

Statues  
Vinh

1926

Dec. 11, 1926

# Missionary Vision in the Annamese Church

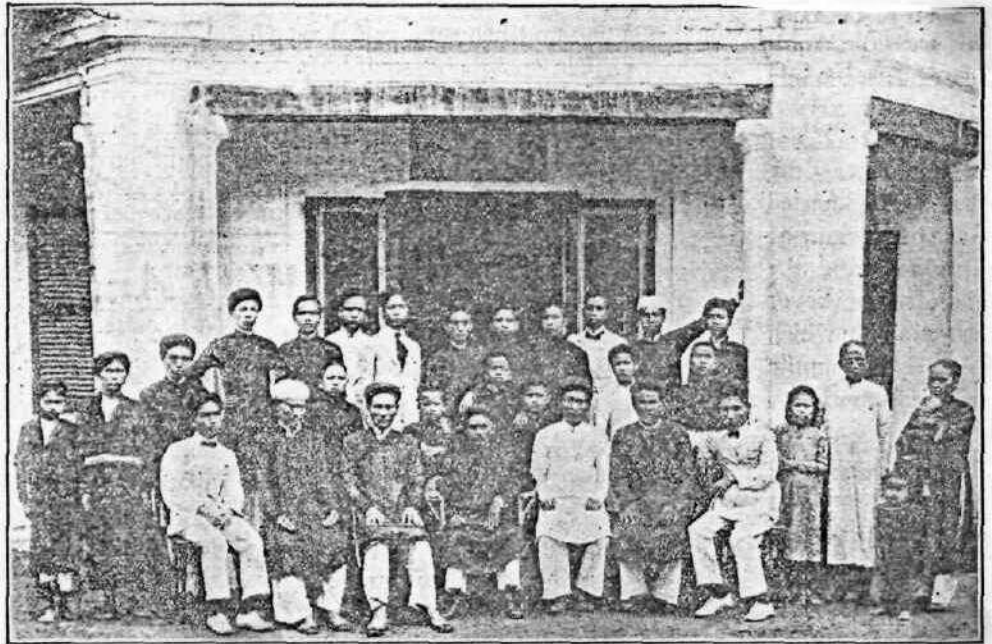
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The accompanying picture of the church at Vinh is probably the best comment that I can make on what seems to me to be the most important of the splendid list of resolutions, submitted by the Council Committee on the Foreign Report. It is the seventh one as summed up in the last clause: "Our policy should be a minimum of foreign missionaries and a maximum of native workers." This recommendation cannot be stressed too much at the proposed Conference, and I am inclined to think that this "minimum" is considerably less than we have previously thought necessary.

The work at Vinh is a concrete illustration of the practicability of such a policy, not only as applied to our older and more established work, but also for the opening of new work in hitherto untouched provinces. Vinh is one of the largest centers in French Indo-China, and it is two hundred and fifty miles from our nearest main station, consequently the foreign oversight of the work was almost negligible. We planted a young Annamese evangelist there.

He had had no experience in preaching, and had had only one year in the Bible School. There was not a single Christian in the city, or even in the province, when he went there. In less than a year this fine Church has sprung up. It is still growing and is self-propagating; one of the young men from the congregation is in training at the Bible School (entirely self-supporting); and for the last quarter the Church offerings have covered one-quarter of the preacher's salary. Had this station been opened in the usual way, by a foreign missionary, I doubt that we would have seen as immediate results, and the cost would have been ten times greater. The foreign missionaries' work should be to plant churches, and to develop the native ministry, whereas it should be the native evangelists' and pastors' part to develop the churches.

The picture shows the group of Christians whom God has gathered out at Vinh. It was taken at the time of the first baptismal service there, about one year after the evangelist had been planted in the province. The Pastor from Tourane, Mr. Thua (who baptized the converts), is sitting in the armchair in the center of the front row. The young man at his right is the evangelist. The young man standing in the back row with the white turban on his head is now at Bible School, the first student volunteer from the Province of Vinh.



Church at Vinh, Annam, French Indo-China