

Dear Fellow-Workers,

Rain, mud, and more rain! At this time of year the roads become slithering bogs of slick red clay, the streams are swollen, and travel is difficult. We are experiencing great showers of blessing, too, in our work. In all districts, God is working and people are turning to Christ. New groups of Christians are being formed and chapels are being erected by them in their villages. Despite unsettled conditions in other parts of Indo-China, we have open doors, open hearts, and marvelous opportunities to establish the Church of Christ.

Banmethuot Bible School.

Classes began on July 1st and will end at Christmas. This year we have 8 old students and 16 new ones, fifteen of them accompanied by their wives and children. We are having rich times of study and good companionship with the students and those of us who are teaching (Ziemers, Nhuongs and ourselves) find it all very thrilling. The women attend some of the general classes but they also have classes of their own. Their menfolk sometimes say, "Oh, they can't learn anything!" But we tell them that the Gospel is for women too. These young women have never been to the Government school like the men but they are learning how to read and write and tell the Bible stories.

At times the little babies tied on their backs or running around the room make it hard for them to concentrate on the lessons, but they are proving to be just as intelligent as the men. Bible women are needed, for they can reach the women in the villages better than the men. Let us pray these women into fitness for the Master.



Raday women.

Every night there is happy fellowship in the chapel services. How they love to sing! "We would not want to go back to the old heathen life for anything", they say. "The old pleasures of the flesh cannot compare with our new life in Christ." They like the little chorus, "Things are different now - things I loved before are passed away, things I love far more are come to stay." They are taking deep roots in Christ and have power in prayer.

Each week-end they go out in different groups in various directions, preaching in the villages, and several hundreds of tribespeople have professed conversion in their meetings.

Once a month we have a social evening or picnic. The tribespeople delight in a good romp and something to laugh at. We have games, music and some refreshments, and they cry, "Isn't it nice to have a party like this! It is so much better than our old wine-drinking, gambling, quarrelling and sinful times at our sacrifices."

During October and November some of the older students will replace some of the newer preachers who will come in to school for a refresher course. We now have forty-five preachers, but we need many more. Requests are pouring in from more and more villages for teachers and we cannot answer them all. The native Church must be trained to evangelize its own countrymen. We have only this "little handful of corn". May God use them to bring forth a big

harvest of other kernels for Him. We call to you helpers in the homeland to pray out more native reapers to overtake this harvest here.

Among the Churches.

We would be happy to have  
your photo!

We have been able to make some short visits to some of the villages. A few weeks ago we drove by car 22 miles to Bandon, a very important center among the Mngong Budang people, where the chief of all the Darlac tribes lives. His name is Ama Komscock. We stayed in his house overnight while we waited for his men to get some elephants for us to travel on to Buon Ea Mdrch next day. The big chief and his wife are of mixed Mngong and Lactian blood. They gave us a very friendly welcome, setting up tables for us and hard mattresses (very dirty musty ones) down on the bamboo floor, and put out hard greasy pillows for us to use. Ama Komscock was quite drunk, as he was entertaining a lot of Lactians and Mngongs around the alcohol jar while they played on their bamboo instruments.

We had a good number at the evening meeting and we set up our flannelgraph board in the light of eight candles, and showed the graphically pictured Gospel stories. The chief said he would like to accept Christ but he couldn't give up the heathen ceremonies and sacrifices connected with the hunting of wild elephants. Bandon is the center for wild elephant hunting in Indo-China, and the Mngongs are heavily bound by many superstitions customs and laws, as well as a great love for drink.

Send us your used clothing.

We would be grateful for any clothing, except hats and shoes. Wrapped well in cartons, we receive them in six weeks by slow mail.

Here is a BIG WALL to break through! Let us diligently compass the village of Bandon by regular prayers of faith, and the walls will surely fall down. If Ama Komscock would believe, many hundreds would follow him. They assure us that they want us to build a chapel at Bandon, and we are planning to put a preacher there after Christmas. Would any of you like to build him a chapel?

The teacher in the little Government school at Bandon and 15 of his pupils accepted Christ the next morning at our meeting, and this group makes the first break in Satan's walls here.

At 2.30 p.m. our five elephants arrived from their jungle pastures, and our preaching party was off on our rocky jaunt for four hours through the jungle to Buon Ea Mdrch. This was Charlotte Schon's (one of our nurses for the leprosy work) first long trip by elephant back, but she thought it was great sport even though we were cramped in our howdahs and were jolted and jerked around.

\$300.00 will erect a longhouse chapel in a new pioneer district.

The Christians at Buon Ea Mdrch gave us their usual warm welcome and we camped there for two days. We had nightly meetings and visited the people in their longhouses during the day. From his elephant back, Gordon shot at and hit a magnificent wild red bull, but although he followed the tracks of blood for over an hour, it got away. Besides herds of wild elephants, this vast region has many wild cattle and wild buffalo.

We next visited our Dak Song chapel out among the Mngong Nongs, 50 miles from Banmethuot, and camped there a few days with our preacher Gor and his wife. The Government school for these tribesmen has been built right near our chapel. This means that the bright little school boys meet with Gor every night in the chapel. They have all prayed and accepted

Christ and we are greatly encouraged. When we arrived out there for our visit we found the evening meeting going on with all the school children there learning hymns, reciting Bible verses and learning to pray. We joined in the meeting and showed flannelgraphs to the interested people until 10.30 p.m.

The next day we visited some of the poor Mhong Nong villages, going down into deep valleys and climbing up the mountain sides. We passed through the rice-fields where hundreds of great trees had been felled and burned and left to rot. The grains of rice had been planted in between the tree trunks. The lonely hillside villages were indeed miserable haunts of poverty. We walked through deep slimy mud to the broken-down shacks - more like cattle pens or pig sties than homes. We visited inside with the wild, dirty, ignorant savages. How desperately they need the Gospel! Even here to earth's uttermost, the Power of God can redeem.

At night over a hundred of these Mhong Nongs gathered into our Dak Song chapel and listened with great interest. Several prayed afterwards. Since our visit there, Mr. and Mrs. Nhung and Miss Schon, with a group of Bible students have gone to Dak Song. Over 30 more of these tribespeople turned to the Lord.

In a Raday rice-field. We spent a day recently in a Raday rice-field, and filmed the ceremony of planting the grain. The baskets of seed rice were grouped in the center of the field and close by were big jars of alcohol under several shady branches of the sacred Tang tree which they had stuck into the ground. A sorcerer killed a small pig and a chicken, and chanted long prayers to the demons as he poured drops of blood over each basket of rice.

A half dozen young Raday women stood in a semi-circle blowing together on little bamboo Peter Pan pipes. Their music was weird but sweet. They had on their picturesque Raday dress of dark blue homespun cloth, the long skirts banded with bars of bright red above their bare feet, and the blue scarves covering their heads fell to their shoulders behind. The men in their loin-cloths and collarless shirts of indigo and scarlet, sat before the alcohol jars, drinking continually through long reeds.

After the ceremony each man took a long pointed stick in each hand and they began walking in line up and down the field making little holes in the ground. The women and girls filled up hollow bamboo tubes with the rice from the baskets, and followed behind the men, bending down to shoot a few grains into each hole, then with the closed end of the tube they shoved the dirt back into the hole again.

Every ten minutes or so they all returned to fill up their tubes and to have a drink at the jars. We sat under the Tang tree branches with flannelgraph pictures, and told them of the loving Saviour who gives them all their rice and causes it to grow. We explained to them how they had been misled in their age-old beliefs. In the afternoon we ate together in their little field shack - hot rice, eggplant, peppers, - and they gobbled, shouted and laughed and were very hospitable. They are very pleased when we go to see them, and make ourselves one with them. If they see that you love them and like to be with them, they love you in return. A number have prayed in this village and on week-ends our students will go and strengthen them in the Faith.

In the Lake district 50 more Mhong Rlum have recently believed, and 80 tribespeople are meeting regularly in the Lake Daklak chapel every Sunday morning with our preachers there, No and Mil. In the Mhong Gar tribe, several villages are responding and 44 in Buon Kde village expect to erect their own chapel soon. In the Buon Krong district, 37 more have believed. So the fountain of the New Life in Christ is flowing out into many different streams.

Reinforcements. When we returned in January 1947 after our last furlough, we were the only missionaries in this vast tribal area of Pleiku and Banmethuot. By the end of this year we expect to number 14, not including Mr. Ourgaud, the new Industrial Supt. of the Leprosy Settlement. At that time we had five native workers, now we have forty-five. Truly God has been good to us during these past four years.

Rev. and Mrs. Bill Smalley arrive from France at the end of September, and since no funds are yet available to build their new station among the Stiengs at Budop, they will have to come to Banmethuot and live in the Bible School classrooms. These are badly needed for the school. Will you kindly pray for the opening of this great new Stieng area, 200 kilometres from Banmethuot?

Rev. and Mrs. Gene Evans are settled in Pleiku with the Manghams and are studying the Jarai. They previously were located on the Kansu-Tibetan border in China. We are expecting the Board to send us soon a young lady secretary to help with our heavy correspondence, and to carry on our office work during our furlough next year.

New Piper Pacer Plane. Good friends at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago have kindly purchased a new Piper Pacer four-place plane, fully equipped. This is now on its way to us. How we thank God for this great gift! Ever since our Stinson was damaged beyond repair in a forced landing, we have prayed for another plane to speed us over hostile country and above the dangerous roads. And God has sent us one. We thank you all who have prayed and sent gifts towards our plane fund. These will be used to pay the duty and to set up the plane in Saigon, and add an automatic fire extinguisher, etc.

Our three boys. Stanley (15) flew back to New York in August, and is now attending Hampden DuBose Academy, in Florida. Leslie (19) is attending high school in Wheaton, Illinois. Douglas (21) is entering his fourth year at Wheaton College. We hope to see him graduate next June.

Our furlough is soon due. The Board has reduced our term of service to four and a half years, owing to the strain of war conditions out here, and this means that we are planning to go on furlough next May. It is going to be a race against time to get ready for this, but in order to permit our colleagues to have their furloughs on time, we must go in May. We don't expect to stay very long on furlough.

We shall be located in Chicago again, if we can find a furnished apartment near transportation. Already invitations are coming to us to hold meetings, but it is too early at present to make definite dates. Much of Gordon's time will have to be given to convention tours for our Society, but Laura will be available as before.

.....  
\$15.00 a month will support  
a native worker and his family.  
.....

structures to properly carry on this work? We hope to care for about 100 patients during the first year, and as facilities increase, to take in many hundreds more. We shall need accommodations for babies and infected children, as well as homes for the healthy children of patients. A school and a chapel are also planned for, as funds are received.

So the project is progressing slowly, under the evident blessing of God. We surely appreciate your prayers and interest. The Government has granted us the 150 acres of land as a permanent concession by special authorization, and we are permitted to utilize the hundreds of fine hardwood trees for our construction work.

God is giving us the personnel for this work. Miss Schon is now in Purulia, Bihar, India, taking special training under one of the world's outstanding leprologists, Dr. Ernest Muir. Miss Mildred Ade is now in France for French studies, and she, together with another nurse we expect to come to us soon, will go to Siam for special leprosy training. Our consecrated French friend, Mr. Ourgaud, will be moving into his thatch and bamboo house early in October and will oversee the agriculture and industry of the settlement.

### Steps of Faith.

God has been teaching us lessons of faith these days. He has shown us that He has put no limit to what we may ask of Him, according to His will, and that the limitless resources of His eternal storehouses are available to us when we ask in faith. How wonderful it is to stand by faith in the very Throne Room of His Presence, "in the heavenlies", "in Christ", "one in the Godhead", and exercise our authority and privileges as believers, and be the means of channelling His power and grace to a needy world!

At our Field Conference last May, we were led to relinquish our share of the Mission budget, in order that the hard-pressed Viet Namese Church might receive more help. This means that we must trust God for about nine hundred dollars each month to carry on our work and to support our 45 preachers, and 5 Viet Namese pastors. We praise God for raising up a good number of friends who are faithfully sending in their regular gifts of ten and fifteen dollars each month for the support of their particular worker.

We are far from satisfied yet. When we see the open doors, and realize how much God has put at our disposal, we dare to trust Him for a hundred workers; for scores of new chapels built by new groups of Christians, for the support for hundreds of poor people whose lives have been blighted by leprosy. Will you stand with us in this faith-pact with God? We are asking Him for the impossible things, and truly we are seeing the impossible come to pass.

Very sincerely in Him,

*Laura J. Smith*

*Gordon H. Smith*

P.S. Please send all gifts to our Headquarters - The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 W. 44th St., New York, 18, N.Y., (In Canada - 145 Evelyn Ave., Toronto, Ont.) Make check or money order out to our Society, and add a note stating that it is "For tribeswork, leper work, etc., Gordon H. Smith". The Treasurer will send you a receipt, and as soon as we receive the proceeds we shall let you know.

Since ordinary mail takes nearly two months to reach us, may we suggest that you write us by air mail. It comes in ten days. Write us often, we are always happy to hear from you.

Leprosy Settlement.

We are grateful indeed to the American Leprosy Missions, Inc., for their promise of financial aid to us this year. The amount that they are sending, however, will not permit us to launch our program of permanent buildings for which plans have long been ready. We had hoped to erect buildings of cement and tile roofs, but instead we are obliged to erect a number of native-style structures made of logs, woven bamboo walls and floors, and thatch grass roofs. The floors will be four feet above the ground.

These buildings present such a great fire hazard that the smallest stray spark could touch off a blaze that would consume the place in a matter of minutes, giving no chance for the dozens of crippled patients to escape. Since they cook over little fires made on squares of mud on the floors of the longhouses, we always have the dread of fire hanging over us. They are difficult to keep clean, and need frequent repairs.

Cost of Permanent Buildings:	
Clinic	\$5,250.00
Ward for 20 women	4,000.00
Ward for 20 men	4,000.00
8 cabins for 32 women	4,000.00
8 cabins for 32 men	4,000.00
	<u>\$21,250.00</u>

For some time now about 30 tribesmen have been clearing the jungle and erecting a number of these longhouses to house the patients, the clinic, and to serve as a home for Mr. Ourgaud, the superintendent.

Gordon has been going about the jungles trying to select those poor unfortunates whom we can treat in the beginning. Huddled in their tiny huts, they crawl out and beg to be taken. We must turn so many of them down, alas. Unless funds are available, it will be necessary to take in a majority who can do some work, in order to make the settlement partly self-supporting. So many are absolutely helpless, without the use of hands or feet, lying in filth and misery, covered with ulcers and slowly dying. It is heartbreaking to have to refuse them, but what else can we do?

<p>\$4.00 a month will feed a man or woman crippled and made helpless by leprosy.....</p>
---

We shall be glad to allot a patient to any car-tug to share in this saving ministry, and will send you a photo. While we must relieve their suffering, our main object is to bring these outcasts into contact with the Living Christ who longs to cleanse and save.

This tribal area is considered one of the most highly infected areas in the world with malaria. Eighty percent of children die before they reach a year old. The United States Economic Mission to Indo-China is aiding the French Government to embark on a strong program of malaria control by giving medicines and equipment. Since we are endeavoring to establish a model settlement where leprosy can be diagnosed, treated, and from which trained workers can go forth to other districts, the responsibility has been turned over to us by the Government and the American Commission. The Medical Advisor to this Commission recently paid us a visit, and we had the pleasure of taking him around the country. He has promised to give us medicines and equipment. The Commission does not give money nor help erect buildings. However, we are deeply grateful to them for the prospects of practical help. It still leaves us with the problem of housing not only our patients in permanent buildings, but also the valuable medicines, laboratory and hospital equipment that will be given us. Will you join us in prayer that we can soon start building suitable