

FRENCH INDO CHINA

Though there have been eight senior missionaries less on the field in 1924 than in 1923 and only one new worker reached the field, yet God's grace has been abundantly manifest and splendid increase has resulted in the work. Truly God has wrought for His people in French Indo China.

"There were 656 new converts baptized last year as against 567 in 1923. At the close of 1924 there were 1,678 baptized Christians in good standing in the churches. Twelve new out-stations were opened during the year, the offerings of the native Christians have almost doubled, and the number of earnest inquirers is steadily increasing."

We will follow the plan of the Chairman in reporting for the field by Stations:

Mytho

This newest station, opened in December, 1923, has had remarkable results, there being 170 baptized believers in a strong self-supporting church at the close of the year. As in other fields so here persecution is a test to the faith of many and the church grows apace both in spiritual power and in numbers as believers stand true to God. A new convert in a village across the river allows the missionary to hold regular meetings in his home. One day a number of the "notables" from the village came to his house and threatened to beat him and put him in prison unless he would return to his old religion. He remained true to Christ and finally was handcuffed and taken to the village mayor and then passed on to the French official at Mytho. This official exonerated the Christian since there was no charge against him except that he refused to worship his ancestors. Through this incident many were pointed to the way of life in Christ.

Sadec

One hundred and twenty-eight new converts were baptized during the year and there are two strong churches, the one at Sadec having a membership of 196 and the one at Caolanh 51. Though the station was without missionaries for several months, steady progress was made in the church services, souls have been saved, and the church offerings have increased. The wife of a leper in a village near Sadec accepted Jesus as her Saviour. "Hearing that Jesus had healed a leper when on earth, she believed that He would also heal her husband and asked the evangelist to visit him. The man was in a pitiful condition, he had not been able to move from his bed for nearly two years and could eat very little food. The native evangelist visited him, explained the Gospel to him and the man believed. Immediately he began to improve in health. In a short time he was able to go about his house and in less than a month he attended a Sunday morning service. He is completely healed and is a living witness to the almighty

power of God." New flesh and skin have formed over the ends of his fingers, which had been eaten away by the disease, and the scars that remain are only added evidence of the mighty working of God in healing this man from his dread disease. At Sadec a good many old people, several over eighty years of age, are among the recent converts. After having worshipped Buddha all their lives, they are now serving the Living God.

Saigon

This great commercial center of French Indo China is a splendid modern city and with its suburb, Cholon, has a population of over 250,000. There are three chapels, one for the Chinese at Cholon and Annamese chapels at Saigon and Laithieu, an out-station twenty miles north of Saigon. The combined membership of these churches is 112, twenty being baptized in 1924. A young man, Assistant Station Master in the Saigon Railroad depot, was converted during the year. Before the time set for his baptism he was taken ill and died in December. On his death bed the young man called together the members of his family and testified to the power of Christ to save from the sting of death with the result that practically the whole household accepted Christ and the young man, who has gone to be with his Lord, is remembered among his neighbors as the young man who had religion rather than as the Assistant Station Master.

Cantho

Eighty-nine new converts were baptized during 1924 and one new out-station, Omon, was opened, having now a flourishing church of 23 members. Another out-station, Cairang, has 22 members. The church at Cantho with 75 members is now self-supporting. "A Buddhist priest heard of the Gospel through one of the Christians. It seemed reasonable and true, consequently right there in the middle of the road he made a prayer to the Supreme Being, asking Him to either lead him to the Gospel Chapel or to the Buddhist pagoda. The priest awoke next morning with a light heart and clear guidance that he should go to the Cairang chapel. He was saved and is now witnessing to his thousand Buddhist followers and some have believed."

"A man was given a Chinese Gospel twenty-one years ago. He read it and has been looking for the missionary ever since. The Gospel portion was destroyed by white ants, but the man found Jesus at some special meetings held at Omon. Another man had been seeking the true God for sixteen years and found Him this year at Cantho."

Chaudoc

One of the two new out-stations opened during the year is at Triton, where the work is entirely among Cambodians,

twenty-six of whom have accepted Christ and are ready for baptism. Twenty-one new converts were baptized in the Chaudoc district during the year and there are now sixty-seven Christians—members of the church. The work at the out-stations is especially encouraging.

Pnom Penh

In this city, the capital of Cambodia, twenty-nine Annamese and three Cambodians were baptized during 1924 and the church now has a membership of thirty-nine. There are also many Chinese in the city and twenty-two accepted Christ as their Saviour during special evangelistic meetings held there

by a Chinese pastor from Cholon. There is need for a permanent Chinese worker at Pnom Penh. Regular weekly meetings for Cambodians were held at Chambok, fifteen miles from Pnom Penh, in a school building which a Cambodian official has permitted to be used.

Battambang

Regular services are conducted here both in the Annamese and Cambodian languages. Two Cambodian and two Annamese converts were baptized during 1924. Two out-stations have been opened and many long trips have been made in the district. Despite the definite ways in which the enemy is trying to hinder the people from becoming interested, many inquirers are listening to the Gospel and the outlook is promising.

Hanoi

In addition to the important publishing and translation work, which is treated in another paragraph, there has been advance in the church work. Ten believers were baptized and sixty-six are now members of the church. There is also a self-supporting primary school with an enrollment of fifty scholars. God has blessed in the trips made into the country round about and the Spirit of God is moving among the people. In one village thirty have started studying the catechism to prepare for baptism and several hundred are favorable to the Gospel.

Haiphong

Here the work was for most of the year under the charge of a native student evangelist. Eight of the thirty-six believers in the church were baptized during the year and a number of inquirers are waiting baptism.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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