

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FRENCH INDOCHINA
MISSION

(Christian and Missionary Alliance)

1928



ALLIANCE GOSPEL PRESS, HANOI
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«The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty, He will save.» Zeph. 3:17. — «Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.» Psa. 50:15



NO previous year in the history of our Indochina work has found us facing greater problems, or the Christians undergoing severer trials. Through it all our hearts have been quieted by God's promises and encouraged by the steadfast faith of the native Christians.

OPPOSITION

Strict measures were taken during 1928 to prevent the spread of the Gospel in Annam. Preachers and colporteurs who distributed or preached the Word of God were fined or imprisoned, receiving sentences as heavy as five months. Christian homes were visited and Bibles confiscated, the owners being threatened that unless they became Catholic Christians or renounced Christianity altogether they would be punished. A similar attitude was taken in Tonkin and Cambodia, except that none were fined or imprisoned.

A WORD OF EXPLANATION

A word of explanation is necessary for those who do not understand why there is opposition to the Gospel in French Indochina. In those sections that are French territory, Protestants are granted full religious liberty, whereas in the Protectorates, (Annam, Tonkin and Cambodia), they are prohibited. The reason given for this attitude is that ancient treaties between France and the Protectorates, although granting religious liberty to Roman Catholics, do not mention Protestants. As a result they are regarded as excluded.

OUR APPEAL

From the human standpoint we point to the Protestant Christian as a loyal citizen, and appeal to France as a champion of tolerance and religious liberty. From the divine standpoint we base our faith on the unfailing encouragement of the Word, «Be not afraid, only believe», and throw ourselves upon the intelligent prevailing prayer support of all Christians, in order that the Word of God may have «free course and be glorified» in Indochina.

GENERAL STATISTICS DECEMBER 31, 1928.

MISSIONARIES :

Cochinchina	12
Cambodia	6
Laos	1
East Siam	2

Annam	12
Tonkin	7
On Furlough	3
Total	<u>43</u>

Baptisms during year	939
Active Church Membership	4365
Native Offerings (U. S. Currency)	\$7517.54
Ordained Pastors	11
Native Preachers	31
Colporters	5
Bible Women	3
Sunday Schools	36
Sunday School Scholars	1300
Districts occupied by Missionaries	13
Self-supporting Churches with Native Pastors	10
Out-Stations	70
Students in Annamese Bible School	
Men — 69 Women — 24	93
Students in Cambodian Bible School	
Men — 14 Women — 7	21

ANNAMESE SELF-SUPPORTING CHURCHES

At the close of the year 10 Churches are entirely self-supporting. Another is ready to assume full support and has asked that their Pastor be ordained. The following are entirely self-supporting:

CHURCH	PASTOR	MEMBERSHIP	OFFERINGS (U. S. Currency)
COCHINCHINA			
Mytho	Mr. Long	640	\$ 635.00
Bentre	Mr. Khanh	422	1350.00
Sadec	Mr. Khanh	180	551.00
Vinhlong	Mr. Tuoi	176	255.30
Cantho	Mr. Huyen	240	596.67
Caolanh	Mr. Thanh	177	515.60
		<u>1835</u>	<u>\$3903.57</u>
ANNAM			
Tourane	Mr. Dinh	425	\$ 350.42
Faifoo	Mr. Thua	388	306.00
Daian	Mr. Phan	227	159.00
		<u>1040</u>	<u>\$ 815.42</u>
TONKIN			
Hanoi	Mr. Thai	70	\$ 280.00

PROGRESS OF INDIGENOUS CHURCH

The outstanding events in the Annamese Church during the year are as follows:

(1) *General Conference, June 1928.*—Dr. Jonathan Goforth was the principal speaker at this Conference. His messages were signally blessed of God. The Church Constitution, which had been carefully prepared by the Joint Executive Committee, was adopted by this Conference, thus officially launching the Annamese Evangelical Church.

(2) *Organization of Districts.*—In accordance with the new Constitution, two Districts were organized and officers were elected at District

Conferences held respectively at Hanoi and Bentre. For the present, Annam and Tonkin are organized as one District and Cochinchina as the other.

(3) *Ordinations.*—Mr. Le-van-Thai was ordained Pastor of the Hanoi Church in November. Three other candidates are ready and will be ordained, D. V., early in 1929.

(4) *Presentation of Constitution to his Excellency the Governor General.*—The Annamese Executive Committee plans to leave early in 1929 to present to His Excellency a copy of their Church Constitution with a petition asking for religious liberty. Let all Christians who read this report pray earnestly that religious tolerance may be granted to the Annamese Protestant Church.

(5) *Church Buildings.*—During the year the Christians at Bentre completed an attractive \$1100.00 Church building, having a seating capacity of from four to five hundred. We are also happy to report that the congregation at Tanan has erected a Chapel, and that before long the Cantho Christians will be meeting in their new building. At Tunbien (Tonkin) the Christians have laid the foundation of their Chapel,—only two men having been hired, the rest of the labor being voluntary.

A TESTIMONY

«Heretofore, the Vinhlong Church has failed miserably in the matter of tithing. One Sunday

morning the Lord brought deep conviction to many hearts from His Word in Malachi 3: 9, 10. However, at the close of the service, only one old man, perhaps the poorest of all the church members, came to the evangelist and said, 'Oh, Pastor, God helping me, I am going to give \$1.00 a month to His service'. The evangelist knew that this man had no income, and no means of livelihood, except for a small vegetable patch surrounding his little thatch hut. Therefore it was with wonder that he asked, 'How will you get that much money?' 'I do not know', replied the old man, 'but the Lord has enough, and if I sell \$1.50 worth of vegetables a week, I'll have \$0.50 to live on and \$1.00 for the Lord.' From that time on this faithful old Christian has kept his promise, with the result that many of the Christians have been led to follow his example, until now most of the members are tithing.

«About this time a member of the Church, who had been earning a salary of \$80.00 a month and only giving \$1.00 to the Lord, came under conviction and decided he also must give a tenth. His wife, learning of his decision, became very much distressed at the idea of parting with \$8.00 a month. She did her utmost to hinder her husband from keeping his pledge. Finally when she saw that nagging and scolding did no good, she said that she would leave him and return to her father's home. The husband very quietly, but firmly, held

to his decision. Saying to his wife, 'You may do as you please, only I am determined to do one thing, and that is to stop robbing God'. The wife then decided to stop going to Church.

«But praise the Lord, on the following Sunday, we saw the woman coming into Church looking happier than ever. After the service she arose and confessed her sin in trying to hinder her husband from tithing. The reason for her change of heart was that that week her husband's employer had given him a raise of \$20.00. She knew now that the promise in Malachi 3: 10 was true. Although the time had not yet come to pay the pledge, yet the Lord had already opened the windows of heaven and poured them out a blessing. 'And now', happily continued the woman, 'instead of eight dollars we have ten to give to the Lord'.»—
Pastor Le-dinh-Tuoi

CAMBODIA

Main Stations.	2
Out-Stations	21
Active Church Membership	250
Baptisms 1928	64

BATTAMBANG:

- Mr. and Mrs. Ellison—Bible School.
- Mr. and Mrs. Gunther—Language Study and Station (transferred to Siam).

PNOMPENH:

- Mr. and Mrs. Peterson—Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Cressman—Language Study.

FURLOUGH:

Mr. and Mrs. Hammond.

Due to restrictions, as in Annam, the faith of our Missionaries and of the Cambodian Christians has been put to the test. God has encouraged their hearts and has not permitted the work to be destroyed. Oh that we may believe Him, with unshrinking faith, until His power is revealed in the hearts of thousands, and against Satan's hosts «in heavenly places.»

Mr. and Mrs. Hammond left for furlough in March, at which time Mr. and Mrs. Peterson took charge of the Station. Before leaving, Mr. Hammond completed the MSS. of the Cambodian New Testament. A tentative edition is being printed. Praise God for this important advance. Students in the Bible School have grown in faith. When restrictions were ordered they were given the opportunity to return to their homes, but all asked to remain to study the Word of God. The new Bible School Building is under construction. Our Missionaries have been faithful and God has blessed their labors.

REPORTS FROM CAMBODIA

Concerning the progress of the Cambodian Church, Mr. Ellison writes as follows: «The most important feature of the work at Battambang this year is the organizing of the leaders of the various

meeting places into a District Committee. These men are earnest Christians and soul winners. It is hoped to give them special Bible training in Bible Classes, and thus fit them as voluntary lay preachers. There is a tremendous field for such unsubsidized workers, and these men all seem to be keen to learn in order that they may spread the Gospel. Praise God for the immediate prospect of one self-supporting Church in Cambodia.»

Mr. Ellison further reports: «The conversion of Mr. Haum at Stung Chas, and his zeal in winning others has been indeed a joy and an encouragement. He himself was won to the Lord by another Christian from Khpop who went to visit him on business and faithfully witnessed. Mr. and Mrs. Haum were very much interested, so Mr. Swa, the Christian from Khpop, asked Evangelist Nget to go with him to visit Mr. Haum's village. He and his wife, together with another man, accepted the Lord that day and immediately began to spread the Gospel. About ten others gave themselves to the Lord and then it was that the missionaries were invited to visit Stung Chas for the first time. Seventeen more yielded to the Lord that day and the good work has been going on ever since, in spite of persecution, until some 70 or 80 have professed to be converted. A few have yielded to persecution from their relatives, but the majority have forsaken Buddhism and devil worship to

serve the only true and living God, and to wait for His Son from heaven.»

Mr. Peterson writes: «We have been pleased to note how, during the severe persecution this past year, our Cambodian preachers have stood the test. When told that to continue preaching might mean being put in prison, every man has answered, 'I'll take a prison sentence before I'll stop telling my fellow Cambodians about a Christ that can save them'.»

COCHINCHINA

Self-supporting Churches	6
Mainstations	6
Out-stations	34
Active Church Membership	2861
Baptisms 1928	689

MISSIONARIES

Saigon	—	Mr. and Mrs. Irwin
Vinhlong	—	Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins
Longxuyen	—	Mr. and Mrs. Carlson
Cantuo	—	Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson
Mytho	—	Mr. and Mrs. Ferry
Bienhoa	—	Mr. and Mrs. Pruett
Furlough	—	Mr. Robinson

Progress in Cochinchina has been very encouraging. Messrs. Robinson and Hazlett were at Rachgia until Mr. Robinson left for furlough, at which time Mr. Hazlett was transferred to Tourane. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson were in charge of Saigon

district until the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin from furlough in September. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson have worked their district from Vinhlong and more recently from Saigon, being unable since arrival to secure a house at Soctrang.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS

Mr. Pruett writes: «A notorious character and ex-convict is one of our most reliable Christians here in Bienhoa Church. Surely the grace of God has made a lamb out of a lion. Another old man, who is very poor, lived on the charity of a wealthy sister before he became a Christian. His sister discountenanced this step and took all support away from him, but he stands firmly and unshaken on the rock Christ Jesus.»

With regard to healings and remarkable answers to prayer, Mr. H. A. Jackson reports the following: «God has performed miracles in answer to prayer. Two who were going blind have received their sight. Two others have been healed of paralysis and three children in one family have been healed of serious troubles. Two gamblers have been converted, two opium smokers delivered from that terrible habit, and a drunkard given complete victory over the drink habit. A most stubborn character was compelled to believe in the Gospel, after seeing its power manifested in the healing of a member of the family.»

Concerning Church offerings and the blessings of tithing, Mr. Carlson says, «After insisting on tithing as the wisest and best means of promoting the financial end of our Church work, the offerings are increasing. At Rachgia pledges have been given which will enable the Church to be fully self-supporting by April. We are trusting by God's help that Longxuyen and Binhlung will also reach that stage during the coming year.»

Mr. Stebbins tells of five enemies of the Gospel who have been saved at An-thai-dong and are now loyal Christians. At Cao-lanh, two women have been delivered from demon possession. A woman in the Traon Church has been healed of tuberculosis, and at various other places the Lord's healing power has been mightily manifested.

ANNAM

Self-supporting Churches	3
Main Stations.	3
Out-stations	11
Active Church Membership	1123
Baptisms 1928	167

MISSIONARIES:

TOURANE: Women's Bible School—Misses Frost and Ailshouse.
Men's Bible School—Mr. Olsen, Mr. Tiep, Mr. Quoc.
Station—Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey, Mr. Hazlett.

NHATRANG: Mr. and Mrs. Travis
THANH HOA: Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Jackson
DALAT: Children's School—Mrs. Homera Homer-Dixon, Miss Heikennen.

Outstanding events in Annam were the imprisonment of a number of Annamese workers, either for distributing Scriptures or for witnessing to the Gospel of Christ, and their subsequent release. It cannot be denied that the Spirit shown by these men has been that of true Christians. During his imprisonment at Nhatrang, Mr. Lieu was used to win a number of others to Christ. His joy in the Lord impressed not only his fellow prisoners, but also his guards, so that in spite of being degraded to imprisonment with hard labor, God gave him favor and he was treated leniently. It is to the credit of the officials, from the highest to the lowest, that none are in sympathy with the spirit of intolerance that puts a man in the stocks because the love of God has been shed abroad in his heart. Earlier in the year two men served part of a sentence and were then let off with a fine. Another faithful worker has been released after spending two months in prison. Many Bibles have been confiscated or destroyed, «but the Word of God is not bound.»

BIBLE SCHOOLS

1928 is a banner year in the Annamese Bible Schools. The attendance has been 93, an increase

of 7 over the preceding year. There will be 27 second year men available as student preachers at the end of the school year. Funds will be required to give these men a start in the work. This year's graduating class numbered 11 students, which with last year's class brings the total number of graduates to 20. Of the 93 students in attendance this year, 51 are self-supporting. The average cost per student is \$44 gold. A very necessary forward step has been the erection of new dormitories, class rooms and assembly hall, concerning which the following appears in *The Call of French Indochina*, «Congratulations to Mr. Olsen and Pastor Le-van-Thai for the simple and serviceable new assembly hall and class rooms of the Tourane Bible School. All useless and extravagant ornamentation is conspicuous by its absence. May the Lord fill the house with His glory.» An additional \$500 gold is required for these buildings.

DALAT

We praise God for the arrival of Mrs. Homer-Dixon and Miss Heikennen, who are to have charge of the school for missionaries' children at Dalat. At the close of the year property had been rented and negotiations were proceeding for the securing of a permanent site on which to build.

MOI WORK

Work among the Moi at Khe-so, near Tourane, has been continued. We are still looking to God

for workers to be sent into the heart of the Moi country at Ban-me-thuot, where there is a great need and a hard task awaiting them.

REPORTS FROM ANNAM

With reference to a young man who, like many others, ceased attending services when the decree went forth forbidding the preaching of the Gospel, Mr. Travis writes the following: «We didn't see him for several months but finally found him in the hospital with a large swelling on one of his legs. He was unable to eat and had been flat on his back for two months, his back being raw with bed sores. In this pitiable state, almost dead, he repented and with tears in his eyes asked God for forgiveness. He said it was surely much easier for the preacher, and much happier too, to be true to the Lord even though it meant prison. Lieu, the prisoner of the Lord, who was working on the road near the hospital, also came in and prayed. What a picture it was to see Lieu, the preacher, who had never worked before as he had always been a teacher, strong and well, dressed in working clothes, and praying for a backslidden government employee. The sick man had always been in good health, but he found that to deny the Lord was a hard road. The poor fellow said it was better to serve the Lord, dead or alive, and that job or no job he would be true to Jesus. He began to get

better immediately and is now able to be up. He is getting stronger every day. May the Lord keep him true and also bring back many backsliders to repentance, ones who have not been able to stand the present persecution. Praise the Lord for the many who have stood true and proven that it pays to serve Jesus.

«Praise the Lord for the 56 new ones who have taken Jesus as their Saviour this year. These new ones, with many others, are in a territory extending from Tuy-hoa to Phan-thiet (about 400 miles). They are as sheep without a shepherd, no native preacher or colporter, just one missionary couple trying to cover this territory. Pray that they may be kept by His love, and that the door may soon be opened for native preachers to enter and help care for the flock.»

Mr. R. M. Jackson reports as follows: «Due to edicts prohibiting Protestant propaganda, the meetings at Vinh have been somewhat restricted. We praise God that at no time have they been closed down entirely within the city. Christmas evening Mr. Dang preached to a crowded chapel, while many others were standing outside. Mr. Du, the brother of a head man of a village, has called on us several times. To date he has not confessed Christ but says that when we have a chapel here he will come and bring his friends. One day he did bring two of his friends to the house and he helped to explain the Gospel to them.»

TONKIN

Self-supporting Churches	1
Mainstations	2
Outstations	4
Active Church Membership	131
Baptisms 1928	19

MISSIONARIES:

HANOI: Mr. and Mrs. Cadman — Station and Press

Mr. and Mrs. Van Hine, Mr. Funé,
Language Study

HAIPHONG: Mr. and Mrs. Smith

Another forward step was taken in Tonkin when the Hanoi Church took over the full support of their Pastor. God has blessed the faithful labors of Brother and Sister Cadman, not only in literary and press work, but also in special itineraries during the year. Mr. and Mrs. Smith returned from furlough in September.

PRESS

Mr. Cadman reports as follows: «Total pages printed during 1928, 10,284,545. These comprise 60,000 Cambodian and Annamese Scripture portions; 5,380 Sunday School booklets, which are issued monthly (there has been an encouraging increase in the issue of these booklets); 5,860 copies of «The Call of French Indochina,» which is issued quarterly; and 122,000 special series of 16 page

evangelistic tracts with attractive picture covers. The remainder comprised commentaries of Genesis, Romans and other religious books. The total number of books printed is 249,273.» Mr. Cadman also writes, «We have a new foreman who is an earnest Christian. A regular morning prayer service is conducted for the 24 workmen, half of whom are Christians, before they commence the day's work for the Lord.... We are printing a tentative edition of the first Cambodian New Testament.»

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Number of Schools	36
Number of Scholars.	1300

The following quotations from Annamese workers emphasize the importance of Sunday School work: «Sunday School lessons teach the Christians to memorize Scripture.»—Huyên. «The Sunday School increases the spiritual life of the believers.»—Lôi. «It is the best way to understand the Bible.»—Lâm. Please pray for the children and for the Bible Study groups in Indochina.

CHINESE WORK

Our statistics do not include the Chinese self-supporting Church at Cholon, Cochinchina, which is affiliated with the Alliance South China Conference. We are glad, nevertheless, to bear testimony to the times of fellowship we have had with

our Chinese brethren in Christ, and with their Pastor, Brother Tehieng. During the past year the Lord has answered their prayers and enabled them to open a street Chapel in Saigon. Pastor Leland Wong, who has been so signally used of God in China, recently visited Cholon. His ministry not only extended to the local Chinese Christians, but we were also privileged to have Brother Wong conduct special services in Cochinchina and in Cambodia while *en route* for Singapore. Our only regret was that Mr. Wong, being pressed for time, was unable to spend several days with the students at Tourane.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

The statistics for the British and Foreign Bible Society, for their work in Indochina during the year ending October 31, 1928, show that a new record has been made. «The total sales, 151,343, 50% more than in any previous year, are made up of 821 Bibles, 1,713 New Testaments and 148,809 portions.» The distribution of the Scriptures in Indochina is accomplished by the cooperation of the British and Foreign Bible Society with our Mission. During the summer of 1928, most of the students in the Bible Schools spent their holidays in visiting unevangelized regions and distributing Scriptures. One large island off the south-west coast of Cochinchina was visited by these holiday

colporteurs, which resulted in the conversion of a number on the island. We are happy to record our appreciation for the work done by Pastor Calas during the year, as Secretary of the Bible Society for French Indochina.

LAOS

Mr. Edward Roffe, who reached the field near the close of the year, has been appointed to Laos, to reside either at Vientiane or Luang Prabang. I will accompany him, D. V., early in the year to open work in one of these two cities. Mr. and Mrs. Cadman left in December for an extended tour in upper Tonkin and N. E. Laos. We believe that theirs is a step of faith, and that God is calling us to go quickly to these neglected people.

REINFORCEMENTS

Among new arrivals in 1928 we are happy to welcome Mr. Jean Funé. Heretofore, we have counted among our number not only those born in the United States, but also representatives from Switzerland, Norway, South Africa, England, Ireland and Canada. It is indeed a cause for thanksgiving that Brother Funé establishes a direct contact with France, the Mother Country of this splendid colony. Will readers please pray for Mlle. Cuvillier who is also under appointment for French Indochina, but whose health did not permit her to sail this

year. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Voith, *en route* for Indochina, have reached France.

CONCLUSION

Clearly with such a field, and such an opportunity to challenge us, we must lay hold of the promises of God and dare to believe. Only by a fresh anointing, an absolute surrender, and faith in God's power, will we fulfill our ministry.

D. I. JEFFREY

Chairman of the French Indochina Conference of the
Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Liakas

Pho
Hung | Loukiao
Tho

Loas | Pensi
Kha - class of Lassiars

Arname | Cham
Ma
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