



«When they saw the star,  
they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.»

Matt. 2: 10.

Langson, Tonkin.  
French Indo China.  
November 20, 1935.

Dear Friends:-

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The only way we can send all of you our wishes and give you news is by writing this Christmas letter. We trust you will forgive us for not answering each of your letters separately.

It is now a long time since my last letter, so there are a good many things to tell you. We have felt the Lord's presence very keenly through all these months and have had numerous answers to prayer.

You may have heard of my operation for appendicitis last May. It was of great urgency. The doctor in Hanoi would not let me return to Langson after examining me, not even for a few days. At first I felt as though it was a lack of faith to undergo an operation when the Lord had so miraculously healed me two years ago. But God does not always work in the same way. After spending much time in prayer, He gave me perfect peace of mind concerning the operation as well as a sign for which I had asked Him to know if it was His will. After that I immediately went to Doctor Patterson's Hospital in Hanoi and was operated. My last thought on the table was, "Underneath are the everlasting arms", and throughout all those trying days the Lord was very near and dear to me. I knew many loved ones and friends were holding me up in prayer. One of God's most remarkable servants in Switzerland, who is an old friend of my family was led of the Lord to intercede for me the very day of my operation, not understanding why he should pray that very moment. He wrote that under the power and leading of the Holy Spirit, he had to drop all his work to intercede with special fervor for me. Glory to God! He not only led His children to pray for me but answered their petitions on my behalf. The doctor and nurses

said they never had, here in the East, such a quick recovery from an operation. It gave me fine opportunities to witness in the hospital. Pray the seed sown may bring forth much fruit.

Our good friend Faith Pruett offered to keep Esther for us while I was in the hospital. We were very grateful to her for we knew Esther would be well cared for and have happy times with their little Richard.

In June Esther began to have purulent prickly heat, a thing unheard of with her in the past. This year it has been extremely hot. The natives said it was the warmest in twenty years. We have had as much as ninety three degrees at two o'clock in the morning. There was no other way for Esther to be rid of those sores caused by the heat but by getting in a cooler climate. Where to go was a problem! We could neither afford the long trip to Delat nor to Yunnanfou. The Lord, in answer to prayer, opened a way for us and we were able to go for a while to the Mau Son. It is a steady climb of two thousand feet right on the border of China. There we rented a small compartment and had food taken up to us every two days. The vivifying air brought back some color to our girlie's cheeks, and shortly after we got there her purulent prickly heat began to disappear. It also gave me a chance to get back my normal strength and weight. My husband is the one who profited the least for every week or so he would return to Langson or go to some outstation to hold meetings, not feeling free to neglect the work for a vacation. It was comparatively easy for him to go back and forth as we were right in our district but he was hindered quite some by the lack of a car. However, he managed for when there's a will, there's a way.

We came back to Langson with renewed strength and praising the Lord. We have been very busy since, making regular trips to the outstations, besides the services and visiting in Langson. We have also been led to start young men's meetings in our home as there was quite a large group of them who were too old to come to the children's meetings that they have been attending regularly for several years. Many of them come now to the Sunday services and prayer meeting, but we felt it necessary to give them a time of fellowship in order to keep them together. Our dining room on Wednesday nights is always crowded, we have had as many as twenty five. They enjoy the intimacy of our home as well as the special Bible studies. Some are real earnest christians. Pray that all of them may be saved for if the Lord tarries they will be the strength of the Langson church.

My children's meetings have also been very encouraging. I have to lock the door of the chapel a good while before the meeting starts because of the lack of room. This fact is to be deplored but what can be done when there is no more standing room, not even for one. There often are a hundred and twenty children where there are only seats for eighty. It would inspire you to hear them repeat their Scripture verses and see how well they remember the preceding lessons. A mother told me the other day that her two small children often go to their grandmother who is a temple-woman and right there, in the Buddhist temple, tell her all they know of the Saviour, repeat Scripture verses and sing of Jesus' love. God bless the dear little ones!

Just lately I have been very happy to see that the efforts made among the children are not in vain. A man and wife were converted a few months ago and told us that it was through their two little boys who had come to the children's meetings five years ago that they first heard the Gospel. They have destroyed their altars and are now serving the living God. The father said he had always read the Scripture verses on the back of the postal cards, for we give each child one if they know the verse of the preceding week. We came back from furlough with a good stock of postal cards and small Sunday School cards but we need about two hundred a week for all our meetings and the stock is running very low. Would you not like having a share in supplying us with postal cards, new or old and thus getting the Gospel into homes

we might never reach otherwise? Please do not send Christmas cards but colored postal cards of any kind and small Sunday School cards you may have left over. Send them as printed matter, not as first class mail. It has been done before and we had no duty to pay when sent that way. Thank you ever so much in advance.

I am also teaching several women separately in our home. This requires a lot of patience as some of the older ones are quite dense. They have been christians for some time already and their hearts are all right, they love the Lord but they know so little about Him that I am trying my best to have them learn more before they are baptized.

A few months ago one of the real earnest christians who always walks twenty kilometres to attend the services in Cao Bang, was accused of having written and distributed in the market some communistic tracts. He was put in prison so Mr. Van Hine went there to see the officials. We were convinced that this young man was not guilty but naturally when speaking to the officials said that he merited prison if he really was a communist. Even the officials said he was not the type for it and they were greatly impressed by the calm way he explained things. They even admitted that they did not believe he was the guilty one but that it was a false accusation. Prayer was made without ceasing and ten days later this young christian was released, the proofs of his innocence being sufficient. He told us that he was very conscious of the presence of the Lord while in prison and that he knew all the time God would deliver him and rested quietly in Him. He even thanked God for this real testing time.

There are many more incidents that occurred in our district that I could tell you of were this letter not so long already. Souls have been saved and some wonderfully healed. But I must close.

You undoubtedly have read the "Call" and the article Mr. Cadman asked us to write. Thus you will know of our last trip to Cao Bang and of our plans of building a chapel. The present one is unsanitary and far too small and no other building can be found, so we MUST build! Pray for God's blessing and guidance in the matter.

This past year has been a very blessed one indeed. What is in store for us in 1936? If the Lord should come, for He seems near at hand, may He find us all ready, with oil in our lamps, glorifying Him in our lives and in the work He has entrusted to us.

Mr. Van Hine, Esther, and I send you our warmest christian love and wishes for a happy Christmas season and the Lord's choicest blessing on you and yours in the coming year.

Yours ever to please Him,

Mrs. J. J. Van Hine.

P.S. If you ever send us any cards do not glue paper on the back of them as you did those we took along with us. It will make it lighter for mailing them. We wish to thank all of you again for your continued interest in our work. God return it to you a hundred-fold! The pictures enclosed were taken on the last trip to Cao Bang described in "The Call"; we thought you would enjoy having them.

N. J. H.