

History

Vietnam

May 1924

The Lure of New Trails

I thank God for the privilege He has given me to spend five years in French Indo-China. China may be the largest country, but French Indo-China, I believe, is the most neglected country in the world today, and it is the largest field for which the Christian and Missionary Alliance is solely responsible. Two-thirds of the population of French Indo-China have never heard the Gospel. French Indo-China has five provinces. We do not belong to China. When you think that at the present time in that land we have only one missionary to a million—in China there are twenty to every million; in India fifteen to the million. I have heard since I came home that the Board expects to send more missionaries to the Philippines, for which I am glad, for in that land there are 500,000 natives who have never heard the Gospel. I have a parish in French Indo-China of 600,000.

We praise God for the wonderful way He is working at the present time in Cambodia. The last word I had is that since the work opened in ^{Harbour} ~~Bambang~~ last ^{October} ~~September~~ over 200 natives have asked Jesus to save them. We also thank God for the wonderful harvest of souls during the past year—566! Our hearts are also overflowing with praise and thanksgiving for a Bible. Can you imagine preaching the Gospel

for twelve years without a Bible in the hands of the natives? Just before I left I had the joy of standing before the people and opening a New Testament and telling them about Jesus and seeing the natives open their Testaments and turn to chapter and verse.

Just before we left for the homeland, we had our first native conference. It was a wonderful time, and God moved in a mightier way among the native workers than at any time in the history of the French Indo-China Mission, for which we thank God.

The first thing I saw as I entered the door were the words "Farther, still farther into the night." We thank God for the objective of the Christian and Missionary Alliance to the uttermost parts. We thank God that He has helped us in our land during the past five years to nearly evangelize the fields that we now occupy. But I would like you to know that at the present moment we have not a missionary either in Tonking or Annam—two provinces totally unoccupied with a population of 12,000,000 people. We are in contact with 6,000,000 people, but our largest provinces we cannot enter because of governmental restrictions. However, since I came to Toronto, I notice in the papers there is a change in the ministry of France, and the new prime minister, who is anticlerical, will be a great help to us in French Indo-China. I should like to urge the Council to pray that God will open the doors and remove the barriers that have been keeping us from entering that large district. I heard some one say that because of prayer offered in Council two years ago we were able to go into Cambodia.—*Stebbins, French Indo-China.*

-only 3 cities of the provinces