

1925

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FRENCH INDOCHINA
MISSION

OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

— 1925 —



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FRENCH INDOCHINA

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(The Christian and Missionary Alliance)

1925

REV. E. F. IRWIN

AN Annamese from a distant city came to the writer saying: «A Christian from your Mission visited me some time ago, and prayed for me and my family. His prayer was answered and we were greatly blessed. Now I have come over fifty miles to hear more about your religion. I am sure that your God is the true God, and I have already given my heart to Him, and want to be baptized.» The missionary's work is easy when the enquirer begins like that. In French Indo-China this year there have been many such testimonies. It is happening on all of our stations; for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has «taken» in the hearts and lives of many. Praise God! The Annamese are experiencing a type of salvation that is contagious.

The word «Expansion» would express the key-note of the work that God has done in French Indo-China during 1925. We began the year with ten main stations; we close the year with eleven. On January 1st, 1925, we had twenty-two out-stations; on December 31st, there were thirty-seven. These forty-eight main and out-stations mean forty-eight cities, towns or villages where God has already gathered out a group of people to the glory of His Name. There are many other meeting-places where more or less irregular meetings are held, and where believers are praising God for salvation through faith in the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. One thousand six hundred and seventy-five new converts were baptized during 1925, and the reports from the different stations indicate that at the close of the year there were nearly one thousand more enquirers who are applying to be received into the Church by baptism.

There are, in all, eighteen organized Churches, with three thousand and nineteen members; eighteen Sunday-Schools, with one thousand two hundred and twenty scholars. We have also two Bible Training Schools: one for Cambodians and

the other for the Annamese. The Annamese School has two sections: a Men's School and a Women's School. Praise God for a splendid group of young men and women in these schools, preparing for the great work of evangelizing their countries. The Mission Press at Hanoi is printing Scriptures and other Christian literature in Annamese and Cambodian. God's blessing in abundant measure has rested on every department of the work, and we are looking forward to still greater blessing in 1926.

The Church offerings have more than kept pace with the increase in membership. In 1924 these amounted to a little less than twenty-five hundred U. S. dollars; in 1925 five thousand four hundred and thirty-two dollars and ninety-eight cents were given by Annamese and Cambodian Christians for the furtherance of God's work. At the Second Annual Native Conference of the French Indo-China Mission, held in February, 1925, a new step along the line of self-support was taken. The Annamese delegates pledged their Churches to take special offerings for the support of the Bible Schools, and for the expenses of the Annual Native Conference; and at the same time to continue to push steadily forward toward the goal of local self-support in all of the Churches. The response is a cause for much thanksgiving. The total offerings more than doubled, two hundred and seventy-five piastres were given for the Bible Schools, and the indications are that almost all of the expenses for 1926 Native Conference will be met by the offerings taken for this purpose.

Four of our senior missionaries went home for furlough during the year; and five others have returned to the field. We also had the pleasure of welcoming one new missionary, Miss Faith Richards, (now Mrs. W. A. Pruett). Six more new recruits who had been studying in France are now on their way, and should arrive at Saigon early in January. Praise God for this much needed increase in our missionary staff.

CAMBODIA

Our two stations in Cambodia, and the one on the border of that country, have been greatly blessed during 1925. The number of Cambodian Christians has multiplied itself eight times. At the close of 1924 there were only ten; today there are eighty Cambodians who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and are saved.

BATTAMBANG

At Battambang fifteen Cambodians and four Annamese were baptized during the year, and two new out-stations were opened. Mr. Ellison writes: «We praise God for the step forward in the Cambodian work at Donteo, a village about five miles from Battambang. A bamboo and thatched chapel has been built by the Christians and those interested. We have baptized fourteen thus far, and others are becoming more and more interested. This is the first chapel given by the natives in Cambodia; and this is the first break in Cambodia among Cambodians. One young man wants to enter the Bible School next year.» Mrs. Ellison has been conducting two Sunday Schools for the children, one at the main station, and the other at Donteo. These Sunday Schools have had a combined attendance of about a hundred at each meeting.

CAMBODIAN BIBLE SCHOOL

Mr. Ellison has also charge of the Cambodian Bible School which was opened at Battambang this year. He reports as follows: «The Cambodian Bible School has become something of a reality at last, — Praise God! There are five students in training: one from Cantho, and the other four from the Cambodian border work in Chaudoc Province. They are all making good progress in spite of the fact that we have, as yet, only the Gospel of Luke printed in the Cambodian character. This makes it an almost impossible task to proceed very fast. But God is able, and He has said, «If any man will to do His will he shall know of the doctrine.»

PNOMPENH

Five new converts were baptized at Pnompenh during 1925, and a new outstation was opened at Takeo, about fifty miles south. Regular services are conducted, and the attendance has been very good, particularly at Takeo.

CAMBODIAN BORDER WORK

Mr. and Mrs. Hammond have also charge of the Cambodian border work. It is here that we have seen the greatest harvest of souls among Cambodians. During 1925 sixty-three have been baptized. Of these Mr. Hammond writes: «On one of the Cambodian outstations on the border, there are four old women who have recently been baptized. Before their conversion they spent nearly all their time in the Buddhist temples feasting and reciting prayers, all to gain merit for the

life beyond. Upon hearing the message of salvation, they believed. Today, after following the Lord Jesus Christ for almost a year, they are very happy. They spent their time from youth to old age following a heathen god, but they never gained peace of heart. What a wonderful change when Jesus comes into their hearts! The faces and lives of these dear old women radiate the peace and glory of God.»

CAMBODIAN TRANSLATION WORK

Much of Mr. Hammond's time is taken up with the important work of translating the Gospels. Luke has been printed this year and the first edition of five thousand copies has been practically sold out. Translations of a tract entitled «The Gospel Summary,» have been prepared and printed, and the Gospel of Mark is now ready for the press, as is also a Cambodian hymnal.

COCHINCHINA

The membership of each of our six main stations in this province has more than doubled during 1925. One new main-station and eight new out-stations were opened, and more or less regular services were conducted in ten new meeting places.

SAIGON

Fifty-two new converts were baptized at Saigon during 1925, and a new out-station was opened at Binh-Tri. This out-station is the result of the testimony of a young Annamese who was converted in the fall of 1924, but who was taken sick and died in December of that year. His death was such a glorious one, and his testimony of his hope in Christ was such a bright one that his friends and neighbors wanted a similar salvation. They first came to the Church in Saigon, and accepted Jesus as their Saviour, then asked that we hold services in their village. They clubbed together and built themselves a chapel. Now regular services are being conducted there, and twenty-nine new converts have been baptized.

SADEC

Rev. and Mrs. I. R. Stebbins have charge of the Sadece work and also of Saigon. One hundred and sixty-four converts have been baptized in this work, and two new out-stations have been opened. One of these is at Vinh-long, where twenty-three new converts have been baptized. The other is at An-Thai-Dong in the Province of My-tho. Forty have been baptized at this out-station. The new work at An-Thai-Dong is worthy of

special mention, for there, as at Binh-Tri in Saigon district, the Christians have banded together and built and equipped a chapel. Mr. Stebbins writes that there have been many instances of healing, and sends in a special note of praise for the conversion of a man sixty years old, who has been miraculously delivered from opium smoking.

THUDAUMOT

This station had its beginning in the out-station of Lai-thieu opened by Rev. J. D. Olsen in 1922. Our Conference this year made it a main-station in charge of Rev. William Robinson, who has since opened an out-station at Ben-Cat, and is holding irregular meetings at Thoi-an, a village in the neighboring province of Giadinh. Thirty-five have been baptized during the year.

Of the opening of Ben-Cat, Mr. Robinson writes as follows: «Ben-Cat is situated in the midst of a strong Buddhistic population. The Lord began work there through a case of healing. A young man bought some books from the colporter and became interested in the Gospel. Later his wife was very sick, and he came to the chapel at Lai-thieu and asked us to pray for her. She was wonderfully healed. Today, in that young man's village, there is a church with a membership of thirty-one. The young man has now gone away to another province, and is working on a rubber plantation; but he is also working for the Lord, and seven people have been saved there. He holds meetings in his home, and teaches the catechism. Please pray for him. His name is Thay Ky-Hien.»

Mr. Robinson has also been making periodical visits to the «Mois», a savage tribespeople in the jungles of Thudaumot. One hundred and ten of these savages have accepted the Saviour, but none have been baptized as yet.

MYTHO

At Mytho we have something unique in the history of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and very unusual in the history of any society. On January 1st, 1925, there were seventy-seven Christians on this station; now the baptized membership numbers one thousand and seventeen. One large out-station has been opened during the year, and irregular services have been conducted at six other places. At the present time there are about six hundred candidates awaiting baptism. There is an average attendance of upwards of four hundred at the main-station, and about two hundred at the out-station. Three

thousand one hundred and five piastres and nineteen cents have been contributed by these new Christians towards the Lord's work. Rev. and Mrs. George C. Ferry are in charge of this work. Mrs. Ferry holds weekly meetings for the women at each chapel, and also has an encouraging children's meeting at Mytho. Mr. Ferry and his two native evangelists spend much of their time travelling from village to village where the Gospel has spread like wildfire ahead of them. Mr. Ferry reports that he has made forty trips during the year, each of several days duration, while his native helpers have made one hundred and fifty such trips.

There has been much persecution at Mytho. But persecution always redounds to the furtherance of the Gospel. Mr. Ferry writes: «Praise God for a mother who saw two of her sons severely beaten for Christ's sake and two days later gave her heart to Jesus because of their staunch faith. These two young men were ordered by the village officials to bow down to the idols. They refused, were severely beaten, and sent to higher officials. Here again they were asked to conform to heathen rites, and again refused. They were beaten once more and sent to still higher officials, who in their turn beat them and sent them to the French Administrator. He exonerated them after commending their faith and courage. The mother saw all this and marveled at the staunchness of her sons, for she was still a heathen. The following Sunday she gave her heart to Jesus, and since then her young daughter has also been saved.

CANTHO

At Cantho, the year has also been one of steady expansion and progress. One new out-station has been opened at Longxuyen, the capital of the Province of Longxuyen; and work has been commenced in three new meeting places. One hundred and forty-nine new converts have been baptized, and there is now a strong, self-supporting church with a membership of 267. Many trips have been made into the country, both by Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson and by their native helpers. The result is that the Gospel fire has spread into at least four adjoining provinces, where hitherto our Saviour was unknown. Mr. Jackson writes: «One sorcerer and two sorceresses have become Christians, giving us the stuff which they used to deceive the people. One man took Jesus for deliverance from opium, after being a slave to the drug for twelve years. The smell of opium now makes him sick.»

CHAUDOC

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have also charge of the Chaudoc station. Here seventy-seven more men and women have given their hearts to Jesus and been baptized during 1925. Mr. Jackson reports that: «A woman dying of cholera was instantly delivered in answer to prayer. A man was delivered from insanity. — At Triton a man has given us a piece of ground on which to build a chapel. At another out-station, the oldest member of a family, the one in charge of the ancestral worship, has forsaken his family altars, and all the feasts connected with the ancestral rights, to follow Jesus.»

TONKIN

The work in Tonkin is also very encouraging. For the first time it has spread beyond the large cities, and the Gospel has gotten a foothold in the country districts. More or less regular services are now being conducted in three out-stations from Hanoi, and forty-three new converts have been baptized.

HANOI

Mr. and Mrs. Cadman report that this has been the banner year on Hanoi station. The church membership has almost doubled, and the Annamese offerings have more than doubled. As mentioned above, three new out-stations have been opened, and in all, fifty-seven new converts have been baptized. Mr. Cadman writes that one of the Hanoi congregation lost five relatives in May, his only child, his father, brother, and two uncles. He was persecuted by his family which insisted that he follow heathen customs. He refused, and took a staunch stand, even refusing funds from a Buddhist Benevolent Society to help pay the funeral expenses. Now he is paying off these heavy debts, and hopes to attend Bible School in 1926. He is looking to the Lord for funds, hoping to pay his own way if possible. «Seven or eight others have claimed the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and their lives and increased offerings testify of the same.»

HAIPHONG

Owing to the shortage of missionaries, Haiphong has been run for the greater part of the year as an out-station from Hanoi, but Conference has appointed Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Pruett to this station, and they took up the work just before the close of 1925. Two new converts were baptized and the membership is now thirty-six, of whom nine are Chinese.

ANNAMESE TRANSLATION

The Translation of the entire Bible into Annamese has been completed. It is now on the press, and will be in the hands of the people early in 1926. This is a great work accomplished and is a cause for much thanksgiving on the part of the Annamese church. Credit is due to Rev. and Mrs. Cadman, and Rev. John D. Olsen for the hard work that they have put into this difficult task, and also to the British and Foreign Bible Society which has financed the preparation and publication of both the New Testament and the Bible.

PRESS

Mr. Cadman's report for the Hanoi Press reads as follows: «Praise God for another banner year in the publication work! The output of the press has been one-third more than last year, a total of 13,606,280 pages having been printed. This includes a second edition of ten thousand Annamese New Testaments; seventy thousand Annamese Scripture portions; five thousand copies of the Gospel of Luke in Cambodian; and one hundred and thirty-one thousand four hundred, booklets, catechisms tracts, etc., in Annamese and Cambodian. Besides these, the regular monthly Sunday School lesson booklet has been printed in Annamese, and the Quarterly «Call of French Indo-China» in English.»

«Thanks to the generous gifts from the «Milton Stewart Evangelistic Fund», of which our dear brother, Rev. W. E. Blackstone is the trustee, we have been able to purchase fonts of Cambodian characters, and also to erect an additional building for the Press, to be used for book-binding and stereotyping.»

ANNAM

Tourane is still our only main-station in the State of Annam, but this year the work there has been characterized by increased expansion into the country districts. Four new out-stations have been opened. Two of these are at the extreme ends of the State, one at Nhatrang, three hundred miles south, and the other at Vinh, two hundred and fifty miles north of Tourane. These two posts were opened as Colportage outposts, but they have both developed into regular out-stations with rapidly growing Annamese churches. The other two out-stations are at Dai-an, thirty-five miles south-west of Tourane, and at Nam-o, a few miles north-west. The chapel at Nam-o was built and furnished by an offering raised by the Christians in the Tourane

Church. In all one hundred and seventy-five new converts have been baptized, and the Annamese offerings have amounted to one thousand and twenty-five piastres.

There have been many cases of healing at Tourane and the out-stations. The deacon from our new church at Dai-an was in the chapel talking to the Annamese preacher, when a servant came running to him saying that his child had been taken suddenly sick and was dying. He hurried home, praying as he ran, while the preacher dropped to his knees and plead with Jesus for the healing of the child. When the deacon reached home, he found his child entirely healed, and at first thought that someone had tricked him. He learned, however, that it was all true, the child had been almost dead, but just at the time that he had lifted up his heart to God, and the preacher had begun to pray in the chapel, his child had been suddenly healed. Another Christian at Dai-an was completely healed from appendicitis from which he had suffered for thirteen years. The child of the native evangelist at Vinh was taken very sick with dysentery. He took it to the French Hospital, but the doctor shook his head and said that it was too late. The evangelist left this child at the hospital, went to the telegraph office, and sent a telegram to Tourane asking for prayer. It was prayer meeting night, and the Christians took his request to the throne of God. Later the father reported that he had had a miraculous peace in committing the child to God, and had gone to bed trusting that Jesus would heal. The next morning the child was completely well, to the surprise of the doctor and nurses at the hospital.

ANNAMESE BIBLE SCHOOLS

Rev. J. D. Olsen has charge of the Men's Bible School, Tourane, and Mrs. Smith of the Women's School. Rev. H. C. Smith and Pastor Thua teach in the Men's School, and Mrs. Irwin in the Women's School. There are twenty-four men students and thirteen women. Almost all of these are partially self-supporting, and many of them fully so. The spiritual tone of the school has been excellent and the educational standard high. The Lord is raising up for us a splendid group of Annamese workers who will carry the Gospel to every corner of the country.

COLPORTAGE WORK

This report would not be complete without some reference to the splendid work done by the colporters of the British and Foreign Bible Society. This Society works in close affiliation

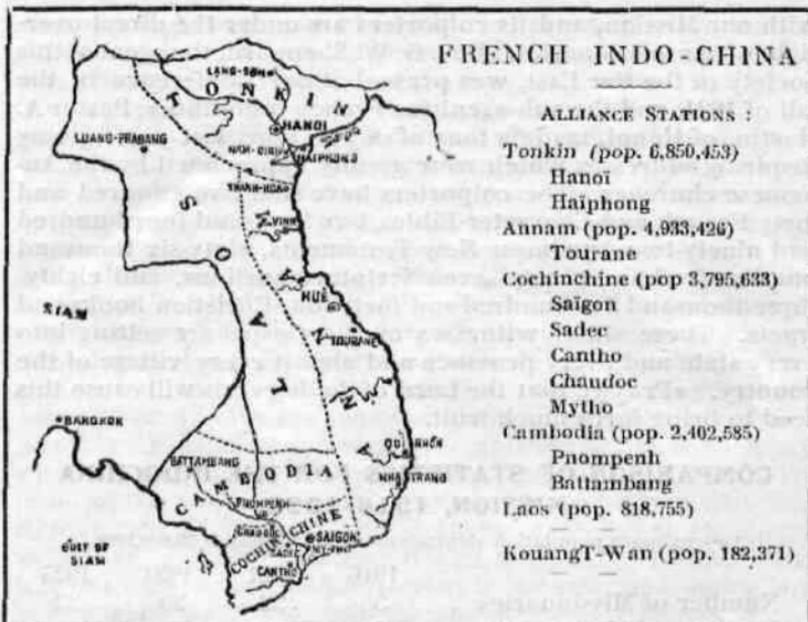
with our Mission, and its colporters are under the direct oversight of our missionaries. Rev. G. W. Sheppard, the agent of this Society in the Far East, was present at our Conference in the fall of 1924, and the sub-agent for French Indo-China, Pastor A. Martin, of Hanoi, made a tour of our stations last year, giving inspiring addresses which were greatly appreciated by the Annamese churches. The colporters have sold five hundred and forty French and Character Bibles, two thousand four hundred and ninety-two Annamese New Testaments, sixty-six thousand one hundred and ninety-seven Scripture portions, and eighty-three thousand five hundred and forty-four Christian books and tracts. These silent witnesses of the Gospel are getting into every state and every province and almost every village of the country. «Pray ye that the Lord of the harvest» will cause this seed to bring forth much fruit.

COMPARISON OF STATISTICS FOR THE INDOCHINA MISSION, 1916-1925

(Approximate population dependent on this Mission 20,000,000)

	1916	1921	1924	1925
Number of Missionaries	5	22	20	22
Number of Main-stations	2	5	10	11
Number of Out-stations	0	2	22	37
Number of Native Workers	8	8	46	41
Number of Church Members	25	183	1678	3019
Baptisms during year	18	79	656	1675
Sunday School Scholars	—	—	866	1225
Bible School Students	0	16	47	42
Offerings by Native Churches in U. S. Dollars	20.00	300.00	2426.09	5432.98

FRENCH INDO-CHINA



ALLIANCE STATIONS :

- Tonkin (pop. 6,850,453)
- Hanoi
- Haiphong
- Annam (pop. 4,933,426)
- Tourane
- Cochinchine (pop. 3,795,633)
- Saigon
- Sadec
- Cantho
- Chaudoc
- Mytho
- Cambodia (pop. 2,402,585)
- Pnompenh
- Battambang
- Laos (pop. 818,755)
- KouangT-Wan (pop. 182,371)

HEADQUARTERS : Chairman, Rev. E. F. Irwin, Tourane, Annam

TOURANE :

- Rev. and Mrs. E. F. Irwin
- Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Smith
- Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Travis
- Rev. J. D. Olsen
- Native Pastor : Rev. H. T. Thua
- Native Evangelists : Messrs. Ngô, Thánh, Lợi and Diệm
- Biblewoman : Mrs. Hâu

HANOI :

- Rev. and Mrs. Wm. C. Cadman
- Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson
- Native Evangelist : Mr. Quốc
- Biblewoman : Mrs. Hâu

HAIPHONG :

- Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Pruett
- Native Evangelist : Mr. Tấ

SAIGON, 329 Rue Frère Louis :

- Rev. and Mrs. I. R. Stebbins
- Rev. and Mrs. P. E. Carlson
- Rev. Wm. Robinson
- Native Evangelists : Messrs. Long Hai, and Tư
- Chinese Evangelist : Mr. Chue

SADEC :

- Native Evangelists : Messrs. Đinh Huyền and Luyen
- Biblewoman : Mrs. Can

MYTHO :

- Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Ferry
- Native Evangelist : Mr. Phan

CANTHO :

- Native Evangelist : Messrs. Đinh and Liện
- Biblewoman : Cô Chỉ

CHAUDOC :

- Native Evangelist : Mr. Khánh
- PNOMPENH, 80 Rue Mont de Piété :
- Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Hammond
- Rev. and Mrs. F. C. Peterson,
- Native Evangelist : Mr. Tiep

BATTAMBANG :

- Rev. and Mrs. D. W. Ellison
- Native Evangelist : Mr. Khanh

ON FURLOUGH :

- Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Grupe
- Rev. and Mrs. D. I. Jeffrey
- Miss E. M. Frost
- Miss C. M. Allshouse
- Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson