

original
to Bill Pruett
7/24/92

Saigon

Sept. 9, 1954

Huynh Minh Y
281 Blvd Gallieni

To Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pruett
Saigon, South Viet Nam, Indo China

Our beloved Pastor in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Although in the midst of multitudinous duties, my wife and I continually remember, think of, and pray for you and your dear family, always. And, we are sure that over there, in your country, you still think of us, the Church here, and our country of Viet Nam which you know and love so well. So, whenever there is anything, either joyful or sad, we want to tell you about it, in order that you may praise the Lord; or pray and trust the Lord to deliver and give great grace to the Church and to our country.

Beloved friends, by the grace of God, the Vietnamese Church in Saigon, in the quarters of Nguyen-tri-Phuong and the Chieu area (rug or mat) are open for preaching, and many people come and hear; and always, there are some who repent of their sins and come and submit themselves to the Lord. By the grace of God, I have many opportunities to preach the Gospel - the Lord has given me a car to go here and there, extensively. Truly the Lord has given me freedom in every way to preach the Truth of Christ. I have a chauffeur, and the expenses every month are considerable, but the Lord always supplies sufficiently. I am permitted to preach in the hospitals where there are many wounded, and to show slides of the "Life of Christ". The Lord has recently given me a good, small convenient (portable) projector to show the slides. Everything the Lord has given me is from the Lord - not from the missionaries, nor from the Lord's children in the Alliance. At present I still lack only a few colored slides on the life of Christ and the Apostles. I trust the Lord to soon provide these which will facilitate me in my witnessing for Him. Each time I go into the hospitals, they permit me to freely show my pictures in the chapels, and the wounded come in great crowds. Afterwards, there are always from 15 to 20 of them who repent, believe ~~of~~ ~~accept~~ and accept Christ. On Sundays, a Catholic priest goes (to the hospital) and the following Saturday I go. Praise God. Truly, we have never had such freedom to preach as now. Please pray for us.

Since (Premier) Ngo-dinh-Diem came to power, (he is a Catholic, but he is a true revolutionary (or reformer), a scolar of the old school) he is impartial towards all parties and religions. He loves everybody - he likes me very much, and he has received Mr. Thai (the Church President), and other of our Pastors; he is very friendly with everybody, and he shows a very godly attitude. Everytime he meets me, he (the Prime Minister) likes to chat a while, and asks about the Gospel Church. He urges me to keep on preaching the Gospel, for he says that whoever knows the doctrine of the Lord and believes in Him, will never follow communism. The Prime Minister constantly speaks of you (Mr. Pruett) - he praises you as a straightforward and worthy man, who speaks the Vietnamese language fluently and accurately. The Premier also often recalls Mr. and Mrs. Bui cong Van (Vietnamese working in VOA with Mr. Pruett) Since the Premier assumed power, the people love him, the local courts have been restored to Viet Nam control - the national (or supreme court not yet - and the various departments of administration have been given over to the Viet Nam Government. The biggest palace of all, formerly that of the Governor General, has been handed over to become the Palace of the Premier.

On one hand, Premier Ngo dinh Diem does so much for the people - and on the other hand, the Viet Minh make it hard for them. Since Viet Nam was divided in two, our northern compatriots, fear the menace of totalitarian

Communism, so they have left their homes, belongings, rice fields, no matter how prosperous, in order to emigrate to the South - carrying only their clothes but coming like that in droves. In a very short space of time, many thousands of people have come to Southern Viet Nam. Truly, the aerial bridge linking Hanoi with Saigon is tremendous. From 6 o'clock in the morning when the leave, it takes 9 hours to make the trip. But throughout the day, the planes keep coming until 11 P. M. - bringing thousands of emigrants to Saigon. And by sea, the American, British, and French ships are bringing thousands every day, and they are filling all the large public buildings. Many of our Christians from Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Hanoi, Haiphong are also coming, Pastor and Mrs. De, who were the strongest, supported by the Hanoi Church, not by the Mother (Mission) Alliance formerly said they would remain in Hanoi, but now they have left before everybody else, and gone to Tourane. Six Pastors and their families (including) Pastors Nhut, Si, Bang, Mao, etc. have come to Saigon. The Church does not have any money of the Alliance at all to give them - those 6 pastors and their families who came to Saigon - they must stay in the public house of the evacuees; day and night they spread their grass mats on the ground and lie down, each day they must hold out their hands to receive the 12 piastres which the government grants - the children receiving 6 piastres. One piastre is actually worth little more than one cent) The church doesn't have any money, hence men (Pastors) have to lie on the ground enduring great hardship and depending upon the Government's dole. Dear Pastor and Mrs. Pruett, those are men who have served the Lord many years - such as Mr. Mao who has served the Lord for over 30 years. And now, they have to lie on the ground! The Mennonite Society has sent some Pastors here to investigate, to see how they can help the unfortunate evacuees - but they are only observers, and they have not yet indicated what they can or will do. I am ashamed, and very sad, so I have organized a Gospel Rescue Committee, of which Pastor Thao is chairman, Pastor Huynh Secretary and I am Treasurer. We have just asked for contributions for the first time, and already we have received \$6,000.00 piastres, We intend to ask for more contributions so as to put up a temporary shelter and invite our evacuated Pastors to dwell there, hoping that we may be able to raise enough money for their immediate needs, and if they can remain here and preach, that will be fine. One can preach freely here, and the people love to hear (the Gospel).

Over there in America, will you please tell the brethren about these things, and if anyone is so moved, and wants to contribute to help these Pastors and Christian believers who have come from the North to the South, please have them send their contributions to Rev. H. C. Smith - Mr. Smith will receive the money and transmit it to me.

Dear Pastor and Mrs. Pruett, no one is remaining in Northern Viet Nam (that of course is an exaggeration. WAP.) because they know how terrible is the menace of Communism under the Viet Minh. I am convinced that if you (Mr. and Mrs. Pruett) or Rev. and Mrs. Irwin were here, certainly you would not permit these pastors who have devotedly served the Lord for these many years to have to lie on the ground these many days like rubbish.

Many Catholic priests have also come, but the Catholic Societies look after them immediately, and take them to their Churches where they are clean and comfortable. But our poor Pastors, they are reproached as belonging to the Gospel Society of America (i.e. the Organization of the Alliance) and they suffer beyond words. Even so there are many Pastors and believers in Southern Vietnam who still do not realize the menace of Communism, and criticize the Pastors for leaving the north and ~~abandoning~~ abandoning the Flock and fleeing into the South. They don't still understand that Mr. Ho Chi-Minh is the agent of imperialist Russia and Red China. They don't understand that the Gospel and Communism can never be united. They think that if they defend the Viet Minh the Viet Minh will treat them well. Never shall it be!

The Viet Minh are very wicked - they killed Evangelist Tran My De at Chau Doc, and buried him alive; Mr Be was not yet dead when they beat him over the head with a hoe, and shoveled dirt over him until he was dead. Mr. Be's wife hearing this, took her child in her arms, and went on foot for almost 8 ~~XX~~ KM to get (the body), and they killed her also. The Viet Minh are truly wicked. In central Viet Nam, the Viet Minh arrested Pastors Trung, Chau, Diem and Evangelist Giao and put them in jail where they suffered much; that was because they preached the Gospel and declared that in the last days there would be pestilences, wars, famines, earthquakes and other calamities, and only the coming of the Lord Jesus could bring peace to men.

The Viet Minh say, What Lord Whose coming will bring peace? Only the Communism of Russia, China and the Viet Minh, by war and bloodshed will bring peace. They say the Bible is a secret American code, because it has chapters and verses. They have begun to forbid the Bible. They forbid the Pastors to mention the Devil in their sermons; they say there is no devil and when the preachers say Devil in their sermons, they really mean the Americans are coming! (This is a play on words in Vietnamese. WAP.) So actually, in the Viet Minh zones, it is impossible to preach the Gospel. In Northern Viet Nam, the Viet Minh have brought in several divisions, amounting to several hundred thousand Chinese soldiers, and So let cadres and they proclaim to the people that they must prepare to welcome the Chinese soldiers in great style and with much warmth, for they have done so much good to us. (The statement about Chinese soldiers in Viet Nam is completely without confirmation WAP). The Viet Minh claim that the friendship linking Vietnam, China and Russia is precious. They don't know the Lord - they only know Russia and China as their Lord. The Viet Minh have chased the French only to invite the Chinese in. That's like a man who chases a tiger out his front door, and lets in a panther in the back door. The Chinese soldiers are extremely dangerous. So, when their (the V M) general Nguyen-Binh, and Dr. Pham van Bach the Chairman (Of the VM), Mr. Muoi-Tri, Dr. Huong, Mr. Hoang Minh Giam - all important figures in the V M, when they only complained about the Chinese soldiers who were in Viet Nam, the Viet Minh condemned and executed them all.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pruett, although Premier Ngo-dinh-Diem is a Roman Catholic, he is a true Nationalist, and we should pray for him. He alone is the symbol of nationalism, and opposes totalitarian communism. If he is not established, the V M will get all of Viet Nam, and they will be masters of all. Then all religions will be destroyed. Please pray much for Viet Nam. Here we are trusting the Lord with all our might and soul.

Dear Friends, last week, my fourth daughter, Van*Phi has also gone to Washington, so that now I have three daughters and two sons-in-law in America, and one daughter and her husband in France. If the Lord has not returned, and the V M should take over all Viet Nam, my wife and I will also doubtless go over to America and there await the coming of the Lord. It would be impossible to remain here and submit to the horror of despotic rule such as is now in Northern Viet Nam. The Viet Minh divide the people into three classes, 1. citizens; these are few; only those who are really RED, and have completely followed communism; 2., the "new" people, i. e. the Vietnamese who have had dealings with foreign countries; 3., the "slave" people, that is, the Vietnamese who have worked with foreigners and have received pay from foreigners. The V.M. treat this third group very viciously. They make them do hard labor, such as force them to go to the China Viet Nam frontier, and build roads, bridges, and they work them to death - just as the Soviets exile their people. (to Siberia). They only spare those who are really RED. Please, Pastor and Mrs. Pruett, have compassion and pray much for the country and the people of Viet Nam. Thank you so much.

Because you (Mr. Pruett) have helped my daughters and my sons in law to go to America - you stood guarantor for them before they went - we remember you affectionately - always. Certainly, you and Mrs. Pruett have loved us more than we deserve. We hope that you will both come back to Viet Nam. I hear that Mr. Hazlett wants to return when there is enough money. May the Lord be with you both and with your family. With affection we respectfully salute you and your family.

Cordially yours,