

1921

Vietnam

History

# 1921 Report of the Indo-China Mission

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"I am ambitious to herald the Gospel where Christ is not named, lest I build on another man's foundation."—Paul (Rom. 15:20).

The motive which inspired the early workers of the Alliance to attempt the evangelization of French Indo-China was the Pauline principle expressed in the words of this text.

It is our conviction that it should be the definite and determined policy of the Alliance in all its missionary work, not only to do missionary work in the various fields of the world, but to set its face like a flint toward the remaining lands of the earth that are still entirely unreached,—“where Christ is not named,” and give the witness for Christ there, ere He comes.

In reviewing the work of the past year, we have real cause to open our Report with words of praise to God for the progress that He has enabled us to make.

The out-standing feature of the year is the visit of the President of the Alliance, the Rev. Paul Rader. He was a great blessing and inspiration to the workers and the work. We felt that Mr. Rader took upon his heart with us the great burden of the evangelization of

Indo-China, and went home to do all in his power to help toward the accomplishment of this end.

### Go Forward!

At the close of 1920, sixteen missionaries,—eight men and eight women, were on the field. Thank God that at the close of 1921 we can report twenty-two missionaries, eleven men and eleven women on the field. We again thank God for the splendid band of six new workers who have been sent to us from home. We thank God and take courage.

At the close of 1920 we held three Stations, Tourane, Hanoi and Saigon. At the close of 1921 we have five stations, Haiphong and Sadec having been added.

### New Stations.

*Haiphong* in the north, the seaport of Hanoi, has been held as an out-station for some years. It was opened as a main station in May with Rev. Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson in charge. This city is steadily growing in population and importance and we are earnestly praying God may give us many souls for our hire.

*Sadec* in the south, was opened just before the close of the year, Rev. and Mrs. Stebbins having taken possession of that important city in the name of the Lord. Sadec is the first of three new stations soon to be opened in Cochinchina. Rev. H. A. Jackson expects to open the city of Cantho, and Rev. and Mrs. Grupe are about to open Chaudoc, a most important centre in the northern part of Cochinchina near the border of Cambodia. We feel sure that full soon this great iron door that at present is closed against the missionary of the Gospel will swing open before us. In the meantime we feel pressed in spirit to go as near to the borders of Cambodia as possible, and thus we hope ere long to see the city of Chaudoc opened to the Gospel. There are many Cambodians in this city and surrounding country who can be reached with the Message before we enter Cambodia proper. If we may not yet enter Thibet and Cambodia, thank God, we may at least preach the Gospel to the Thibetans and Cambodians on the borders of their closed lands.

### Tourane.

*Tourane* is our oldest station. It is not a large city like Hanoi and Saigon, but we were clearly led to open His work at this place first as the entering wedge, and God has been pleased to do a real work of grace in the hearts and lives of many there. A blessed stream of Salvation has been flowing for some

years at Tourane, for which we praise the Lord. The Church of 154 members has prospered, sixty-nine converts having been added by baptism during 1921. The Church offering for last year amounted to \$287.44, Indo-China currency, and they are making good progress toward complete self-support. There are many enquirers, a good Sunday School of 225 children is bearing fruit and a Girls' class meets regularly.

During the year a new piece of land, joining our Mission property, was purchased. As the year closes we are building a new Chapel and missionary residences, preparing for many more Annamese Christians and more foreign missionaries in the autumn of 1922.

One very interesting feature of the Tourane Church is that there are so many Annamese men in the membership. A number of these have been called to the Lord's work and are preparing in our Bible School to be preachers of the Gospel to their own people.

Hanoi is the Capital of Tonkin, and together with Saigon is the centre of government for the whole of French Indo-China. It is a great and beautiful city. But the people of Indo-China are surely steeped in sin and superstition, and are in greatest need of the blessed saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### Hanoi Station.

The little Church at Hanoi only numbers seventeen members, but the winning of these souls represents much hard work and earnest prayer on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Cadman. Six new members have been added during the year. These Annamese Christians give an average of \$5.50 per member to the support of their work. A fine Sunday School of 150 children and a Primary School of fifty boys, adds much to the work at Hanoi Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Cadman give a good deal of their time and strength to the important work of the translation and publication of the Scriptures and other Christian literature in Annamese.

#### Haiphong.

Haiphong, the port of Hanoi, has for some years had a witness of Christ as an out-station of Hanoi. Thus far there does not seem to have been much response to the Gospel message. Since May it has been a main station with Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson in charge. Regular Gospel meetings are being held in the little Street Chapel and many are coming to hear the Message of Life. Pray that spiritual power may be given to bring souls to the Redeemer on this difficult station. Children's meetings are being conducted by Mrs. Jackson and many are hearing the Good News for the first time.

Haiphong is developing as a port and becoming more and more a place of great importance. Our Mission ought soon to purchase land and build at Haiphong, as rents are very high.

#### Saigon.

The opening of our work at Saigon three years ago marked the beginning of a forward movement for the evangelization of the big southern state of Cochinchina. There are no Government restrictions laid on us as to our work in this state, as there are in the case of Annam and Tonkin where we are still prohibited from preaching the Gospel freely except in the three cities of Hanoi, Haiphong and Tourane which are French possessions.

During these years regular services have been held in the Street Chapel where the Gospel has been faithfully given by both native worker and foreign missionary. Quieter enquirer's meetings are held also in the home of the missionary. Ten souls have been gathered in and form the earnest nucleus of the Church of Christ in this great centre. These converts gave to the Lord's work by voluntary contribution during the year 1921, nearly \$80.00 local currency, an average of almost \$8.00 per member.

Rev. John D. Olsen has, amid the many other duties and responsibilities at Saigon, given a good deal of his time to the translation of the Scriptures into Annamese. We are very anxious to have the Bible in the native vernacular at as early a date as possible. We cannot expect to see a strong Annamese Church without the Word of God upon which His people can feed.

#### Cochin-China.

The time at last has come when we are able to make a definite step forward toward the opening of the many cities of Cochin-China and set our faces toward Cambodia. One new station has been opened at Sadec and two more are in process of opening as the year closes. There are many more important cities to be occupied in Cochin-China and with longing faith we are praying for an open door into Cambodia, one of the last nations of earth to hear the Gospel message.

#### Our Base.

The point that we are most anxious to make clear is that the city of Saigon is the natural and only base for all this new work, and that we must have a proper Missionary Home and centre for the work in these parts. Our missionaries must all pass through Saigon in order to reach the millions of the interior of Cochin-China and Cambodia. At the present time we have no property at all in Saigon. Not only is it so that rents are extremely high, and it is very poor economy to continue the policy of renting instead of buying, but it seems actually impossible to rent a suitable place for our work in Saigon. The only course open to us is to buy land and build, and for this object we wish to ask the prayers of the Lord's people at home. It is a very important need. There is none greater or more pressing in our work at the present time. We ought to establish a base for our work at Saigon without a moment's delay. If we delay in this we hinder the evangelization of the cities of Cochin-China and the country of Cambodia.

#### A Missionary Home Needed.

Our present rented house is very small and quite inadequate for even the accommodation of missionaries who are at present living there, to say nothing of taking care of those passing through on their way to interior cities. It is impossible for our missionaries to pay the exorbitant hotel rates. Their little allowance will not permit of this. For our Mission Treasury to continue to meet this expense would mean that it would ere long be exhausted. Again we must conclude that the only right thing to do is to purchase property in Saigon. We estimate that at least \$12,000.00 U. S. A. currency will be necessary. What a great investment to make for the Lord!

This is not an easy task. We must know His will as to the best location in which to buy in this strategic metropolis. Property is not easy to secure even if we have the money for it. We surely must have wisdom and faith as well as money, to accomplish the desired end. The enemy will use all his forces to hinder us we may be sure, for the accomplishing of this work will mean much to the preaching of the Gospel where as yet Christ is not named. May we earnestly ask for definite and continual prayer in real faith for this need in Saigon.

There now remain three special features of our work in Indo-China which have not yet been mentioned in this report.

#### The Bible Schools.

The small but good beginning that has been made on the lines of educating Annamese young men in the Word of God for the Gospel ministry, is full of encouragement. Rev. D. I. Jeffrey has been selected and appointed by our Conference for this work. He has done well in gathering a class of eleven students.

The paramount importance of training a native ministry on the Mission field is one that can hardly be exaggerated. For every foreign missionary sent forth, a half a dozen or ten trained native workers ought to be available. Dur-

ing the early stages of a new Mission like ours in Indo-China, the difficulty lies of course in finding men who can be trained for the work, as the converts are few in number. But it is a fine thing to have begun our Bible School thus

early in the work. We do not despise the day of small things, but believe for many young men to hear a definite call from the Spirit to the ministry of His Word among their own people.

For the time being we are pressed greatly to find native workers for our new missionaries and the new stations, and have to resort to the expedient of sending our Annamese young students out into the work in the midst of their three years' Bible course. We are doing this, however, with the clear understanding that they will return to the Bible School to finish their course as soon as they can be released. This plan is not without its compensations as well as its disadvantages, as the student gets some practical experience in the work in the midst of his course, which enables him to better apply himself intelligently to his studies when he returns to the Bible School. Will our friends who read this Report, please join us in prayer that the Lord of the Harvest will definitely call out more Annamese workers for this great harvest field.

A Bible-women's School has also been started. Mrs. Irwin and Mrs. Jeffrey have a class of promising young women in training. The same difficulty as to the immediate need of these workers on the stations, applies to the Bible-women; and we have to let them go into the work sooner than we otherwise would on this account. We pray that these women may become winners of souls and teachers of the converts in the things of God.

(To be concluded.)

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(Concluded from last issue.)

### The Press.

On Mr. Cadman's return from furlough he took up the printing work again in earnest. Besides the printing of a variety of Salvation tracts for wide distribution, and some tracts and books for the instruction of Annamese Christians, our press has been entrusted also with the printing of the Gospel portions for the British and Foreign Bible Society. This has led to the enlargement of our plant and equipment somewhat, but we are endeavoring to keep this modestly in accord with the growth of the work in general and the actual demands.

We most earnestly request the prayers of our friends at Home in behalf of the all-important work of translating the Scriptures into the Annamese language. The dialect problem is not an easy one,

but we hope that it is not impossible of solution. Mr. and Mrs. Cadman and Mr. Olsen are appointed to this work and give as much time as possible to it with the aid of two able Annamese writers supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

### The Chinese Work at Saigon.

This branch of the work has made manifest growth during the year. Mr. Chue Sing Wan, the Chinese evangelist whom the Lord called to this work, though not permitted to hold public services until very recently, has done a faithful plodding work visiting in the homes and stores of this great Chinese city of Cho-lon, a suburb of Saigon. He has discovered no less than thirty Chinese men and women who were ready to confess Christ. Some of them were

members of Churches in Canton, and they needed encouragement and help. Some of them were almost entirely covered over with worldly cares, so that their confession of Christ was all but hidden from sight and they literally had to be discovered by our faithful evangelist.

### Pastor Chao's Visit.

The outstanding event of the last year in connection with the Chinese work at Cho-lon was the visit in November of Pastor Leo T. Chao, the Chinese principal of the South China Bible School at Wuchow. Pastor Chao was a great help and encouragement to Mr. Chue, who is a graduate of the Wuchow Bible School. The little band of Chinese Christians met together and had real spiritual feasts. When an offering for the support of their work was taken, they promptly contributed the sum of \$800.00 local currency. The rent for the Chapel and the salary of the evangelist amounts to considerable, but we feel confident that ere long this Chinese Church at Cho-lon will be fully self-supporting.

### The Chinese in the South.

As in this suburb of Saigon, so scattered through the many cities of the Malay Peninsula and the islands of the Southern Seas, there are many thousands of prosperous Chinese business men, some of whom may already be Christians, who ought to be reached in this same way as Mr. Chue is reaching them at Cho-lon. If the right kind of Spirit-filled Chinese workers can be secured, there is no reason why self-supporting Chinese Churches could not be organized in many of these southern cities. Will our friends at home please pray that this door of service may be opened to us if it is His will.

In concluding this report we wish to refer again to our text, and remind ourselves that the Apostle Paul could do the great missionary work in untouched regions that he did, only because of the fact that he knew the deep and mighty working of the Spirit of God constantly in his soul. He could fully preach the Gospel from Jerusalem round about unto Illyricum, where Christ had not been

named, because of the power that worked mightily within him, yea strove in his soul continually, urging him on and pressing him out to the regions still beyond him. Nothing but the almighty power of the love of Jesus could have ever given the endurance in suffering the steadfastness of purpose that Paul knew throughout his life.

May we, as missionaries of the closing days of this dispensation, nearing the time of the return of the Lord Jesus truly be clothed upon with the Grace and Power of the Holy Spirit, and go forth to accomplish our unfinished task to take the Gospel to all parts of this world where Christ is not named.

### STATISTICS FOR 1921 INDO-CHINA CONFERENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE.

Approximate population of	
French Indo-China .....	16,000,000
Number of Stations .....	5
Number of Missionaries .....	22
Number of Annamese workers ...	8
Number of Church Members .....	183
Number of Baptisms during 1921	79
Number of Sunday School scholars	437
Amount of Offerings of the Annamese Church .....	I. C. \$481.14

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