

NEWS NOTES

FURLOUGH bound since our last issue: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fitzsteven, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cline, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Irwin, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Pendell, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Taylor, Miss K. E. Mack, Miss E. I. Arnold, Miss B. L. Hartson, Mr. and Mrs. K. F. White, Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Houck, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Fisher.

RETURNED: Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Mangham Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lemon, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Kleinhen.

HAVE you remembered to pray for the three missionaries still held by the communists?

PRAY for the acquisition of strategic sites for three more extension churches in Saigon.

MRS. C. C. Fowler has recently undergone major surgery and needs your prayers for a speedy recovery.

PRAY for Mr. and Mrs. Luong who have just returned from Nyack to take up their ministry in the Saigon Youth Center.

UPHOLD our Vietnamese brethren who face untold problems and dangers while ministering in areas under Viet Cong control.

THEY'RE HERE!

To Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Douglas, a boy, Thomas Glen, on Sept. 6, To Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Sutherland, a boy, Spencer David, on Sept. 22.

A BIG Welcome to Rev. & Mrs. G. M. Cathey and children who have arrived in Saigon and are now ministering in the International Protestant Church. We wish you God's richest blessing upon your ministry amongst the American community.

IT'S FINISHED AT LAST!

The International Protestant Church and Youth Center was recently dedicated. PRAISE GOD for answered prayer.

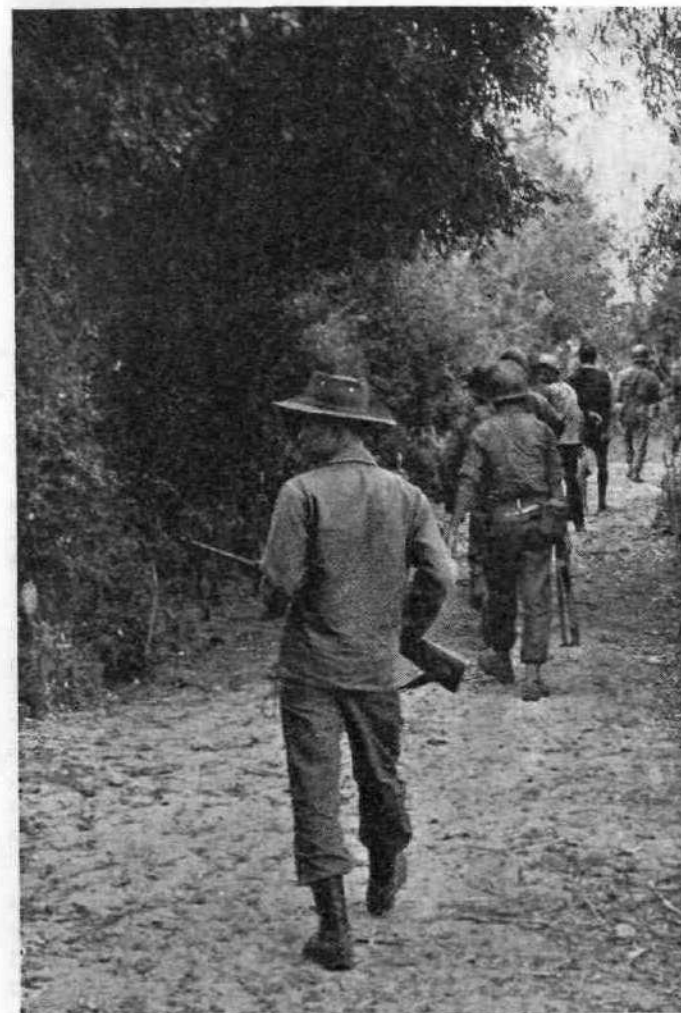
PRAYER

REMINDERS

DESPITE the stringent draft of young men, there is an enrollment of 50 students this semester at the Nhatrang Bible College. Pray that the young men will be able to continue their studies, and that the manifest blessing of God will be upon every class.

OUR printing ministry continues. Pray that God will use it to bring many souls to Himself.

the CALL



of
V
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Vietnamese Soldiers on Patrol

USIS

THE CALL OF VIET NAM

is issued bi-annually by the Viet Nam missionaries
of The Christian and Missionary Alliance

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WINTER, 1964

Editors : Harold M. Collins, Betty I. Hunt



The front page of your newspaper has been screaming headlines about Viet Nam for the past several

months. It has featured articles such as are depicted by this Vietnamese patrol in search of the elusive enemy.

These are days of crisis in Viet Nam, with no hope of solution in the immediate future. Political upheaval, student demonstrations, religious strife, and the ever-present nagging war with the Viet Cong, all combine to bring tension upon both nationals and missionaries alike.

How have the Christians and the Church been affected? In this issue we present the work of the Lord in Viet Nam in time of war and trust you will be stirred to greater prayer for this suffering country.



Vietnamese villages are...

USIS

UNDER FIRE

by D. R. Douglas

«Heaven, that's all that really counts,» said Mr. Ten. With tear-bright eyes expressing his depth of feeling, he recounted the narrow escape of his wounded wife. Feeble, seventy years of age, she could not run to a place of safety when the fight between the enemy on the ground and the planes in the air began. Her only place of safety was a hole dug in the inside of their thatch house. But even there a piece of bomb fragment struck her in the back of the shoulder. She ran outside, jumped in a ditch of

cold water and hid under some weeds. This was of the Lord for it staunched the bleeding. When she grew numb with cold she crawled out, not caring what happened to her, to lie in the warmth of the sun. It was there her husband found her. He had been away fighting fire that had broken out in a house nearby. She was taken to a hospital and God spared her life.

In that same fight an elderly widow lost all her possessions when her house burned. Another

Christian lost one half of his year's supply of rice.

Mr. Ten continued, «This life has only heartache and suffering. How I long to get to heaven». Yet while he remains here on earth he repeatedly comes for more tracts to pass out and more books to sell, fearful that this privilege of fulfilling his responsibility may not be his much longer.

«I can't understand it; the amazing peace I've experienced since I told the Lord it didn't matter who was against me or what it cost, I would follow Him,» said another. «I used to tremble at the sound of the guns but not any more.»

But many do not react this way. What would you say to a Christian who had just lost one-third of his leg because he stepped on a mine? Returning home from Saigon, Mr. Ho descended from a bus that had stopped at a recently destroyed bridge, walked to the edge of the road and there met disaster. As

To come involves risk



he lay in the hospital, in pain, discouraged, he asked the age-old question, «Why, Lord?» Oh the privilege of fellow-suffering with him and of being able to tell him, «There are no accidents with God. In all His infinite tenderness and concern for you, God has allowed this to happen for an eternal purpose yet unknown. When this purpose is revealed you will never regret it, provided you hold fast your faith now.» What a joy to see the flame of hope reviving as he began to grasp anew the deep meaning of the truth, «God still loves me.»

The trouble in the land affects every phase of daily life. «I prayed much yesterday that it would be quiet today so that we could go to church,» remarked one Christian. «I need cement,» said a pastor. «The parsonage must be built of brick at the bottom of the wall. Only then will there be some measure of safety.» «See the mud barricade against the house? My husband and I, together with all the children, put it up,» said a wife, «and see the bullet hole just above it?» Another pastor recently said, «Our twenty year old church did need repair, but now it must be repaired as additional damage was sustained in the trouble last month.»

Many live in mortal fear, not knowing what might happen next. They have yet to find the peace of Christ that is not dependent upon circumstances. Many times just to come to church or to visit other

There's a mission field...

On Your

by R. M. Jackson

Doorstep

Soon after our return from Viet Nam one of the Navy Servicemen's centers issued a call for assistance in talking with several Vietnamese officers who had just arrived in the United States. What a happy time we had with these men. Imagine their surprise upon meeting someone who could speak their language!

We invited some of these Vietnamese men to come to our home for the Christmas holidays. One young man was so hungry for God he made the day long trip by bus to Paso Robles. Before he left us he had become a follower of Jesus Christ.

In the days that followed I had many opportunities of looking into the fine, attentive faces of groups

of men as they listened eagerly to the Word of God being preached first in English and then in Vietnamese. When the invitation to accept Christ was given there was always a number who raised their hands. We then talked with them, explaining further the things which they had heard.

When these men complete their course of study or duties here, we encourage them to contact missionaries or national pastors on their return to Viet Nam. Several have written expressing thanks for the help they received while in the United States.

Hence, even here in America there remains a mission field on your doorstep.

Under Fire (cont.)

Christians involves serious risk to life or limb. Some are stunned by the sudden loss of all — loved ones and possessions — and hindered by an unbelief that refuses to see that God still controls all.

What can you in the security of America do to help your suffering brothers and sisters in Christ? You can travail in secret, earnest prayer that they will be sustained and delivered in this dark hour.

*A unique
opportunity
of reaching
soldiers for Christ
has been opened in...*



Entertaining

In February 1954, on our return to Saigon from furlough, we found seven military hospitals full of wounded and dying soldiers. For the next six months with the help of Mr. Dat, a Bible School student, and his wife, a different hospital was visited every day of the week. Hundreds prayed the penitent's prayer and regular meetings were held in most of the hospitals. When we asked the boys where they were going after leaving the hospital, the answer was invariably, « Quang Trung ».

One day we decided to find out where Quang Trung was so that we could follow up the hospital converts. Upon inquiry, we were directed to the largest military camp in Viet Nam, just five miles from Saigon. It was only a matter of days before the Colonel in charge

had granted our request to hold a meeting each Sunday for the Christian soldiers in this camp. Later the Colonel also gave permission to hold evangelistic meetings in the open air, provided we could show a different film each week for three months. Since every three months a new group of raw recruits replaced the 18,000 men who had been in training, we only needed twelve Christian films. But we only had the use of one film at that time. Thus a unique opportunity of reaching thousands of precious souls for Christ was lost. That was ten years ago.

Three months ago we received a letter from a former Danang English student. The envelope was stamped, « Quang Trung ». The lad wrote : « I'm so lonely ; please meet me in the Quang Trung Park at 8 o'clock next Sunday morning. » It was a bit difficult looking for our soldier friend among his three to five thousand khaki-clad comrades milling around the park, but we found him. These men had come from every nook and corner of Viet Nam and were all desperately lonely. We gave out all the gospel literature we had brought with us and wished we had access to a truck-load more.

The Chaplain was enthusiastic about my desire to visit this park every Sunday morning. He took me to see the Colonel who granted not only this request, but gave us permission to open a permanent book-room in the camp. I was so grateful

for the opportunity of once again witnessing for Christ in this camp that I timidly offered to teach English to anyone who was interested. The Colonel took me right up on my offer. Three classes a week were arranged and on the opening day of our classes the Colonel arranged a « tea » which was attended by a number of high-ranking officers. Fifteen or twenty minutes of each class are devoted to teaching the truths of God's Word.

The Chaplain is delighted to be able to use our large classroom for his Sunday afternoon meetings with the Christian soldiers. The Lord has wonderfully supplied our need for Christian films so we can now hold evangelistic services in the Quang Trung Camp.

Pray for a great ingathering of souls among the men in the Armed Forces of South Viet Nam.

Witnessing



by Mrs. D. I. Jeffrey

Though He Slay Me...

Yet Will I Trust Him

by H. M. Collins



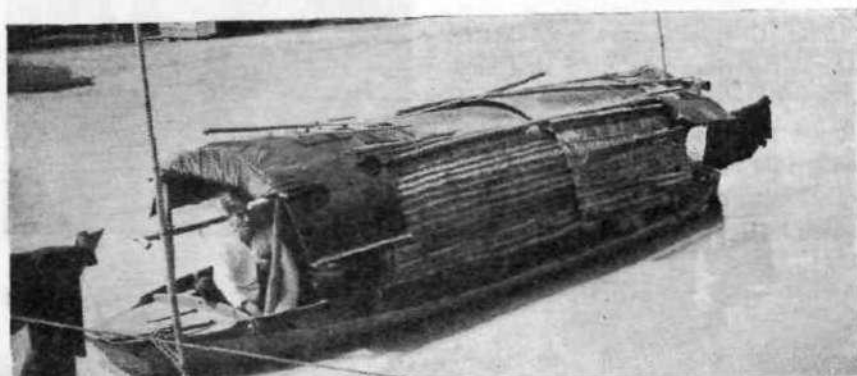
The roar of a dive bomber, a blinding flash of light, a devastating crash — and silence. The little old woman, in a slit trench beneath the rubble of her home, lay stunned. She was reaping the fruits of war, an innocent victim of the strife between the forces of democracy and the forces of communism. Several hours later government soldiers rescued her from the crumbled ruins. She was unscathed.

That same day, together with her son and his wife, she boarded their sole remaining possession, a sam-

pan, and moved into the district government center. Here they joined dozens of other refugees in their makeshift « boat-houses ». Just two days later, while standing on the bank of the river, her son was seized by the Army to serve his compulsory two years.

Alone now, the two women knelt and committed themselves to the keeping of their Lord. With lives radiating His grace, they continue to trust in Him who doeth all things well.

A typical boat-house



A Vietnamese army captain discovers there is a time to surrender.

Surrendered To Christ

by *Nguyen-huu-Phien*

The fateful day of November 11, 1960 dawned clear and hot. Silently armed troops slipped through the streets of Saigon, following a carefully prepared plan to overthrow the regime of President Ngo Dinh Diem. But they failed.

Many of the officers who took part in the coup were imprisoned, among whom was a Christian lieutenant. This man fearlessly witnessed for Christ and by his life demonstrated the comfort and peace which the presence of Christ can bring even in prison.

Ten fellow officers accepted his invitation to come and hear the pastor who held a service every Thursday morning in the prison. Several of these men professed faith in Christ, one of whom was Captain Tuong.

Unmarried, twenty-six years of age, Captain Tuong truly surrendered to Christ. From the day of his conversion he greatly desired the Word of God. The pastor had given him a Bible which he read diligently, carefully marking every verse that particularly spoke to his heart. His faith in Christ blossomed under this feeding on the Word

and he became a source of strength to those weaker in the faith than he. His heart filled with the love of God, he witnessed to everyone of what Christ had done for him. During those days there was a true Church of Jesus Christ in that prison, as regularly the small group of believers gathered to pray, sing and hear the Word of God.

Captain Tuong sent in a petition to the director of the prison asking that a portion of his salary (which was being held by the prison officials and which he was not allowed to touch) be given to the pastor for the work of the Lord.

After two years imprisonment these officers were finally brought to trial, Captain Tuong and the Christian lieutenant each receiving five years. Now the little band of believers was broken up as they were sent to various prisons. No longer could the pastor minister to them. But God was with them and they had His Word upon which they daily nourished their souls.

Five months after being sentenced, another coup to overthrow the government was attempted, and this time it was successful.

The imprisoned officers were quickly released, whereupon Captain Tuong immediately sought out the pastor who had led him to the Lord. Joyfully he began special classes in preparation for baptism, his joy being complete the day he followed His Lord in the sacred rite.

Today Captain Tuong is out on the battlefield, daily facing death. But he knows that his Redeemer liveth and because He lives, he shall live also.