

HUMAN INTEREST ACCOUNTS

Saturday evening when I got home about 10:00 p.m. from being in the office all day, I walked into my home and in the living room there were several of the young people. I thought they were my own but upon looking closer I saw they were Dave Thompson, Judy Thompson, her boyfriend, and Bonnie Gay Persons. They were setting playing a game and chatting back and forth. What an amazing sight to see these youngsters who had just lost their parents, accepting this so well. It wasn't as though they didn't feel it, because my wife told me that earlier in the evening when just Judy and Dave were there alone and they didn't know anyone else was around, she saw Judy leaning on Dave and just sobbing, but as soon as the other kids came, they took hold of themselves and were back to normal once again. Nothing but the grace of God.

This morning at about 9:30 a.m. a telephone call came from Mildred Ade, who is on tour, I didn't answer the phone as I was in a briefing meeting, but my secretary said that all she said was that she had written a letter to Mr. Irwin in Saigon saying she is ready to go back immediately if she is needed.

A letter from Miss Miriam Kingsbury (Olive's sister) written February 3, 1968 from Cavendish, Vermont, says: "Your telephone call, concerning Olive Kingsbury, was deeply appreciated yesterday--the more so, because it came before we had heard anything over the radio about the Bannethuot tragedy. It will probably make no difference now; but I was mistaken in saying that Olive was supposed to have gone to Nhatrang on January thirtieth--for it should have been the twenty third. Of course we are anxiously waiting for any further news. May the Lord give each one of you there at Headquarters the necessary grace and wisdom during these difficult days. Am so thankful that Romans 8:28 is still true!"

WMBI radio station in Chicago called for an interview and assured us that all of their radio friends and the staff at WMBI are continually praying for us.

Phil Hogan of the Assemblies of God just called to ask about the report and to assure us that all of their people are urgently praying for the situation and the missionaries in Viet Nam.

Just a report from Mr. Robert McNeel, who is on tour in Waco, Texas, he was asking for permission to come home from tour because his wife is not well and the children were giving trouble, but over the week-end he prayed that God would lead and now he feels he must stay on the tour and he said that he wanted to tell us that he was asking that if it was at all possible, that he be allowed to go back alone to Bannethuot in order to put the loose ends together since he knows xso much about the situation there. He feels that the people will starve unless somebody can go and help them at this time. This is particularly true of the leprosy folks.

A letter received from Rev. Paul Erdel, Foreign Secretary of The Missionary Church Assoc. addressed to Mr. Cowles, writes: "This is written to extend the sympathy of our MCA missionary family to your own constituency in the martyrdom of your missionaries in Vietnam. May God's grace strengthen those who feel this stunning loss most keenly. Many of us in the Missionary Church Association or at the Fort Wayne Bible College have been personal friends of those who were involved. Surely the example left by these martyrs is treasured by us. May we also be faithful unto death. Thank you for your telephone call today. It is a privilege to be included in your greater Alliance family. God bless you."

This is Tuesday, February 6, 1968. I just had a call from Paul Edwardson from Ft. Wayne informing us that they have a prayer chain of their people praying around the clock for this situation. He simply asked for information which I gave him. He said this whole experience has done something new for their church and on Sunday morning they had a most precious time. Sunday evening they had three or four hundred people out and there was no preaching, they just simply went to prayer. He said that since the word came, they have had a continual prayer chain of anywhere from 10 to 20 people praying around the clock for this situation. Praise the Lord!

The following is a communication received from Dr. David M. Stowe of the National Council of Churches addressed to Dr. L. L. King with a copy to WNK. "Dear Dr. King: All of us in the division of overseas ministries have been disturbed and saddened by the newspapers reports of the death and the imprisonment of a number of The CMSA missionaries in Vietnam. We are, of course, concerned about our own people there, namely; those working for Vietnam Christian Service. So far as we know, all are safe at present except for six mennonites who are working at Hue and of whom we have been unable to get any word. We are grateful for the long and significant ministry of the Alliance in Vietnam and at least partially aware of what the cost of that ministry has been over the years in personal terms. Now a tragic but glorious new chapter has been added to the story. We pray for the Alliance and for the family members of those who are known to be lost and we bear up the captives and their dear ones in a special remembrance. With deep and sincere personal greetings faithfully, David M. Stowe"

2/9/68 The following letter was received from the Missionary Aviation addressed to myself. "We have been remembering your folk in Viet Nam in prayer these days and though surprised and saddened by the reports of death and capture, we are sure that our Heavenly Father does all things well. Surely ~~his grace is sufficient~~ His grace is sufficient for every need. Signed Don W. Berry, Supervisor"

Also we received a letter from Harriet and George Irvin. They say, "We are glad to know that you have also agreed that it is best for the children to stay in Malaysia until the school year is ended. She continues, As you can imagine the sudden loss of my dear sister and her husband has been a great ~~shock~~ ^{blow} to me. We were very close, so ~~close~~ ^{close} such so, that I was keenly looking ^{forward} to our return to Viet Nam in spite of the situation so as to see her again. However, it was a very glorious way for a very talented and dedicated couple to die. My daughter has said she would also choose this kind of death for us as the highest. We also realize that with so many servicemen dying at this time for their country, that we cannot spare our soldiers or Jesus from also doing as much for the saving of souls."

"In the absence of Grady Mangham I am writing to let you know that our greatest comfort, next to the Lord, has been the realization that we have the three younger Thompson children to add into our family. We are trusting the Lord to guide us every step of the way. We are also praying for them and we have rededicated ourselves to the Lord asking Him to make us adequate guardians to our precious nephews and neices."

"We have just received the newspaper clipping from Miss Anita Bailey with Judy's testimony included with the slaying of our six colleagues. Praise God for helping Judy and Dave in the loss of their parents. In advance, we thank you for your kind Christian help to our neices and nephews. Sincere, Harriet Irvin"

The following came in a letter from Mr Travis, pastor of the Neighborhood Church in Baldwin Park, Calif. addressed to Mr. Mangham: "DEAR Mr. Mangham: I am writing to inquire about the children of the Thompsons. We would like to know if plans have been made for them and if we can help with some of their needs. Our home here in Baldwin Park, Calif. is open to them. Sincerely, U. V. Travis" Mr. Travis was an MK in the Dalat School some years ago.

The following is an excerpt also from a letter from Mr. Phu who was to return to Saigon but was delayed in Singapore during the Viet Nam crisis. It is addressed to Mr. Kerr and dated February 6, 1968 and written from Singapore; "May I express my deepest sympathy to you, the Foreign Department, and the Board of Managers for the sudden homegoing of Rev. Ziemer, Rev. and Mrs. Thompson, Miss Griswold, her ~~father~~ ^{husband}, and Miss Wilting. Rev. Ziemer was particularly dear to my heart since he was a ~~great~~ ^{powerful} expounder of the Word both in preaching and teaching. In 1964 I informally invited him to teach in Nhatrang Bible school since I realized how much his ministry would have meant to us in Nhatrang. The

Lord's will is different and so is His wonderful way. I think of Him with admiration or as a Bible professor on the college level he was willing to serve in Barnethuot Bible School in obedience to the Lord's will. Please continue to pray for the Vietnamese church and for my humble ministry as we continue to pray for the dedicated and courageous missionaries who always reflect our Lord's glory in life as in death."

Here is a letter dated February 9, 1968 from Betty Lou Hartson, the secretary in Viet Nam, addressed to Mariys in which she sends in the reports for the year, the Annual Reports that is. She says: "Franklin has not been able to do the Chairman's Report, the outline is finished but with all of this 'ruckus' it has been put aside. I am sure New York will understand at a time like this. The events of the past days have only caused all of us to lean more heavily upon the Lord. The morale of the staff, as far as I can ascertain, is good. We know Him who holds the future, and our lives are in His almighty hand and that is enough. Keep praying! When all the fuzzy and hazzy reports are all in and a full report can be made, I am sure it will be sent in. Cholon here has been a hot-bed. We have many refugees on our doorsteps and the noise at night has caused us to loose much sleep. But I am mighty proud of our American G.I.'s. They are doing a magnificent job. Signed Betty Lou"

A report from Mr. Eicher in India tells of their deep concern for our missionaries as well as a concern that Mr. Chavan has expressed. Many people are praying as we are assured.

A report from Mr. Morris in Gujarat also expresses the deep concern and assures us of their prayers. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

A letter from Mr. Sahlberg, (written while on tour in Miami, Florida) tells us that many of our people down there are praying earnestly for all of the missionaries.

All those of the families of the just called to ask about the reports and to let us know if all their people are earnestly praying for the situation and the missionaries in Viet Nam.

And a report from Mr. Robert McNeil, who is on tour in Miami, Tampa, he was off writing for a number of weeks from your because his wife is not well and the children were giving trouble, but over the week-end he prayed that God would lead and now he feels he must stay as the week end he said that he wanted to tell us that he was willing that if it was at all possible, that he be allowed to go back down to Washington in order to get the letters and supplies that he knows are such about the situation there. He feels that the people will either either suddenly come up and help them on this side. This is probably true of the majority folks.

A letter received from Rev. Paul Hodel, Foreign Secretary of The Missionary Church Assoc. addressed to Mr. Cowles, said: "This is written to extend the sympathy of our MCA membership locally to your own constituency in the person of your missionaries in Vietnam. My MCA's great strength those who feel this strongly here and locally. Many of us in the Missionary Church Association or at the Free Bible Bible College have been personal friends of those who were involved. Surely the people left by these martyrs is treasured by us. May we also be faithful unto death. Thank you for your telephone call today. It is a privilege to be included in your greater Alliance family. God bless you."

This is Monday, February 6, 1968. I just had a call from Paul Hodel's home. He was referring us that they have a prayer chain of daily people praying around the clock for this situation. He simply asked for information which I gave him. He said that they had a prayer chain for this situation and he was willing to go to Washington in order to get the letters and supplies that he knows are such about the situation there. He feels that the people will either either suddenly come up and help them on this side. This is probably true of the majority folks.