

The CALL

of French Indo-China

No 8

July-Sept., 1924

GOD'S MASTERPIECE!

IN the beginning God! — our minds
At thought of Him are mazed, so vast
The might that wrought the universe,
The earth and all therein — man last.
God's masterpiece — His poem — man?
Ah sure it cannot be that he
The faulty, frail, and faithless man
Can ever reach such high degree!
The mystery — the secret deep?
In but two wondrous words 'tis shined,
'In Christ' — His beauty ours, His life
Our life, His heart with ours entwined.
God grant that in this heathen land
His power may bring a large increase
Of lost ones won to heaven and God,
To make of such His masterpiece!


For we are God's *workmanship*, created
in Christ Jesus unto good works.—

Eph. 2 : 10.

Gr. *poiema*, Eng. poem, fig. use: a masterpiece.

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EDITORIAL

For toe are God's workmanship, created in Christ
Jesus unto good works.— Eph. 2 :10*

HAVE you ever considered, ever realized, the amount of labor involved in producing a masterpiece? First comes the choice of the material,— be it marble, or canvas and colours, be it theme or plot, — which the artist or author is to manipulate and develop. Then :

Through long days Of labor And
nights devoid of ease, *

the worker makes it approximate more and more closely to the ideal in his mind.

IT is said that Michael Angelo, seeing a rough block of marble, I said : «There is an angel in that stone, I will release him,» and with the patience of genius he labored till his masterpiece stood forth, a thing of beauty and inspiration. We read that Grey spent fourteen years in perfecting his immortal «Elegy,» and Milton, through long years of poverty, shut out from the busy world by his blindness, created the wonderful poem of «Paradise Lost.» These men produced masterpieces it is true, but they will last only for time, not for eternity. But GOD, the great Artificer, is daily producing, from material chosen before the foundation of the world, masterpieces which will endure through all eternity.

HOW wonderful that we,—so marred by the fall, so scarred by sin be thus chosen to show forth the glory and perfection of HIS workmanship, HIS infinite skill and patience and wisdom ! Does not the thought fill our hearts with joy unspeakable and full of glory ? How the shadows of earth melt away and seem but of small moment when we realize what is our inheritance with the saints !

SHALL we not pray that from this benighted land GOD may call out many,— Annameese, Cambodians, and Laosians, — to be thus fashioned and prepared for that glad day when the LORD JESUS shall return, and GOD'S great masterpiece, the Church, without spot or blemish, radiant with beauty, shall be presented to HIM, the LORD OF GLORY.

*Gr. poiema, Eng. poem, fig. use: a masterpiece. 2

CONGRATULATIONS

WE extend our heartiest congratulations to our chairman, Mr. Jaffray, upon his election as Vice-President of the Alliance, and pray that GOD will increasingly bless him in his new position.

ESCAPE FROM PIRATES

AT the same time as the above news reached Hanoi we also heard of his capture and speedy release from the hands of pirates in South China. He, with three other missionaries, was proceeding to Kweilin, in the province of Kwangsi, to plan for the release of some of our missionaries who for long months had been confined there owing to the city being besieged by hostile armies. Praise GOD for his preservation and escape!

TRAGIC DEATH OF A MISSIONARY

THE sad news was also received of the tragic death of Mr. Joseph Cunningham in Kweilin, who was instantly killed by a stray bullet. He was indeed a true missionary, a zealous and most successful soul-winner, but withal modest and suming, manifesting the spirit of his MASTER Who came not to be ministered unto but to minister. May the GOD of all comfort be graciously near the widow and daughter in their bereavement.

A WELCOME RECRUIT

PRAISE GOD for the arrival in Saigon, via France, of Mr. Alfred Pruett, a new recruit to our sadly depleted ranks. He is already making good progress in the Annamese language, and we pray GOD to richly bless his new ministry.

AN UNEXPECTED FURLOUGH

ON June 18th Mr. and Mrs. Grupe, with little Ruth, left Hongkong for America on furlough. Their return at this time was most unexpected, and is owing to the recent passing away of Mr. Grupe's father and the necessity of making provision for his bereaved and aged mother. We shall miss them from our midst, but *we are* trusting GOD for their return.

TRANSLATION OF WHOLLY SANCTIFIED»

WE strongly recommend to those of our readers who understand French the book « Wholly Sanctified, O written by Dr. Simpson and translated by Miss Jeanne Rollier. A foreword has been added giving a brief sketch of the career of Dr. Simpson. It is published by the «Alliance Mission Press : Rue de la Citadelle, Hanoi, French Indochina, » at the modest price of thirty-five cents for America and Canada, or three francs for France

THE NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE SCHOOL

A Pile of sand, a pile of stones, and a pile of bricks! Praise the Lord ! Why praise the Lord, and what does it mean ? It means a building for the Women's Bible School. After a year of trying to establish a Women's Bible School with no building and no equipment, putting women in servants' rooms and holding classes wherever we could find a place, no wonder we are shouting « hallelujah!

In 1921 the Men's Bible School was started in Tourane. During the first year classes were held in the stable, but last year a fine building was built for the men. Everything has to have a beginning, and our first year of the Womens' Bible School would naturally have its disadvantages, but now the Lord has provided funds, and a modest but suitable building is being built For the women.

Last year the need for training the women brought Miss Ailshouse and myself from Hanoi to Tourane in order to start a Women's Bible School. The need for training the women is two- fold. First, it is essential that we have trained Bible women. It is impossible for the lady missionary amidst the busy life of a mission station to adequately- train these women. Second, it is necessary that the wives of our native preachers, though not employed as Bible women, should have Bible training so that they may be able to help their husbands, and also assist in the work wherever their husbands may be placed.

In Indo-China the women often have more power in the home than the men, hence if the women Or the household :are won for Christ it often means that the opposition in that house is done away with. It is the women who must win the women for Christ. If a man comes in to talk to the men the women withdraw, so if there are no women to come in and gossip the Gospel with them they stand little chance of hearing the blessed news of the Love of Christ.

When I came to Tourane the first of October last year, the enrollment consisted of four single women and four married women. Only three of these were

At the beginning of this year three more women applied to enter. The charcoal room was cleaned, whitewashed, and used for a room for one of these women, but the other two had to be asked to wait since there was not another place that could be converted into sleeping rooms.

The problem of knowing how to teach these Annamese women is no small one. Most of them do not know how to read, and they are surely not what one could call bright, so it has required no little patience. Study is a new word to them ; in fact how could they study when they do not know how to read ? They can only repeat over the things that we have taught them so everything they learn must be taught them in class. But they are willing and anxious to learn, often asking us to go over something just once more that they may not forget it.

We have been teaching them to read and write, and by the end of the year most of them could read the Bible and write letters. This will make teaching easier in the future.

In spite of difficulties and problems we felt well repaid For our labours when, at the end of the year, we examined the women and found they remembered well the things they had been taught. We praise God that He lets us have a share in teaching His Word to these precious souls. Aside from studying several books in the Bible they have memorized many Scripture portions which I am sure will be a blessing and help to them in the future, and better enable them to withstand the onslaughts of the enemy as they go to witness and work for the Master among their Own people.

One incident will show the effect of God's Word in their lives. We have had with us the past year a Cambodian and his wife, who were both very *recent* converts. The little woman was quick tempered and sensitive, often getting out of sorts and not coming to classes for days. Sometimes this was because she thought the other women mistreated her, and sometimes because of quarrels with her husband which were frequent. It was wonderful to see the change in this woman the last two or three months. She was a different woman, and the Lord gave her victory. One day she came and said she had had a quarrel with her husband and was angry so made up her mind not to come to class, but the Lord gave her victory and she came with a smiling face. This woman and her husband

are the first fruits of Cambodia, that long-neglected country. They are mere babes in Christ and very weak. They need much prayer as they go back among their own people.

We have several applications from women wanting to enter the School next year. Some of these will be self-supporting; some will have to be supported. So far we have no money in sight for their support, but we are accepting those who have proved earnest and promising as workers, and are believing God to provide money, for has He not promised to supply all needs, and has He not already provided this lovely building? Will you help us pray and trust?— Miss E. M. FROST, TOURANE.

FRENCH NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN HANOI

WE are preparing this issue of the CALL to the accompaniment of a genuine « heathen » din. The tom-toms are beating the weird rhythmical measure which always accompanies the temple worship, only this time it is not for worship but for amusement.

This is the great French National Day (14th July), and the French and Annamese city fathers have as usual selected the big square in front of our Hanoi mission property as one of the centres for the festivities. Some thousands of eager pleasure-seekers are crowding the banner-bedecked square, — laughing, talking, shouting, — sonic watching the children on the improvised swings, others following with interest the «human » chess game in which brightly robed women are the chessmen. They sit under huge umbrellas on their respective squares, attended by boy pages to fan them, and are from time to time led, by men wearing gay red sashes, to other squares according as the players decree.

As we look out on the busy scene how we would like to go and proclaim the « Glad Tidings of Salvation » to their unsatisfied hearts ; but this would not be permitted. GOD grant that before it is too late, yet many a one of these may find the lasting joy and peace which comes to the heart yielded to CHRIST, the only source of true happiness here and hereafter.

LATEST FROM OMON OUTSTATION

"GOD'S blessing continues. This is the last day at Omon. Eleven have prayed during the past six days. One man brought his idol to us this morning. We feel the HOLY SPIRIT'S presence. Praise HIM ! »— Herbert A. Jackson.

ITINERATING AT BATTAMBANG

God's leadings and workings at Battambang have been remarkable and unique and are worthy of being told in detail. Suffice it to say however that the devil never leaves alone the work which is of God. After several months of very active witnessing, the enemy of souls has been trying to hinder the work through the misconduct of several inquirers. The work of God though assailed and even hindered for a moment, goes on to sure and final victory ! Praise God that in spite of difficulties, every day brings its opportunity to witness and to sow the «Good Seed. Broadcast sowing will doubtless bring forth abundant fruit in the future though for the moment the result may seem doubtful and hidden.

In the past our time has been fully occupied with dealing with the many comers to our home, and in trying to keep up our studies of the language. At present we are endeavouring to include in this program a regular system of visitation of the villages front which inquirers have mostly come, in order to stabilize the work which has been commenced. Thus each week takes our Cambodian worker and myself off on our bicycles to more or less distant villages. One of these is thirty kilometres away, and here in the *near* future we *are* hoping to establish an outpost, for there are a number of Cambodians and Siamese who are interested. This point *can be* reached by auto, there being a regular daily service.

One of our trips by cycle up the Battambang river will be of interest I believe. Mr. Sott and I after prayer started at 7 a.m. We followed the dirt road which hugs the river bank for a distance of about eight or ten kilometres before we made our first stop, passing many Cambodian homes as well as one Annamese village where Catholicism reigns supreme. Our first stop was in the centre of a tiny village, where as usual the only two or three stores were kept by Chinese. Both Mr. Sott and I spoke at the same time to two separate groups of people for a short time, and then continued our journey, breaking it once more to inquire the way, and to tell of Jesus at the same time to about ten people who gathered at the sound of voices in the country. On two other occasions the Gospel was preached to interested groups of people on the road, until finally we arrived at our destination, a village called Bat Sala, where two or three men lived who had expressed the wish to become Christians.

Bat Sala is as typically an uncivilized place as one could imagine. Buried among trees, the houses built on stilts give an interesting appearance to the little place. When we arrived we were hungry and asked the people to provide us with food. A mat was spread under the trees in the middle of the village, and *we were* invited to sit and wait awhile until our meal was prepared. The simple and generous-hearted folk gave us a good supply of cocoanut-milk, spread a canopy to protect us from the sun, and gave US a good meal of rice with four or five different dishes, all of which were prepared with dried fish served up in slightly varied ways. But best of all we hail the opportunity of preaching the Gospel to perhaps a gathering of seventy people who all seemed interested. Our welcome was good and, God willing, our visits will be regular in the future. Only the Power of the Risen Christ can strike off the chains of sin and superstition engendered by a slavish fear of evil spirits strangely mixed up with Buddhism.

Our return journey was commenced on the opposite bank, where we wished to find out the conditions. On four different occasions we preached the Gospel during the return journey. At first our road consisted of a foot-path through the forest, which eventually immersed upon a cart track. Wherever possible we cycled, but owing to the humps and jolts, a mud-guard had to be tied up with a handkerchief. This was only the beginning of the fun. It soon started to rain and so we sheltered in a nearby hut. The two women who lived here seemed ignorant, even of Buddhism, but they had two little charms of dried bones hung so as to tinkle in the wind, to scare evil spirits !

The rain soon passed and we resumed our journey. No sooner had we remounted our machines than it began to pour and we had to shelter again in another hut. Here we met two men who proved to be inquirers who had several times visited our home. We again preached the Gospel to these simple-hearted folk. They regaled us with Cambodian delicacies. When the rain ceased a little we recommenced our journey, this time in dirt and mud which made it impossible to ride. Finally it was decided to recross the river, but as there was no boat near we took off our shoes and rolled up our trousers and waded up to our middles with cycles on our backs. At about 7:30 p. m. we arrived home tired and wet and dirty, but full of joy because we had told of Jesus to many who had never even heard His Name before. — DAVID ELLISON.

THE "TIN-LANH RAT TOT" IN CAI-RANG

(The "Very good News" in Cairang)

Dear Friends,—

For some time I have been wanting to write you of the opening God has graciously given us in Cairang, a town about five miles from Cantho; and perhaps no time is better than the present to do so since *we* are hoping to hold special services over there soon, and covet your cooperation in prayer.

Mr. Jackson has already written you of the salvation of an idolatrous family in Cairang, whose home resembled a pagoda because of its many altars and shrines. The old mother had spent around the sum of a thousand piasters in her worship of Buddha, trying to insure for herself a worthy place in the next world. But when she heard the story of Jesus she became very angry with Buddha, saying : « Buddha never did any of these things for me. » and she, with her family, started right in to put everything pertaining to Buddha and the Devil out of her house!

The next question was what to do with their clean house? The preacher was consulted, with the result that a large sign reading «Tin-Lanh Rat Tot» (very good news), was placed over the gate to attract passers by into the house. The mission of that sign is a story in itself. Suffice it to say that people from far and near find their way into that home to ask what the «Good News» is about, and are then pointed to the Saviour.

One day, shortly after this consecration of their house to God's cause, I went over there with a Christian woman to visit them and, as is always the case, a crowd of children followed us into the house. After getting the consent of the family, I turned to the children and asked them if they would like to have me return the following week to teach them about God. I found my answer when I entered the house the next week and met a little company of orderly children waiting for my coming. The next few weeks brought so many grown-ups that it was decided to have an evening meeting for them. Then it was that this devoted family cleared out their big front room and converted it into a chapel. In this very room where the Devil had been worshipped for so many years, many souls have found their way into the kingdom.

Last Thursday it was my privilege to visit the home of a man and his wife who have very recently accepted the Saviour.

The woman was a sorceress for many years. While we were absent from our station in April, this woman was taken violently ill, and was thought to be dying when the daughter of the above-mentioned family was asked to go and pray for her. Some of us would most likely have been reticent about praying for the healing of an idolatress and a sorceress,—all I can say is that God is merciful and full of lovingkindness for, from that hour, this heathen woman has been free from the shackles of sin and sickness that have bound her all these years. Both she and her husband are declaring before their wondering neighbors that God's power is greater than that of the Adversary. Almost the first words I heard from this woman's lips were: Praise the Lord ! » and there was a hearty «Amen» in my heart as I looked around and found every trace of devil worship had been removed.

This same day, just after dismissing the little ones, we looked up to see several old people coming into the yard. Four of them were Christians who live in a distant village but paddle into Cairang almost every Thursday for further instruction. This time there was an extra canoe bearing an old couple who had come to ask us to pray with them. Oh, if you could have seen their faces! There is nothing so beautiful as the face of a man or woman when the Light of the Gospel begins to penetrate through the heathen darkness. To see this expression on just one *face*, to notice the subdued quiet spirit of just one soul, to hear the « Praise the Lord » of just one pair of lips, would be worth the devotion of a life time of service over here.

I must close lest you be wearied, but not without soliciting your prayers for His cause in this country for, «It is not by might nor by power,» but only by the working of God's Spirit that anything can be accomplished for Him.

Yours with joy in His service, LYDIA E.
JACKSON, CANTHO

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM MYTHO

WE can surely praise the Lord for His working in the hearts of these people. Since our coming here between fifty and sixty have prayed. We now have three different places outside Mytho where the Gospel is preached every week and the meetings well attended. In addition the regular Sunday service is held in Mytho. Almost every day there are enquirers coming to the house, many of them from long distances.— G. C. FERRY.

THE ODD HOUR!

We were travelling down the Mekong in a puffy little Annamese steamboat, and at eleven o'clock pulled into Longxuyen where we had to change boats. It was in the heat of the day, the sun blazed down on the Annamese whitewashed houses, dazzling everything before our eyes. There was absolutely no wind, and the heat was thrown back by the hard clay soil, making a suffocating blanket of hot air. To find shelter from the glare and heat of the tropical sun was the first thing to be done, as the other boat which we were to take was not due for another hour. But to find a suitable place to rest was difficult. Chinese stores abounded, but they were open to the street and the sun, — and also strangers are not always welcome! While we were wondering where we should go we heard the pom-pom-pom of a big temple drum beating not far away. Here was our chance, so we immediately wended our way towards the temple.

On entering the temple we found numerous groups of Annamese before the different idol booths. Some were offering incense, while others were bowing down in worship. In a room off the main building some women were wailing and making a great noise in order to move some particular god to heal one of their loved ones from sickness.

When it was noticed that we had entered, there was a general cessation of worship, and we were looked upon with none too friendly eyes. The temple-keeper, however, seeing that we were hot and tired, brought out the only chair in the place and invited us to sit down. At first we were left alone, but soon curiosity got the better of them, and they began to surround us one by one, to see why we had come into a heathen temple. This was our opportunity, and we were able to explain who we were and who we represent, and soon were busily engaged in explaining to these heathen people about the True God and His great love for them. Within ten minutes all heathen worship had ceased and all were gathered around while we explained God's plan of salvation. Some were interested, others sceptical, but all listened respectfully. In a short time all our Gospel portions and New Testaments were sold, and several of the crowd asked

doe, Can-tho, and Saigon. Why do you not come here where no one has ever had a chance to hear this doctrine?» What could we answer them?

So interested were four of the men that they followed us down to the boat when it came in, and asked questions till we pulled out from the wharf. We were promised a hearty welcome on our next trip to Longxuyen. —CURWEN SMITH, SADEC, COCHINCHINA

THE FORCE OF HABIT

THE Annamese, in general, are not much concerned with the rest of the world. They follow the old paths, although benefiting in many ways by the French civilisation. A few years ago we were building a house in Hanoi and, as had been their custom for years, the Annamese crossed our lot to and from work. During building operations and after the house was completed they continued to follow the old path, save that they went around the house. Then we commenced to build a fence around the property, but even when one side was up the crowd continued to follow the old path across the lot until they almost bumped against the fence. Finally everything was completed with the exception of a gate which, as it happened, was directly on the old path. But did our Annamese friends see any farther? Not they ! Man after man walked right through the gate and never saw it; they walked past the house and probably realized it was there, but that was all. Not until they found their way blocked by the fence did our friends realize that something was wrong and not till then did they retrace their steps. I even sat on the steps and called to one man, but he kept right on, though he hung his head when I laughed at him on the return trip. But not all Annamese habits are as harmless as that one was. And with all the good and ill of civilisation the Annamese character is not fit for God's presence. And this is where our opportunity comes. Character makes the man, Christ makes the character. » Our opportunity is great to help these men to be ((Good, and good for something.» The old paths of sin must give place to the new, of grace. — D. I. JEFFREY, TOURANE,, ANNAM.

IMPRESSIONS PAST AND PRESENT

OF COCHINCHINA AND CAMBODIA

"THE days are passing swiftly by, » and in their passing they bring many changes. This fact is never more evident than when one travels once again along the route followed many years ago. So it was on our recent flying visit to Cochinchina and Cambodia, where some eight years ago we had first gone to «spy out the land,» and to see for ourselves whether the Gospel literature used in Tonkin and Annam could also be used there.

Then we pursued our solitary way from Saigon to Pnompenh and intervening cities, never meeting with a kindred spirit to whom we could speak of the things of GOD, — never a Protestant mission station, street chapel, or Annamese or Cambodian Christian. But now one mission station after another speeded us on our way to the warm welcome of the next, and from station to station, far away into the hitherto closed land of Cambodia, we found eager groups of Christians waiting to meet us and listen to a message from the visitor.

WONDERFUL ADVANCE

How we praised GOD as we realized the wonderful advance made since 1918 when two young missionaries first went to Saigon to open the Gospel campaign in the south. Now there are some seven main stations manned by zealous young missionaries, with many more outstations manned by earnest native workers. In addition many tens of thousands of Bible portions, Gospel booklets and tracts in the native language have been sold and distributed throughout the length and breadth of the land. As a result there are today some five or six hundred baptized Christians, and many more interested enquirers scattered throughout Cochinchina and Cambodia.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Our recent visit confirmed beyond a doubt the impressions of our first visit that the same language is current in the south as in the north, the difference in pronunciation and local terms being no greater than that between equally widely separated sections of America or England. Even these differences are being modified day by day owing to the rapid development of the romanized literature,—the increase in newspapers and other literature being remarkable,—and the improvement in travelling facilities between the north and south, etc. It was

a great pleasure to again address a southern audience and note how the messages were understood so well, and also to meet one of the young Hanoi converts who is preaching most acceptably to the southerners, his work being richly blessed.

INCREASED TRAVELLING FACILITIES

Cochinchina being mostly a huge delta formed by the mighty Mekong, this river with its many branches, and numerous canals and ditches dug for intensive irrigation, always made transit between the centres of population comparatively easy. But since our first visit the roads have been greatly improved, and there are now many lines of auto-busses plying regularly between every city of any importance. Because of the competition between these land and water routes travelling in the south has become much cheaper and quicker. Thus for four dollars gold the writer was able to go by auto from Pnom-Penh to Saigon in nine hours, a distance of well over two hundred miles, a great improvement over the first trip by river steamer which took thirty-six hours and was more costly.

A FAVOURED FIELD

Being a French colony missionary work is not restricted in Cochinchina as in the protectorates of Annam and Tonkin. In answer to much prayer Cambodia, although a protectorate, has now been opened to the Gospel. Owing to the wise rule of the French government there is peace throughout the length and breadth of the land,—entirely different from neighbouring China with its marauding robbers and contending armies. The people are very prosperous, their country being comparatively rich with its two or three harvests of rice annually, sufficient to export by the millions of pounds. The climate, although hot, is very equitable, and the needs of the people being few they are generally very happy and contented.

A CHALLENGE WE DARE NOT REFUSE

Surely we dare not refuse to accept the striking challenge presented to us by these favourable conditions for soul-winning among these live or six millions of people ! Let us buy up this opportunity, encouraged by the splendid results of the past few years. Let us surrender all to GOD for HIM to use in the salvation of these souls. But we must not forget that where GOD is working the Devil is also busy ; that the greater the blessing the greater the need of prayer. Therefore while praising GOD for what HE has so far done, shall we not all the more travail in prayer for this hitherto neglected part of GOD'S vineyard ?

Ed.—In next issue we hope to give (snapshot) in words of each station.

PRAISE AND PRAYER NOTES GLEANED FROM THE 1923 REPORT

THE Report for 1923 came to hand after the last issue of the "Call" was published. Although rather belated, we wish to note a few of the reasons for praise and prayer. There were 567 baptisms. This on a field where there are only ten stations is surely evidence that GOD is working. From among our thousand odd converts twenty-six men and several women were able to attend the -Bible Schools in Tourane. The Women's Bible School was opened last year to meet an urgent need for trained Biblewomen, and by next August the new building will be ready.

The student-evangelists already working on the various stations have proved invaluable, in some cases taking a large share of the responsibility where the new missionaries lacked sufficient knowledge of the language. Pray that these student-evangelists may be blessed.

Cambodia, an entirely new mission field, was opened when first Pnompenh and then Battambang were occupied by our missionaries. Already precious jewels have been won for our SAVIOUR'S crown of glory, and we ask you to pray for the development of this work.

The Publication work has been greatly blessed. Great advances have been made in output, over ten million pages having been printed during 1923. Large editions of the Annamese New Testament, Scripture portions, and tens of thousands of Gospel booklets and tracts have been sent forth to shed the light of GOD'S love in the dark places of this land.

Now with hearts full of thanksgiving for these blessings, let us confidently make our requests for more missionaries to fill the gaps made by necessary furloughs ; for \$1,000 urgently needed to at once buy Cambodian characters so that we can print Scripture portions, and eventually the Bible and Christian literature in that language ; for funds to purchase needed properties in Battambang, Sadec, and Haiphong so as to avoid high rents and permanently establish the work in these strategic centres; and, finally, especially pray that GOD may quicken our zeal for souls, and guide our deliberations at our coming Annual Conference to be held the first week in September next.