

HUE and QUANGTRI STATION

1966 REPORT

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"A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." (I Corinthians 16:9) Without a doubt, we are standing on the threshold of a great, wide-open door to the Vietnamese heart which will result in a great turning to God and tremendous growth of the Church of Jesus Christ in Vietnam. Many are the adversaries: Buddhism, Romanism, animism, Communism, materialism, and nationalism. But we believe that we are living and serving Christ during Vietnam's greatest hour and we are straining every nerve, by God's grace, to enter every door of opportunity to proclaim the gospel and build the Church of Christ in this great land.

1966 was a year which was filled with many difficulties. First, a missionary of one of our sister missions was killed on the highway south of Hue and travel north and south was seriously curtailed thereafter. Next, our newborn daughter, Janice, was rescued from the jaws of death several times by the miracle-working power of God. Twice we were evacuated from the city of Hue with serious threat upon American lives and properties. Intermis- sion difficulties arose between the World Relief Commission, Vietnam Christian Service, and our Mission and Church with great pressure added to the work. But, inspite of the many "adversaries" God gave to us the greatest year of blessing we have ever known in Vietnam.

The year began with a Youth Retreat and evangelistic crusade. 100 Christian young people came from several provinces to meet God and to be challenged to deeper consecration and wider witness by Rev. Gordon Cathey of the International Protestant Church in Saigon. In the evenings Rev. Bob Harrison and Norm Nelson of the Overseas Crusades Mission spoke at the university auditorium, city auditorium, and Youth Center with good interest and response.

Throughout the year and with the assistance of World Vision and Pocket Testament supplies, we cooperated with the local church with an evangelistic thrust in the military hospital, city prison, and military training camp. Many souls have turned to Christ,

two "churches" have been started, and a very effectual witness has been given to thousands of men and women from all over Central Vietnam.

During the past year the Youth Center at Hue has been completely remodelled with a very modern front, enlarged chapel and classrooms, and comfortable bedrooms for ten Christian high school and university students. Every Saturday evening evangelistic services have been held in the auditorium with from 100 to 400 youth in attendance. Decisions have been few but lasting. Perhaps the most rewarding fruit of the past year was the decision of six of the Hue youth to answer the call of God into the ministry. Those youth living in the youth center have participated in all the evangelistic and Sunday School ministries of the mission and church and have gained invaluable experience preparing them to serve as active laymen or ministers in the years ahead. These youth have been supported by "work scholarships" and in this capacity have managed the bookroom, English classes, and maintenance of the Center. They have exhibited sterling character and motivation and have enhanced the witness of the Youth Center many times through their vocal and life witness.

The churches of Quangtri and Hue have generally shown much progress during the past year. While the An-tho and Long-quang churches have suffered considerably due to extreme war devastation, Gio-linh, Quangtri, Sia, and Hue have all grown considerably. The Gio-linh church building and parsonage have been completed and souls have been saved with an increase in attendance. This church is now a non-subsidized church (that is, no longer served by a student pastor). Quangtri has started its building program, but due to exorbitant building costs, has temporarily stopped until it is able to raise more money to complete the church. While two of the chief families of the church moved to Banmethuot, God raised up many others and the attendance continues to increase. The Hue church too grew considerably during the past year with about 15 baptisms. The parsonage was built which was a great miracle due to the financial limitations of the church. They now anticipate building, by faith, a school and children's home next to the church during 1967. Sia too has grown with two university students being converted during the year and several families

added to the church and support of the local pastor increased considerably.

Three tent crusades were held in Quangngai, Tam-ky, and Chu-lai with many souls turning to Christ. The missionary in Quangngai writes of people still turning to Christ today as a direct or indirect result of these meetings. At Chu-lai a church building has been dedicated serving old and new Christians, and at Tam-ky the opening of a second city church is on the way for 1967 as a direct result of the meetings.

For 1967 we have set several goals: 1) the completion of the Quangtri church building, 2) the building of a chapel at Phu-Bai to meet the needs of the military and refugee Christians in that vicinity, 3) the building of the school-children's home next to the Hue church building with a witness to the thousands of children in that neighborhood, 4) the mobilization of youth at the Center to witness not only in the city but in country areas during the summer months, 5) several tent crusades in key points where there has been a response and apparent hunger for the gospel.

Doors are opening wider and wider. Adversaries oppose continually. But we are believing God for an even more effectual witness through the church and in the power of the Holy Spirit during the year to come!

Amen.