian workers were assigned for the coming year. The Executive Committee, which met in May after I left the field, may have made some changes, but the list is approximately correct:

Self-supporting Churches

Worker

Tourane	Thai Dinh
Faifoo	Thai Thanh
Daian	Thai Phan
Mytho	Thai Long
Cantho and Omon	Thai Dinh (pronounced Vinh)
Sadec	Thai Khanh
Bentre	Thai Khanh

*Note*

Pastor Evangelists at stations where missionaries reside in Annamese section of the field:

Hanoi, Tonkin	Thai Ap
Haiphong, Tonkin	Thai Trung
Saigon, Cochin China	Thai Thao
Bienhoi, " "	Thai Sang
Vinhlong " "	Thai Hi
Chaudoc " "	Thai Hai
Pnom Penh, Cambodia (Annamese work)	Thai Hien

Outstations in Tonkin:

Nam Dinh	Thai Hoa
Tu Nhean	Thai Tri
Hai Duong	Thai Mai

Outstations in Annam:

Vinh	Thai Dinh
Donghoi	Thai Thinh
Tamky	Thai Hue
Kheso (Mois)	Thai Doc
Quinhnon	Thai Ung
Nhatrang	Thai Loi

Outstations in Cochin China:

Caolanh	Thai Tan
Longxuyen	Thai Duong
Anthaidong	Thai Xon
Thudamot	Thai Khoai
Soctrang	Thai The
Travinh	Thai Tho
Gocong (self-supporting)	Thai Nien
Loeninh (Mois)	Thai Thien

Cambodian Workers assigned for the year 1927-28

<u>Place</u>	<u>Evangelist</u>	<u>Population (Cambodian)</u>
Pnom Penh	Mr. Peck	300,000
Battambang	" Chum	210,000
Triton	" Non	41,000
Takeo	" Ngoun	265,000
Pursat	" Phaul	60,000
Siem Reap	" Ngin	100,000

Colporters to work two by two in new field around Pnom Penh:

Mr. Tep	Mr. Chin
Mr. Tiep	Mr. Voich

All of these evangelists and colporters are the Bible School students in the Cambodian Bible School at Battambang going out for a year of service as the second year of the five year course - three years school and two years field service.