

*Excellent Article
on the Church in
Viet Nam today*

the CALL

*Pr Good article
for a message
on Dalat
School & Saigon
Homes.*



USIS

The Abraham Lincoln Library, Saigon

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THE CALL OF VIET NAM

Is issued bi-annually by the Viet Nam missionaries
of The Christian and Missionary Alliance

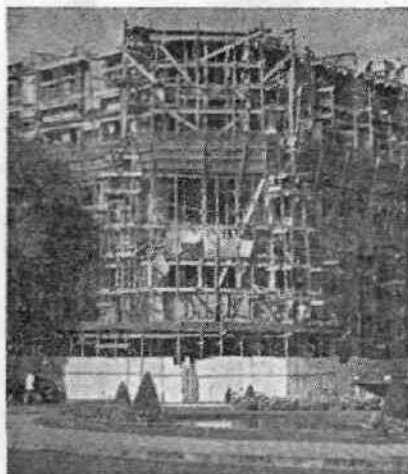
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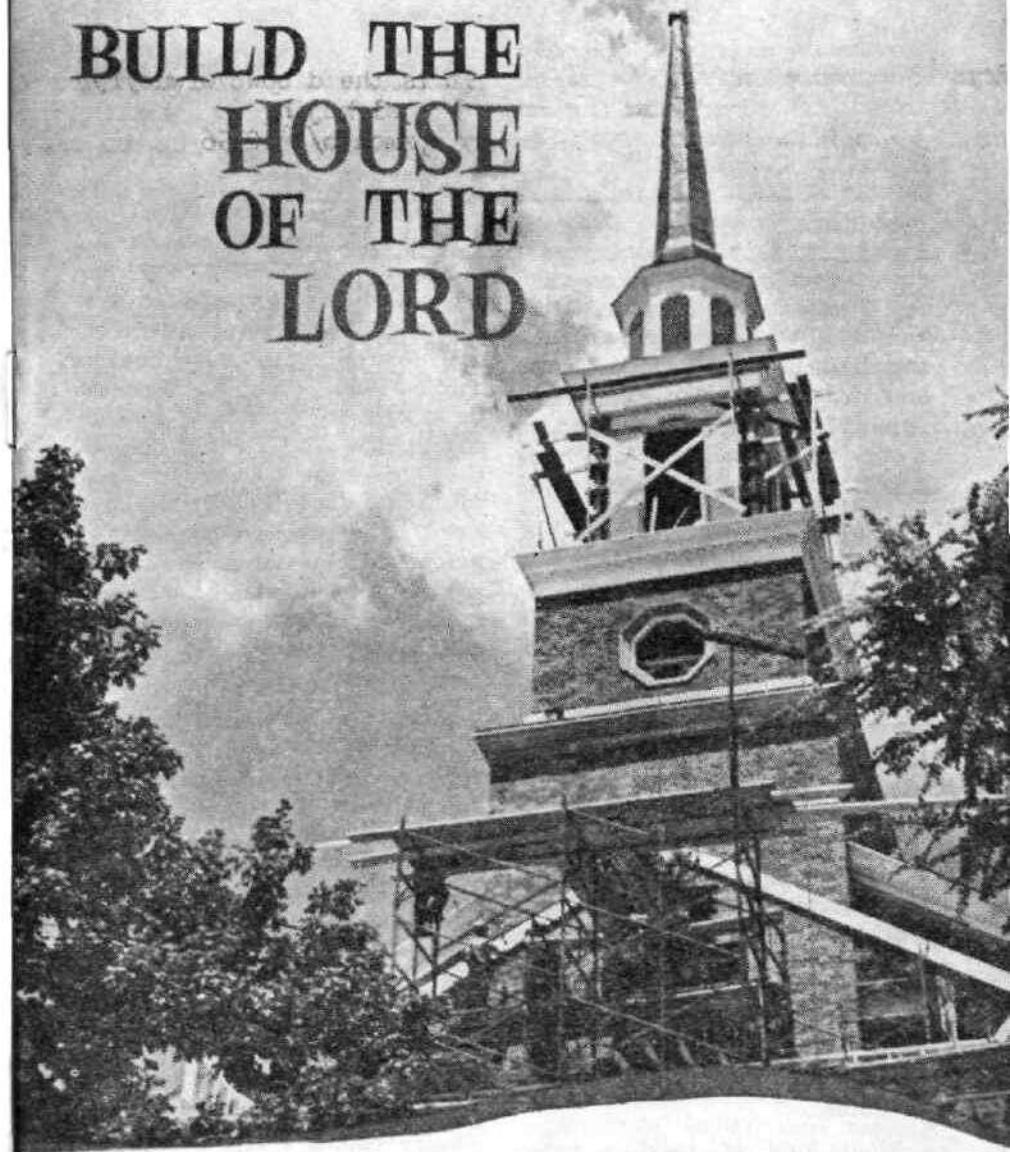
FOR a long period of time the
USIS building in Saigon was in

a state of construction. Today it is
completed. Many people are pri-
vileged to enjoy its facilities, a part
of which is the spacious Abraham
Lincoln Library on the ground
floor.

The Church of Jesus Christ is in
a state of construction. The apostle
Paul reminds us that «in this
work, we work with God... a house
being built to his plan.» (Phillips)
Many and varied are the ministries
that enter into building the Church
of Christ.

In this issue we present the work
of the Christian and Missionary
Alliance in Viet Nam as builders
of God's House.

BUILD THE HOUSE OF THE LORD



... our task in Viet Nam

by J. H. Keville

"I like an architect who knows
his job, by the grace God has
given me, lay the foundation;
someone else builds upon it."
(Phillips) This well could be said

of the early missionaries who began
building the Church of Christ in
Viet Nam more than fifty years
ago. Even a slight acquaintance
with the work attests that they

were men of God-given zeal, vision, and ability and that they built wisely and well.

From the very inception of the work, four clearly defined principles were emphasized in the building of the Church: a passion for evangelism, which led them to lay great stress on personal soul-winning; the importance of the translation of the Scriptures in the language of the people; the necessity of a trained ministry, which meant the opening of a Bible School in the early stages of the work; and the realization that the Church had to be indigenous in order to be strong.

More than fifty years have passed since this foundation was laid. It has stood well the test of time. It has weathered the storm of three wars — World War I when for a time cessation of all missionary work was threatened and then greatly restricted; the appalling destruction of churches and scattering of Christians in World War II; the strife resulting from the war for independence; and presently the life and death struggle for the very existence of the nation itself. In the midst of all these hardships the Church of Christ in Viet Nam has grown both in numbers and in stature.

What kind of building today rests on the foundation of those early years? The Evangelical Church of Viet Nam is composed of 320 organized churches and 13 unorganized groups with a baptized membership of 33,817 believers coming from among the Vietnamese, the Chinese, and 28 tribal groups. These churches are

pastored by 271 national workers. The whole Bible has been translated into Vietnamese, the New Testament into Raday and Koho (two major tribal groups), and work is progressing in translating the Scriptures into several other tribal languages. A thriving Christian orphanage has been established at Nhatrang. The main Bible School at Nhatrang has 68 students enrolled this year (a decrease because of the inroads of military conscription and financial difficulties). There are two Bible Schools for tribal students. Several Christian Day Schools have been opened. Seventeen dispensaries and clinics are operating throughout the field, chiefly among lepers and tribespeople who lack adequate medical facilities.

What of the present building of the Church? There are 87 missionaries on the field, who in co-operation with the 271 national workers are carrying on the work of building on the foundation of basic missionary principles, which have given such impetus to the development of the Church in this land.

Burning brightly is the passion for evangelism. All growth of the Church has its beginning here. Since its early days, the Vietnamese Church has been primarily « a country church. » But the present political unrest in many country areas has forced a new emphasis on work in the large cities. Increased effort and personnel are being expended on the great Saigon-Cholon areas with its some two million people. Definite plans have been laid for the opening of two more « branch churches » there.

With the emphasis on work in the cities has come the development of Youth Centers. Through the teaching of English, and every other medium that is used, the distinct aim is evangelism among the young people.

Radio work is another long arm of evangelism. The Gospel is being proclaimed to the unsaved through 30 weekly radio broadcasts and 24 programs sent out from Public Information Halls and markets.

But perhaps the greatest single factor in building the Church in Viet Nam (from the standpoint of evangelism) has been the personal soul-winning carried on by members of Witnessing Bands. To these men and women the burden of the lost and a sense of responsibility for them is a very real thing. From almost every church they go out systematically week after week witnessing from house to house. Many are the « living stones » added to the building of the Church by their faithful work.

Evangelism in these many forms is but the gathering of materials for the building. However, these materials must be fashioned, polished and beautified for use in the finished temple. As redeemed lives are molded into likeness to Jesus Christ by their knowledge of and obedience to His Word, the Church has begun to fulfil its purpose. This second phase of building involves everything connected with a teaching ministry in the Church.

At the present stage of growth perhaps our biggest contribution to the building of the Church is help and encouragement to leaders, pastors and Bible School students.

for every one of them will multiply the ministry of the missionary a hundred-fold. To this end we are strengthening and enlarging the curriculum of the Bible Schools, especially concentrating on producing commentaries and study helps for pastors and Bible School students. A Pastors' Library of 50 volumes is our present goal which will greatly enrich the teaching ministry in the Church. Preachers' Retreats are also being held as well as monthly meetings in many areas for the pastors and their wives.

The Church itself is taking the initiative for leadership and responsibility in organizing its programs, an encouraging sign of growth. For the many fine leaders and good preachers God has raised up in the Church in Viet Nam we are truly thankful. Their devotion and love for God's work is a joy and an inspiration. Remember to pray for them in the many difficult problems and decisions that face them. Pray, too, that God will raise up a host of just such builders of the Church among the young people of this day.

On a laymen's level, special conferences for deacons and deaconesses have had outstanding value to give concentrated teaching on such subjects as Church organization, duties and ministry of deacons, tithing, and witnessing. The example, enthusiasm, and visitation ministry of these older men and women have had a great influence in the building of the Church.

Short Term Bible School work is another important aspect of the teaching ministry. Different types

of schools are held for older Christians, for students, for new Christians and are proving to be fruitful. Varying in length from ten days to a month, the longer ones are held at several large centers on a district-wide basis, while the shorter schools may include two or three churches. Accommodations are provided by the host church; classes are held all day with the evening given to devotional meetings, providing a splendid opportunity for systematic teaching over a longer period of time. Benefits from the teaching in these school is so quickly felt in the local church that the Vietnamese are enthusiastic about this program. Recently the curriculum has been somewhat standardized with most of the teaching now being done by the Vietnamese pastors. Ten such schools were held last year.

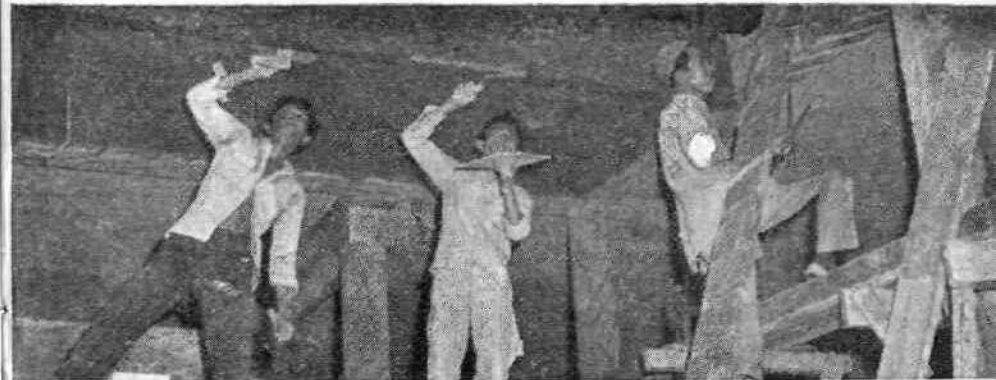
We have tried to give a picture of the building that has been done and to show how the Church is being built today. But what of tomorrow's Church? In today's Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies tomorrow's Church is in embryonic form. Our hearts rejoice

to see among the Vietnamese workers an awakened sense of the importance of Sunday School work. The Church is asking for help, for Sunday School Conferences, for Teacher Training courses. A newly published magazine gives ideas in leadership and development of young people's programs. Interest in the junior youth program is growing by leaps and bounds. In this whole area training of national leadership is of vital importance to the future building of the Church.

All of these many and varied ministries enter into the building of the Church in Viet Nam. While no one aspect is complete without the other, yet perhaps the supreme emphasis is this: «Except THE LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build.» It is His Church, His pattern, His work. In spite of war and every hindrance the process of building shall go on until the wonderful day when the Church of Viet Nam shall stand perfect and complete. May God grant to us skilled, devoted workmen who desire every aspect of the work to grow into a holy temple, a fit habitation for the King of kings.

PROPERTY BEING PURCHASED

A proposal was made and approved to combine the Saigon Youth Training Center with the Saigon International Protestant Church. Though presently in operation both programs are greatly handicapped because of inadequate and temporary quarters. The combination of the two projects will enable both the Church and Youth Center to make joint use of the more adequate and permanent facilities. As this issue of THE CALL goes to press, a piece of property has been found, a down-payment made, and the necessary ownership papers are being drawn up. Plans include the beginning of construction by the first of next year.



USIS

Hidden ministries in the Church are done...

FOR HIS GLORY

by Agnes Dutton

Last term as we supervised the building of our Mission house in Quang Ngai, watching with interest as it took shape, we noted the importance of the heavy beams which held the structure. Later they were hidden away by a ceiling and a roof. True, the finishing touches added the beauty — colored calcimine covered the gray walls and bright paint enhanced the attractive front porch and windows. But each part was very important to complete our dwelling. Looking on, I often thought of the importance of the different ministries in the building of God's work in Viet Nam.

Perhaps in the minds of most people the term «missionary» has but one meaning — one who travels throughout the country preaching the Gospel. Often the crowds who listen are hearing the glorious truth for the first time. Oh, what a privilege for the

missionary! But by no means is missionary work confined to this one method. How consoling it is to know that each of us has a part in God's building.

Sitting behind a desk working on accounts or tapping a typewriter all day long does not sound too inspiring. But at the end of each month we are all very happy that we have those who devote their missionary career to these tasks. Mundane as they are, they help turn the wheels of the Mission. Each ministry done in Christ's Name has its reward and merits His «Well done, thou good and faithful servant.» In every sense of the word these are missionaries though their work is often unnoticed by the passer-by.

We are impressed when we read in ACTS 6:3 that even those chosen to serve tables were

(continued on page 12)

*Building the Church
through training courses
for laymen and youth at...*

THE OLD

Purchased fifty years ago by the pioneer missionary, Robert Jaffray, the Tourane property developed from a humble, narrow horse stable into a respectable Bible School campus. Down through the years it was known as the Tourane Bible School, a center for training national pastors, teachers, and evangelists. But with the growth of the Vietnamese Evangelical Church came an increasing demand for workers. Faced with an over-capacity enrollment the National Church at last realized that the Tourane campus was no longer adequate. Christians at home wholeheartedly rallied behind the Vietnamese Church call for help to build the modern, sturdy, and spacious campus at Nhatrang. This brought great joy to the National Church and missionaries alike. But what would happen to «Tourane»? Had this much loved

and greatly blessed campus outgrown its usefulness?

Before the spiders could spin their webs in the rafters or the moss could climb up the walls, missionaries had devised plans for reactivating the empty halls and vacated grounds. A Youth Center for evangelism has been opened reaching the student class through the medium of English language study. Every Monday and Wednesday evening 200 students gather in the old classrooms for English lessons. Friday evening they meet for the weekly Evangelistic Service, singing Gospel choruses and listening to salvation messages. New converts join the follow-up class on Tuesday evening where they learn the first steps of Christian faith and practice, while Christian young people study inductively the book of ACTS and unite together for prayer on Thursday evening. And on Saturday evening

TOURANE PROPERTY

all gather at the church for the weekly youth worship and praise service.

In a very strategic spot near the entrance of the property is a Gospel Bookstore and Reading Room. Its doors are open every afternoon and evening to welcome those in search of the truth and to supply Christian literature to any who desire it. Both Youth Center and Bookstore are self-supporting and cared for by a well-trained, consecrated Vietnamese.

Two months each year the campus is used for a Short Term Bible School, training laymen and youth of the north-central district for more effective witness in their communities and more capable leadership in their churches.

Often the Tourane gates are opened to welcome delegates from great distances who come to attend National or District Church Conferences. On other occasions we

entertain men from throughout the district at Pastors' Retreats. Only eternity will reveal how much rich blessing these times together in prayer and Bible study have brought to the Lord's servants.

In addition to these varied ministries the Tourane property provides facilities for a branch of the Nhatrang Gospel Recording Studio, the home and office of the district superintendent, and three missionary residences.

Has the Tourane Bible School property gone to rust and ruin? Far from it! Today as an evangelistic, teaching, literature, radio, and church center it is serving the Lord of the harvest and the land of Viet Nam as much as ever. May God continue to bless and use «Tourane» as a shining lighthouse to guide those who sit in spiritual darkness and as a bountiful storehouse to supply those who hunger and thirst after His Word.

Grounds for Pastors' Retreats

T. STEBBINS



School for Elders and Deacons

T. STEBBINS



*As part of the
body of Christ,
the Church,
individually we need...*

TRUE REVIVAL

*by Rev. Leroy Webber,
Guest Conference Speaker*

(Editors' note: We are grateful to C.C. Fowler for making available to us the written form of Rev. Webber's message delivered at our Annual Conference in June. Of necessity it is condensed here for publication.)

THE word «revival» is often heard, so much so that too often it becomes merely a «catch-all» phrase used to explain every type of religious feeling. True, it must be «prayed down» and not «worked up.» Revival is not necessarily just religious excitement. It may contain excitement or it may not.

Revival is the human heart living in the presence of God, burning with His divine fire. But how can we get it? I am not sure it is something that we can «get.» It is possible to have true revival every morning. In fact, I am sure God is not pleased if it is not ours today.

In HEBREWS chapter nine Paul's purpose is to reveal some things hidden in the lesson of the tabernacle. Today we can know what it means to *live* in the holy of holies. Do we know? We should. What steps must we take to get there?

Though some may know what it means, many have no knowledge at all of pushing past the veil that was rent in twain and living in the presence of God. If we enter the holy place, or are living there, we still do not really know of the divine light, fire, and presence of God. True, the holy place is good. It is separate from the world and from people, but this is not where God wants to meet with you.

Let us note some of the items found in the tabernacle:

1) The golden censer — In Exodus 30:6 the censer was found out in the holy place. Here Paul puts

it in the holy of holies. It seems like a mistake. When you find what seems like a mistake, look again for most likely you have struck a gold mine! Paul, by the Holy Spirit, wants us to know that the altar and cloud of incense belong rightly to the holy of holies. What does it mean? Prayer is to be found in the holy of holies. If we are ever to push beyond the veil, we must have a prayer life that belongs to the holy of holies. Unless our altar of incense penetrates the veil and pushes into the most holy place, God is not fully satisfied with our life. A real prayer life of value stands at the very entrance. Unless you learn the true secret of prayer you cannot enter, for only thus can you get by, on into the center of the holy of holies.

2) The ark of the covenant — This is a wonderful type of the human heart. It is in the holy of holies. So also our heart should be in the presence of God. In this ark was found the law of God. If one is in the presence of God, it will inevitably be found that God's Law will be in his heart. That is the kind of person who says, «I delight to do thy will, O God.» It is not the person who may eventually do His will, or feels the demands of God's will laid upon him, who struggles and fights and finally gets victory. No, it is the one who is so wholly yielded to Him that His will is easy and joyful. This is the heart that has gone into the holy of holies. This is the heart within which are found the tables of God's Law.

There was also Aaron's rod that budded. God's way is to produce fruit when it is impossible. Unless there is the sign of the resurrected life of Jesus within your heart, you will never know real revival. Your life is nothing more than a dead stick — useless, lifeless! But when you lay it in His presence then happens that miracle of grace that brings life — buds, flowers, fruit! This is God's visible symbol of the resurrected life of Jesus Christ. His life, His fruit in place of mine.

The ark also contained, the pot of manna. Now there was also bread in the holy place, but in the holy of holies was a bread not made by hands. When we are saved we eat of the Bread of Life. But the heart that knows true revival knows something even more. Another and greater miracle takes place, and the bread becomes more living and powerful — miracle bread, bread sent down from heaven. Maybe God's promises are real to you. Maybe you just read a portion here or there, choosing the one you like most for tonight. Perhaps you eat holy bread, true, but perhaps you do not know of the taste of the miracle bread found only in the holy of holies. His Word should be manna from heaven, God's own Word to you. Are you feasting today on the hidden manna from the golden pot in the holy of holies? Or are you just rejoicing in the shewbread in the holy place?

3) But most of all, note there is the mercy seat in the holy of holies, and it is sprinkled with blood! We constantly need the sprinkling of the blood, the cleansing that

God gives and without which He cannot meet us. We have true revival only at the mercy seat because there we have the cleansing of the precious blood. All this, within the ark, is a picture of the human heart. The censer, the altar, the pot, and there are angels of God, but unless there is also the blood-covered mercy seat there will still be no presence of the Holy One. All these other things

justly serve to make the heart fit for God to dwell. God desires greatly to live in our hearts. Will we check and see where we live? Are we content to be in the holy place, shut off from the world, enjoying the candlesticks and shewbread? Most only get this far and are content. But the secret of God and of revival is found beyond, into the very holy of holies now open to all!

For his Glory

(continued from page 7)

dedicated to the work by the laying on of hands. Notice, too, their qualification — they were to be filled with the Holy Ghost, honest and wise. Among the members of our missionary staff are those who care daily for children of fellow-workers, instructing them and teaching them in our schools and homes for missionary children. At times this work might appear as a thankless task but not when considered as part of the building in God's program. Are these missionaries, too? Why yes, and we should add, these are people with specialized training for the job.

In the course of the day the tasks in a Receiving Home are many and varied. There is always bookkeeping to fill in any spare moments. Shopping for others who do not have access to the stores in a big city occupies our time along with

various details of running a guest home. This is a ministry of « helps, » not to be desired by all but bringing real joy and satisfaction when done with the one purpose in mind — that of pleasing God. Contacts with many people is a privilege and surely is a strong factor in enriching our own lives. We build patience, long-suffering, gentleness, and love for others in his type of work. A business agent is a busy person — looking after the affairs of others, but when done as unto the Lord it can be a real service adorned with God's blessing. Because a job is common does not lessen its importance.

Whether we minister in preaching, in teaching, in service, or helping, let us remember « These are differences of administration and diversities of operations, but the same Lord. » (I COR. 12:5) May our commitment to Him be entire and our dedication perfect. Only then can our contribution be pleasing to God as workers together with Him in His building.

Laying a firm foundation for a child resulted in this life being used...

AS GOD DESIRES

by Grace Lam



Miss Grace Lam

Through the ministry of earnest Christians visiting the sick and distributing tracts in a Swatow hospital, my sixty-year old grandmother was won to Christ. This resulted in my grandfather and their three children turning to the Lord. When my father was very young he left China for Viet Nam to engage in business.

At an early age I began attending Sunday School at the Vietnamese church, for there was no Chinese church in our country town. It was at a Deeper Life Conference when I was thirteen years old that I knew assuredly I had received Christ as my Saviour.

One night during the Sino-Japanese war some drunken French soldiers came storming at our door looking for wine and women. I was

singled out, an eighteen-year old girl, and ordered to follow them. Terror filled my heart! My sister cried, « Why don't we kneel down and pray? » The whole family did just that. Suddenly an order came for these soldiers to go to the battlefield. They left immediately. It was as if God had drawn me out of the lion's mouth.

Because of God's great love to me I had a deep desire to give my life to Him to use as He desired. In 1954 He led me to the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong. But still there was a question in my heart as to whether it was His will to use me in His service. All doubt was removed when assurance came to my heart from the promise in Isaiah 43:1 « Fear not ... I have called thee... »

What joy was mine when the Lord led me back to Viet Nam in 1957. My primary ministry has been in the Chinese Bookroom. Daily people come to buy Christian literature, browse through reading material or borrow books from our lending library. One of the most promising ministries is our weekly Children's Meeting at the Bookroom with about sixty in attendance. Saturday evening a Gospel

meeting is held for adults. Although few come inside, there is often quite a crowd gathered at the wide entrance listening to the message. Our hearts are burdened not only to reach the children with the truth while they are young, but that many adults who are unconcerned about their spiritual welfare shall come to a personal experience of salvation. Will you pray with us?



Missionary Directory — Vietnamese Work

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- Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Revelle, Chairman, International Protestant Church
- Mr. and Mrs. R.F. Rexilius, Vice Chairman and Publication
- Miss E. I. Arnold, Chinese Work
- Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cline, Bible Society Work
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NOTES OF PRAISE

BECAUSE of drafting eligible men into the army, it was expected that only 20 or 30 would attend the new semester at the Nhatrang Bible School. The session began with 68 students enrolled, mostly young men, and with God's presence evident in the opening special meetings.

THREE new Youth Centers have opened recently bringing the total to seven. They are now located in the following cities: Hue, Da Nang, Nhatrang, Bien Hoa, Saigon, Can Tho, and My Tho.

PASTOR and Mrs. Nguyen-hau-Nhuong, the first missionary couple of the National Church, were granted a visa to Laos. They are living in Vientiane working among the Vietnamese and Thai tribespeople.

TWO more Chinese young people have obtained exit permits and are now studying at the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong. Several others are looking to God to undertake for them that permission will be granted.

PRAYER REMINDERS

ARE you continuing to remember in earnest prayer our three captive missionaries? Pray for their safety, for good health, that God will give them a rich ministry, and that in His own way He will bring about their release.

A new Reading Room has been opened in Quinhon where Gospel literature will be sold and tracts distributed. Pray that God will make it a lighthouse where many will come to find the way of Life, and that the Lord will provide the worker of His choice to take charge. Pray, too, for the Gospel Center soon to be opened in a new section of this city.

FLOODS all but destroyed a church building in Binh Dinh province. With no place of worship, the church has suffered great loss. Pray that God will visit His people as they work hard in rebuilding

their meeting house and that those who have neglected the privilege of worship will again meet with God's people.

THREE sections of Binh Dinh province are under the care of a pastor who is beyond retiral age. Pray that God will lay His hand upon a younger man who will help to meet the great need of reaching many in this area with the message of salvation.

TWO more Chinese literature distribution centers have recently opened. Pray that this ministry will be used of God to help many who inquire into the truth.

PRAY for the many children and youth in this land who have never heard of Jesus Christ. They are possible « living stones » in the Church of tomorrow.