

*Mr. L. King*  
RECEIVED  
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

JUL 14 1975

**The Christian and Missionary Alliance** <sup>FILE</sup>

NYACK, NEW YORK 10960 • CABLE ADDRESS "PAROUSIA" • PHONE (814) 353-0760

OPERATION VIET NAM HEARTBEAT

3 July 1975  
Guerneville, CA

MEMO FOR:

Reverend Revelle	Reverend Hien
Reverend G. Irwin	Reverend Nam
Reverend Fitzstevens	Reverend Tai
Rev. Drummond	Reverend Hong
Rev. Kayser	Reverend Josephsen
Rev. F. Irwin	Reverend Sawin

INFO FOR:

Dr. N. Bailey	Rev. Cathay
Dr. L. King	Rev. Cowles
Dr. K. Bailey	Rev. Mangham
Dr. B. King	Rev. Reimer
District Superintendents	Rev. Tot

*Dr. Bandy  
Dr. Battles*

SUBJECT: Updated Policy and Coordination

1. General: An informational letter is attached to this memo. I hope that it provides a thorough understanding of what has been done, how and why. After discussing the letter with Dr. Bailey guidance was given facilitating the implementation of the changes necessary from this point forward. I suggest that you STOP at this point, read the enclosure, then continue.

2. Sponsorship:

a. TIN LANH: There are no changes in any of the procedures (Memo: "Mission, Responsibilities, Operations," 21 May 1975).

b. Cambodians: Through God's enabling we are locating some of our former churchmen from Cambodia as well as realizing some conversions as we are ministering at Pendleton and Indiantown Gap. All Cambodian sponsorship will be from the Pendleton field office. Superintendents, pastors, churches desiring to sponsor Cambodians will contact Pendleton.

c. New Christians: As of 11 July sponsorship of new Christians (Guam and US camp conversions) will be the same as prescribed in the 21 May memo for TIN LANH. The Society is trusting the Lord in seeing our burden expand to include the fruit of the HEARTBEAT Spiritual ministry. The following guidance is provided:

(1). "Sponsorship Christians": For the first time we will be directly vulnerable to an appeal, at least inferentially, of "be converted, get a sponsor!" Only a continual consciousness of the problem and a prayerful ministry will get us through this undesirable situation.

(2). Recruitment of Sponsors: Essentially the procedures specified in paragraph 6, Memo of 21 May are applicable. Superintendents or others contacting the field offices will need to specify if a "new Christian" is acceptable. In most, if not all cases there will be no objection. As indicated on page 6 of the enclosed letter, the objective of the Society is to place as many of the new Christians as possible in the following areas: LINCOLN, ORLANDO, MONTREAL, CHICAGO,

SEATTLE, LOS ANGELES, ST. PAUL, AND SAN DIEGO.

(3). Instructions to Sponsor: The Field Office Directors are responsible to write each sponsor of a new Christian informing them of the spiritual condition of the individual, suggesting how he might be nurtured in the Lord, and providing the name, address and telephone number of the nearest Vietnamese CMA pastor. In areas where churches are projected but pastors are not yet assigned the superintendent's name and telephone number will be provided as an interim measure. Superintendents will be able to contact Reverend Tot, Field Director, Vietnamese Specialized Ministry as required.

d. Other Agencies: Due to increasing and sometimes regionally conflicting US Government policies some CMA sponsorships are leaving processing centers under preemptively imposed governmental arrangements. Thus some CMA sponsors may be contacted by Church World Service (CWS), Lutheran Relief, US Catholic Conference (USCC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) or others claiming to have been the VOLAG (see pages 2 and 3, enclosed letter) processing the sponsorship. Our constituency should be informed that the Society entered into no arrangements or agreements with any organization other than the IRC - a non-sectarian worldwide organization. Any questions on the part of sponsors should be referred to me, at the Guerneville office.

3. Reports: With the implementation of the CMA sponsorship of new Christians the daily telephonic report required of the field office directors is changed. In order that everyone will know the exact new format the following reproduction is provided.

STATUS REPORT AS OF 3 July 1975  
(date)

	PDL (1)	CHA (2)	EGL (3)	IGP (4)	MON (5)
A. Cumulative Nr. TIN LANH individuals identified	26K 520	621	231	94	5K/9/1C
B. TIN LANH Family Groups still in center *	3K/24	57	13	16	/
C. TIN LANH Family Groups in center still requiring sponsors	0	25	3	15	/
D. Cumulative Nr. of general refugees assisted as VOLAG	30	1188	830	0	/
E. Cumulative Nr. of conversions, spiritual ministry	284	447	339	125K 28	2K
F. Cumulative Nr. New Converts (US or Guam) individuals identified					
G. New Convert Family Groups still in center *				45	
H. New Convert Family Groups requiring sponsors				45	
I. CMA Sponsorships received but not yet used					
J. Non-CMA Sponsorships received but not yet used					

\* Any family group or individual declining CMA Sponsorship is considered as departed and not again indicated in reports.

- K = Khmer (1) Pendleton
- C = Chinese (2) Chaffee
- (3) Eglin
- (4) Indiantown Gap
- (5) Montreal

Superintendents and others may call the field offices to obtain latest update or call the Guerneville office for the latest national update.

4. Addresses and Telephone Numbers:

Western Canadian District  
(Rev. Roy McIntyre)  
403-289-9437

Canadian Midwest  
(Rev. A. H. Orthner)  
306-586-3549

Eastern and Central Canadian  
(Rev. Melvin P. Sylvester)  
416-639-3933 or 3934

Central Pacific  
(Rev. Carl M. Measell)  
408-295-5080

Pacific Northwest  
(Rev. R. Rogers Irwin)  
503-266-2238

Rocky Mountain  
(Rev. Irving Malm)  
406-656-4233

South Pacific  
(Rev. Warren J. Thompson)  
714-526-5555

Central  
(Rev. Neil E. Fye)  
216-336-2911

Midwest  
(Rev. Elmer B. Fitch)  
312-653-7117

Northwestern  
(Rev. Leo E. Berreth)  
612-690-1587

Western (Refugee Chairman)  
(Rev. Clark Gardner)  
402-466-7777 (office)  
402-466-7774 (home)

Southwestern  
(Rev. Elwood N. Nielsen)  
214-351-4304

West Central  
(Rev. David N. Clark)  
419-537-1202

MONTREAL

Rev. John Fitzstevens  
34 Aldercrest  
Dollard des Ormes  
Montreal H9B1L8  
Quebec, Canada  
514-684-0156 (office)  
514-683-8467 (home)

Mr. David Fitzstevens

PENDLETON

Rev. Keith Kayser  
P.O. Box 1500  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
714-492-4251 (office)  
714-498-1977 (home)

Mrs. Frank West (Amy)  
Miss Rose Ellen Chancey  
Rev. Pham Xuan Hien  
Rev. Pham van Nam  
Mr. Pham Quang Tan

CHAFFEE

Rev. Richard Drummond  
Broadmoor Apts, #105  
3500 South 62d St.  
Fort Smith, AR 72901  
501-484-2403/2750/2829 (office)  
501-452-4693 (home)

Rev. Rex Rocius  
Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Cunningham  
Rev. Nguyen anh Tai  
Mrs. Pham Thi Xuan Phuong

Eastern  
(Rev. Don E. Anderson)  
717-766-0261

Metropolitan  
(Rev. Richard W. Bailey)  
201-464-1995

New England  
(Rev. John L. Stirsaker)  
617-238-3820

Western Pennsylvania  
(Rev. F. Paul Henry)  
814-938-6920

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Northeastern  
(Rev. E. Emerson Ackerman)  
315-336-4720

South Atlantic  
(Rev. R. Harold Mangham)  
704-364-0388

Southeastern  
(Rev. Paul Alford)  
305-298-5460/5461

Southern  
(Rev. J. W. Nabors)  
205-833-7838

INDIANTOWN GAP

Rev. Jack Revelle  
P.O. Box 209  
Annville, PA 17003  
717-782-4962 (office)  
717-865-6409 (home)

Rev. John Sawin (until 6 Jul)  
Rev. F. Irwin (after 6 Jul)  
Mrs. Jack Revelle (Evelyn)

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EGLIN AFB

Rev. George Irwin  
P.O. Box 176  
Valparaiso, FL 32580  
904-678-6913/883-4761 (office)  
904-678-6826 (home)

Rev. Le Roy Josephsen  
Mr. Dang van Hong  
Mrs. George Irwin  
Miss Marilyn Irwin

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ALL CAMBODIAN SPONSORSHIPS: FENDLETON

FIELD DIRECTOR

Vietnamese Specialized Ministry  
Rev. Truong van Tot  
3581 Agosto Street  
San Diego, CA 92154  
714-424-5595

NORTH AMERICAN COORDINATOR

LTC Louis T. Dechert, USA Ret.  
16685 Guerneville Road  
Guerneville, CA 95446  
707-869-0225

5. Especially For Superintendents: Dr. N. Bailey has given me permission to speak concerning HEARTBEAT upon your requests. Anyone desiring this ministry please contact the Guerneville office with dates in order that an itinerary requiring a minimum expenditure might be developed.


6. Especially for Field Office Directors and Chaplains:

a. Budgets: New budgets have been distributed. Please keep me informed as to your current status of funds and recommended changes.

b. Responsibilities: Regardless of source of employment - government or CMA - and status - US or VN - the various center Chaplains perform a Spiritual ministry under the direction of the Field Office Director. The Director is the

single point of CMA responsibility in each camp. Naturally those Chaplains in the employ of the US Government have governmental authorities to whom they are responsible for their camp ministries. This relationship, however, in no way detracts from the Director's direct responsibility to the Coordinator and the CMA President.

c. Additional Information on Special Request of Rev. Otis Fisher (Reference paragraph 2 g, memo, 10 June): Nguyen van Ba, call Rev. Fisher 515-432-1299 (off) 515-432-5166 (home).



LOUIS T DECHERT  
COORDINATOR, NORTH AMERICA

Encl  
as



## The Christian and Missionary Alliance

NYACK, NEW YORK 10960 • CABLE ADDRESS "PAROUSIA" • PHONE (914) 353-0750

### OPERATION VIET NAM HEARTBEAT

1 July 1975  
Guerneville, CA

Officers  
District Superintendents  
Field Office Directors  
Editor, Alliance Witness

Dear Brethern:

Dr. Billy Graham is said to have once asserted "The Christian and Missionary Alliance is the greatest untold missions' story in Christianity today." Within my own relatively short association with the Society I can certainly support this appraisal whether Dr. Graham was the source or not. Over the weeks of the processing center ministries of OPERATION VIET NAM HEARTBEAT I have attempted to tell the story - and keep you informed - via the periodic status narratives. If there were one single thing which I could do right now it would be to place a copy of the combined narratives in the hands of every member of our Society at home or abroad. Since I cannot do that I am writing this letter which will frankly, albeit briefly, tell you what you have done through "the Power of His Spirit." I believe the time is appropriate. In the first place, many of you will be speaking at camps and conferences during the remainder of the summer and this fall. Secondly, we are on the threshold of accomplishing what we were initially burdened to do and I believe the Spirit, in a continuous or dynamic enlargement of that original burden, is enabling us to see where emphasis needs to be modified or shifted in HEARTBEAT ministries.

#### THE BURDEN

Officers of the Society, missionaries and others labored for weeks before Viet Nam fell, attempting to free the missionaries from Ban Me Thout, minister to the refugee flood within Viet Nam and arrange for evacuation of the some six hundred members of HOI THANH TIN LANH (HTTL) who had indicated a desire to leave their country. Approval of their evacuation was sought and obtained from highest US authorities. That their evacuation was not possible, in spite of heroic efforts such as those of Tom Stebbins, does not indicate a lack of prayer or physical support. Virtually none of the US preplanned and prepared evacuation plans were carried out, including those which the representatives of the Society had prepared in conjunction with appropriate authorities in Washington and Saigon.

As this grim eventuality became clear officers of the Society in Nyack received a burden from the Lord - make every attempt to evacuate our churchmen through private means; gather together those who escaped regardless of the means of escape; locate those gathered by other agencies; sponsor into our North American church family every HTTL refugee who accepted our offer of help; establish a continuing radio ministry into the conquered countries of Viet Nam and Cambodia; and, raise the funds necessary to discharge the burden without slighting the Lord's work elsewhere.

### WHENCE THE BURDEN

I cannot speak for officers in Nyack to whom the burden was delivered in the closing days of April. However, from my perspective of watching the outworkings of the burden and from the priceless fellowship with the Vietnamese and North American participants which has been mine, I believe a conclusion might be expressed concerning the conception of the burden. In Louisville, Kentucky, in 1875 a man of God began to see the pathway of service which God had for him. In 1880 this gentleman began a magazine "The Gospel in All Lands". In 1881, A. B. Simpson stepped out from the organizational framework within which he had previously served the Lord and a new manifestation of Christian love and concern was born. A bit over a decade later a young Canadian of means met A. B. Simpson. In 1892 Simpson visited China and in 1897 young Robert Jaffray arrived in China. Dr. Simpson had an interest in Indochina as early as 1887 and was fired anew in 1892. Dr. Jaffray had been caught of the same fire and visited Hanoi in 1898. Over a decade was yet to be, but as Dr. Toser so beautifully puts it, "the cloudy pillar" brought the Gospel and the "breaking of day" in Indochina in 1911.

For over sixty-five years the CMA has ministered Life and Light to all the Vietnamese people - for over fifty-two years in Cambodia, over forty-six years in Laos. Missionaries have been sent; funds raised; innumerable missionary conventions focusing on the region are annually conducted throughout North America; our young people challenged, recruited, educated, sent and supported; men and women have been seized and not heard of again - three in Ban Me Thout, 1962; men and women have given their lives - six in Ban Me Thout, 1968, one a few months later; and at least five are still in Viet Nam today, seized in March 1975 and prisoners of the North Vietnamese. The angel of the Lord is still before His people, His Holy Spirit still directs those who would obey His will, and the cloudy pillar - whatever it's present, often physically imperceivable medium - has brought a portion of the fruit of sixty-five years of ministry home to the body that produced it. Nothing of this nature has ever before taken place in North American religious experience! The fruit will minister to and enrich the body. We have a burden because we have a blessing!

### EXPANDING THE BURDEN

At the working level the burden was relayed as a mission: "Locate all of our former Vietnamese churchmen - probably six hundred in all - and offer them CMA sponsorship. The raising of funds and recruiting of sponsors will be a headquarters responsibility." Within these guidelines HEARTBEAT processing ministries began - and they began not with sponsorship but with the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all of the refugees in every camp. Because of our obedience, the Spirit initially led us into a Spiritual ministry rather than the envisioned sponsorship ministry. The initial instruments of expanding the burden were our obedience; Reverend LeRoy Josephson, and Reverend James Livingston at Eglin; Reverend Richard Drummond and Reverend George Irwin at Chaffee; and Reverend Pham Xuan Hien, Reverend Truong van Tot, Reverend Pham van Nam and other Vietnamese refugee pastors at Camp Pendleton. Through the expanded burden we have been able to lead another twelve hundred souls from darkness into Light and over two hundred of this number have been baptised thus far. Further still, opportunity has been opened at all four US processing centers to place an Alliance missionary or Vietnamese pastor as the center's Protestant Chaplain.

At Chaffee and Eglin opportunity was opened to serve all refugees as a Voluntary

Agency (VOLAG). The significance of this opportunity requires explanation. Shortly after refugees began arriving the US Government concluded contracts with ten VOLAG's. These contracts required the contracting organization to accept every refugee referred to them by the government; locate a sponsor from among volunteer offers of sponsorship - primarily from the offers received at the State Department toll free number; verify the references of the prospective sponsor; complete the paperwork and stand behind the sponsorships completed by the VOLAG. Contractors are probably to receive the "costs plus" of their operations, government offices and communications, and, in order "to stand behind the sponsorship" will receive \$500 per refugee. Government intentions, not specified in the contract terms, were that the contractors would give the refugee and/or their sponsors the per refugee allowance or at least be prepared to do so.

I have been asked why we did not seek a contract. I believe the question is a fair one. In the first place we had a specific burden, before Viet Nam fell and certainly before any government funds were involved. Even the initial execution of the burden, expanded into a spiritual ministry to all refugees, was a service to God, not permitting of monetary limitation. Secondly, the CMA is not organizationally an across the board, all services relief organization. Finally, and most significant, I believe, were the thoughts of Dr. Nathan Bailey when we discussed this ministry. Dr. Bailey's assessment was that our burden had been assumed and was our responsibility irrespective of what government's and other agencies might do. Secondly, if we were to become a contractor serving all refugees we would be required to deal with refugees and sponsors as they were referred to us. Inescapably this would require us to help people, as the CMA, whom we would not have chosen to help. There were hundreds of churchmen whom we could not help. Should word reach them, now or later, of our assistance to former government officials, military officers or other non-TIN LANH related individuals their faith might suffer and they might draw a conclusion that they were betrayed. Should the communists learn of our assistance to the types of people noted it could become a propaganda theme against HOI THANH TIN LANH and the members still in Viet Nam and could be used as a basis for persecution of believers or the missionaries who are still in Communist hands.

Hence, for excellent reasons no contract was sought. Yet at Eglin and Chaffee our HEARTBEAT ministries are assisting the government in addition to the Spiritual and sponsorship ministries which took us to the processing centers in the first place. Because our involvement is voluntary rather than contractual we have been able to be selective, steer our own course AND help in varying degrees with the resettlement of 2,045 refugee to whom we might never have ministered - and several hundred of these have been sponsored into environments which met highly critical criteria. Because of this assistance - beyond our spiritual ministry - and the attitude of Miss Marilyn Irwin at Eglin, refugees have been led to the Lord AFTER leaving the center - people we didn't reach with the spiritual ministry but who were reached by a big heart in a very small frame. I thank God that our attitudes have maintained a readiness to follow on into all the dimensions of the burden God's Spirit is daily unfolding before us.

#### WHERE WE ARE NOW

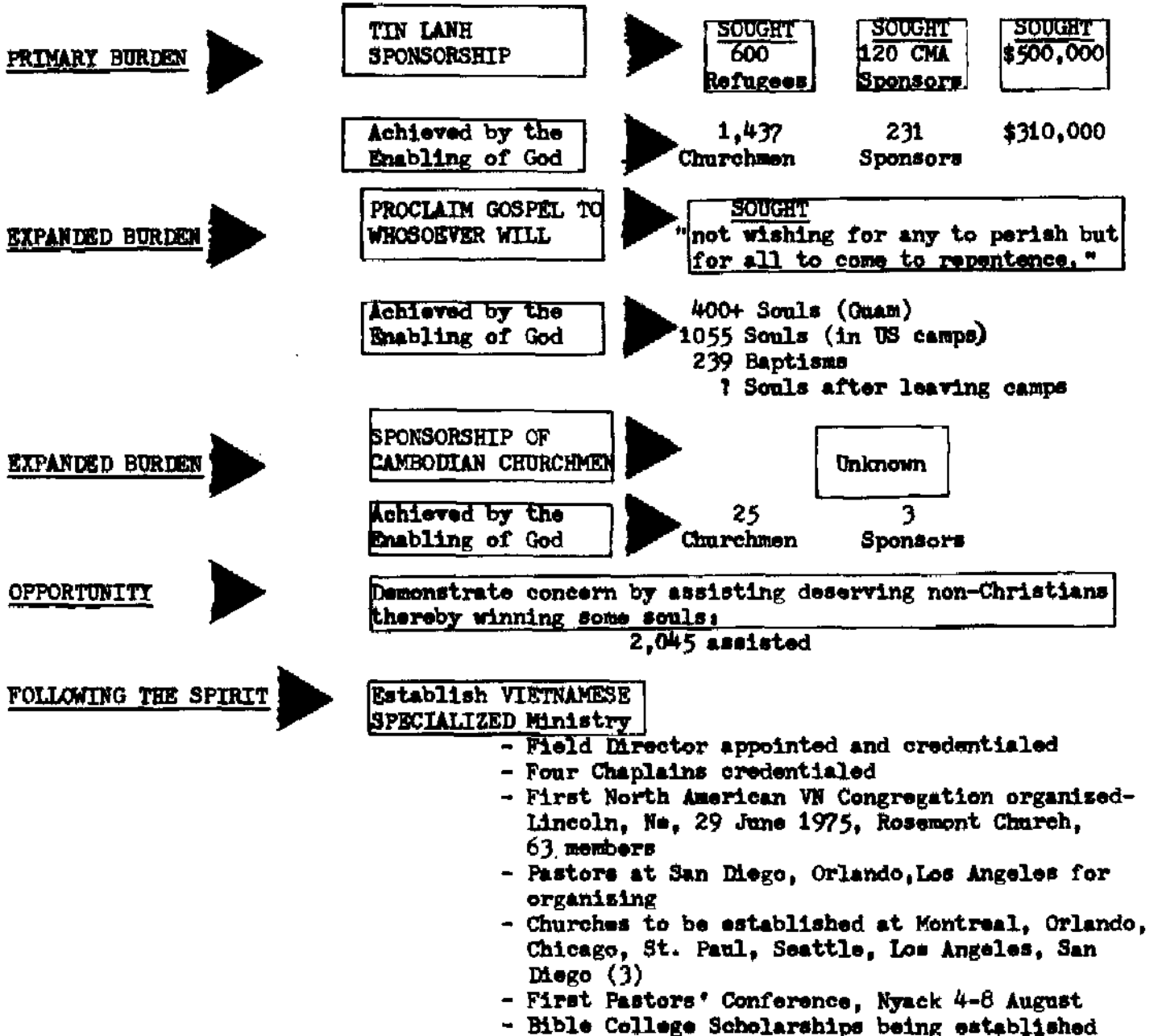
During a recent four day series of area NAE promotional breakfasts seeking sponsors for the 1200 new Christians a man on the program often made the statement that we were all cooperating, doing our best, and that only God is keeping score. This is a statement with which we can all agree, while not neglecting the searching light



of self-examination when we realize that "God IS keeping score" - He who said "to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me", that One cares and IS interested. Reverend Gerald Smith said it so well for today, when he wrote in 1968:

"Some of us have never been in Viet Nam, or Japan, or India, Africa, or South America. But God doesn't measure the distance we have traveled to serve Him - He measures the capacity of our heart and being for love and concern."

A MEASUREMENT  
(through 1 July 1975)



Brethren, to gain an idea of the magnitude of a portion of the tasks thus far accomplished, consider that had a contracting VOLAG done this same amount of work it would have cost the US Government - all Americans - over \$2,481,000 thus far!

We have succeeded because it hasn't been our task - it has been His mission. By my military estimate just to accomplish what the fourteen missionaries or full time church workers in the five camps (four US, one Canada) and I have done - administratively - the Defense Department would have used over 500 men (probably nearer 1200). Some VOLAGs for example, are using upwards of forty workers in each camp plus an extensive nation-wide continually functioning administrative organization. We haven't succeeded because we are extra good. No! We have succeeded because God's Spirit, working in over 1400 North American churches, working in District offices, working in Nyack, and working in the hearts of God's people, has succeeded.

SPONSORSHIP OFFERS (through 28 June)

Central	4	Southeastern	19
Central Pacific	14	South Atlantic	1
Eastern	11	Southern Pacific	46
Metropolitan	3	Southern	6
Midwest	24	Southwestern	4
Northeast	10	West Central	13
Northwest	20	Western	31
Pacific Northwest	11	Western Pennsylvania	3
		All Canada (Special Case)	- 11

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WHERE DO WE GO NOW

There are approximately 120-175 more Vietnamese or Cambodian Christians to be offered sponsorship upon their arrival from scattered overseas areas. An additional fifty-nine are arriving in Canada.



IMMEDIATE TASK: Sponsor these Christians - approximately thirty more CAMA Sponsors are required.

All Churches interested in sponsoring Cambodians should contact the Pendleton office as soon as possible.



CONCURRENT TASK: Push HEARTBEAT gifts over the goal initially set by our burden.

I hope to be able to be available to speak on this task, and the one following, whenever and wherever you request me to do so.



URGENT TASK: Sponsor the 1400+ new Christians.

Every superintendent, pastor, and North American churchman can reach out to all evangelical churches to sponsor new Christians. These children in the Lord need Christian sponsors if they are to grow in the Lord. Imagine with me for just a moment: Churches are being established as rapidly as pastors are available - LINCOLN, ORLANDO, MONTREAL, CHICAGO, SEATTLE, LOS ANGELES, ST. PAUL, SAN DIEGO - Can not the CMA churches in these areas find evangelical sponsors for the 1400 and get them in our churches? Our God is able if we are willing! Let's every member become a recruiter.



CONTINUAL  
PRIVILEGE:

Prayer  
Glorification of the Lord  
Edification of the believer  
Evangelization of the lost  
Addition to the church as many as are being saved.

CONCLUSION

Dear friends and co-laborers, we have come a long way with our Lord in this most recent calling. Mistakes have been few - and I made a great many of them. But what a blessing it has been to see what God and His people can do. I believe Dr. Simpson would exhort us at this juncture: "Brethren, we've crossed the Jordan - follow on - let us occupy all that the Lord has for us!" Thank you.

As always,

LOUIS A. DECHERT  
LTC, USA Ret  
Coordinator, North America

"Oh, by the love that brought us in,  
Let help and hope to them be given." (My Trust - A.B. Simpson)