

Banmethuot, Viet Nam,  
October 1952.

Our Dear Co-Workers,

Sticky red mud, torrential rains, dampness and mildew - we're gradually pulling through the seven-month rainy season here in the high plateaux of the Darlac. What a relief it will be in a few weeks when the sun comes out to dry up the land and make it possible to fix up the roads so that we can reach our brown-skinned jungle folk. In a final display of

ugly temper, the monsoon unleashed a typhoon along the coast this week and hundreds have been killed. Gordon was delayed in Saigon when air transportation was held up. In that city of two million people, three thousand large trees were blown across streets and on top of walls and houses. It will be weeks before the electric system is restored.

But how our gardens and flowers grow in this wet season! The grassy lawns around our two Mission houses here at Banmethuot grow so fast that it keeps our Ralay boys busy cutting them with their little hooked shoulder-axes. In the center of each lawn a graceful travellers' palm spreads out fan-like with leaves on slender stalks. A ground orchid plant is now blooming profusely with lavender and pink blossoms that shine like jewels. Our honeysuckle vine up the sides of our porch gives out a rich sweetness, mingling with luxuriant bougainvillae vines in purple, red and bronze. The poinsettias are beginning to flame their vivid red-leaf flowers, getting ready for Christmas.

We rejoice to tell you of progress in the work of the Lord, made possible by your gifts and prayers. We extend a very special word of thanks from our hearts to the many friends who are so faithfully sending in regular gifts for the support of workers and patients. Every time we see your name we wish we could drop you a personal word of appreciation.

#### TRIBES MISSION BECOMES A SEPARATE FIELD.

January 1st 1953 will see the division of this huge Indo-China field, with its 27,000,000 people, into four distinct Missions, all part, of course, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance - Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos and Tribes. Each of the four Missions will have its own Chairman and Conference, directly under the Board in New York. This will facilitate greatly the advance of the work on all fields as our former set-up was too cumbersome. So while we in the Tribes Mission are geographically part of Viet Nam, our field is to be entirely separate. Four main stations - Dalat, Djiring, Banmethuot and Pleiku, with 22 missionaries, - with one million people to reach!

#### REINFORCEMENTS.

Dr. and Mrs. Webber are here now hard at work at the Leprosarium. Miss Olive Kingsbury is expected soon from France to help Miss Ade and Miss Schon in the nursing. The latter returns from furlough in February. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Powell will soon be here to superintend the Leprosarium.

Since returning from our furlough, we have been struggling to



They've never had a morsel of the Bread of Life yet!

keep up with the office work and correspondence until Miss Carolyn Griswold arrives to help us. She should be here within a few weeks, after studying French in Paris. We expect then to be able to keep in touch with you in a more personal way. You'll forgive us for our lack of promptness in replying to your letters this summer, won't you? We have really been overwhelmed with work.

#### BIBLE SCHOOL IN FULL SWING.

We have twelve new <sup>men</sup> students this year and six women students. Some of these are unusually bright and intelligent and reveal a real hunger of heart for their studies in God's Word. We find them returning to the classroom in their noon hour to work on their lessons and staying on at their desks after the evening chapel meeting until late at night when they have to be practically chased home to bed! May these new workers prove to be valuable assistants in the coming months. We have a hundred thousand souls just in this Darlac province alone, in 650 villages. Out of these we have Christians in only 44 villages. Our evangelistic staff, including the new students, now numbers 58 tribes workers, but we should have 200 to adequately cover this great area.

Some of the Christians are helping our new students with rice, but regular support is needed for them. We send a photo to those desiring to have their own representative out here. While you are working 12 hours a day for the Lord in America, your worker is sleeping here. While you are sleeping there, your worker is carrying on 12 hours a day here. So this is an opportunity for you to work 24 hours a day for the Lord! (\$15.00 a month supports a single worker, \$20.00 and up for a couple). This is the way to extend Christ's Kingdom into these huge districts of unreached tribespeople. We believe that to support a native evangelist means a crown in soul-winning ministry.

#### THE CHURCHES.

Despite bad roads and inclement weather, we have ploughed through the bogs to have fellowship with a number of our fine Christian groups. It is always such a joy to meet with them and their native pastors in their own bamboo chapels in the yellow light of their kerosene lanterns swinging from a roof-beam. The testimonies of these brown folk always show their very practical faith and they tell of many answers to prayer. One or two claim to have been healed of leprosy after having accepted the Lord. In some areas revival fires are burning, and souls are being won. In villages where there are a few new believers we have sat around their log fires in blinding smoke, having good talks with them and their friends who give rapt attention.

In the daytime during this rice-growing season, most of the people are scattered in their rice-fields to guard their crops from the marauding deer, monkeys, birds, civet cats, rabbits, wild pigs and wild elephants. Their fields are so difficult to carve out of the jungle that they can never grow enough rice to lay away a reserve against these last two or three months before the harvest in December. So their food supply is scant and they have to dig in the forests for edible roots.

#### DAK SONG AND THE MNONG TRIBE.

We are rejoicing because a new Vietnamese missionary and his family are on their way to settle among the Mngong tribes at Dak Song. This work has been under way for several years with Mngong preachers in charge. Now that the Gungs are coming, we know that great strides will be made in reaching these most degraded and needy people.

#### LEPROSARIUM - Buildings.

When our Board graciously gave us our fine staff of missionaries for this work, their coming brought an immediate housing problem. Since April we have been housing many of the 250 patients in temporary longhouses, for we had to stop erecting cabins for them in order to provide facilities to take care of them. The following have been built during the past few months, in spite of enormous difficulties:

- The sawmill has been completely overhauled.
- Power plant with 2 diesel-electric generators to give light, pump water, run

a small circular saw, power tools, etc.

- Machine shop and garage.      Electric lights to various buildings.
- Water system with cement filtration canal, deep well, high water tank, with piping to various buildings.
- Roads and drainage ditches.
- 2 houses - 1 for French overseer and family. 1 for Miss Ade and nursery for healthy babies of patients. (Later to be a ward.)

We are now beginning to build four more wooden houses, later on to be used for wards for the patients. Three will be used temporarily by the missionaries, and one will be used as an operating room, laboratory, etc., for the time being. It will be some time, therefore, before we can start erecting cabins again. In fact to save money and provide more space for the patients, we are considering putting together three cabins into one. You may remember that when our Board authorized us to establish this work among our thousands of jungle folk with leprosy, they stipulated that we could not be put on the Mission budget as there were no funds available for this work. We have been trusting the Lord for all our needs, and our whole work is carried on by special gifts.

As we see the names of many kind friends and churches on the cabins or units already built made possible by their sacrificial gifts, we are daily reminded of God's grace and faithfulness. Deeply touching are some of the stories connected with these gifts, and the patients who are benefiting are indeed grateful to God. At present the building fund gifts are being put towards the erection of the four wards mentioned above, and a list of the donors will be placed in each when they are finished.

BANDAGES BADLY NEEDED. <sup>Pate's medicines too.</sup> We are very thankful for the packages of bandages and clothing that have been sent for our Leprosarium. We never have enough, however, as many patients have to be bandaged twice a day. 3" and 4" bandages rolled from old sheets are much appreciated. Just send them to us in cartons marked for the Leprosarium, and they will come through by slow mail in two months time, and we don't have any duty to pay if marked.

SUPPORT OF PATIENTS. We still have many patients for whom no regular support is pledged. \$4.00 a month will pay for rice for one person. We have a number of photos of these individuals ready to send to any who wish to have a patient of their own. With the cold season coming on we must supply each one with a blanket. 40 still have none. \$3.00 pays for one.

RICE FIELD PROJECT. Our greatest problem is the feeding of the patients. Rice has to be brought in military convoy from Saigon at very great expense, and we are using five tons a month. The present typhoon has torn up the roads so that it may be weeks before another convoy can get through with supplies. We have been negotiating with the Government for a large tract of good rice-growing land some 40 miles away, where we expect to place 200 more leprosy patients to work the fields. This will be a BIG undertaking, but we hope to grow 120 tons a year to cover our present needs, and make the work self-supporting.

The Government will have the nearby villages erect longhouses for the patients, and their relatives will feed them until the first harvest. A clinic will have to be built and a house for the overseer. Only able-bodied patients will be placed on this farm and we hope to raise cattle, peanuts, soybeans, etc., with fish in the flooded paddy fields. Please pray that this project may go forward quickly. How we wish we had a young farmer from America to take over this project.

#### SELF-SUPPORTING SEGREGATION VILLAGES.

One such village with 32 patients has been a very successful experiment. Several more will be established in the near future with the patients doing all the work. We supply the spiritual and medical help and train patients to do the dressings and give the medicines.

LAURA'S NEW BOOK READY SOON. Zondervans of Grand Rapids are publishing "FARTHER INTO THE NIGHT", sequel to Laura's "GONGS IN THE NIGHT", which has already gone into five editions. This will be a big book with many drawings and photos of our work since the war. We'll let you know when it is to appear, probably this year.

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WOULD YOU LIKE A TAPE RECORDING? We are sending weekly recordings for radio broadcasts in Chicago, and would be glad to send you a special recording for your church, if you wish, by air mail. Just send us a reel of tape and we shall send a missionary program right from our station. Maybe you'll hear Hopalong our gibbon ape whistling, Roday sacrifice music, Christians singing and testifying, etc.

OUR SOUND FILMS IN COLOR ARE BEING WIDELY USED,

"JUNGLE BLOOD HUNTERS" - Reaching the tribe and elephant. Buffalo sacrifice. Seeing the teeth of a heather, girl (first time ever witnessed by white people), Air pets. Christian groups and baptisms in jungle streams. 37 minutes. Rental \$12.00.

"NOW WE LIVE" - Carving our Leprosarium out of the jungle. Arrival and treatment of first patients, A deeply touching story filmed as the work went on, 27 minutes. Rental \$12.00.

Send to: Bureau of Promotion & Publicity, Christian & Missionary Alliance, 260 W. 44th St., New York, 36, N.Y. (Freewill offering basis.)

Baptista Films, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, (Rental basis).

WE DEPEND LARGELY UPON THE INTEREST AROUSED BY THESE OUTSTANDING FILMS, AND A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE RENTALS TO CARRY ON OUR EVANGELISTIC AND LEPROSARIUM WORK.

"LIGHT IN THE JUNGLE" - A unique missionary film, professionally made in sound and color, with a tremendous challenge. Entirely different from any other missionary film, filled with pathos, humor and the clear Gospel message. The missionary is preaching to a savage who is making a sacrifice, and the dialog is in English, from our book of the same name. Written and produced by Laura and Gordon H. Smith, made and to be released by C. O. Baptista Films, Inc., Wheaton Ill., late this year. Get your order in now for first showings.

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS.

Pray, please, that this may be the most wonderful 4-day Christmas Conference we have ever held. We want the message of Christ's birth to reach out to thousands of "other sheep". If they could hear of Him, many of them would gladly, eagerly welcome Him into their hearts. They've waited so long in darkness! For most of the patients in the Leprosarium this will be their very first Christmas, and they will have a program of their own.

Are we going to care about the heathen this Christmas? Will we continue to eat to the full of the Bread of Life and not spare some crumbs for these poor, despairing jungle folk? How can we get over our own heaped-up plates, rich with the treasures of God's Word and grace, while the hungry ones look on?

"And if there be no light to spare,  
Forgive if that we ask is wrong.  
We're only in then\* Is it fair  
That you should have the light?" so long?  
We do not ask that you should have the night,  
But when will our turn come to have the Light?

Very sincerely yours,

J.

P.S. Please make out all gifts to the Treasurer, Christian & Missionary Alliance, 260 W. 44th St., New York, 36, N.Y., and mark it - "Leprosarium, Trifleswork, etc., Care of Gordon H. Smith."