

# The Indo-China Conference of 1927

BY MRS. W. A. PRUETT

"The work is great: for the palace is not for man but for the Lord God." 1 Chronicle 29:1. Truly God has committed a great work to us here in French Indo-China—the evangelization of twenty million souls. Under the leading and blessing of the Spirit, we are endeavoring to erect a palace for the Lord God, a glorious temple of living stones, far greater than Solomon's temple of perishable material.

We praise God for the privilege of having Rev. A. C. Snead, our Foreign Secretary, in our midst during the conference days, May 2-11. For an hour and a half each morning of conference we met together at the Master's feet for sweet fellowship in song and prayer and Mr. Snead broke to us the Bread of Life. His every message was as the dew of heaven to our thirsty souls and we saw in a new light the blessings that God has in store for us, His children, for us who know the "joyful sound." "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance." Psalm 89:15. Mr. Snead pointed out that the "joyful sound" really means the "trumpet sound" and that in the Word the "trumpet sound" often indicates the manifestation of the presence and power of God in victory for His people. It was at the sound of the trumpet that the walls of Jericho fell; it was at the sound of the trumpet that Gideon's three hundred conquered, and the Midianites were delivered into their hand; and it will be at the sound of the trumpet that the Lord of lords and King of kings will descend from heaven with a shout.

During Mr. Snead's three-months' stay in Indo-China, he was able to visit and acquaint himself with every phase of our work. This first-hand information obtained before conference enabled him to render invaluable counsel and advice on the conference floor.

In the conference sessions, and in the sacred hours of heart-searching, we felt more keenly than ever the magnitude of our responsibility in making known to these myriads of lost souls the unsearchable riches of Christ. Were it not for the enabling grace and power of our Risen Lord, we would not dare to face this tremendous task with such eternal issues at stake. In the devotional sessions, especially, we felt the Holy Spirit calling us to a newer, deeper, more real consecration and to lean more completely upon the Everlasting Arms.

One of the most important steps taken by the conference was the formal recognition of the Annamese church as a separate body distinct from the mission and we heartily encouraged them in their resolution to incorporate under the laws of the country. Steps were also taken toward the formation of a Joint-Executive Committee and in the next months and years we are looking for more rapid strides to be made in self-support and

self-government. This step does not alienate us from our native brethren, but rather binds us closer together in the bonds of fellowship and coöperation in that the responsibility of the work is mutually shared. In view of the trend of events here in the orient, one cannot foretell what the future may bring forth, and the sooner the Annamese church is able to walk alone the better. Thank God, we already have several fully self-supporting native churches, and others are rapidly making progress towards that goal.

The ordination of eight of our Annamese evangelists, toward the close of conference, was also an event that we believe will be looked back upon as a red-letter day in the history of our work.

These men were the first to graduate from our Tourane Bible School and have already had several years' experience in the work of evangelizing their own fellow-countrymen.

Four wee missionary recruits were welcomed into our midst this past year and a dedication service was held at the close

of conference. Mr. Snead presented to the Lord the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. Pruett and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins. An ordination service followed in which Messrs. Gunther and Hazlett were set apart for the Gospel ministry. Rev. W. C. Cadman gave the charge.

We went to the conference realizing our need for spiritual quickening, for more of the sweet fragrance of God's Presence in our lives, and a drawing closer of the bonds of love and unity in our Lord. We came away refreshed, knit closer together in His Spirit, in one glorious vision, in one common aim, and having a greater and more fervent love for our Lord Jesus. "His coming draweth nigh"—and the one desire of all our hearts is to spend and be spent for the lost sheep He has commissioned us to gather in. We return to our various fields of labor coveting a mightier faith in His power to transform these darkened heathen hearts, making them white in the precious blood that was shed on Calvary's Cross.

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