

REPORT ON CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

After World War II, our nation was the only country in the world where a state of war continued. Many of our people have lived in sorrow and fear continually. The central mountain and plateau regions have been particularly affected. Thousands of Christian Tribes people have become refugees. Many people have been forced to flee, leaving their homes and all of their possessions behind, as they have sought safety in the relative protection afforded in the government-controlled areas. They have no employment nor means of livelihood, and often lack the bare necessities of life. Many Christians, and among them the servants of Christ, must sustain great personal loss, and in some cases even death.

However, by the grace of our Mighty God, the Church in Viet Nam has realized progress in many areas since 1958. Following is a brief resume.

1959 - Action was taken which resulted in the inclusion of all of the work among the Tribal people as a new District within the overall organizational structure of the Evangelical Church of Viet Nam.

1961 - Our Church celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of Protestant endeavor in Viet Nam. The work was begun in 1911. Of course, at that time there was no Church. At the close of

1964 (the last date for which we have a complete report) there were 327 churches with 81,079 members and adherents.

- Also during this year the National Church Headquarters and residence for the Church President was opened in Saigon.

- This same year the beautiful and spacious campus and buildings of the Bible and Theological Institute at Nhatrang was dedicated.

- Three Youth Center programs were inaugurated in Saigon, Hue and Nhatrang.

1962 - Dr. Merv Rosell ministered to all of the pastors at 5 regional Pastors' Conferences during the month of August.

- The former Central District was divided into two new districts. There are now 4 districts, as follows: Southern, South-Central, North-Central and Tribes.

- For the first time a Committee on a National level was appointed to oversee the Missionary Program of the Church. In November of that year, the first missionary couple was sent to serve in Vientiane, Laos.

- Some courses for deacons were held in every district to give them some training in matters of spiritual leadership.

1964 - Many churches in the North-Central District were destroyed by typhoons and floods. Over 200 Christian families

had their homes destroyed by the typhoons. The churches in the southern part of the country joined hands with Christians from other parts of the world to provide funds for relief and rehabilitation. The total collected by Christians of the National Church at that time amounted to more than 300,000 piasters (almost \$4,500 US).

Below, I will include some comparative figures for the years 1959 and 1964, which will show something of the growth and development of the Church during that period.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1964</u>
Districts	2	4
Churches	162	327
Christians (Baptized members and adherents)	51,819	81,079
Official Workers	227	272
Sunday Schools		
Teachers	271	
Students	12,052	16,031
Witnessing Bands		142
Members	2,716	2,058
Youth Work	48	144
Members	4,591	6,090
Children's Meetings		171
Members		8,382
Primary Schools		7
Students		1,733

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Bible School - Nha Trang	42	52
Dalat, Banmethuot	137	106
Short Term Bible School	266	173
Summer Bible Study		927
Students abroad		6
Clinics - Leprosarium at Banmethuot & Evangelical Clinic, Nha Trang		37,669
Orphanage		250
Literature (pieces)		863,500
Radio (listeners)		70,000
Tribes (Vietnamese Missionaries)		12
Scholarships		
Social Relief		1,639 tons
Chaplains		5
Evangelistic vans		2
Pastors' Retiral Fund		4,086 pias- ters
Finance		110,013 pias- ters
Property		785,578

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