

1975 El Rumborg

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VIET NAM

Total area:
(No.) 60,156 sq. miles.
(So.) 66,280 sq. miles.
Total population:
(No.) 22,480,000.
(So.) 19,370,000.

Our responsibility: ~~17,000,000~~ ← 16,000,000
Religions: Buddhism, Christianity,
Animism, Confucianism,
Taoism, ancestor worship,
Cao Dai, Hoa Hao.
Our work began: 1911.

Languages used by our missionaries and nationals: Vietnamese, Jarai, Bahnar, Rade, Bru, Chrao, Roglai, Cantonese, Mandarin, Swatowese, French, English, Cham, Pacoh, Khmer (Cambodian), Stieng (Phuoc Long), Koho (Sre, Cil, Ma), Hrey, Mnong Preh, Mnong R'lam, Stieng (Bao Loc).

South Viet Nam surrendered to Communist North Viet Nam on April 29, 1975. At the beginning of the year, none of the missionaries anticipated this. All were looking forward to many more months of fruitful and exciting missionary work. People were responding to the gospel; new churches were being established; Evangelism Deep and Wide was beginning to take hold in the districts. The future seemed bright with promise. Then came the attack on Banmethuot.

Five of our missionaries were taken prisoners of war, and six weeks later the Communist flag was flying in the city of Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City. Missionary work in Viet Nam had ended.

During the first two and one-half months of the year before the offensive began, the work among the Cambodians of South Viet Nam was growing rapidly. A number of cities and villages in the delta area had been chosen for the opening of new churches. A Cambodian district was to be organized within the Evangelical Church of Viet Nam. Several workers were to be sent from Cambodia to help in pastoring the new Christians. Literature was being printed and radio programs taped.

In the North Central district of Viet Nam, Evangelism Deep and Wide was being enthusiastically promoted by the district

Executive Committee. Many evangelism cells had been established where the Vietnamese Christians met for prayer and Bible study. Some of these groups would have developed into new churches. A training school for lay workers was to be opened. In Saigon, one congregation had finished remodeling a building they had just purchased to open another church to bring the total to 37 in that city. Evangelistic teams for the opening of new works in the capital city area were organized.

The Nhatrang Bible School enrollment was 200, an all-time high. The Theological Education by Extension program, which was begun the year before with an enrollment of 450 students, now had 900 enrollees participating. Lessons had been printed and sent to all sections of the field. A graduate school begun for professional people had eleven students enrolled. In the Pleiku and Banmethuot areas, people were more open to the gospel than ever.

The Jarai New Testament, dedicated in the month of February, was being distributed.

When the final offensive began, missionaries remained on their stations as long as they could to help the people. When they finally had to move to Saigon, several efforts were made to develop a medical and relief program to help refugees. Nothing was more impressive in those days than the unity of spirit among the missionaries. We were all sorry to be leaving Viet Nam.