

THE CALL
of
VIET-NAM

16



*Vietnamese Women Returning
From Market*

BA-GIAC

THE VIET-NAM MISSION
OF THE
CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

NOVEMBER 1956

The Call of Viêt-Nam is issued by the Viêt-Nam missionaries of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. It comes to you as a gift from the missionary whose address is noted on the back page. Its purpose is to acquaint you with the work of the Lord in Viet-Nam and to solicit your prayer and support.

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NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS !!

Hué. — Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins are praying for a tent in order that they might be able to reach the many villages around Hue. This was the Royal City in years past and is still the heart beat of the nation. They would appreciate your standing with them in prayer for this need.

Tourane. — Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Irwin were host and hostess for the Tourane Conference when from 800 to 1,000 delegates and many missionaries attended. A good time was had by all. They are the only missionaries allocated to this busy area and are helping in the Bible School as time permits. Mr. and Mrs. Henry, arriving October 19 will be studying the Vietnamese language and will be located in Tourane also.

Qui-Nhon. — Mr. and Mrs. Travis are located in their new quarters at Qui-Nhon, a much neglected area heretofore. Equipped with his fine new trailer which he designed and built, we expect to hear many interesting tales of pioneer missionary work from that area. Be sure and pray for them. This is, perhaps, our most difficult location.

Nha-Trang. — Mr. Franklin Irwin has also been asked to teach a course of two or three weeks in the Tourane Bible School along with other missionaries who are donating a short period of time for specialized subjects. The church has a lovely orphanage in Nha-Trang which now has fifty children from the ages of four to sixteen who were left orphans or without financial support following the war. Another forty children are anticipating entering the orphanage after the first of the year. The orphanage is manned with christian personnel and the children are taught many handicrafts which will enable them to be self supporting as they grow to maturity as well as being taught their regular school lessons.

Dalat. — Mrs. Olsen recently sponsored a music recital at the Dalat School which marked the close of the term before the Holiday Vacations. Prior to the Christmas holidays she will hold a short term Bible course in the Bible School at Tourane and visit the E.F. Irwins.

Fune's are filling-in for the Jacksons who are on furlough. They have charge of the Tribe center at Dalat as well as helping in the refugee work in that area.

Phan-Thiét. — Mr. and Mrs. Rexilius are the proud parents of a baby girl born in October. Read their article on page 5.

Bên-Tre. — Mr. and Mrs. Fitzstevens sponsor a youth fellowship which meets at their home once every two-months. They usually have an outside speaker for the afternoon, a fellowship supper and games and social fellowship in the evening. This has met with a hearty response from the young people in that district.

Phnom-Penh. — Mr. and Mrs. Al Kowles are our missionary representatives to the Chinese in Cambodia. Their headquarters are in the city of Phnom-Penh. Recently the Chinese Church in Phnom-Penh had

a banner day, as twenty-five followed the Lord in the rite of baptism, most of them young people. Pray that they shall be bold witnesses to influence others to renounce that which is vain, and enter into vital relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray too for the many, many Chinese who live in this country and who are hungry for the Bread of Life.



25 chinese christians baptized at Phnom-Penh

(Continued on page 9)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF VIET-NAM

It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since our arrival to Viêt-Nam. We came here with anticipation and some anxiety, wondering if conditions would improve or grow worse following the war here.

Our first impressions of Viêt-Nam have been many and varied. We have been amazed at such sights as the grass thatched roofs... the mud packed siding... the white painted X on the door posts to ward off the spirits... the water filled rice paddies... the rumbling two-wheeled ox-carts... the lumbering long-horned water buffalo... the humming mosquitoes... the persistent flies... the odor of aging fish oil... the never-ending season of tropical fruits... the blazing sun... the drenching rains... the high humidity... the creeping mildew... the lizards on the walls... the curiosity of the children... the ever-present beggars... the abundance of rice consumed each day... the burdens of the people... the open-air markets with all their odors... the unending rubber plantations... the stately pines on the mountain sides... the villages without

a witness and their eagerness for the Gospel and religious tracts. All these and more cause us to realize again that we are in a new and different country.

Phan-Thiét has been our home for nearly a year. Needless to say, language study occupies our time, but we take opportunity to visit the neighboring churches and become acquainted with the people.

Within a few months a new Hôi-thanh-Tin-lanh church will be a reality in this city, and will be situated in a much better location than their present building. The ministry among the many prisoners here has been encouraging, with a good number coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

One does not have to be in this country long before he realizes the need for bringing the Gospel to these people. We shall be glad for the time when we can be out in full-time service for the Lord.

R. REXILIUS

CANTHO DISTRICT

In our three months here we have been impressed with the enormity of the task that lies before us. There are several strong, flourishing churches, and for these we thank God. Two churches destroyed during the war have been rebuilt; a third will be finished and dedicated next month. A new church has been established among the refugees from the north who have settled over near the Gulf of Siam.

But how much land remains to be possessed! There are still seven churches destroyed during the fighting which should be rebuilt. There is a wide-open field for evangelism among children. The more than one hundred children reached each week in the two meetings in Cantho barely scratch the surface in this city alone. A lending library is being organized to supply flannelgraph lessons which will make it much easier for every church to carry on a program of children's work. Young people are anxious to study the Scriptures, and are asking for a Short Term Bible School. By March we expect to see a permanent center established for Short Term Bible Schools which will accommodate 80 to 100 people.

The most urgent need however is the many, many small towns of from 4,000 to 6,000 people which are without a church or witness of any kind. One can scarcely grasp the meaning and burden of this great task! Plans are under way to open three churches soon. It will take lots of prayer and money and work. Would that God would put on the hearts of a multitude of folks at home to intercede for a mighty working of His Spirit in these three places — Cai-Rang, Binh-Thuy, and Tra-On. There is a desperate shortage of workers! Please pray definitely that the Lord will supply someone to help. **PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST!**

J. REVELLE



HÒAN - NGHỆNH

HỘI ĐỒNG TỔNG - LIÊN - HỘI

HỘI THẦN TÍN - LÃNH VIỆT

TOURANE CONFERENCE

Is God still working as He did in the days of Paul ? I am inclined to believe that He is. See if you don't agree !

Tourane is the birth-place of the Protestant Church in Viêt-Nam. This event took place not too many years ago. Of this we were reminded by Mr. E.F. Irwin as he recalled the day when he and his wife first landed in Viêt-Nam. He said that at that time there was only one other Christian in this country. This was an interesting statement because he was addressing 91 delegates and from 800 to 1,000 Christians. These 91 delegates represented an estimated 44,000 believers.

The Lord has faithfully thrust forth capable, qualified leaders. Mr. Thai, President of the National Church, as well as the Executive Committee were both re-elected for another term. Not only in the experienced senior and middle-aged pastors was remarkable leadership evidenced but also among the younger men.

Early morning prayer meetings were well attended and there was a real spirit of brokenness and humility. Each evening the unsaved gathered in and around the attractively decorated church to hear how Christ can restore men to the Image and fellowship of God. Following the business and devotional meetings, many interesting reports were given. Here are excerpts from a few :

Mr. Thau, evangelist of South Viêt-Nam, reported visiting 31 places and preaching to approximately 67,000 people. The results were that 163 decisions were made, 2 churches were organized and 1 tribe turned to Christ.

Mr. Ba reported his church is too small for the people as a result of the personal evangelism of his Young People. 170 were saved in 2 months, 60 have been baptized so far with another large group still waiting.

Mr. Ha, another pastor, was sick for two months. During this time he was reading in the Old Testament and the Lord revealed the reason for his sickness. He wasn't tithing ! Due to this revelation his whole church is now tithing.

Mr. Tin reported of 24 national missionaries to the tribes people of Viêt-Nam. Up to this time 14 tribes have been reached and are being evangelized. There are 5 ordained tribes pastors and 6,000 christians.

Truly the God of Paul is the same YESTERDAY, TODAY, and FOREVER.

J. FITZSTEVENS

THE CHINESE ALLIANCE BOOK ROOM

A new ministry began among the Chinese of Saigon-Cholon area on July 28th when our Alliance Book Room was dedicated to the Lord. As a result, within the past two months many have come in contact with Gospel literature for the first time.

The plan for a Book Room grew out of a great need. The missionary's residence was inadequate as a distribution center for Christian literature. Furthermore, we were anxious to acquaint unbelievers with the Gospel, and of course they would not go to the foreigner's house to read it!

It is wonderful how things suddenly happened — a place to rent in an ideal location, the supplying of necessary equipment for displaying literature as well as furniture so interested readers can leisurely sit and browse through books and magazines, gifts of a ceiling fan and a clock, and as an added indication of God's leading, payment of the first year's rent through the gifts of the Saigon American Community Church!

We want you to have a share in this literature ministry. In what way? Through faithful prayer! There are three Chinese schools near the Book Room, so pray with us that many students as well as passers-by will come in to read the Gospel literature. In connection with the Book Room, pray too that we may be able to get out the Gospel message through newspaper articles. We would like to print an article each week, trusting that many Chinese will be brought to Christ through this ministry.

B. ARNOLD



Inside of new Book Room.

H. HOLTEN

(Continued from page 4)

Saigon. — Our chairman is just recovering from a battle with dengue fever following a recent trip to Central Viêt-Nam when the foreign secretary visited Viêt-Nam. After the first of the year Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey intend to assist the teaching staff in the Tourane Bible School for a period of two or three weeks in specialized courses.

The receiving home where Mr. and Mrs. Taylor are allocated has been full of guests, one of whom we were very pleased to have visit us, Mr. L.L. King, Foreign Secretary. Come again ! A hearty welcome awaits !

The Houck's are assisting three churches in the area with music rehearsals each Sunday P.M. They receive many letters at the Press office telling of souls being won to the Lord as a result of tract distribution. Mrs. Cuu-Trac, an earnest christian and a widow, is doing voluntary colportage work at Bong-Son located between Qui-Nhon and Quang-Ngai, and reports that many have believed on the Lord as a result of tract distribution. Now a house on the main road is being rented for a chapel book room. Plans are being made for the opening of book stalls in the city of Saigon as well as in some of the interior cities of the south. Your prayers will be appreciated !



Saigon Gospel Press and Residence

B. Houck



*Chinese Book Room
in Cholon*

Miss Mack and Miss Johnston, office workers for the Chairman's office, Business Agency and Press are also occupied with language study and a Bible Class in English at one of the local churches.

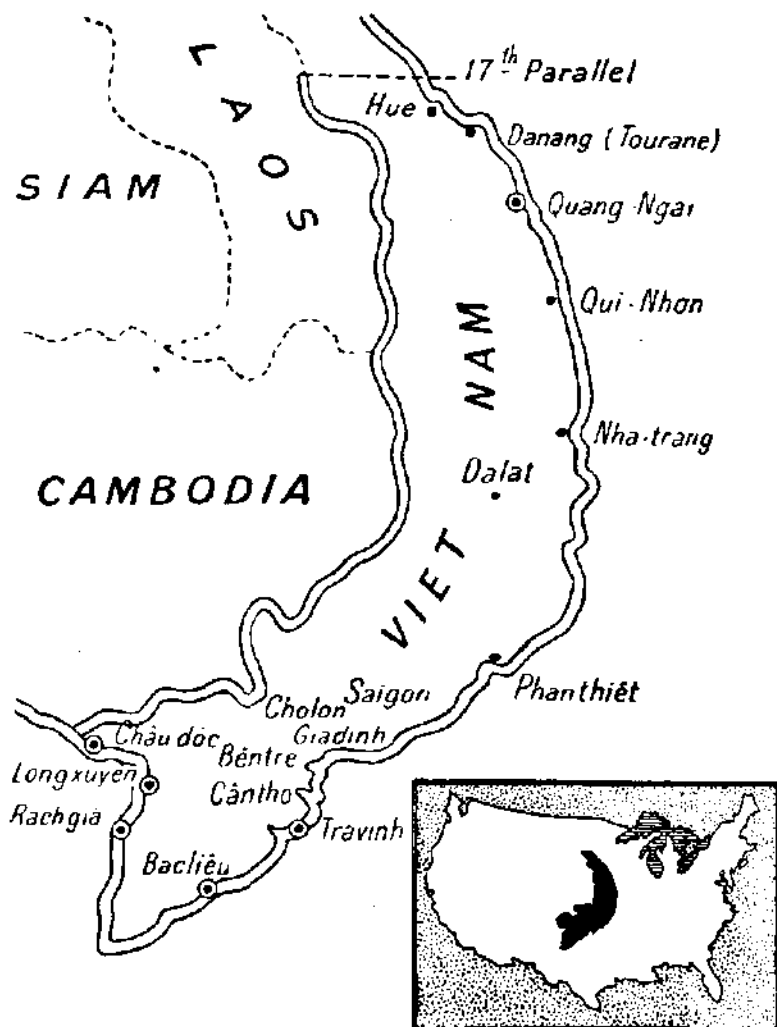
The American Community Church in Saigon, of which Mr. Sawin is pastor, has purchased a new C-3 Hammond Organ. Also a choir of 15 voices adds much to the Sunday Morning Worship Service. Attendance has been averaging around 120 each Sunday and around 85 in the Sunday School. This church

does much in a monetary way for the Vietnamese churches in this area, as well as other charitable projects. Four Radios were recently given to the paraplegic wards in one of the Hospitals. The first DVBS was held in the church during the month of August.

Mr. Sawin also reports of the good attendance to the evangelistic services which are held each Sunday evening in the Saigon Vietnamese Church. Religious films have attracted many unbelievers to the services and many have found the Lord. We praise the Lord for the faithful work of the deacons and christians in this church, whose personal work in dealing with the unsaved, add much to the success of this evangelistic effort.

Mr. Warren Myers, our co-worker from Orient Crusades is active in the Correspondence Bible School work and instruction classes for the new converts in the various churches. We greatly appreciate this ministry.

PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES !



THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM

AREA — Approximately 65,000 square miles.

CAPITAL — Saigon (2,400,000 est. population).

POPULATION — 12,000,000 (est.).

RELIGION — Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism and Taoism.

« Viêt-Nam forms part of the monsoon climate zone which stretches westward beyond India and northward as far as Japan. The wet and dry seasons are sharply distinct.

The average maximum temperature in Saigon is 86° and the average minimum is 71.6°. Average annual rainfall is 73.3 inches.

Viêt-Nam is easily accessible. The capital, Saigon, forms a turn-table between India, the Malay archipelago, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, China and Japan. The position of Saigon in world shipping has made it a focal point of communications. Many international airlines, including Pan American, Air France, Philippine Air Lines, Thai Airways, Air Viêtnam, Air Laos, and others serve Tan-Son-Nhut (Saigon) chief international airport of Viêt-Nam.

The Mekong River in the South is the longest river in Southeast Asia. »

Courtesy U.S.I.S.

FROM : _____

stamp

TO : _____

