

the CALL

Fall 1962



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Typical life in an agrovilla

THE CALL OF VIET NAM

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COVER PICTURE :

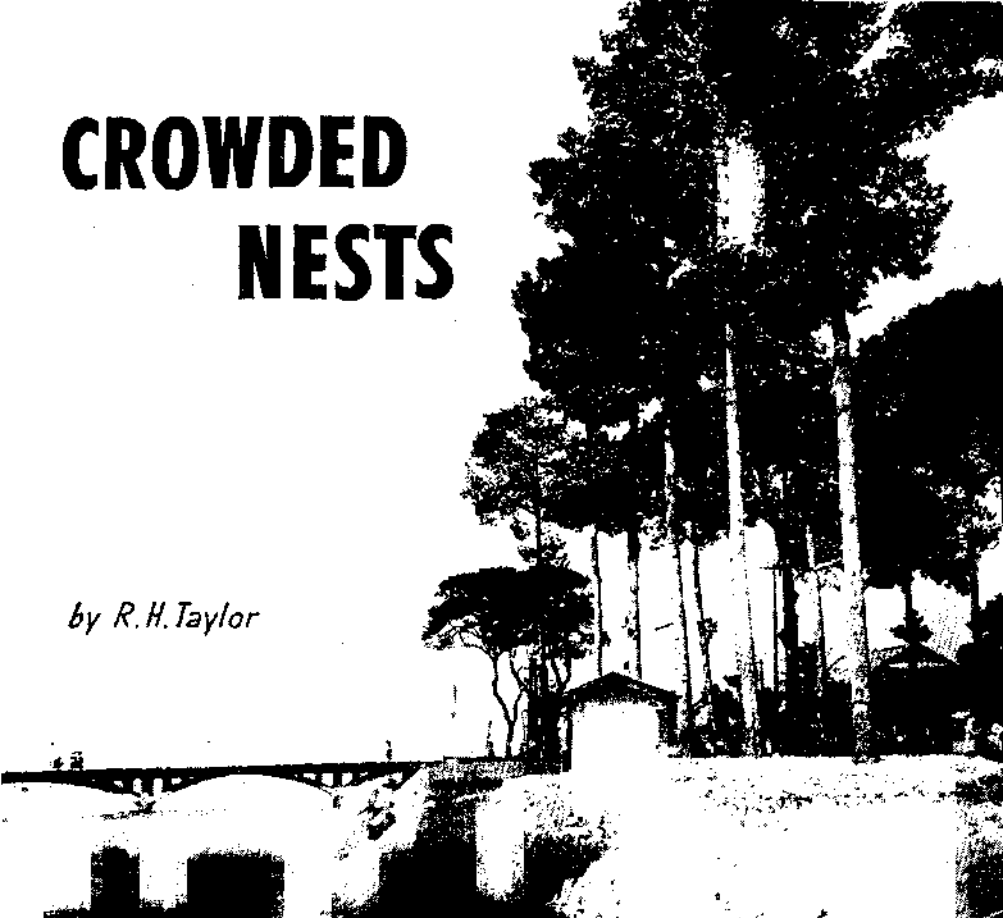
Communist threat in country areas has forced the Viet Nam

government to erect agrovilles or hamlets, as they are sometimes called, as a means of protection. Thousands have been moved from their picturesque ricefields to agrovilles which are surrounded by two razor-sharp bamboo fences. Between these fences spikes are driven into an embankment and a trench is dug to protect local militia in case of possible enemy attack (see photo page 5). A certain amount of farmland, schools, medical care and all that is needed for normal living is to be found within the confines of the agrovilles. These people, formerly so scattered, are now easy of access to give to them the Gospel message.



CROWDED NESTS

by R. H. Taylor



JUST across the river from our house there is a row of large stately trees. Recently heron-like birds have returned from the islands off the coast to make their nests in those tall trees and fill the air with their raucous squabbling. Every day these long-legged birds go out to the rice fields and to the sea in their everlasting search for fish, shrimp and other food. Late each afternoon they return to their nests to compete with one another in disturbing the sleep of those unfortunate enough to live nearby.

These great birds are not only a symbol of this fishing port of Rach Gia, they are also a symbol of the cycle of life. Every year they come back to make their nests, lay their eggs, raise their young and dutifully push them out of the nest when they are old enough to go out on their own. This is a picture of plodding life all around us, and it also holds true in the spiritual realm.

There is a central church that acts as «parents» for several outstations. Working together, we help these outstations «grow up» so that they can leave the «nest» and strike out on

their own. As the life of the Son of God flows through them, they in turn will go out and have a family of outstations of their own farther away. This is our goal, and we thank the Lord that through His enabling we are beginning to see results. This past year two more outstations were organized, and we are working and praying that in the coming year another two will get underway.

Ever since coming to Rach Gia, we have felt burdened for the Cambodian village of Mong Tho. Last year we asked the Paul Ellisons to come over from Cambodia to help us for a few days. Being fluent in Cambodian, the Ellisons were greeted like friends from home. In four days of meetings four people prayed. We were disappointed in the response, but the Ellisons encouraged us saying, "In Cambodia we would have to work hard for a month for that number of converts." Regular services were started in the home of one of the new Christians. To date about fifty have prayed and we can see definite signs of spiritual maturing in some of them. Seven of these believers were baptized. An offering of over 7,000 piastres (100 US) was received by the Rach Gia church to build a neat-looking grass chapel for their fellow Christians at Mong Tho. A deacon presented them with a beautiful new pulpit while another Christian gave four benches. One of the young Cambodian Christians desires to go to the Nha Trang Bible School to prepare for a ministry among his own people here in South Viet Nam. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Weekly offerings given by these Cambodian believers help support the student-pastor who is shepherding Mong Tho and Cu La. We are praying

for the day when this group will grow up and leave the «nest» to strike out on their own. Your prayers can help in realizing this goal.

Seven families form the nucleus of the Cu La outstation and the opportunities are promising. A church building with reinforced concrete framework is being erected, but work has been stalled for lack of funds. Two Christians have promised to help quite generously so we know God will meet this need in His own way. Cu La also is a center for many Cambodians with the common sight of saffron-robed, shaved-pate bonzes around their striking temples. One of the Christians at Cu La is part Cambodian and part Chinese. Before his conversion he spent several years studying and then taught novices. He asked to go to Mong Tho with us to help witness to the Cambodians. Imagine our surprise to learn that the bonzes serving the Mong Tho temple are former pupils of our Cu La Christian! His earnest witness carried weight with the people, and we are believing God that soon one of the bonzes will turn to the Lord. Many of the Mong Tho Christians helped the Vietnamese with labor on the Cu La church. This is a fine example of how Christian love should be manifested.

Last year a chapel was built at the important center of Rach Soi. The new provincial airport is located here, and the area promises to develop into a fairly large city. A good piece of property 30 x 50 meters has been leased near the heart of the new development. Lord willing, a new church building will be erected in the near future. At present we face the problem of moving squatters living on the property. Can we count on your

prayers to help clear this obstacle that the work of the Lord can go forward? More than forty Christian families are in the immediate area which would make the work self-supporting from the beginning. Another community nearby is an ideal place for the Rach Soi group to open up a branch work.

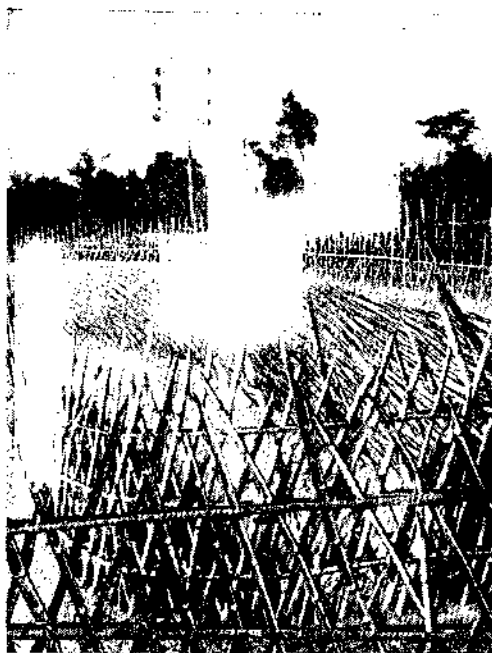
Out from Rach Gia in the direction of the Cambodian border there is a small group of Christians at My Lam. They have requested the Rach Gia church to help them open up a branch work in that area. The church has decided to give half the funds needed and the local group at My Lam will furnish the rest. At first they will meet in a remodeled grass house and as the Lord prospers them they will erect a better building.

Two years ago, shortly after the small group of Christians at Kien Binh had sacrificially worked to put up a fine building, they were told to tear it down because it was in the midst of a new agroville (an enclosed community with a certain amount of farmland and military protection from enemy attack). Very discouraged, they tore down the building and rebuilt in the middle of a marshy rice field. This seeming defeat has turned into a glorious victory. Their new pastor, a recent Bible School graduate, took hold of the rebuilding program with a will. Today their new church is located in the center of an agroville of over 500 families. A new brick parsonage is almost finished, and you should see their future plans for Sunday School rooms! Every week the church is virtually packed. Over 150 new converts were added to the church during this past year. Now the pastor is talking about opening up a branch work. The «nest» is getting too crowded!



Saffron-robed bonzes

Bamboo encloses agrovilles



NGUYEN XUAN VONG, born into the family of a government official, was left an orphan at the age of fourteen. An older brother took him in allowing him to continue his studies.

A year later the «Father of the fatherless» stepped into his life. It all began on the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in 1931. Young Vong rode his bicycle down to the market. Pausing in front of the house of a man who used to beg rice from his father, Vong yelled into the doorway, «Are you having a happy holiday?» Came the reply, «This year I am not worshipping my ancestors. I follow the 'Jesus religion' now. On the sixth we are having special meetings up at the straw chapel. Come and listen!»

Curiosity got the better of young Vong. The afternoon of the sixth he got in well before the service began in order to get a seat. Frozen with fear, he listened to a stirring message on the second coming of Christ and certain judgment of all unbelievers. When the invitation was given Vong immediately shot up his hand and an elder led him to the altar for prayer.

Altars in his yard formerly used for spirit worship were destroyed. Be-

cause of this «radical behavior» the government officials took Vong into custody along with fifteen other converts. Finding no just cause to detain this fifteen-year-old upstart, the officials released him.

Despite severe testings from relatives, Vong obeyed the call of God and went to Bible School for training. Fiery trials lay ahead of this young preacher after extremely happy years at school. Mr. Vong and his bride took their first church in a malarial area. After a two-day illness their baby boy died. A few years later Mr. Vong was captured by the Viet Minh and taken to a wall-less village hall. That night twelve guards were stationed about him. Before going to sleep he prayed aloud that God would some day save their souls. Rain began to fall. Through the drizzling darkness he saw one of the men approaching, carrying a straw mat. Vong thought surely he was coming to kill him and wrap him in the mat for burial. To his utter amazement the man called out, «Are you awake preacher? It's raining and I was afraid you would get cold. Here, I brought this mat to cover you.» Mr. Vong looks upon this experience as an example of how God can change the heart of an enemy.

Pastor Nguyen xuan Vong

(continued on page 13)



TRIED BY FIRE

by R. T. HENRY

« SEND US LORD! »

by Pastor
LEUNG TAK YAN



The Leung Family

IN a small cemetery outside my hometown in China were the graves of several missionaries — those who had laid down their lives for the sake of the Gospel. As a child this greatly impressed me. Why had these people come to such a distant place? Years later I learned the secret. God had led them to a foreign land to serve Him.

At the age of fifteen I received Christ as my Savior during the Sino-Japanese War. Amidst the great tragedies I witnessed God spoke to me about becoming a missionary to some distant place. My desire was to go to far northwest China.

In the fall of 1948 I entered the Alliance Bible Seminary in Kwangsi province. Our teachers often reminded us of Christ's great commission to go into all the world to preach the Gospel. God was continuing to move upon my heart, and I was willing to labor for Him in needy Kwangsi if He so led.

But God's ways are higher than our ways. During my senior year the school was forced to move from China to Cheung Chau Island in Hong Kong. Dr. R. A. Jaffray's former residence became our place of study. What I had

heard about the life of this servant of God was a rich blessing to me. The Lord had used him to open up Indonesia to the Gospel. Following graduation I was preparing to go to that field. But after waiting for a year, the door did not open which was a keen disappointment.

While serving the Lord in Hong Kong He gave me Florence Poon to be my wife. She was in perfect agreement to go wherever God led us to labor for Him.

Two years ago we heard of the great need in Viet Nam. Our cry before the Lord was, « Here we are, Lord! Send us, if this is your will. » The Hong Kong Alliance Missionary Fellowship was willing to accept us as candidates. After applying three times for entry into Viet Nam, the Lord opened the way.

Concerning the work which lies before us, we are much in prayer for God's guidance and anointing. We need your prayer interest, too.

(We praise God for this remarkable answer to prayer. Viet Nam has over a million Chinese and great is our need for more workers. — Editors)



Speaker and translator, Saigon



Witness Team, Hue

Reading Room, Bien Hoa



Saigon. — Just this week we had part in the destruction of five more houses and we are working on others. What's this? Missionaries making people homeless? Well, not exactly. You see, the houses we help to destroy are those that have been constructed by the mind, religious houses that have no Rock foundation.

Three hundred young people come weekly to the Youth Center to study English. Bible stories, Scripture verses and study lessons in the Gospel of John with the use of Navigator materials are also presented, encouraging students to enroll in the Vietnamese Correspondence Course. A full and often overflowing crowd gathers on Sunday evenings for an evangelistic service. These meetings have proved to be a time when the old house is abandoned and the new house is erected on Christ the solid Rock.

Six months ago Binh first came to the Center. He heard the Gospel message but refused to believe. In June he left the city knowing that his « house » was not on a sure foundation. This week he returned and told this story: « While away I met many temptations and difficulties. My life was miserable. On one occasion I was caused to fear for my life. But I remembered the story of God's love and the help that Jesus could give. I remembered that I had been told I needed to believe in Jesus. I prayed: 'Jesus, I believe you now. Deliver me from this place and I'll return to Saigon and pray with the missionary. I'll meet the Gospel's conditions. Please, Jesus, help me now'. True to his vow, Binh came this week and we prayed together. He plans to attend the Saturday Bible Study for

Christians. Pray that he will become a « lighthouse » for Christ.

Huê. — Second in importance to Saigon, Hue is an educational center with more than 25,000 high school and university students.

A year ago a Youth Center was opened, situated in the very heart of the university and high school campuses. Basically the Center is for evangelism with a strong emphasis on personal counseling and witnessing. There are seven choice students living in the building who witness daily to the many that enter. Their lives and the power of their witness have been used to lead many students to Himself.

Bible classes, a bookroom-reading room, English classes with Bible, Sunday night youth rallies, child evangelism as an outlet for service, teams of young men ministering in country areas during the summer months are all a part of the Center's program. As a result of the witness teams more than 300 have prayed for Christ to come into their lives over the past three months.

September marked the completion of the first year with over 100 young people who have prayed for salvation. Some of these have been great disappointments, but there are those who have returned and are now steadfast and serving the Master.

Bien Hoa. — A well-rounded program of religious instruction, evangelistic services, educational appeal through literature in four languages (Vietnamese, Chinese, French and English), recreation and teaching Conservational English has been presented to Bien Hoa youth during the past year.

Sunday evenings the local missionary or guest speakers bring a clear testimony of God's grace and love with the local church providing the musical talent. Through this co-operative effort young people who are brought to Christ find a welcome extended to them by the church youth. Just the other day as the missionary was leaving the church he was informed that one of the young people who was first introduced to the Gospel message at the Youth Center had asked to become a Christian. The pastor and elders were at that time praying with him.

Thousands of tracts have been distributed with numerous opportunities to witness. A daily average of forty students come into the Center not including the more than 100 students who study in the four English classes throughout the week. Most of those who come may not have an interest in the salvation of their soul but they are coming in contact with the Gospel and the Word of God is finding an entrance into their hearts.

Will you take these Youth Center ministries upon your heart in earnest prayer?

A FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK

by R. PENDELL, R. DAVIS, W. MOCK

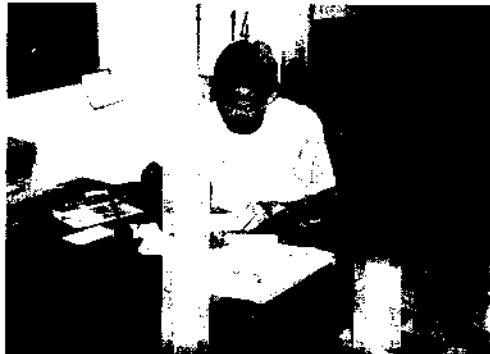
EACH ONE WIN ONE

by V. BETSCH, The Navigators

AN elderly man stepped into our office. He had been studying our correspondence course and had some questions to ask. One of the men in the office talked with him, using God's Word to answer his questions. That elderly man received Christ as his personal Savior.

A few days later a young man paused in the doorway. He, too, wanted to ask some questions. He was in the midst of studying the first few lessons in our correspondence course which are in the Gospel of John. This young man's questions were answered from the Word of God, also, and he accepted the Lord Jesus.

Not long after this, one of our staff members went to visit a friend. Find-



*Correcting Correspondence
Course Lessons*

ing no one at home, he asked at the neighbor's house if he knew when his friend would be back. In the course of conversation, our office man learned this neighbor had been studying the correspondence course. When he left this home three hours later his friend had not yet returned, but the neighbor was a child of God through new-found faith in Jesus Christ.

A short time ago we held graduation exercises in a Chinese church for those in the Christian Training Class. At the close of the message the guest speaker asked for a show of hands of any wanting to accept Christ as Savior. Immediately two young men raised their hands! As they were being counseled after the service, one of them said he had studied the first lessons in our Bible Study Course and had come to the church that



*Mr. Minh and Mr. Khai with
staff member*

conference. We asked any who wanted special help in their daily devotional life, witnessing or personal Bible study to come to our office the next Saturday afternoon. Only three came and later one of these had to drop out. Mr. Minh and Mr. Khai came faithfully every other Saturday afternoon for over a year and a half.

Several months ago I was introduced to Mr. Hi who asked about my work here. As I explained the aspects of it I also told of the class for these two young men from a certain church here. Since he was the Young People's sponsor at that church he said he would like to know their names. «Now I understand,» he replied. «For some time I have been noticing the lives of these two fellows deepen and mature in the Lord. They have become the spiritual leaders of our group. They didn't know it, but the young people looked to them as their leaders and so did I. Many times I wondered what was causing the change in their lives.»

In all aspects of our work we strive to reach the unsaved and help them to maturity so that they in turn will reach others: each one win one. We are not alone in this task, for as I talk with missionaries I find they also share this desire. And so we are all a part of a great team, a team about which the Apostle Paul said: «For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.»

night to accept Christ. Both he and his friend were born again.

Pioneered in Viet Nam in 1955 by Warren Myers and since touching about 10,000 lives, the Bible Study Course and Scripture Memory Course are in both Vietnamese and Chinese. We have tried newspaper ads and display racks but our greatest source of new students is by a «satisfied customer» telling his friend about the course. Presently the British and Foreign Bible Society is making the course known through a special insert in each Gospel of John which promises to be a profitable method of touching many lives.

In the midst of all the other aspects of the ministry one goal of the Navigators is that of helping individuals grow in the faith. Two years ago we had about 150 of our students in the Saigon area attend a two-day



Saigon traffic

AS the large Pan Am Boeing 707 Jet banked for its approach to land at Saigon, our hearts were full of excitement and expectancy. For several years we had planned and looked forward to this day.

Perhaps our first impression in Viet Nam was that of thankfulness. The Mission Business Agent, was at the airport to meet us and help us quickly through customs. It can be so confusing and frustrating trying to fill out the many necessary forms on entering a foreign country.

In the booming metropolis of Saigon we were amazed at the sight of thousands of people riding bicycles. Although we had been informed of this one must see to appreciate it. A few days after our arrival we were taken to the local market. What an array of vegetables, fruit and other commodities of which we had never seen or heard! We noted that in many ways there is a vast difference between an Oriental market and a modern American super market.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ?

... in a strange land

by O. N. STEINKAMP

The Oriental conception of time is totally different from ours. Because we are products of fast-moving America, even minutes are very important to us. Not so to Vietnamese. When a Vietnamese says he is going to do something soon naturally we would expect it to be done in a few hours but he is thinking in terms of weeks. Many things the Orientals do are opposite to our ways, even to rowing a boat.

How happy we were that we had arrived in Viet Nam in time to attend the annual missionary Conference at Dalat. This enabled us, at the outset of our introduction to missionary life, to gain a comprehensive view of the many different phases of our field-wide program. The kindred spirit of co-operation as the missionaries made many decisions concerning their work in Viet Nam caused us to feel privileged to join a team that was capable and desirous of advancing the Church of Jesus Christ by every possible means.

Included in this thought of impressions is the complexity and difficulty of the Vietnamese language. However, it is our prayer and desire to so learn the language and culture of these people that we will be able to substantially co-operate with our Saviour in the building of His Kingdom in Viet Nam.

LEST WE FORGET

by J. H. LIVINGSTON

Our annual field Conference at Dalat is not a camp meeting; nor is it a music festival; it is not simply two weeks of tennis and soft ball in the cool mountain air; nor is it just a time for business sessions; and, further, it is not a workshop on missions. Indeed, it is not one of these, but it is all of them and more. Our Conference includes blessing through the power of the Word of God as we who have given out to others all year long have opportunity for refreshing. There are glad hours of worship and prayer mingled with times of sharing burdens and needs. Dalat is the mountain top - a place of fellowship, singing, joy and change. One missionary on arrival stepped out of his car and breathing the cool, pine-scented air remarked, « Ah, Beulah Land! »

There are memories we could not leave behind:

- * The Spirit of unction and power as Rev. Homer Williams from Chicago preached on FAITH.
- * The miraculous power of God in raising up Brother Herb Jackson; his radiant expression testifying of Christ.
- * Esther Fitzstevens and the beautiful calla lilies she had planted about the school grounds.
- * The « shot » line in which one parent was heard saying to his tearful little child, « Don't worry, son. This year they're using soft needles. »
- * The vigorous activity in the « peanut gallery » at the soft ball field. We still don't know how many « homers » were knocked down the valley to Phan Rang and Blao and the balls ultimately lost!

TRIED BY FIRE

(continued from page 6)

In the midst of chaos and disaster during the years of civil war God showed gracious indications of His presence and protection. One day as bombers approached, Mrs. Vong and their four children dove into a trench while Mr. Vong leaped into a fox-hole. Between bombings Mrs. Vong led her brood into still another trench for

flames were leaping up on every side. As the planes droned off into the distance Mr. Vong searched for his family. A huge piece of shrapnel, large enough to have killed those seeking refuge, lay imbedded in the side of the first trench!

Presently Rev. Vong is superintendent of the north central district. He has an important ministry in these days of unrest and fearfulness and earnestly desires that you uphold him in prayer.



Missionary Directory — Vietnamese Work

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Chairman
- Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Rexilius, Vice
Chairman, Home and Busi-
ness Agency
- Miss E. I. Arnold, Chinese Work
- Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cline, Loaned
to British and Foreign Bible
Society
- Miss H. A. Erlandsen, Language
Study and Children's Work
- Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Henry, Pub-
lication

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Miss K. E. Mack, Bookkeeper

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Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Webster,
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VINH LONG

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RACH GIA

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QUANG TRIMr. and Mrs. H. L. Josephsen,
Tribes missionaries overseeing
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Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Steinkamp
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PHAN THIET

Mr. and Mrs. K. F. White

NHATRANGMr. and Mrs. O. G. Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Houck**BANMETHUOT**

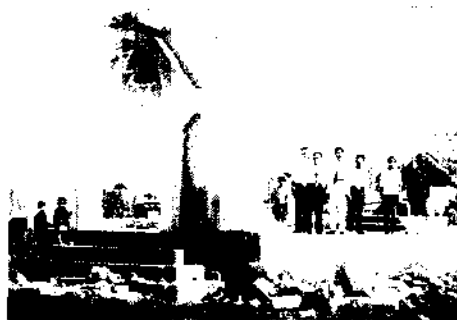
Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Irwin

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Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Sutherland

PRAYER REMINDERS



Long Quang church in ruins

RECENTLY a devastating typhoon hit the Quang Tri area. Our readers will remember that in our last issue an article recounted the marvelous working of God in that province with the opening of several churches. Most of these buildings were destroyed beyond repair. It has been a time of great testing to the new believers, for they lost their rice crop as well. Pray that the Lord will use this experience to keep these Christians firm in the faith and that the need for food and materials to rebuild their church buildings will be met.

MILITARY chaplains as well as several missionaries are ministering to the spiritual needs of the thousands of U. S. military personnel now located throughout free Viet Nam. Pray that many of these men will come to Christ.

PRAY earnestly that land may soon be secured for the erection of the Saigon Youth Center and the International Protestant Church. The combined facilities will provide for ministry among the English-speaking congregation as well as Vietnamese youth.

PASTOR Nguyen Hau Nhuong is preparing to go to Laos to begin a ministry among the thousands of Vietnamese there. Pray that his visa will be granted and that the Lord will prosper His Word to the hearts of these people.

PRAY for the members of the newly-organized Chinese church committee and young people's committee

in Da Nang. Satan is attacking this young church to bring about dissension and discouragement. Urgent prayer is needed to overcome his workings.

PRAY that adequate programming materials will be available soon for the daily broadcasts in Vietnamese over Far East Broadcasting Company in Manila.

TIME of the broadcast on Radio Nhatrang has been arbitrarily changed to the last hour in the evening, but gives opportunity to broadcast the program over the local public address system. Pray that this change will be to the glory of God in the salvation of many people.

PRAY that the repeated request for time on the Qui Nhon radio station will be granted soon.

THE Gospel message is now being broadcast from the Bien Hoa Youth Center. Pray that hearts will be turned to Christ.

MR. V. L. Oliver and Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Steinkamp arrived shortly before conference to begin their missionary ministries. We praise God for leading them to Viet Nam.

ON furlough since our last issue: Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Dutton, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Sawin and Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Sutherland. Returned to the field: Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Stebbins.

REJOICE with us in the marvelous answer to prayer for one of our Chinese young men who was granted an exit visa to go to the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong. Others are still waiting for permission to be granted.

NEWS NOTES

THE first group of Chinese Christians in Da Nang were baptized a few months ago.

A Vietnamese young lady is in Manila taking a three-month course in children's work. Upon her return she will give full time to this very important ministry.

WE would like to bring two financial needs to your attention. Permanent and enlarged facilities for the Saigon Youth Center will cost \$25,000. New recording copy equipment and an electric organ for the radio studio amount to \$1,750. Gifts designated for these needs may be sent to our treasurer, 260 W. 44th St., New York 36.