

LEPROSARIUM REPORT - CONFERENCE JUNE 1966

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FILE

For the Leprosarium work the past year has been one of adapting its program to a population in flux within a country at war. The same sequence of events, -increasing hostilities, -open conflict, the relocation of tribal peoples, has occurred in every highland province in which we are working. These circumstances have called for flexibility in the treatment program, in maintenance and supply, in construction and transportation. In prayerful dependance upon the Lord we have sought to maintain continuous treatment for these people and to bring the Word of Life to them and their families.

Description of Medical Work.

The Leprosarium reached a total of 1981 people with leprosy in 1965. 120 new patients were registered. 176 discontinued treatment. There were 22 deaths reported. The number of patients on treatment in March 1966 shows a decrease of 47 patients when compared with March 1965. Of the current 1778 patients, 152 are resident at the Leprosarium, 335 are located in 5 treatment villages, and 1291 are out-patients attending monthly clinics. The number of patient contacts receiving prophylactic medication has remained constant, totalling at present 2038 persons.

An average of 68% of the patients registered were treated monthly during the past 12-month period. Hostilities in Pleiku, Phu Bon and Darlac Provinces during the latter half of 1965 are reflected in out-patient attendance which fell in the month of August to slightly below 50%. With more stable conditions in the past 4 month (Feb.-May 1966) the out-patient average has increased to 65% and the over-all average attendance has been 75% of the total number registered.

Whenever possible the treatment program has followed the movement of people to their new location. Messengers, usually patients, have been used to carry medicines to areas where travel has been restricted. It is our observation that as soon as security permits, patients return seeking treatment.

In February 1966, one treatment village, Dak R'Tih in Quang Duc Province, was closed. Early this year, this general area, between kilometer 214 and 250 on Route 14, was evacuated of civilian population by the government. Some 60% of the patients were transferred to the leprosarium or to treatment villages in Darlac Province. 40% were left to be absorbed into relocated villages in the district and to be treated as out-patients from the District Center at Kien Duc.

A summary of the medical services rendered during 1965 gives the following picture. A staff of 27 national medical and paramedical workers and <sup>a</sup>3 missionary nurses have served <sup>b</sup>6,245 outpatients at <sup>c</sup>41 dispensaries or clinic points. Some <sup>d</sup>101,922 visits were recorded. 36 infants were delivered. 1329 laboratory tests were completed.

Hospital care was also given by 11 of the above-mentioned medical personnel to 188 individual patients. The hospital record reports 211 admissions. The number of days of hospitalization totalled 22, 918, an average of 121 days of care per patient.

In March 1966 the 3rd Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, located temporarily at Bannethuot, offered the Leprosarium the assistance of their surgical teams. 20 surgical procedures were performed including 1 amputation, and 7 tendon transplants for the correction of drop-foot. The opportunity to begin this kind of rehabilitative surgery was an encouragement to both staff and patients. Requests to have their feet "repaired" kept coming after the Army Medical Group moved on.

#### National Co-workers

The Leprosarium presently employs 65 nationals, 47 of whom are full-time employees, 18 part-time. Their distribution is as follows:

Medical Department.....	28
Office.....	5
Maintenance, supply and Construction....	12
Village Supervision....	12
Children's School and Literacy...	8
Total	<hr/> 65

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<sup>a</sup>District missionaries in 2 provinces also assisted in the treatment of out-patients. A fourth nurse was also present for 4 months.

<sup>b</sup>This number includes leprosy patients, their contacts and non-leprosy village people.

<sup>c</sup>This number is based on the total number of treatment points utilized in 1965. Some of these are now merged, others relocated, a few discontinued completely.

<sup>d</sup>Visits include those for monthly medication, treatment of general illnesses, dressings for wounds and ulcers, and immunizations.

We again wish to pay tribute to the courage and faithfulness of the district teams who repeatedly carried treatment in and through Viet-Cong controlled areas.

We are thankful for the developing leadership apparent in two workers, who also are men who are spiritually alert, Mr. Ky who manages the office and Mr. Klec who is assistant to Mr. McNeel in purchasing and supplying.

We praise God for the 5 men on the staff who confessed their faith in Christ in April during Evangelist Barry Reed's ministry in Bannethuot. One of these had worked for the Leprosarium for 17 years, another for 6. Their wives, with the wives of two others, also made a decision for Christ.

### Missionary Personnel

Seven staff missionaries and 4 district missionaries have co-operated in the Leprosarium work this past conference year. Rev. R. McNeel serves as superintendent and builder; Mrs. McNeel as corresponding secretary, receiver of packages, and distributor of relief goods. Mrs. Betty Mitchell has been in charge of Leprosarium distribution, and the provisioning of the Bannethuot Children's Hostel. She also serves as book-keeper for C.C.F. accounts.

Miss Mildred Ade, R.N. is acting medical director and superintendent of C.C.F. projects. Miss Dawn Deets has supervised district work in Darlac Province and is initiating a program of prevention and rehabilitation. We anticipate the return of Miss Betty Olsen, R.N. to Bannethuot in June to take her place on the medical staff.

Miss Olive Kingsbury has been supervising the leprosy work in Pleiku Province since the departure of Miss Ruth Wilting, R.N. for furlough in October. Rev. and Mrs. Fleming continue to be responsible for the three out-patient clinics among the Bahnar. Rev. and Mrs. Reed have carried the work among people with leprosy in Phu Bon Province.

We were happy to be able to welcome Miss Joan Waller, R.N. to Vietnam in September. She is presently engaged in Vietnamese language study in Pleiku. Miss Eunice Boschult, R.N. joined us in April, a short-term missionary, and in a very short time she was assisting in various areas of the station and leprosarium work.

Rev. Le K.Cung is director of the Leprosarium, and chairman of the Leprosarium Committee. This guiding committee is composed of the director, the medical director, the superintendent, the treasurer, Rev. Franklin Irwin, and Rev. Ham Nie Hrah, advisor. It is responsible to the Joint Committee for the work of the Leprosarium.

Four years have passed since Dr. Vietti, Rev. Archie Mitchell and Mr. Dan Gerber were taken by the Viet Cong. We wait upon the Lord, and pray for their deliverance.

#### Construction and Maintenance

The following construction projects have been carried out during this conference year.

1. At the Leprosarium the second and third permanent patient dwellings have been completed - these are of cement construction with kitchens attached.

2. In Banmethuot an additional two-story frame building immediately adjacent to the one occupied by missionaries has also been rented and remodeled. Both houses have been enclosed within a common fence, and servants quarters built. This area is the single ladies compound.

3. Also in Banmethuot, office facilities for the Vietnamese director, the treasurer and other office workers, as well as space for occupational teaching and children's work, have been added to the south-end of the Cung home directly behind the Raday Church. This addition is a 4-room, 2 story structure of cement and tile.

4. In the treatment center of Dak R'Tih an addition of 2 large rooms has been made to the clinic building constructed the year before.

5. The Village of Ea Tuor has a new treatment-clinic building of frame construction, 30 feet by 14 feet, divided into 5 rooms.

6. Also in Ea Tuor 3 small houses 28 by 14 feet have been erected to house patients who had to flee the Dak R'Tih area early in 1966.

7. In Pleiku, a new structure of wood, tole, and cement has been built for workers and their families. Of three "apartments", it measures 38 feet by 24 feet.

8. Also a similar building of 2 sections has been built for servant's quarters behind the new Pleiku duplex.

Several former buildings at the Leprosarium, including the Mitchell house and Dan Gerber's house have been razed and the materials utilized in new construction projects.

### Special Projects

The two-grade primary school at the Leprosarium had 42 children enrolled. 34 of these were boarding students, 8 were day students. Twelve children were housed in Bannethuot to attend 3rd and 4th grades in the public school. These projects are supported by Christian Children's Fund.

Two older girls have been instructed in sewing. Sewing instruction was begun with five women patients at the Leprosarium but discontinued when the teacher was discharged. Women hospital patients are piecing quilts, and the men continue their basket weaving. A literacy class with 10 young people attending has been taught by a patient-teacher.

Mr. Reed at Phu Bon initiated a rabbit-raising project to help supply Plei Tomak Village with additional protein food. Eighteen pairs were "sold" to Plei Tomak patients. Four pairs have been placed in Darlac treatment villages, raised or tended by the school children.

### Evangelistic and Church Work

Evangelism is a part of the Leprosarium program. A Gospel message is a part of every monthly clinic. These services are conducted by missionaries, local pastors, or staff-workers. All patients are encouraged to participate in Scripture memorization. Christmas cards have been used effectively in this effort. There have been a total of 45 inquirers through the witness to the clinic and treatment village patients in the last 12 months.

The Leprosarium pastor reported 31 inquirers and 21 baptisms in 1965, bringing the number of believers at the Leprosarium and Ea Tuor Village to 179.

In Pleiku, a DVBS was held for children from the treatment Villages and a 5-day Short Term Bible School for adults from these same Jarai treatment villages.

Two patients attended the 6-month session at the Central Bible School in Bannethuot. Poh, a Bahnar, has returned to assist in the church at Plei Dolol. Huh, a Stieng is presently pastoring a community of 500 Christians in one of the resettlement villages in Quang Duc Province. Many people from remote areas have been gathered with these large groups of Christians in the new villages. A third student was a youth from one of the treatment villages. A fourth, a young man who believed when the Gospel was presented by a Raday pastor, invited by clinic patients to preach in their village.

The missionaries and staff in Banmethuot have had a ministry in the local church, in 3 near-by villages, the C.H.P.I. plantation and the province hospital, as well as the services for Americans. 868 portions of literature have been sold and 9474 of free literature have been distributed in hospital visitation, leprosy clinics, and village evangelism.

### Finances

This past conference year has been equally as prosperous as the previous one. Adequate funds and goods have been received regularly, for which we are very thankful.

Those agencies and societies most noteworthy which have contributed to this leprosy treatment program have been the Ministries of Health and Public Welfare of the Vietnamese Government, U.S. AID, the Mennonite Central Committee, Christian Children's Fund, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance constituency in the United States.

The Department of Health of the Vietnamese Government has continued to subscribe to substantial subsidies and gifts for leprosy patients. 260 patients are receiving this aid at a rate of 50 cents per day per patient. This Government aid has carried the burden of our treatment program, having totalled more than 75% of our receipts for 1964.

U. S. AID and M. C. C. have made substantial gifts of goods, materials, and services. Through Christian Children's Fund we have received monies to help 125 children living in the treatment villages.

How thankful we are, too, to recount the faithfulness of the Women's Missionary Prayer Bands of the Alliance Churches in the homeland. The packages of bandages and used clothing, medicines, etc., have been many, not to mention the regular giving of money for this work by the churches. We lean heavily on the prayer support of these our own people.

All of these have been made possible the achievements of the past year. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for His continual and gracious supply for all our needs. We are very much aware of our need for His mind as we go into next year with its problems and opportunities. We earnestly request your prayer on our behalf.

The Coming Year.

In the coming year we anticipate:

1. The recruiting and training of additional national personnel.
2. The beginning of a unit for the treatment of resident Vietnamese patients. Vietnamese personnel, however, must be available to make this possible.
3. Continued construction of permanent buildings at the Leprosarium, such as chapel, occupational and physiotherapy facilities, an additional hospital ward.
4. Normal extension of the medical work, opening new clinics or treatment villages as the need presents itself and as security permits.
5. The development of a center for consultation, and for prevention of disability, and rehabilitation of the handicapped patient at Banmethuot City.
6. The building of additional workers' quarters in Banmethuot City, eg. 4 duplex homes.

Finances are available to make these advances. we express again our conviction that our urgent need is for a doctor with a missionary heart to meet the opportunities of the hour. Not secondary to this, is our continued need for consecrated national personnel, concerned with bring healing to the heart and mind as well as to the body. Pray with us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Leprosarium Staff.