

May 1960

TO THE PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS, AND FRIENDS IN CHRIST :

Among the Tribes of Viet Nam during the past year —
God has gone before,
made the crooked places straight,
and given us the treasures of darkness.
He has been graciously redeeming
and establishing a people for His Name.

Preaching the Gospel in pioneer areas is steadily resulting in fruit. On several occasions God has used one key person to further His work among others of his tribe.

Eleven years of preaching in one tribe had brought few lasting results. Then God placed His Hand on a man and transformed his life. His brother threatened to kill him. The villagers stood by expecting his rice crops to be ruined by the evil spirits. But God protected and prospered him. So impressed were the villagers that some 30 soon turned to the Lord making a complete break with spirit worship. This victory is the beginning of a turning to God among these Mngong people.

In another tribe God used a faithful woman. For years she prayed for the people of her area never tiring though converts at first came so slowly. Gradually more believed. Then last year on their own initiative they formed an all-Christian village named Bethel where alcohol and heathen sacrifices are forbidden. The village has now developed a ministry to the surrounding region. Scarcely a week goes by without nearby tribesmen being saved. "And all because of a woman."

God has been calling and preparing young people for His service and many are responding.

The missionaries in charge of one Short Term Bible School, after accepting 70 students, had to turn away 40 more for lack of accommodations. Young school boys have given up their week-ends to use their talents in witnessing for Christ in outlying villages with encouraging results. At several conferences choice young people were moved to consecrate their lives to full-time Christian service. Others already in the ministry but planning to quit because of difficulties and discouragements renewed their consecration and returned to their posts. These conferences have resulted in an unusual tenderness in many hearts.

Steady progress among all the churches toward self-support is fostering dependence upon God and bringing joy and spiritual blessing as they discover God's faithfulness.

A Christian who determined to support the Lord's work found that he was able to offer one-fourth of his rice crop to God and still have plenty for his own needs while most of the other people in the village, who had carefully sacrificed to the spirits, did not harvest enough grain to last out the year.

Delegates from one church, attending a conference, were challenged by the example of churches in other tribes which were assuming full responsibility for the support of their pastors. When they reported this to their home church, that church enthusiastically decided that it, too, would trust the Lord for full self-support — the first church in that tribe to take this step.

Times of testing may be ahead, yet we are confident that the Lord can sustain His people. One leader summed up the determination of his church: "We'll look out for our pastor. If we live, he'll live."

In an important change, the Tribes churches officially united with their Vietnamese brethren becoming one district of the National Evangelical Church of Viet Nam.

The dedicated Vietnamese co-workers who have for years served as missionaries to evangelize the tribes have become official workers in the district on the same level as any tribes preacher. Rev. Tin, who has been chairman of the Vietnamese missionaries for seventeen years, welcomed a Ralay tribesman as his District Superintendent.

The Tribes of Viet Nam Mission has followed suit by amalgamating with the Viet Nam Mission. Administratively the work among the tribes and among the Vietnamese will be carried on hereafter by one mission which, incidentally, has thereby become the largest Mission in The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Our burden, of course, continues for the tribes to whom God has called us. God has been pleased to use us through a variety of ministries — evangelism, and Bible teaching, translation and literature, radio broadcasts and medical work — to bring His Word to needy hearts. For this we humbly thank Him.

Your co-laborers in Christ,
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