



Circular #46.
December 1956

Box 101,
Da Nang (Tourane)
VIET NAM.

Our Dear Faithful Co-Workers:

While I was making some pumpkin pies and corn bread for Thanksgiving, I had to keep teaching my "Melchior"

FIRST CHRISTMAS FOR OUR TRIBES.

(a Wise Man) Ra, a Hray tribesman, to learn his part in our Christmas pageant. He cannot read very well yet so I must help him memorize line by line. He sat beside me at the baking table in the kitchen, beside the brick oven, and as I worked we kept repeating in the sing-song Vietnamese, "We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" - "We have seen the Messiah. He is Christ the Lord" - "The Lord became flesh and dwelt among us".

Ra is learning about "Bethlehem, the City of David", and "The King of the Jews". He is so earnest, learning his part, and his big mouth is full of poor chipped-off teeth, all discolored, and he has coarse black hair that we have now trimmed off, but he has fine big black eyes. He put his head down on the table to concentrate and kept reciting his lines over and over - "Here is frankincense, I give to Thee..." This young Hray tribesman is just a short time out of the jungles. He had been living in ignorance and darkness then, but the coming of the Gospel to him has indeed changed his heart.

We have six Hray and four Cua tribes students in our Bible School here at Da Nang, and this will be their first Christmas. We are expecting that some of their home-folks will come in the hundred miles for Christmas too. Twenty years ago we put on the first Christmas program for the Raday tribespeople at Banmethuot, South Viet Nam. We wrote about that in "Gongs in the Night", chapter 12. Now, history is being repeated here in Central Viet Nam. We are putting on that same program for the Cua and Hray tribespeople for their first Christmas because we want to put the Christmas story before these new tribespeople and all our Vietnamese heathen neighbors here, in a way they can understand and never forget.

As these students can speak Vietnamese, we are putting the program on in that language. While they are reciting their lines over and over, I also memorize the passages with them, and this is helping me a lot in learning this difficult language. (At Banmethuot we always used the tribal languages, for they did not speak Vietnamese there). We are singing 7 Christmas carols that are used in the pageant and it means singing them over hundreds of times as these tribespeople never heard tunes like these before. They are all doing wonderfully well and will put on a beautiful program in costume with background scenery and colored lights. It is indeed a high privilege to be preparing for this another FIRST CHRISTMAS for new tribes of people.

God helped us to give the first Christmas to the Mnong Rolum tribe at Lake Daklak, and to the Mnong Preh tribe at Dak Song, and to many other tribes who came in to the evangelistic centers.

This is one of the "good times" of the year for our Christians. Believing in Christ, they are cut off from their old sacrifices and big family re-unions and all the tribal gaieties. So now we



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

must give to every Christian times and what times are more wonderful than the "Good News to us" of Christmas and Easter, our two big festivals of the year?

"Prayer is always asking for the IMPOSSIBLE!"

The Vietnamese army is lending us a large hospital tent for our program to be held December 25 and 26, as our chapel is far too small for the crowds who will attend. We'll have cakes and candy, peanuts, tea and some little gifts around our Christmas tree for each Christian tribesman. We'd be glad to give out old clothing for it is cold here now, but only two friends responded to our appeal for parcels, made in our last circular. We can use large amounts now.

OUR TRIBES BIBLE SCHOOL. We opened our Tribes Bible School last July 3rd, with five students. Now we have three women and seven men studying the Word of God. It is easier teaching those who know the Vietnamese language, than it was teaching our Raday and Mnong in the past, for those who know Vietnamese have the whole Bible, a large hymn book, many tracts and some literature to read. So our students are growing rapidly in knowledge and grace. They have given up their smoking and drinking and this in itself is a great miracle. Even the girls used to roll up their tobacco leaves into cigars and smoke incessantly. Now you should hear their testimonies! They have simply and solemnly received Christ and the blessings are coming. The Spirit of God is working in their souls. What a deliverance!

These ten students represent the great untouched areas of the Cua and Hray tribes. We will send them back into their jungles and mountains after some more months of study, to witness to their villages, and to establish indigenous churches. These villages have never yet had a witness. Our hearts go out to them, countless villages where only the gongs and drums of their heathen sacrifices ring out, and the demons hold full sway.

"The enemy yields only what he must. He yields only what is taken. The ground must therefore be taken step by step." S.D.Gordon.

NEW TRIBAL CENTERS OPENED. Our large wall map of Central Viet Nam has twenty pins with crosses showing the tribal centers which must be opened. By God's grace and your assistance, we hope to open two or three this year, and the rest next year. God is sending us the workers to place in some of these centers, and we are trusting Him for funds to build their houses and the reception-longhouses for the tribespeople. It costs about \$500.00 to establish each center. Every cent we are receiving for the work goes one hundred percent, without waste or side-tracking, into the carrying out of Christ's Great Commission.

"The enemy continually renews his attacks, therefore the ground taken must be held against him the Victor's Name!"
S.D. Gordon.

In August we were happy to settle Mr. & Mrs. Khiem, Vietnamese missionaries to the Hray tribe at Son Ha. They have already won a number to the Lord and led our six Hray students to come to study the Word of God.

In November we opened Tra Bong, placing a fine Vietnamese couple, Mr. and Mrs. Hap, there. Mr. Hap is over sixty, but he has a wonderful testimony. He was a wealthy farmer, but now he has heard the call of God for cut-and-cut service to the tribespeople, and he has divided all his property among his children to spend the rest of his life among the jungle people. We were able to give him a small sum of money to start building himself a native house of mud and thatch grass, and we are praying that we might soon be enabled to erect the reception-longhouse for the tribes people who can spend the night and hear the Gospel.

Authorization papers are being received for free grants of land in other centers, and we hope to occupy them shortly.

WE LIVE AND WORK BY FAITH.

As our work expands and our responsibilities increase, our monthly budget grows bigger and bigger. We rejoice that we are being more and more thrown back on our Loving Lord who has promised to supply all our need. We are accepting students and workers entirely by faith, trusting that each month will see the good hand of our Lord granting our requests. So far we have had just enough, with nothing over. As we look back over these nine months in our new field of Central Viet Nam, how wonder-

"Faith is the creative element of God, it the mightiest force in the universe. The bolder the faith, the greater is the success." E.W.Kenyon.

ful to see God's promises become practical realities! How it humbles us! The verses Gorden has stood upon all through the years of his ministry - Isaiah 45:1-3 - have again led us on in triumph over difficulties. The opening wide of these "gates of brass", the "cutting asunder of the bars of iron", these "treasures of darkness" from among the Cuas and Hrays, the favor of Government officials everywhere, the friendliness and response of the people - all encourage us to know that God is leading us.

And there is opposition! But, if "God be for us, WHO can be against us?"

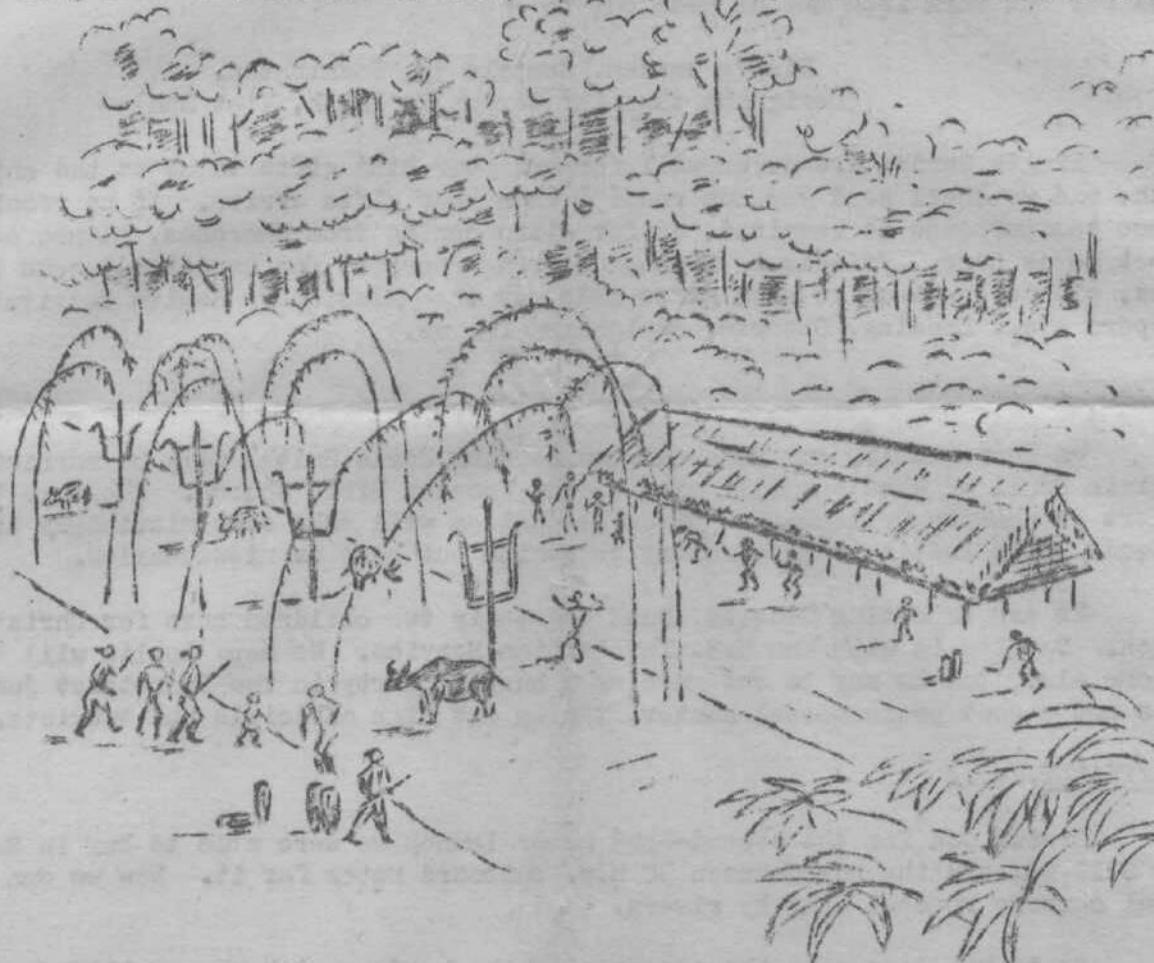
NEW BIBLE SCHOOL FOR VIETNAMESE.

Besides our Bible School for the mountaineer tribespeople, we are also opening Bible and missionary training classes for Vietnamese young people who feel called of God to be missionaries to the tribes. This will be a specially accelerated course with much practical training as they study. Some will take further training in nursing at the Government hospital at Hue later on. The students are now arriving, and classes will begin after New Years. We are keeping a Christian carpenter busy these days making beds, tables, chairs and desks. \$12.90 a month will support one student.

MODEL FARM FOR REFUGEES AND MOUNTAINEERS.

Our property here at Da Nang has facilities for our small Bible Schools at present, but as tribal centers are opened and scores of promising students come to us from various tribes to train as evangelists, we shall need much larger quarters out of town. In any case, when missionaries from America start arriving, we shall have to use the property as a receiving home.

We were talking about this a few months ago with an agricultural expert of U.S.O.M. (American aid to Viet Nam) and he suggested that we start a model farm with their help. This has been on our hearts for many years - a mountaineer training center where evangelists can also learn something about agriculture and public health, etc. They live on a starvation diet, amid filth and disease.



THOUSANDS of these primitive tribal villages have never yet had a witness!

We expect to train many mountaineer preachers, but we also need many pioneer missionaries who will take up the challenge of these tribes. Is God calling you for this work? Write us for information and where to apply.

We began to pray much about this and thought that if we could have a Christian settlement made up of some Protestant refugees from North Viet Nam as a basis, we could then combine this with our mountaineer training center. U.S.O.M. would help us with the refugee settlement. We have been asking God to make known His will about this big undertaking. There were forty or fifty refugee families near Saigon living on poor land, and having a hard time to make a living. No one was taking an interest in their welfare.

So far, everything is working out well. U.S.O.M. is approving our project and will transport the refugees, feed them for nine months at least, pay for their housing, and give us prefabricated buildings for clinic, school, chapel, etc. They will lend us farming equipment, and give small animals - rabbits, poultry, pigs, etc.

Two refugee leaders spent a week with us and were enthusiastic over the land we had chosen, and are now getting together the families who want to come. The Government is willing to give us a large tract of good land 24 kilometers from Da Nang. After the refugees are settled, we shall establish our mountaineer training center there. Please pray much about this important step. We need a good farmer from the homeland to take charge of this. What a thrilling job for someone who wants to serve the Lord in this way!

IMPORTANT - NEW ADDRESS FOR SENDING GIFTS:

We have recently added to our circle of co-operating friends the outstanding faith organization called KING'S GARDEN, of Seattle, Washington. They not only run a large school, orphanage, printing press and other activities, but they own their own radio station. They are permanently set-up to help missionaries in all branches of their work, such as purchasing, printing, forwarding of funds, etc., and have a staff of over 150. We are sending them tape recordings, and are praying that many new friends may be raised up to share the challenge of our increasing responsibilities. Friends wishing receipts for U.S. income tax purposes, please send your good gifts for our work from now on made out to -

King's Garden, Seattle 33, Washington.
(Designate them for Gordon H. Smith, Viet Nam)

King's Garden Treasurer will forward your kind gifts to us at the end of each month, and we shall send you our receipt when your gifts arrive. If no receipt for income tax purposes is required, as for gifts coming from Churches, please send them direct to us here. Friends in Canada desiring receipts for Canadian Income Tax purposes, please continue to send gifts made out to - Missionary Health Institute, 325 Sheppard Ave., Lansing, Ontario, designated for us.

OUR FAMILY.

On December 15, our youngest boy Stanley Earle Smith, will be married to Miss Virginia Scull of Wheaton, Illinois, at the Wheaton Bible Church. They are both seniors at Wheaton College, and after graduation will take some missionary training at Moody Bible Institute preparatory to coming out here as missionaries.

We are expecting Douglas, Ruth and their two children here for Christmas from Saigon. Douglas is with the U.S. Information Service. We hope Leslie will be able to come also, but he may be out guiding a hunting party in the Banmethuot jungles. He is now a good professional hunter, taking out high officials and tourists.

AND FINALLY.....

Praise God for the second-hand motor launch we were able to buy in Saigon for only \$110.00, and the new Johnson 30 h.p. outboard motor for it. Now we can open tribal centers reached only by rivers.

So to you dear ones who are sharing the burdens with us, enabling us to make a "going concern" of evangelizing these needy tribes, our heartfelt thanks. God will be on the side of anyone who helps in this waiting task, to which He gives full priority of urgency.

With you, in His service,

Laura L. Smith

Gordon H. Smith