

Langson, Tonkin.

May 26, 1952.

Dear Pastor and members of your congregation;

I am Nguyen van Phan missionary of the C. & M. A. at Langson, respectfully send these words to greet you and ask God to bless you with all spiritual blessings.

I am exceedingly happy before the Lord Jesus Christ because we serve Him together and you love Him with all your heart. In this country of Annam, the tribes are still sitting in the shadow of death and chained by Satan. Therefore having hearts moved with compassion we come to these lost souls, with your sacrificial help, being united together to give them the Gospel message. Before I can accept your gift that you send every month, I write to all of you thanking you very much. Like Paul in Philippians, may God bless you abundantly every day to work for Him. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Also as he said in 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, inasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I wish to tell you a little about the work here. In Langson we preach to Annamese and also to the tribes of this region. The Annamese are those who come from the delta for commerce and they are few in comparison with the tribes. This upper region is mostly settled with the tribes such as the Tho, Nung, Man, Meo etc.

All the tribes dress differently and have a different language; their manner of eating is different as well as cooking it; worship of the spirits is different and they never intermarry. There is one thing that is very pathetic, when they are sick they never use medicine but instead sacrifice to the evil spirits. The Thos belonging to the Thai race when ill have a sorceress come and catch the evil spirit and among the Nungs they have a sorcerer.

This is a very stupid custom of theirs being afraid of the evil spirits. In the home there are many spirits and they believe in everyone of them. When you ask them to follow the Lord and worship Him, to leave all their superstition, they do not understand. They say, "If we throw away the spirits and believe in the Lord the spirits will kill all in the home. For this reason it is very hard to preach the Gospel to them. If the Lord does not reveal His power to them to save them, then we in our strength cannot. Among all the tribes that have already heard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, many have prayed, but let the evil ~~one~~ return into their hearts to snatch away the seed that had been sown. Others have believed but are following half way and only our Saviour knows where they are standing. But how glorious, praise God, while we are sad and cry beneath the throne of Grace, God is stretching forth His hand protecting as in Jer. 33:3 and Psalm 91:13.

Already He is rapidly answering prayer that we may see joy in preaching the Word to the Thos. There is a Tho whose name is Vi van Dat, 52 years old in the village of Quang Lang (Dong Mo) more than 30 kilometres from Langson and almost 40, came to the chapel to ask about the Lord. That day was the 27th of April 1952. When he heard me explain the Gospel, he asked to pray, repenting for his sin and forsaking all the spirits to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The next day he went home and testified to his wife and relatives. Then he returned and invited me and Mr. J. J. Van Hine to go to his village and he would invite all his friends and relatives to listen to the message. We preach in his home once every week on Tuesday, since May 10th. Every meeting is well attended with many Thos, men and women and children listening very attentively. The first day there were fifty present and afterwards twelve repented and believed. The next week sixty gathered together and after preaching thirteen men and women repented of their sin to believe and follow the Lord. The next week there were forty in the meeting and more than ten expressed their desire to pray the following week. This is the work that God did by your prevailing prayer for these tribespeople.

Now in this village there are many people who want to listen to the Gospel and want to believe. Those who have repented of their sin to follow Christ are remaining true and are very zealous.

Therefore I beseech you to continue night and day when communing with the Lord not to forget these people in this village because all the village together has nearly one thousand inhabitants. May the Lord call this whole village to return to Him. This village has many hamlets, each having three houses or more and the distance between them varying from 200 to 300 metres. I kindly ask you to pray that God will bless all the other tribes and also all those who have not yet heard the message of Christ. Also pray that God will give us wisdom, and strength to learn their language rapidly to work for Him, and we will appreciate it very much and thank you. Rev. 22:21.

Respectfully yours,

Nguyen van Phan

Evangelist

Evangelical Mission of French Indo China.

at Langson.