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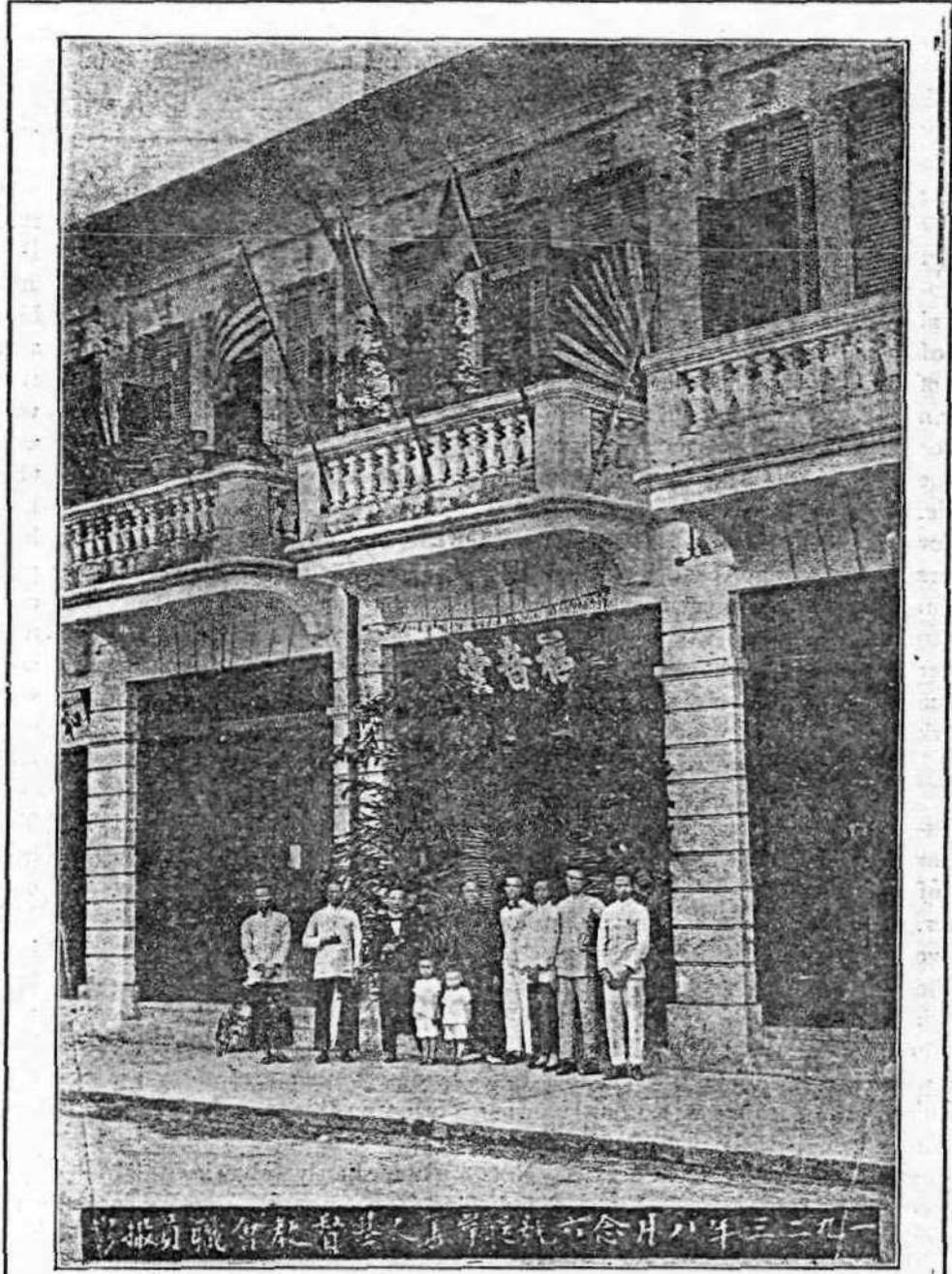
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CHAPEL OF SELF-SUPPORTING CHINESE CHURCH
French Indo-China

"His Loving Kindness and Tender Mercies."

God's Guiding in Prison Camps of Chinese Bandits. Page 192

The First Annamese Conference of the Indo-China Mission of the C. & M. A.

BY REV. R. A. JAFFRAY, Wuchow, So. China

It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of the First Conference of the Annamese workers of our Indo-China Mission at Tourane. The meetings were held for two weeks, covering three Sundays, from March 16 to 30. Annamese workers from the northern state of Tonkin and from the southern state of Cochin-China, as well as those from Annam, were present. There were two delegates from Cambodia also. The work in Cambodia has only recently been opened. There are not many converts as yet, but we rejoiced that there were two at least to represent Cambodia in this first Conference.

The Conference was well attended. Besides the Annamese workers and Bible School students from all the stations, about fifty, there were delegates from some of the Churches. In all there were 65 delegates. A goodly number of the members of the Tourane Church also availed themselves of the opportunity to learn more of the Word of God, by daily attending the meetings. There was an average attendance at the morning and afternoon meetings of about 150 people, and in the evening of over 250.

These delegates represented ten Main Stations and thirteen Out-Stations, and no less than a thousand native Christians. Considering the comparatively short time since the work in French Indo-China commenced, we praise God for over 1,000 members, and for more than fifty Annamese workers and students in course of preparation for the work of the ministry. It was time that these dear Annamese brethren got together to know one another's trials and needs, and to share together in prayer the joys and burdens of the work. Again we say, it is difficult to overestimate the importance of this First Conference of Annamese workers. Much prayer had gone up to the throne of grace for these meetings. We felt as we gathered, that great clouds of blessing, heavy with the rains of heaven, were over our heads. The atmosphere of the Conference was right for the showers to fall.

The early morning hours were given to prayer meetings; the afternoons to Bible Studies conducted by Mr. Wong Yuen-so and Mr. Jaffray; the afternoons to reports from the various parts of the work and business matters; the evenings were given to evangelistic services for the unsaved.

A South China Bible School Product

Mr. Wong came with real pointed, personal messages to the hearts of the Annamese brethren. There had been some question as to whether the fact that he was a Chinese would in any way form a barrier and be a hindrance in the hearts of the Annamese in receiving his message, as there is not always the best feeling between the two races. Our hearts were set at ease at once on this point as we saw how Annamese sat at Mr. Wong's feet, and from his lips received the Word of Life. We soon saw that "in Christ" there is neither Chinese nor Annamese, but all were one in Him, the common Saviour. In fact there were several

languages used in the Conference,—the English, the French, the Chinese, and the Cambodian. All these had to be translated into the Annamese tongue. There was the minimum of loss, however, in the process of translation. The same Spirit possessed both the speaker and the interpreter. We sometimes say that an "interpreter" often proves to be an "interrupter"! It was not so in this case. The interpreter was sometimes so deeply moved by the message himself that he could only with difficulty proceed.

Mr. Wong is a graduate of the Alliance Bible School at Wuchow and is now a teacher in that Bible School. Seldom have we listened to messages from the Word of God given with more direct power and personal application to the hearts of the hearers than those given by Mr. Wong. The Lord had used him at Wuchow with great power to revive the students of the Bible School only a short time before the Tourane Conference. It is not possible to translate these messages into English or to give an adequate idea of their power. One has to know the Oriental mind in order to appreciate their force. Some of Mr. Wong's subjects were as follows: "Knowing Christ," "The Believer's New Objective," "What is Sin to the Christian?" "Who will Roll Away the Stone?" "He is Faithful and Just to Forgive," "Full Surrender," "The Fruits of a Fully Surrendered Life," "The Holy Spirit," "Witnessing: Go, Stand, Tell."

Bible Teaching

With regard to the messages that the writer of this article gave at the Tourane Conference, he may perhaps be permitted a personal word of testimony as to the Lord's leading. For months before the Conference he felt that God had a message through him to the Annamese workers. The matter was held before the Lord in prayer for months before the Conference met, but there was no clear answer to his soul as to what the Holy Spirit would have him take up. When he left Wuchow for Tourane he wished to take some "notes" which would help him, but he could get no light as to the subject. The night before sailing from Hongkong, however, the message of the Spirit came clearly to his soul. The New Testament in the Annamese language had only a short time before been completed. The translation and publication of this precious Volume was a great work, and it had just been placed in their hands. It came as a clear message to the writer to try at this First Conference of the Annamese workers to introduce them to their New Testament. Two messages on The Gospels, three on The Acts, three on The Epistles, and finally three on The Revelation were given.

When we reached the subject of the Acts of the Holy Spirit and the need of the worker being filled with the Holy Spirit, we soon discovered that this was what the Annamese workers felt they needed, and what above all else they wanted. Through the chapters of The Acts and through the teachings of The Epistles we kept to this all-important subject which

we saw was making a profound impression on the hearts of the hearers. At the close of one of the messages an opportunity was given for personal prayer before the meeting was dismissed. There was a solemn stillness all over the church. Then there was weeping heard in different parts of the building. There were many wet eyes. Then there came strong pent-up cries, full of anguish,—cries for cleansing and filling. The atmosphere was charged with the tenseness of the Spirit. Many souls were definitely blessed and filled with the Holy Spirit. A spirit of tenderness and brokenness continued throughout the entire Conference.

The Spirit's Working

There were confessions from many of these dear workers. O, how dark and black is the past of these people—too horrible for words! Perhaps it is to confessions of such a nature that the Apostle refers when he says that they ought not to be once mentioned among us as becometh saints. We felt that the emotional element ought to be discouraged rather than encouraged. God the Holy Spirit was present to "act" and He was working in many hearts. We advised the brethren to "act" out their confessions and repentance, rather than to *talk* of things that might be to no benefit to others. We said, "If you have stolen anything, restore it. If you have lied or spoken angry words or insulted others, go and acknowledge it. If you have a proud heart, humble yourself before the Lord and your brother, and make it right, etc."

Stolen things were restored on the spot, lying to fellow Christians confessed, bitter hatred and envy in the heart against fellow workers was made bare before the Lord. There was a real work of cleansing and emptying done in many hearts. There was very deep sorrow and penitence for sin evidenced by the agonizing groans that could be heard all over the church at the close of some of those memorable meetings. The business sessions had sometimes to be dispensed with so that men and women could weep and pray, and get right with God.

One brother brought a lot of books on the subject of Hypnotism that he had secretly cherished, and destroyed them before his brethren. Another young man who had given way to his fiery temper and even that very morning had threatened to kill the man he hated, in agony of soul broke down and with tears of penitence, pleaded for forgiveness.

Freed From Superstition

One of the Cambodian brothers came strongly under the conviction of the Holy Spirit with regard to two small bars of gold that as a youth had been embedded in the flesh of his arms as a charm against evil. He said that these were supposed to make him invulnerable against all attacks of enemies. As he waited before the Lord in these meetings, he felt strongly that these little bars of gold in his flesh were a token of the devil's hold on him. He determined to have them removed. He did not want the devil to have any place in his body or soul.

This young man is the first Cambodian convert to come to our Bible School for training. He speaks both the Annamese and the Cambodian.
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The First Annamese Conference

(Concluded from page 194.)

bodian languages, and so can take all the work of the Bible School in the Annamese language. The enemy has made a strong fight for this young brother. He has made a good deal of trouble in the Bible School and has been pretty hard to handle sometimes. Much prayer has gone up to the Lord for him, however, and much God-given patience has been granted to his teachers in the Bible School. It was a great joy and blessing to all who had had him especially on their hearts in prayer, to see his proud, haughty spirit break up at the Conference, to see his tears, to hear his agonizing cries to God for help, to see his fight and victory, to hear his shout of triumph. Yes, praise the Lord, some who had been sunk into the depth of despair, rose before the Conference closed into heights of victory and joy and praise that they never had known anything about before. The interpreter, Mr. Quoc, said to the writer, "In all my dreams I never imagined one could be so happy and joyful."

Mr. Wong, Mrs. Jaffray and the writer had to leave Tourane on the Saturday night before the last Sunday of the Conference. We had been in Tourane exactly two weeks to the hour. The Lord arranged for our steamer that took us direct to Tourane from Hongkong reaching Tourane on Saturday night before the Conference opened on Sunday, 16th. Again a steamer was ready to take us back to Hongkong direct on Saturday night two weeks later. We felt sorry not to be present on the last

day,—the great day of the feast, but we felt sure that the same Spirit who had all through the Conference glorified the Name of Jesus, would give them the best day of the whole series of meetings without regard to who was present or who was absent. At it turned out, the last day was a climax indeed. At our suggestion three of the men who had been specially blessed gave brief messages on account of what God had done for them during the Conference. In the afternoon they had a red hot testimony meeting, and again in the evening special testimony messages were given to the glory of God.

Thus closed the First Annual Annamese Conference of the Indo-China Mission. It may be the last as well as the first, for we know not when the Master may return and call us to the Great Conference of All Saints in the air. What a meeting that will be! Lord, speed the glad and glorious day!

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THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANNAMESE WORKERS OF THE INDO-CHINA MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

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