

Please **PRAY** earnestly for Christians, like those pictured here who were delegates to the National Church Conference, as they daily face peril by «the other side.» *Pray*, too, for Rev. Mieng, Church President, and the newly-elected Church committee, as they seek to lead the work forward in these troublesome days. *Pray* that many Vietnamese youth and American personnel will be reached for Christ through the combined Youth Center and International Protestant Church under construction. *Pray* for the new bookmobile ministry in Saigon.



PRESENTING THE GOSPEL IN ENGLISH, *continued from page 14*

Our chapel, associated with Pastor Wai Yuk Leung's church, was expected to attain full self-support within five years after its opening. Now, after only two years, our committee at the chapel has agreed that beginning with this month (April) we should care for our own financial needs. The first year of giving was very poor; often times we failed to meet expenses. The blessing of giving for the Lord's work has been clearly explained with the result that at the end of the second year we had a balance of almost \$100 US in the treasury. God is at work in our midst and for this we praise Him!



In direct contrast to the article on VIETNAMESE MARRIAGE, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Oliver (nee Helen «Dixie» Erlandsen) were united in marriage at a very beautiful ceremony in November 1963, at the French Protestant Church in Saigon with the Rev. T.H. Stebbins officiating. These past months they have been residing in Da Nang, working among young people and children while completing language study. Mrs. Oliver was asked to write the article mentioned above (see page 15) especially for this issue.

the CALL



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J. A. FITZSTEVENS

Dalat Home and School for Missionaries' Children

THE CALL OF VIET NAM

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Bedtime at Dalat



Have you ever wondered what happens to missionaries' children when they reach school age? Have you tried to picture in your mind what a boarding school on the mission field must be like? Why is it that missionaries' children eagerly look forward to returning to school oftentimes before vacation is over? For the answers to these and other questions you may have about Dalat Home and School, please turn to our feature article, *A HOME AWAY FROM HOME*, on page 8.

by

Nguyễn-sơn-Nà



*A typical
local church
youth group*

*Development of the National Church
youth program during. . .*

THESE TWENTY YEARS

Thirty years after the Church of Viet Nam had heard the «good news,» the first local church youth group was organized in Saigon. That was in 1943 and Mrs. D. I. Jeffrey was the instigator. It came about as a result of the 1942 National Church Conference resolution encouraging congregations to organize such groups. Many churches took up the challenge. Shortly thereafter district youth committees were formed. However, not until more than ten years later was a National Youth President elected. Rev. Pham-van-Tin was the National Church Committee's choice. Mr. Tin, together with youth presidents of the central and southern districts, drafted the by-laws of the youth work dividing it into national, district and local levels.

Each local group elects a committee for a period of six months under the authority of the pastor. With the country at war involving drafting young men into the army, young people's meetings have show-

ed gradual decrease rather than increase in attendance. However, the youth work has evidenced fruitful results in the goodly number who have given themselves for the Lord's service.

At the annual District Youth Conference a committee is elected whose task is to outline the program for the coming year, which includes Deeper Life and Leadership Conferences as well as Rallies with young people from many provinces attending. An annually-elected National Youth Committee seeks to expand the over-all youth work through special meetings at conference time as well as through the exchange of ideas among district groups.

According to the latest statistical report, the Evangelical Church of Viet Nam has 150 youth groups with 6,173 members. Our aim throughout this year is to bring many to Christ before the door of grace is closed. Please join us in prayer to that end.

Vital in work among youth is training at Bible School. Here we present in condensed form the valedictorian address given at the recent commencement exercises of the Nhatrang Bible Institute.

THE CALL BEFORE DAYBREAK

by Nguyễn-anh-Tài

Mr. Tài receiving his graduation diploma



From the beginning of time history has inscribed the mysterious calls from heaven reminding earth-bound men of our Almighty Creator. The psalmist David writes of the heavenly call in Psalm 29: «The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty... The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness.»

Whether spoken from the lips of a prophet or a priest, an apostle or a saint, that call always has the same nature, a divine call, the voice of God Himself warning mankind of the dangerous future and the last opportunity of salvation.

The voice of the Almighty resounds through human instruments to the worldling. John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Saviour's first appearing, expressed something profound when Jewish religious leaders asked, «Who are you?» by simply replying, «I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness.» Yes, the true messenger is actually the voice of God. His heart is in tune with the heart of the Saviour that was broken because of sinful man.

A short while before the Lord Jesus began his earthly ministry, the voice of God rang in John's heart and he immediately went out to preach the message to his fellow-men: «The Saviour is about to appear!» Today's population is many, many times more than that of John the Baptist's day. The sphere of activity of the present-day messenger of Christ is spread out over the five continents includ-

ing thousands of languages. Oh, if the call of the Almighty does not stir your heart and mine, then how shall the mission of preparing the way for Christ's return be completed?

Aiming at awaking the nation from her unconscious state, the determined call of John the Baptist sounded in the hearts of the people: «Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.» Similarly, resounding in the heart of the Christian today is the urgent call: «The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light» (Romans 13:12). «Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments...» (Revelation 16:15).

Along the banks of the Curaray River in Ecuador during the summer of 1956, appeared five missionaries, approximately the age of most of our youth here this morning. They heard a heavenly call and offered themselves to spread the Gospel to the savage Auca tribe. I still remember seeing a picture of one of the missionaries, holding in his hand a small book, reading aloud a few sentences in the Auca language inviting them to hear the Gospel. Did the call penetrate the ears and hearts of the Aucas? It is not certain. But only a few days later the slain bodies of all five missionaries were found. When the shocking news reached the homeland of the martyrs, thousands of youth were deeply moved and gave themselves to the Saviour to answer the heavenly call as voices calling before the day breaks.

A chief of a red-skinned tribe in the Amazon River basin in the country of Brazil who had just heard the Gospel asked the missionary, «Jesus died to save people how long ago? Ten floods or a hundred floods ago?» The tribal chief again asked, «Did Jesus die when my grandfather was chief or my great-grandfather?» Noting the long pause before replying, the chief then asked a question that tore the heart of the missionary, «Why didn't you come sooner?» Perhaps thousands of tribes will ask you and me, «Why didn't you come sooner to preach the Gospel of salvation?»

The Saviour is about to return. The time we have left to preach the living message truly is very short. John the Baptist had less than a year and a half to warn his nation. The prophet Jonah had but forty days to warn the city of Nineveh. Lot only had one night to warn his family. How much more time do you and I have? «This day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us...» (2 Kings 7:9).

In the past months the gentle call of the Saviour has deeply stirred my heart. By faith I yield myself completely to the Lord Jesus to be a voice in the wilderness that He chooses. I pray that my fellow-students, young messengers about to embark on a new ministry, will be as voices in the wilderness warning men to prepare for the Saviour's return before that great day appears.

*This youth
chose to follow
Christ . . .*

AT ANY COST

by R. L. Davis



A resolute change was experienced at the Hue Youth Center two years ago. All who witnessed the conversion of «Big Minh» were gripped with a new power and sense of commitment.

For three months the leaders at the student center had watched prayerfully this tall muscular young man exhaust the supplies of Christian literature available to him. Ho Van Minh's family background did not lend to an easy acceptance of the Christian faith. However, after days and nights of persistent searching of the Scriptures, nothing could stop Minh in his decision to follow Christ; the blessing of the Holy Spirit was irresistible and the result irreversible.

The actual experience of conversion was attended with an obvious deep awareness of sin and there was

no attempt to control the tears of remorse. This emotion soon turned to joy. Minh stood, after prayer, erect and towering over the others who had gathered. He made the only statement appropriate and consistent with the logic and emotion of his new experience, «I will serve Christ at any cost.» Only hours later Minh was driven from his home and this disgraceful rejection was followed by pursuit for the purpose of persecution.

Many questions arose in the minds of those who doubted and feared for his safety. Where was he? What terrible thing had come upon him? Viet Nam was at war and tragedy at night was not uncommon. Word soon came from a young Christian friend: «He's safe in my home studying the Scripture by day and he spends whole nights memorizing

Our National Church Chairman gives . . .

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

by the Rev. Doan-van-Mieng

In order to show the grace of the Lord in this underserving life, God gave me opportunity to visit the Church of India, Africa, France and America from the seventh of January to the seventh of March. The Lord gave peace and happiness in my going and in my return.

A week in India, two weeks in Africa, a week in France, with a month in America, but regardless of where I was I was honored in fellowship with the Lord's children. Wide-open arms received me in a warm, gracious manner with the spirit of heavenly love. During the month in America I preached and testified more than twenty times in such places as Nyack, Chatham,

Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Toledo, St. Paul, Omaha, San Francisco and Honolulu. I was greatly moved by the interest in foreign missions throughout The Christian and Missionary Alliance and her love for the Church of Viet Nam.

I am writing these few lines of thanks to give praise to God as well as to express my gratitude to the Foreign Department in New York, all the missionaries, pastors and the Lord's children in every place that I had occasion to visit. I want to express thanks also for all of you who prayed for me, because the Lord answered and blessed in my journey and ministry far beyond that which I had expected.

At Any Cost (continued)

and singing the Christian hymns of praise.»

These past two years «Big Minh» has shown an amazing and refreshing dedication to the Lord. Neither critical words nor tempting offers of university training have served to deter Minh from his singular love for Christ. During that first summer more than 300 fellow Vietnamese were won to Christ as a direct result of his constant and fervent witness.

This consistent, mature leadership has also inspired many other young men to give their lives in service for the sake of the Gospel. Minh's father was the chief of a large dis-

trict in central Viet Nam prior to his death in 1949, and many of the fine qualities of leadership which Minh inherited from his father have helped him capture the interest and respect of people of all ages. Now augmenting these natural qualities are the power and love of God's divine nature.

Today Minh's spiritual leadership at the Hue Youth Center is unquestioned, and his testimony has spread to many remote areas in the surrounding countryside. There is no greater blessing or reward to the Church and Christian worker than to see this indisputable verification of the Gospel in the life of a Ho-van-Minh.



Dalat Home and School for Missionary Children (See Cover)

J. A. FITZSTEVENS

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

by J. A. Fitzstevens

On any mission field it is of great importance to have a good place to train missionaries' children. Dalat School is the answer to this need, not only for Viet Nam but also for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

The missionaries' child is separated from his parents and home nine months each year. Then upon graduation from Dalat School there comes an even greater separation as he leaves Asia to continue studies in America. Dalat lends itself readily to provide a normal environment for American life and school. Situated a mile high in the mountains with its cool climate, fresh vegetables and flowers the year round, lakes and waterfalls, Dalat is the garden spot and resort center of Viet Nam. This ideal location

helps to make the initial separation easier to bear.

Enrollment and accommodations have grown considerably since 1923, which marked the beginning when there was but one building with three students. Today the enrollment ranges from 110 to 135 with adequate functional facilities. There are two large dormitories with each one supervised by a missionary couple and a lady assistant. Also on the staff is a well-qualified nurse, who gives full time to the care of sick children. Should there be any contagious cases, a six-bed clinic meets the need for isolation. For anything of a more serious nature, the sick are taken to a nearby government hospital.

A personal interest in each child coupled with a variety of activities

help to make Dalat a home away from home. In this boarding school situation the objectives of the home and school are to provide a place where Christ is honored in example and precept, and where parents can send their children with confidence that their spiritual, physical and mental progress are the main concern of each staff member. Recognizing the need for individual counseling, special effort is made to carry out such a program.

One teacher is responsible for two grades in the elementary school while the high school department has eight teachers. All of the teachers are dedicated missionaries, well qualified for their ministries and devoted to the task of training these young lives.

Music is a vital part of the home



At Bedtime

and school life. Individual talent is developed in Men's Chorus, Girls' Glee Club, Junior and Senior Chorus, trios and quartettes. Piano and instrumental lessons are provided as well. To facilitate the sports program we have a gym-auditorium, a ball field, track and a tennis court. Special events in basketball, softball, track and tennis are scheduled with American Army men stationed at Dalat. Students from the local French and Vietnamese high schools as well as the American School in Saigon provide added competition for our students. A hike, picnic, treasure hunt, bon

fire, party or roller skating afford wholesome entertainment for each boy and girl on the weekend.

Each student is taught that daily personal contact with God is essential for Christian growth. In addition to individual «quiet time» we have dining room prayers at breakfast and classroom devotions at 8:00 a.m. Bible classes are scheduled in the school curriculum as well as chapel services, Sunday School, morning Worship and Sunday evening services for all age groups help to lay a spiritual foundation and contribute to a well-balanced Christian life.

School Track and Field Team



In the Library

Correspondence is not only encouraged, but the student's weekly letter home is his «ticket» to the Sunday evening meal. American meals, supervised by the matron and prepared by a well-trained Vietnamese staff, make up the children's diet. In addition to three meals each day, a snack is provided in the mid-morning and afternoon. After study hall at 9:00 p.m. the junior and senior high school students are served a snack in their dorm lounge.

Visitors to Dalat School are impressed with the happy, well-rounded life the missionaries' children

lead. Even six-year old children, to whom this environment is entirely new, quickly adjust and soon learn to assume responsibility in making their own beds and keeping their rooms clean. Separation from family and home is compensated to a great degree by wholesome associations with other children.

Letters from home remind us that people are constantly praying for our missionaries' children. But remember to pray for the parents as well; this separation from their children is a part of their commitment to Christ.

In the Dining Room



CANTHO YOUTH CENTER

by M. M. Collins



Recreation

« May I please speak to the missionary ? », a high school student asked the receptionist at the Cantho Youth Center. This young man had been studying English at the center for several months and the constant witness to Christ's saving power was about to bear fruit. After reading the Word with him he was led to a personal knowledge of Christ as Saviour.

Cantho, the largest city south of Saigon, is the education center for the entire Mekong delta region. A student population of more than 5000 affords virgin territory in which to present the Gospel in a way that will attract them. This ministry is varied. It ranges from English classes every Monday and Thursday evening to a youth leadership training plan, Bible discussions and evangelistic services.

After eight months of searching for suitable living quarters for our own use the Lord wonderfully gave us an apartment not only



Reading

adequate for our family needs but with ample space on the ground floor for a sales and reading room, chapel and game room, two class rooms and storage facilities. Upon arrival in the city we were besieged with requests to teach English. We hesitated, not wanting to become involved in an education program that would hinder an evangelistic ministry. However, when the facilities were made available, through the direct leading of the Lord, we began English language lessons in conjunction with a youth program. In this way we have come to know the young people as individuals and have developed friendships which enable us to tell them more about our Lord Jesus. Wednesday evening a bi-lingual program is provided for the members of the



Training

English classes and their friends. Two weeks a month the young people of the local church direct the program to give them experience in group leadership, conducting the song service and discussion groups.

June has been training several young ladies in child evangelism who in turn teach two children's classes at the center. We are expecting this program to branch out into other areas of the city as the Lord places the burden for these little ones upon the hearts of our young people.

Opportunities to work among the growing population of today's youth are unlimited. Please join with us in prayer for the continued development of this ministry as we endeavor to be laborers together with Him whom we love.



Many
Chinese
young people
have
been reached
through...

Presenting the Gospel in English

by Timothy Leung

Preaching the Gospel in Saigon, as in other places, is not done easily, for people do not flock to hear the truth. In opening the first Chinese chapel in the Saigon area * we found that many stood in the doorway as they passed by but were unwilling to come in and sit through an entire service.

Presenting the Gospel message through English classes has been very rewarding. In addition to the weekly Friday evening story hour when Miss Hartson gives a Bible lesson with the use of visual aids, there are many opportunities to give the truth in the regular English course. For example, in a lesson which uses the words « body, soul, spirit » a presentation of the Trinity is given. After class there is occasion to become better acquainted with the young people by listening to their problems and testifying to them of God's power to meet their needs.

Most of the English students who study at the chapel have been introduced to us through Christian school teachers. Not a few of these young people attend our Sunday morning Worship Service and Sunday afternoon Young People's Service. Some of them even attend our mid-week Prayer Meeting. Although a number have believed in Jesus, only two have been baptized. Family hindrances have kept others from making this open confession.

Signs of growth are evident. Our Sunday School of forty children is held at the same time as the Worship Service to allow sufficient space for adults in our main auditorium. In the beginning of this work I had to be chairman of every meeting, lead the singing as well as play the piano. But now some are realizing the privilege of serving the Lord in these various ministries. (continued on back page)

* The remaining four Chinese churches are located in the Cholon section of Saigon.

Since the French occupation, Viet Nam has seen great changes in some of the customs that made the wedding of yester-year a complicated and sometimes unhappy affair. Chinese influence was strong. Significant decisions were left to the man of the house; a father decided on his daughter's life partner. Initial arrangements were made by a «go-between,» the representative of the young man's family, thus saving face in the event of a possible rejection.

Today, especially in the cities, changes have been drastic. The

and a pig large enough to satisfy the desire of the girl's family.

Ceremony to take the bride from her parents' home (Wedding) — After the groom is informed of the bride's family's desire with regard to bridal gifts, they are beautifully wrapped in red paper, placed on a tray and carried by the leader of a smartly-dressed procession that winds its way to the bride's home «to take her away.» Speeches and introductions are made as the gifts are presented and inspected, thus enabling the families to become acquainted. All is gay with the

A cultural article on...

VIETNAMESE MARRIAGE

by Mrs. V. L. Oliver

girl, no longer sheltered from society, often speaks to her father regarding her personal choice. Much of the marriage tradition of the past, however, has been retained. The following ceremonies contain practices that are closely adhered to, even at present.

Ceremony of request — On this day the «go-between» pleads the young man's case and the merits of a speedy agreement with the girl and her family.

Ceremony of formal asking (Engagement) — Finding a satisfactory horoscope, after investigating the dates of birth of the couple, it is then required that the young man's family come to request marriage. The groom-to-be must bring betel and areca nuts, cakes and liquor,

chewing of betel nut and drinking scented tea.

Led away from the eyes of the guests, the couple bows before the altar in performance of the «red thread of marriage» ceremony (superstitious belief that a higher spirit winds two red threads together as a symbol of wedded life), and to promise Buddha that they will live together until death. Lastly the groom turns toward the bride's parents making three bows after which the procession winds its way back to the groom's house. Here under the photos, the incense and the shining bronze altar, the couple worships the ancestors and the bride bows before her husband's parents.