

Viet-Nam Mission
Chairman's Office
P. O. Box 923
Saigon, Viet-Nam
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Dear Friends,

The dawn of this New Year breaks upon a world plagued with trouble on every hand. All of men's efforts for peace and security seem futile, and the future is dark with foreboding and uncertainty. Here in Viet-Nam, it is impossible to escape the ominous shadow of the ruthless, Godless ideology which appears to be advancing relentlessly across Asia. Yes, in the natural, the prospects for 1962 are not bright. However, with the Psalmist, we would say, «I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.» (Psalm 121:1,2). He is ever faithful—His promises are ever true. He holds the future in His hands, praise His Name! Our hope for 1962 is brightened by the «light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn» and Christ shall come. We are «looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God,» and «according to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.» (II Peter 1:19; 3:12,13). Therefore, it is with much confidence and rejoicing that we send you this word of greeting. We pray that you may enjoy the fullness of the Lord's blessing daily throughout the year.

In spite of restrictions imposed by unrest in many areas, there are unprecedented opportunities open to us in our over-all missionary program. May I give you just a few highlights:

BIBLE SCHOOLS

The new facilities at Nha-Trang were completed, as you know, giving us one of the finest Bible school campuses to be found anywhere. A new classroom building was also completed at Ban-me-Thuot, greatly improving the school there. In all there have been 182 students studying the Word in preparation for Christian service in our Bible schools this past semester. One hundred fourteen of these are enrolled at the Bible and Theological Institute in Nha-trang, and the rest are in the schools at Banmethuot and Dalat.

RADIO

This ministry is having an influence on the whole field. Interest and results are on the increase with reports of those who are turning to Christ as a result of the broadcasts. Two new outlets have just opened for us with half hour programs released over the radio stations at Soc-Trang and Banmethuot. Also, we have been granted two half hour periods per week on the Can-Tho Information Hall amplifying system. This brings our total local outlets to six radio stations and 15 information hall centers. In addition, tapes are prepared and sent to Manila for broadcast on the two daily programs from Station F. E. B. C.

YOUTH WORK

It is quite an experience to be on the streets of the larger cities where the schools are located at the hour classes dismiss. Thousands of bicycles! One gets the impression that the whole nation is in pursuit of education. These young people are open and inquisitive. English language Bible classes afford an excellent opportunity to reach them, for there is a widespread interest in learning English. Hundreds of the youth in Hue, Tourane, Bien-Hoa, as well as here in Saigon, are now in regular contact with the Gospel through Mission-sponsored Youth Centers.

TRIBESWORK

Recently 69 people were baptized in the village of Buon Tah (Banmethuot District). A fine new church building was dedicated at Buon Tung Ju. At Christmas, more than 200 Stieng tribesmen met for the special service conducted by Pastor Sung and the missionary at Phuoc-Binh. There are no churches yet among these Stiengs, but there are now believers in a number of villages. Among the Mhong and Bahnar groups, the work has been most encouraging in recent months. A small building is under construction at KheSanh where Short Term Bible School sessions will soon be in progress for the Bru tribes Christians. A recent conference for the tribal pastors in the Dalat area was signally blessed of the Lord.

GENERAL

In districts throughout the field blessing is reported. Souls are turning to the Lord. New groups of believers are being organized and regular services conducted. Here in Saigon, two new preaching centers have been opened where we trust to establish new churches. Interest has been good and many have responded. Evangelistic services will be started in two other locations in the city within the near future with the same end in view.

Christmas week was a very busy, but very blessed time. This joyous season means so much to all Christians, but particularly to those who have realized its true significance for the first time this year. All of the churches were beautifully decorated with scenes depicting the coming of the Saviour into the world. Nightly we attended and participated in special services of song and recitation commemorating Christ's birth. Appropriately, Christmas morning we were in church again where I had opportunity to preach to a full house. Afterwards we were served a tasty Vietnamese meal. It was not until evening that the family, with some friends we had invited, sat down to a bounteous Christmas table — turkey and all the trimmings. The turkey was a gift from some of the Vietnamese Christians.

May I express our sincere thanks to all of you who have followed with such keen interest the work here throughout the past year. We are sure that all of you have prayed and as a result the Lord has worked. Many have sent gifts and this has enabled us to carry on all of our ministries without any lack. Truly our hearts are filled with praise to God and to appreciation to each of you.

Joyfully in His Service,

T. G. Mangham, Jr.

Chairman