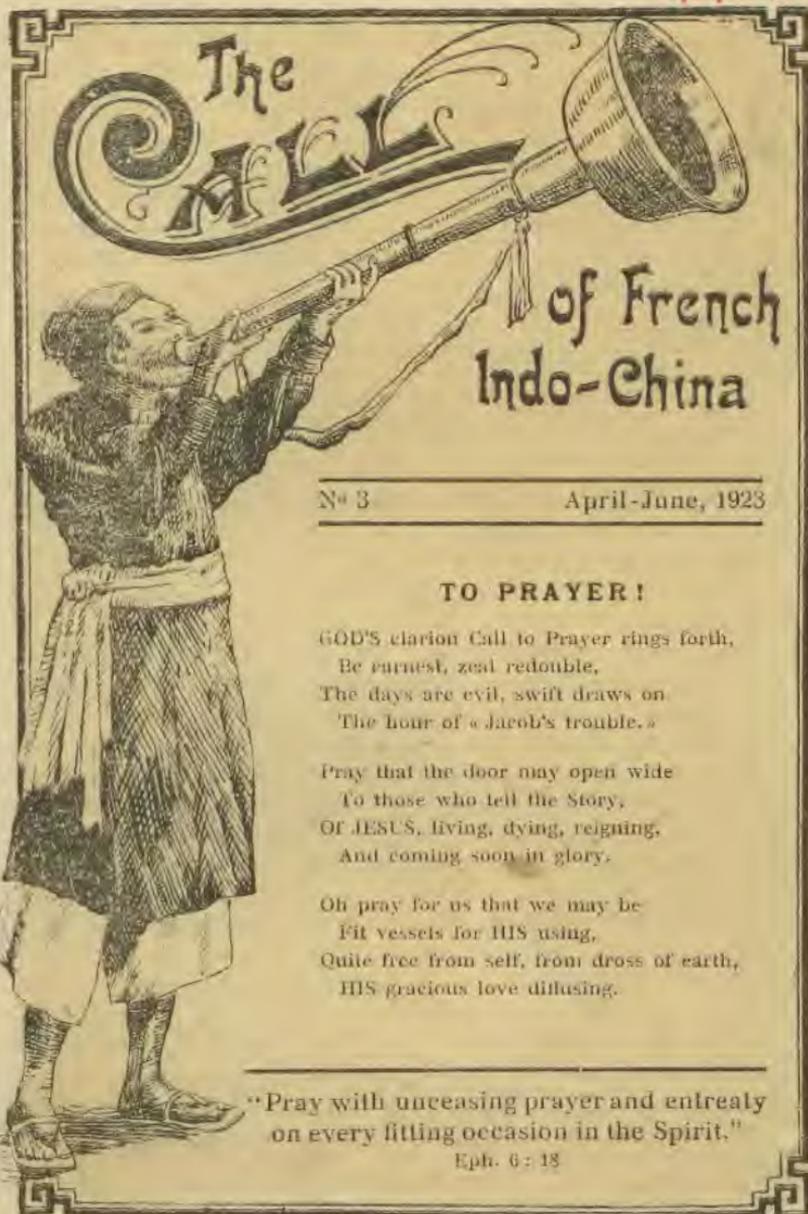


1725



The

Call

of French
Indo-China

N^o 3

April-June, 1923

TO PRAYER!

GOD'S clarion Call to Prayer rings forth,
Be earnest, zeal redouble,
The days are evil, swift draws on
The hour of « Jacob's trouble. »

Pray that the door may open wide
To those who tell the Story,
Of JESUS, living, dying, reigning,
And coming soon in glory.

Oh pray for us that we may be
Fit vessels for HIS using,
Quite free from self, from dross of earth,
HIS gracious love diffusing.

“Pray with unceasing prayer and entreaty
on every fitting occasion in the Spirit.”

Eph. 6 : 18

NOTES OF PRAISE

PRAISE GOD with us for the ((gift)) to Mr. and Mrs. Irwin and little George of a fine baby boy, ((David Franklin,)) who arrived the 29th March.

Thanks be unto GOD for the supply of the necessary funds to build the needed missionary residence in Chaudoc, and also for the funds to enable the output of Gospel literature to be more than doubled this present year.

Praise GOD for HIS continued faithfulness in answering prayer, and for the splendid encouragements in the work in this needy land.

NOTES FOR PRAYER

PRAY for a gracious outpouring of GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT upon all the stations, that ((signs)) may increasingly follow the preaching of the Gospel.

Pray for the zealous converts on several of the stations who wish to attend Tourane Bible School as «self-supporting» students.

Pray for the many enquirers that they may be truly « born from above », and also for backsliders on several of the stations. The temptations are overwhelming, but by prayer we can pray down the power to resist the evil one.

Pray for some of the missionaries, notably Mrs. Smith, Miss Ailshouse, and Mr. H. A. Jackson, who are being tested in body at this time, that GOD'S healing touch may rest upon them.

Pray that the churches on the stations may speedily become self-supporting.

Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Hammond that they may soon learn the Cambodian language and be able to buy up the many opportunities to witness to this long-neglected people.

Pray for some of the missionaries who have personal problems for which very definite guidance is needed; and also for some who are meeting with difficulties requiring much grace, wisdom, and perseverance in the LORD.

Pray for the annual conference to be held the first week in September at Tourane.



EDITORIAL

PRAY with unceasing prayer and entreaty on every fitting occasion in the Spirit, and be always on the alert to seize opportunities for doing so, with unwearied persistence and entreaty on behalf of all God's people, and ask on my behalf that words may be given me so that, outspoken and fearless, I may make known the truths of the Good News. (Eph. 6: 18-20), Wey.)

In these verses the Apostle Paul recognizes the supreme place that prayer occupies in all true work for the LORD. So it is that all missions which count must begin and continue in prayer, and, to be fully blessed, be saturated in prayer. The LORD'S work in French Indochina is no exception! Owing to the special difficulties because of the social, political and religious conditions, this land with its twenty millions constitutes an imperative call, yea, a challenge, to unceasing prayer.

LIKE Paul, the missionaries are deeply conscious of their insufficiency. They are surrounded by the thronging heathen to whom day after day they preach GOD'S word. They know that the power of GOD'S word is unquenchable. Why is it, therefore, that there are not still more souls saved? Is it not that there is an insufficiency of prayer, both on the field and in the homelands? Beloved, oh may we all be on the alert to seize every opportunity to pray with unwearied persistence, so that, as *we* missionaries preach, the power of GOD'S word may be increasingly manifested in the breaking down of these heathen strongholds, and in the salvation of multitudes of souls.

THE deputational visit of Dr. and Mrs. Turnbull was a great inspiration to all our missionaries. Their earnest exhortation as to the need of still greater urgency in the evangelisation of this land in view of the imminency of our LORD'S Return, and their advice as to methods of work were most helpful and timely. As they return to America we follow them with our prayers, and trust GOD to make them a real blessing as they present the needs of the fields to the friends at home.

THE OPENING OF CAMBODIA

«To the Regions Beyond»

For many years the great land of Cambodia has stood as a challenge to the children of God. Without the Gospel, without hope in God ; with only idols of wood and stone to satisfy the spiritual nature that is born in each breast. Many missionaries have prayed that this work could be opened and the Cambodians be given the blessed story of Jesus and His love, but not until this year has the way been open to do any active work in that direction.

How wonderful it is to enter in, with all these prayers before us, to a pioneer field. The task before us is stupendous. Cambodia is larger than the State of New York and has a population of about two millions. How we are to reach all with the Gospel story is a task that will take many years even though many more missionaries come out immediately to help us. The people live scattered over this vast area, preferring rather to live by themselves in the rice fields, or along the banks of some small stream, than to congregate in cities or villages. There they can raise enough rice and catch enough fish for their daily food. What more could they want ? But that is what is going to make the work so much more difficult, for it necessitates much traveling and visiting of homes. This also necessitates native workers—filled with the Holy Ghost and burning with a fire of love for their own people,— for the presence of a strange foreigner frightens the natives so they do not understand when told the Gospel. A native worker on the other hand can go into the homes and prepare the way for the missionary. Thus we find ourselves at the beginning of things and are trusting God to lead us as we go along.

First, we must learn the language. We have already spent a month in the study of these strange characters and find it exceedingly interesting. Little by little it grows more easy to recognize and read them, and soon we trust we will be able to dig hard into the grammar and study of words.

For practice we have been reading with our teacher portions of the Gospel of Luke which has been translated into this language. At first he refused to read the Gospel because he

said, « It is a Christian book. » He openly declared himself a loyal worshipper of Buddha, and wished to have nothing to do with the Christian book. We prayed to God that he would become very curious to know what was in that book, and behold, a few days later we found him reading the copy that we had left on our desk while he was waiting for us. After a few days he suggested that we read it together for our practice. We are praising God for this answer to prayer and are continually asking Him to save this man for His own glory. We have tried in our broken French to explain the Gospel to him thoroughly, and we think he understands it now. After we have read more about the love and sacrifice of our Lord to him, we want to try to lead him to know the Saviour in a personal way. It is wonderful the interest that he has been showing.

Second, there must be some attempt at translation work. We have on hand the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts but they are very poorly done and difficult to read, having been translated years ago, one by a Siamese who also knew the Cambodian characters, and the other by we know not whom. This cannot be done for some time yet until we are well acquainted with the language, and we will need a Spirit-filled native to help us.

Will you all pray with us about these things. Wm. Carey once wrote, « Yonder in India is a gold mine. I will descend and dig, but you at home must hold the ropes. » You hold the ropes for us here in Cambodia in prayer while we descend and dig. Will you ?

Newspaper Evangelism

DURING the past nine months weekly six-inch advertisements have been inserted in one of the Annamese newspapers published in Hanoi having the widest and largest circulation in Tonkin and Annam. As a beginning just the subject of the Sunday sermon and appropriate Bible verses, with invitations to the meetings, are advertised. We are trusting GOD to bless so that soon a regular weekly sermon concerning some vital salvation truth may be thus scattered far and wide to those who cannot attend the meetings. Pray that souls may be won by this means.

LIGHTS IN THE DARKNESS!

IT was Sunday evening and the Christians together with many unsaved people had gathered in the little street chapel to hear the native preacher give forth the message of life. A grandmother of perhaps fifty entered, leading by the hand a very small boy who was weeping. Both listened most attentively, and at the close of the service the woman gave her heart to the only True and Living Lord. My husband's attention was called to the little fellow who was blind and had been suffering most terrible pains from the time he lost his eye-sight six months ago. On examination of the eyes it was discovered that the pupils *were* nearly destroyed. It looked like an impossibility that he could ever see again, but « Nothing is impossible with God.»

All joined in prayer for the little sufferer and he was remembered at every service and in the home of the Christians continually before the throne of grace. It was a gradual healing and is not yet complete, but sight has returned. A happy little boy now attends all the services with his Grandma and is seen playing tag, and hide and seek with other children in the street. The old woman's faith is increased in her God, and she witnesses to His power to save and heal, wherever she goes.

Ten miles away, across the big Mekong river lies the town of My-Long. When we first settled in Sadec and were besieged night and day by inquirers from far and near, some of whom came only because we were people from a rich country, several were from this town of My-Long. They were earliest and accepted Jesus as their Saviour, returning to tell others what God had done for them. Later Mr. (Than and his wife found God. They were clever people and soon became a power in their community. Every week would find one or the other in Sadec imploring us to come to their town and preach. It was the rainy season and crossing the Mekong in a sampan was quite dangerous and practically impossible. However, they continued to come and offered their home for services.

A work has been started there and ten are baptised. Mr. and Mrs. Chan have decided to give their home for a chapel and attend the Bible School at their own expense. But a test

came. Suddenly Mrs. Chan was stricken with an Oriental eye disease and became nearly blind. One eye was very bad and the other infected. How our hearts ached for her and how we all prayed God, who alone could deliver ! All over the chapel voices were raised in petition that her eyesight might be spared, and God heard and answered. By afternoon all pain had ceased and in a week one eye was well and the other fast improving. Praise God for light restored to these eyes. It is a testimony of His power, not only to heal, but to restore light to the darkened soul who had been sitting in darkness.

One Saturday, a few days before we left for Saigon to meet Dr. and Mrs. Turnbull, an old lady, the wife of one of our deacons, and her daughter, spent the day at our home. It was one of our busy days and yet much time was given up to them. She was anxious for her brothers, sisters, sons and daughters who had not yet had an opportunity to hear of Jesus. My husband promised to visit some of them and he tried to cheer and encourage her heart. We were shocked upon our return from Saigon to learn that this woman had passed into eternity. How glad we were that the light of the Gospel had come to Sadeç before it was too late for her ! How different it would have been one year ago!

Her light -had shone clearly and her death was so peaceful that her husband was greatly comforted and sustained by His infinite Grace. Our Christians were again compelled to realize that the religion of Christ is real, Never had they seen one pass out into eternity thus without fear or dread. As a result of this woman's testimony, life, and death, eleven have found pardon for sins.

There are other lights still living and shining for their Master here in this district of Sadeç. They are reflecting into many hearts, and souls are being won every week because of their faithful testimony, and prayer of the saints at home. And yet there are districts of hundreds of thousands of people without one light in the awful gloom. Souls are dying there every day without hope, in awful fear, without Christ. While we rejoice because of the lights in Sadeç yet our hearts reach out to these other lost sheep ! «The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few, Pray ye ! — MARY J. STEBBINS.

ILLUSTRATED GOSPEL LEAFLETS

THIS is one of the pictures being used in -a new series of ten illustrated Gospel leaflets. A different colour of paper is used for each kind. In all a totar of almost two hundred thousand of these leaflets are being printed this year, and the stereo plates preserved for still larger editions next year (D. V.).



Some of the pictures are typically Annamese, being drawn by a young enquirer in Hanoi. Therefore the laws of perspective are often disregarded, the aim being to make a « full » picture with as much detail and background as possible.

This particular picture is used to illustrate the text : « Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. » The text is explained, the object being to give a clear « pointer » to the way of salvation. Pray for GOD'S blessing upon these leaflets.

FIRST FRUITS FROM AMONG THE CAMBODIANS

JUST one year ago Mrs. Grupe and I arrived at Chaudoc, Cochinchina, on the border of Cambodia. We had been appointed to this great centre to reach, if possible, the Cambodians whose Kingdom had been closed to the evangelical missionaries. Our conference felt that we should establish a station as near those people as possible, and since there are forty thousand of them living near this city, but in Cochinchina, the thought was that they could be reached through the Annamite tongue. Several trips have been made to Triton, the Cambodian center of this province, but except for the selling of many gospels in Annamite and Cambodian, there was no visible result.

In the meantime our chapel has been opened at Chaudoc and the services well attended. We hold our Sunday School and the Children's meetings in our home, and we have from eighty to one hundred present at every meeting. An outstation has *been* opened fifteen miles down the river and several have been happily saved there.

One of the Christians- is an Annamite doctor, and he frequently takes trips into the mountains to gather bark, herbs and roots. The other day he returned from such a trip and he was very much excited. He said that while he was in the mountains he had visited many Cambodians and had witnessed the gospel in their homes. They sent with him one of their number to request the missionary to come and tell them the whole story. Would we come? Would we come? Well I should say we would. It was just what we had been praying for — an opening among the Cambodians. I cannot begin to tell you how my heart burned within me as I contemplated the possibilities of that trip.

The next morning, at dawn, the two Cambodian *Macedonians*, with the native preacher and myself, took an autobus to Tien-Bien, which is the nearest city. There I paid my respects to the leading official and explained among other things that we did

not give our converts fifty dollars for following the doctrine. Our little party then pushed off through the thick forest over a path of the sandiest sand I have ever seen. After a long, hot walk we arrived in a great valley, and the call went out for all the folks to come and hear. One young man could understand both languages very well, and through him we poured out the precious story for about five hours. I wonder how many folks know that feeling which comes to those who know they are explaining the gospel to people for the first time. I cannot describe it fully, but it is the feeling that makes any hardship seem like nothing in comparison to the joy in giving the way to light and life.

There are great joys, but there are great sorrows in this experience. Try to put yourself in my place as an old man asked about those who have lived before,— his parents and others, — what about them? I was ashamed and rightly so as I explained, with as much soft pedal as possible, that *we* had been a bit slow in carrying the gospel to his forefathers. Yes, friends, I got off from that part of the subject as quickly as possible, and rather brought out to their minds the preciousness of this hour for them. What an opportunity was theirs to hear and to be saved ! As a result of this effort seven Cambodians and three Annamites knelt on the dirty floor and, confessing their sins, took Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Right here is the place to believe with Paul that the gospel IS THE DYNAMIC of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. It is the Spirit Who giveth life. I believe in the power of God to save those darkened souls, and I believe that there was joy in the presence of the angels over the Cambodian and Annamite sinners who repented.

Within the last month Mr. and Mrs Hammond have gone to live in Phompenh, the capital of Cambodia. Our greatest need now is for native workers who know both the Annamite and Cambodian languages that they may be trained in our Bible School at Tourane — ALLEN GRUPE.

Pray that the tens of thousands of Gospels and tracts may be used by the HOLY SPIRIT to lead many souls to CHRIST.

FIRST-FRUITS IN HAIPHONG

THE present work in Haiphong was begun by Mr. Cadman in 1917. He made semi-monthly trips from Hanoi, and held two meetings each time. Previous to that a Bible Society agent and Mr. Hosier, and perhaps others, had done some work here.

Haiphong continued to be an out station from Hanoi until the Conference of March, 1921, appointed Mrs. Jackson and me to occupy it as a main station. At first the only Christians were Colporter Phuc and a young man from Tourane. A meeting was held on Sunday for them and for any others who desired to come. During the week there were two meetings for unbelievers, and one for inquirers. In October, 1921, Mrs. Jackson began a meeting for children, which has been well attended.

Since *we* were still new at the language, it was necessary to continue our studies. In answer to prayer an excellent teacher was employed. He acquired a good understanding of the Gospel, and would explain it to those who came to inquire. After live months, he was taken sick and later he died, without declaring faith in Christ.

This would seem like defeat, but God had this man's younger brother, Mr. Ngoi, ready to take his place. While helping Mrs. Jackson translate a story, « How to be saved in three minutes, » the Spirit of God spoke to Mr. Ngoi's heart, and made him ask for himself, « What must I do to be saved? » That same morning he decided for Christ, and we had prayer together. Mr. Ngoi has won a cousin, his mother and his oldest brother to Christ, and he has brought many others to the chapel.

Haiphong is a port city to which people came from all parts of Tonkin to buy and sell. Many of them live here only temporarily, and most of them think only of getting money. Early in 1922, before Mr. Ngoi was saved, there were other signs of awakening. Two men and two women had given their hearts to Jesus. Others come from time to time, until at the end of the year we counted seventeen inquirers and candidates for baptism, besides eight others who had been baptized. Since January 1st, 1923, five more have decided for Christ.

Unfortunately, many of these people do not live in Haiphong. They come here, hear the Gospel a few times, accept it and then return to their respective villages. For that reason we

do not know where half of the converts are, but if they witness faithfully in their homes, they can preach to people *we* cannot reach.

The first baptismal service was held on October 15th, 1922. We went to the river, a mile or two from the city, and there three men and four women were immersed.

In January, 1922, a biblewoman was sent from Tourane, and soon after Mrs. Jackson began women's meetings. A preacher and his family came in May. The six Christians transferred from Tourane together with the seven baptized here form the nucleus of the Haiphong Church.

Our first prayer meeting was held the Wednesday following the baptismal service. Thirteen men and two women attended, and two young men decided for Christ in that meeting. Since then the attendance has not been so good.

Two days after Christmas Mr. Ap was baptized. The weather had been chilly, but God gave us a perfect day. Since then, he has gone to the Bible School at Tourane, being the first student from Haiphong.

It is easier to win men than to lead them on to perfect manhood in Christ. Often the most promising Christian completely disappoints us. The church members in Haiphong are weak and are terribly tempted. They need your prayers that they may be established and may grow in grace. We, also, need your prayers that we may know how to lead them.

H. M. JACKSON.

A BIG DAY IN CANTHO!

THE following is from a personal letter written by Mrs. Jackson : « Yesterday was a big day in the little church down here. Six were baptized in the early morning. We hired a big house boat and went out to a nearby island. We could not go ashore but stopped in the shallow waters and the folks dropped over the side into the water. It was such a happy occasion ! Then at 9 o'clock we had our first communion service in the chapel, and Mr. Jackson preached on the resurrection. In the afternoon I had my children's meeting while Mr. Jackson had an enquirer's meeting in the house. In the evening the native evangelist preached in the chapel. »

ANNAMESSE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS!

I T is Annamese New Year today, and the scenes of this

morning, filled with the noise of firecrackers, with the visits of our Christians bringing their new year's wishes, brought back to me the memories so very *recent* of our own 1st of January introduction to Tourane.

Miss Harrison and I landed here, by the grace of God, a few instants before the old year passed away; I believe it was about eleven thirty o'clock by the time *we* reached the mission house.

Mr. Irwin, Mr. Jeffrey, and Mr. Ferry had very kindly met us on the boat and taken all the responsibility of our baggage, but the ladies we met only on reaching the home. Mr. and Mrs. Irwin I knew since Nyack days 1913; the other missionaries were total strangers to me; however if any outsiders had seen the glad welcome we received and the utter absence of stiffness on everyone's part, they would surely have thought we belonged to one and the same fatuity, and we surely do !

The table was set with light refreshments, sandwiches and hot cocoa, and so we had a real « agape » around the friendly table as the new year rang in.

The next morning, as we were taking breakfast at Mr. and Mrs. Irwin's home, detonations one louder than the other resounded in quick succession on the hack porch ; it seemed like the liveliest 4th of July celebration I ever heard, then, in came a dozen or so well-dressed Annamese men, women and children, bowing so prettily, shaking their own hands, and expressing their new year wishes. Mr. and Mrs. Irwin stood up, shook their own hands and answered the speeches, translating to us those of the wishes which were in our honor. We bowed and tried to shake our own hands in a natural way, it did not work very well. Speeches were made in French to the newcomers by two of the students of the Tourane Bible School ; I was glad I needed no interpreter for that language at least.

Barely had one set of visitors finished their new year greetings that another group signaled their arrival by lighting up dozens of firecrackers which gaily and loudly exploded, filling the air with mirth and gunpowder smell. The new explosion

was evidently a kind of signal for the first set of visitors to disappear and they did so bowing again and again, being very careful not to turn their backs on us until altogether out of sight ; this accomplished, the next set of visitors gravely bowed themselves in, shaking hands «A la mode» Annamese, offering their new year wishes, disappearing as soon as a fresh set of explosions on the back porch announced the arrival of a new - set of visitors, and so it went on for an hour or so.

Miss Harrison and I being necessarily dumb as regards the Annamese language, made that much better use of our eyes and ears. What a language ! up and down the whole scale of the human *voice*, — sounds sing-song like ! will we ever be able to speak like that ?

had heard and read much of Japanese archi, polite. ways— and being brought up in a French country know something of what is known as French politeness, but I found to my delight that Annamese customs and visit ceremonies are not only refined and graceful, but beautifully quaint.

Now looking back upon the last seven weeks and gathering up my first impressions, one of the chief features is wonder at what God has wrought in such a short time in this pioneer missionary field. The first Sunday after our arrival how we did enjoy remembering the Lord in His death with over one hundred converts of Tourane itself who were all in the darkness of heathenism a short few years ago. God is manifestly blessing His work, encouraging the hearts of the missionaries in Indo-China, all sending reports of many new souls being added to the flock, while others are constantly coming to enquire as to the Way of salvation. All these good news have been treasured up in our hearts with gratitude to God for bringing us to this needy and ripe harvest field.

My special work is to help missionaries in their French studies; what a privilege! It is keenly enjoyed as such and so is the study of the Annamese language which is taken up in spare hours.

Friends, do remember us in your prayers that God may quickly fit us to proclaim in this new language the message of reconciliation, meanwhile preparing many hearts to believe and receive the glad news of salvation. — JEANNE L. Rollier.

HIS HAVEN

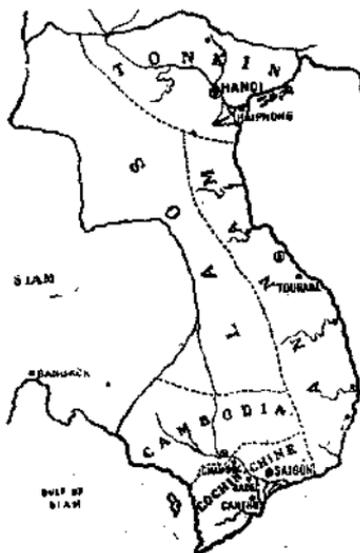
Psalm 107: 27-30.

The storms of trouble blew,
• Suffering o'erwhelmed my soul,
I could not see the course ahead
 So high did the billows roll.
Where should I find His haven ?
The lamp of faith went out,
 The way, I could not see,
The Tempter came and whispered soft
 That God had forgotten me
And that there was no haven.
But suddenly I saw the light,
 The presence of my Lord, -
 Why should I fear the tempests roar
 While He was still on board
To guide me to His haven ?
He made my storm a calm,
 The waves thereof are still,
My heart is glad, my soul has peace,
 Abiding in His will,
For I am in His haven.

Grace V. Grupe

NEWS FROM HANOI

Although there have been and there are still many difficulties, yet the SPIRIT of the LORD is working and souls are being saved. The newly-won converts are busy winning others for JESUS; and the meetings are splendidly attended. The number of the students in the boys' day school has increased to over thirty. The printing presses are working double shifts in order to turn out the necessary literature, there also being an order for thirty-five thousand Scripture portions and for five thousand New Testaments. Pray that GOD'S richest blessing may rest upon these labors, and much fruit result therefrom.



FRENCH INDO-CHINA

ALLIANCE STATIONS :

- Tonkin (pop. 6,850,453)
 Hanoi
 Haiphong
- Annam (pop. 4,933,426)
 Tourane
- Cochin-China (pop. 3,795,613)
 Saigon
 Stalec
 Cantho
 Chaudoc
- Cambodia (pop. 2,402,585)
 Phompenh
- Laos (pop. 818,755)
- Kouang-T.-Wan (pop. 182,371)

Directory of Missionaries

Chairman : Bev. 1L A. Jaffray, Wuchow, So. China Sub-

Chairman : Bev. E. F. Irwin, Tourane, Annam TOURANE :

SAIGON :

Bev. and Mrs. E. F. Irwin
 Bev. and Mrs. H. C. Smith
 Miss Rollier
 Miss M. Harrison
 Native Pastor: Bev. H. T. Thua
 Biblewoman: Mrs.

Bible School

Bev. and Mrs. D. L Jeffrey

HANOI :

Bev. and Mrs. W. C. Cadman
 Miss E. M. Frost
 Miss C. Ailshouse
 Native Evangelist : Mr. Quads
 Biblewoman : Mrs. Ut

HAIPHONG :

Bev. and Mrs. 1L M. Jackson
 Native Evangelist : Mr. Thanh
 Biblewoman : Mrs. Hau

Bev. J. I]. Olsen

Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Ferry

Native Evangelist: Mr. Khanh

Chinese Evangelist : Mr. Chue

SADEC :

Rev. and Mrs. L B. Stebbins

Native Evangelist: Mr. Dinh

CANTHO :

Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Jackson

Native Evangelist: Mr. Dinh

CHAUDOC:

Bev. and Mrs. B. A. Grupe

Native Evangelist: Mr. Long

PNOMPENH :

Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Hammond