

March 1975

The Phan Rang area has been very peaceful throughout the years of war. An occasional bridge was blown up or a hamlet chief assassinated but nothing on a large scale. We had freedom to travel the main roads in our province, Ninh Thuan, and to areas in the provinces where there are churches to the north and south of us. A week before we left Phan Rang, two new regiments were said to have moved into the area just west of the city about 30 miles. During the last several days before we left our station there was quite an increase in terrorist activities in the area. The occurrence of these incidents seemed to be moving gradually closer to our home and to Phan Rang city. Some incidents even occurred during daylight hours. Mainly it was the abduction of civilians and soldiers. Also a sapper squad was intercepted on the northern edge of Phan Rang city at 9 A.M. one day - an unnerving event to a city which had experienced very little terrorist activity.

Our home was outside of Phan Rang two miles, in a country setting, but with Vietnamese living on both sides of the Phan Rang Tribal Training Center property. There were several Ronglai tribal people who lived at the Center. For several months Christian and non-Christian Vietnamese friends would guardedly express their concern about our living at the Mission residence there. We felt secure there and were sure that is the house the Lord wanted us to ^{be} living in.

After the Highlands were engulfed by the Communist offensive during the week of March 9 we began to re-evaluate our situation and looked to the Lord to direct our thinking. We had the responsibility to distribute six water pumps - 3 in our area and 3 near Nha Trang. So when we left on March 19 to distribute the pumps near Nha Trang we left with the idea

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we were evacuating out station, yet with the hope that we would return soon. That morning as we were preparing to leave, the leading pastor of our area's tribal churches sent us word to leave now, do not wait any longer. Several Vietnamese friends had been urging us to leave also. Thus at the last moment the Lord confirmed His leading to us. We remained at Nha Trang until March 25 when we went to Saigon.

Rev. Keith E. Kayser
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