

Training Young Men

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As we have almost completed, February 25, 1922, the first year of the Men's Bible Training School in Tourane, Annam, Indo-China, the readers of THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY will no doubt be glad to know something of the first year's history. The opening date was September 1, 1921; and from the beginning God's blessing has been upon the school.

During the first term, from September to the end of December, there were six students in attendance. This does not include a number of young men who studied preparatory work. Of these six, four are still attending, and of the other two, one is with Mr. Stebbins in Sade and will return in another year; the other is our beloved native pastor of the Tourane church who is unable, on account of duties, to study this term. He has however, sent a substitute, one of the young men from the Preparatory School who takes the notes for him.

In addition to the four remaining students of last term we now have five more who commenced their studies in January, so that our number is now three times three. It is important that those interested in this work should know the number of men who have started, for these students, as truly as the Israelites, are following a road that requires a book of Numbers; and they are journeying for God. Remember also, that these men form the first Protestant theological group in French Indo-China. They started as a class with Mr. Irwin and then with Mr. Stebbins, and now they are setting out for a three year trip through the Bible, and then this message must be told to the 17,000,000 of this land.

What about these young men? What type are they? Are they consecrated? What are their qualifications? Is it a good investment to train them? A complete answer must await the future, but there is already sufficient evidence to reply, "Yes, this investment is well worth while."

Two of the men, Quoc and Tiep, have been sent by Mr. Cadman from Hanoi, and later on they will probably be stationed in Hanoi and Haiphong, our two northern cities. These cities are over four hundred miles from Tourane, where our school is located. Quoc is partly Chinese by birth and was converted through Mr. Burris in South China. He is now a real missionary to Indo-China. Both of these men left good positions to become preachers. They will never get as much with us as they would in another situation. This in itself is a satisfactory test of a man, for, "the love of money" is just as strong in the East as in the West. Tiep is a college graduate from the French university in Hanoi. They are both doing excellent work.

The remaining seven men are from Tourane and they are a fine group, ranging from Lieu, who keeps us all laughing by his funny mistakes, to Phan who shows signs of becoming a brilliant preacher. Most of this group are not exactly brilliant, and yet they all shine brightly in their particular sphere.

This term Mr. Irwin for one of his subjects, is teaching Public Speaking. And it is amazing what these men do. One or two are slow as yet, but the rest are certainly budding preachers. However you cannot judge a preacher by asking if he is clever, but the true test is whether or not he is spiritual. These men are not perfect but they are going on with God. While studying the book of Leviticus a few weeks ago, we spent a delightful time in unfolding the great truths of surrender, faith, sanctification, and the Holy Spirit, as revealed

by the various sacrifices, and the students enjoyed it, another proof, by the way, for an unspiritual man would have a difficult time with the book of Leviticus.

This term we are studying six subjects; Old Testament, New Testament, Christian Doctrine, Public Speaking, Church History and Ancient History. We also include a few hours in music. Our aim, first of all, is that these students may become men who know God, filled with the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ. And then, we want them to be as well educated as possible in wisdom and true knowledge.

They need prayer. Indo China is more or less a Roman Catholic country and our men will require tact as they go out. We are not here to fight Roman Catholicism save by the direct method of preaching Christ, and the liberty of all men to believe in Him and to test their lives by His Word, given through His holy prophets and apostles. Our men will be in a hard place. The opposition will be intense.

Pray for us. We need wisdom, tact, patience, love. Our position is one of responsibility and mistakes are costly.

Pray for our French brethren, who recently passed through Tourane en route for Hanoi. We had delightful fellowship with them during the short time their boat was in harbor. The party was as follows; Captain Monet, who has been with the Y. M. C. A., and who has spent twenty-five years in Indo-China. He was an official before returning this time as a missionary; Pastor and Madam Soulier, who are now studying the language; Mr. That, an Annamese brother who has been in France for three years. He is a fine young Christian.

We are very glad that God has sent these brethren. They need us, for there are not enough to evangelize this land and they will probably be always few in number and we need them to lead the way in places where we cannot as yet go. God has called us to work together.

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