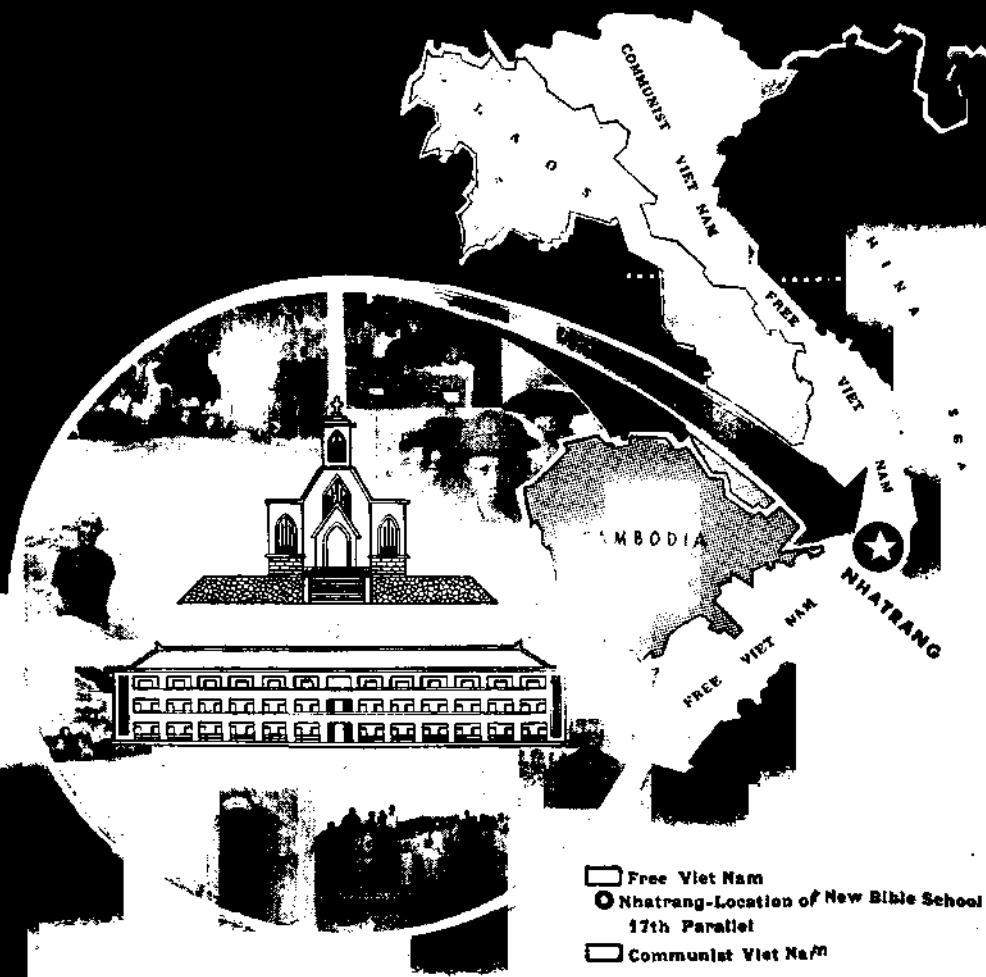


# THE CALL OF VIET NAM



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# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**T**HE Great Commission was given by the risen Lord to eleven men gathered round Him on a Galilean mountain top. These men had been carefully chosen by the Lord for the task He was committing to them. A whole night of prayer had preceded that choice. From that day on, the Lord gave special attention to these men. Often He took them aside to give them special instruction. He let them witness all His miracles. They were with Him in His times of prayer. He even permitted them to exercise some of His authority. Having been carefully chosen they had also been carefully trained by the Lord for their future ministry. At least three years were given to this training.

Then had come the Lord's passion and resurrection which these men had also witnessed. And in the moment of the Lord's ascension, He turned to these eleven men and told them that their responsibility was to take the evangel unto the ends of the world. These men did not flinch; they obeyed. They went everywhere proclaiming the good news, and the Lord worked with them confirming their words by the signs and miracles which followed.

But was the Great Commission intended only for these eleven disciples or is it still in force today? There is no need for that question, for we know the answer already. Ours is also the responsibility to go and disciple all nations. It was this conviction that gave birth to modern day missions. But how is this best done? By following the pattern of the Lord. Whatever land a missionary goes to for the first time, his primary concern is that the Lord will call out some for the work of the ministry. He prays to this end, and he plans for a Bible school to train these men and women when they are called. He trains them, then watches them and prays for them as



*Laying Cornerstone For New Bible School*

they go forth to preach and teach. But all the time he is praying for more and more workers.

During this past year our society began the construction of a new Bible School in Vietnam. We rejoice over this as it will mean that we can train a larger number of young people than ever before. We are praying and building with the hope that this new school will be ready by next September. Already the teachers' houses have been built, and work has been started on the first dormitory. The total cost of this school will be \$150,000. We are grateful for the sacrificial giving by many of you which has enabled us to begin this work. We are asking that you will continue to remember us with your prayers and gifts in order that we might train and send forth many more disciples to fulfill the demands of the Great Commission.

*J. H. Revelle*

# Go Ye Therefore...

**H**AVING arrived in Vietnam about a year ago along with the other new missionary families, we have been here long enough to see and feel the need of making Christ known to the Vietnamese people. Thus, being settled into language study in Tourane, our present aim is to **LEARN VIETNAMESE!**

*Gale & Ruth Erickson*

**B**EFORE our arrival here we had been made aware of the need of learning the language. But now we have met the people. We have seen the ancestor worship. We have felt bound in not knowing the language. We must learn the language to communicate the Gospel effectively.

*Fred Kleinhens*

**N**OW we are in a foreign land... strange sounds... different sights... finally settled in our new home... days, weeks and months of language learning... actually being able to speak a little but understanding even less... much work yet to do... pray for us!

*Bill & Marni Mock*

**W**E do feel we are here because of God's appointment! While Stan was in seminary he had a serious illness which seemed to doom any possibility of the mission field for us. But God overruled the natural consequences of the illness and led us out in His own time. Praise Him!

*JoAnn Lemon*

**O**N the day our little Nancy arrived we were amused at the first impression Stevie had of her. He thought she must be Vietnamese, since she was born here. His first question was, "What's the word for 'Don't cry' in Vietnamese?" After all, his new Vietnamese sister would never understand English.

*Jim & Jean Livingston*



*The Ericksons*



*The Kleinhens*



*The Mocks*

## INTRODUCING NEW MISSIONARIES

*The Lemons*

*The Livingstons*



How does the missionary open a pioneer area? Here is your answer.

## ENTERING NEW TERRITORY

**S**INCE coming to Tam Quan to take up residence as missionary to the northern half of the Binh Dinh province, we have been impressed time and again with the tremendous responsibility that confronts us — to make Christ known to the inhabitants.

Already the Spirit of the Lord has been going before us, as we have visited Christians scattered here and there throughout this area. Through the ministry of personal evangelism there has been a real ingathering of souls. In the month of August, fourteen people came to the Saviour from idol and ancestor worship. We do not for a moment believe that God's work in this area will not meet with opposition. Before our household goods were unpacked, we experienced a real manifestation of the powers of the enemy. As we were pre-

paring to retire one evening, the drums began to beat out the familiar throb of the dragon dance. The occasion was the dedication of a new Buddhist temple just a few yards down the road.

However, we have cause to praise the Lord—for tomorrow we dedicate our



new station house to the Lord and His service. The Vietnamese brethren will participate in this simple ceremony. We trust that those who witness this event may experience the power of God manifested to them through us.

*H. M. Collins*

## OCCUPYING NEW TERRITORY

**O**NE of the greatest pioneer areas in Vietnam has been opened to the Gospel, and we are now firmly established in this most northerly province of Free Vietnam. The work began two years ago with tent meetings held in the city of Quang-tri. A small bookroom was opened and weekly Sunday services begun. When several people had believed, they invited the missionary and national worker to their villages to preach the Gospel. Many people responded to the message. A short term Bible School was held to help establish the new believers. In the month of January sixty of them were baptized.

Every week now we are preaching in three different places with a total

attendance of about fifty Christians. A pastor has been called, and before the end of the year we also will be taking up permanent residence in the city of Quang-tri, some fifteen miles from the seventeenth parallel.

At present, most of our efforts are being directed toward building up these three groups of new Christians in preparation for the advance of the Gospel in the province of Quang-tri. Through the lives of these may the Gospel be proclaimed, so that this large area with its some three hundred thousand people may be reached for Christ.

*G. W. Hunt*

# Preach the Gospel...

to those hidden along  
the waterways by

“OH, what is to be done? Why must the spirits trouble us so? We worship them enough! Haven't I made four altars in my house as well as five and six in the yard? Haven't I bought choice delicacies to offer on these altars, and haven't I paid for endless prayers and rituals to be made by Buddhist priests? Why then must my children all die after only a year or two? Now my last child is sick! Oh, what must I do?” cried the stricken father, a mechanic by trade, living in a river front home.

About that time the Gospel boat, on its journey to another place, had motor trouble, and the evangelist stopped at the man's village in quest of a mechanic. After repairs were completed, the evangelist visited the mechanic's home and explained the message of Jesus and His authority over evil spirits. The man gladly accepted; then they prayed for the sick child and he recovered. Today he is healthy and robust. Later the mother accepted Christ also. On still another visit, two neighboring families became Christians, and now in that locality there are fifty-nine that have prayed. They are hoping soon to build their own bamboo chapel.

The program of the evangelist and his team is to stop two days and nights in each place and then move on up or down the unreached network of waterways of the tremendous Mekong delta land. In places where

## BOAT EVANGELISM

there is a good response and souls are saved, they return for repeated visits to strengthen the believers and continue witnessing to others. Of those that have prayed, the large majority are standing true.

There are many invitations for them to come and preach. Recently, one village which had already been visited once sent a delegation of two to plead for a series of meetings from the Gospel Boat, stating that forty or fifty were ready to pray if



*The Gospel Boat*

someone would come and explain the way of salvation more clearly to them. From another area too far to reach because of traveling costs had come another call for help.

Pray for this work, for the establishing of these new Christians and for those in charge, that God's Spirit may rest upon them and give them wisdom for this phase of evangelism.

*Mrs. Helen Douglas*

THE CALL OF VIET-NAM

and they that were scattered went everywhere preaching the Gospel.

## RESETTLEMENT PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY

**S**UCCESSIVE seasons of drought and flood had brought widespread famine and suffering to the already poverty-stricken areas of Quang Nam and Quang Ngai. Thus the Vietnamese government decided to move a large part of the population from these areas to the rich fertile plateau regions. Bulldozers were sent in and great tracts of land were cleared. Thousands of families were uprooted and settled in new areas where the rains were more predictable and crops would be more certain.

Scores of Christian families were scattered in many sections of these resettlement areas. The national church is thus faced with the problem of ministering to a number of widely separated groups of Christians as well as the challenge to reach these huge resettlement areas with an adequate

witness. Some of these believers were well grounded in the faith and zealous for the Lord. They witnessed faithfully and had doubled and even tripled their number before any Vietnamese pastor or missionary had an opportunity to locate and visit them. In a few places the groups were composed of new Christians, and they found it difficult to stand true when confronted by the difficulties of resettlement and pressures from outside.

Both missionaries and Vietnamese pastors working among the Tribes people in these areas have visited and encouraged these Christians. In this way many Christian groups have been established. We praise the Lord that there is good possibility that in the near future there will be six organized churches among these resettled people.

*D. F. Irwin*

**V**ISITING resettlement camps around Nui Bara this past weekend has been an unforgettable experience. Christians from the Phu Lanh and Tien Phuoc churches are among the ten thousand settlers from Central Vietnam in this area. Our new bookmobile, a gift of World Vision, made possible this first missionary visit to these camps. Christians gladly bought Bibles and hymn books and promised to study Dr. Simpson's book, *The Holy Spirit or Power from on High*. They were so grateful for the tops of Scripture calendars and used Christmas cards that we passed out to each family. Now they will have something to brighten their bare, cheerless thatch huts.

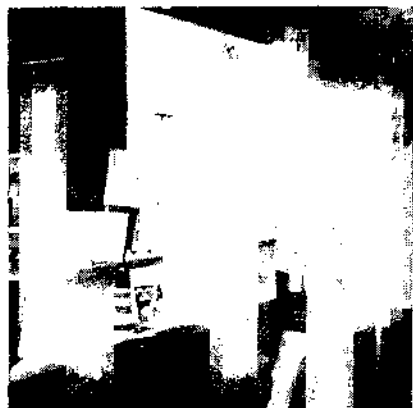
We hope that by Christmas, when we make our next visit D.V., there will be a little thatch chapel in the Vinh Thien camp. Please pray that the Christians there may soon be granted a suitable piece of ground for their chapel. They have had much to discourage them, but thank God their faith has not failed.

*The Jeffreys*

Preaching... by means of

## THE PRINTED PAGE

**T**HOUSANDS of Vietnamese viewing the six day book fair held in Saigon passed a prominent section with this sign, «Sach Tin Lanh» or, «Gospel



*Gospel Literature on display*

Books». One of the press workers was there the entire time, answering questions, giving information to inquirers and passing out Gospel tracts. This unique opportunity to display our books was given through the efforts of the Christian printer, who recently gave his heart to the Lord after reading the material which came to his shop from our press.

What were the results? One young man accepted the Lord right at the exhibit. A bookstore man from a large coastal city came to our home and offered to sell Gospel literature in his bookstore. The Veterans Bookstore has offered us a glass counter to sell books

there. All this and more took place, because a Christian printer grasped a tremendous opportunity to exhibit Gospel literature to his people in Vietnam.

*R. F. Rexiltus*

**B**IBLE Society Auxiliaries in England have provided funds for the purchase and equipment of a BIBLE VAN for Vietnam. The purpose of this van is to cooperate with churches and pastors in distributing the written Word in remote areas. The van will carry but one BOOK — the Bible — the most effective antidote to evil and subversive influences.

As this new ministry begins we solicit your earnest prayers that light and life may be brought to many through the entrance of God's Word into their hearts.

*H. Curwen Smith*

Representative of the British  
and Foreign Bible Society

A five thousand, four color picture edition of «THE LIFE OF CHRIST» will be coming off the press within the next month. We want to give special recognition to the Bible Meditation League under Dr. Don Falkenberg for their splendid contribution for this particular booklet. We believe it will have a unique ministry both among the Christian young people and the unsaved.

A BOOKROOM has been opened on one of the main streets of Hue, second largest city of Vietnam. Crowds are attracted by the music and the messages played over the P. A. system. Five people have already accepted the Gospel, and there are many inquirers.

in every district

## SOWING AND HARVEST

**T**WO weeks after coming into the Cantho District we went with the pastors' evangelistic party to hold revival and evangelistic meetings at a little town called Hoa-luu, about forty miles into the heart of the half-flooded plains south of Cantho.

The three days of meetings in the church building and nearby market seemed almost fruitless. Curiosity was shown, but only one made a public decision for Christ. The last day we divided our group of eight workers. Four went by car to one village ten miles away and the other four by boat to another village for morning market meetings. When we met at noon, each group reported that seven had been saved as a result of the morning witness.

Though unknown to us at that time, a fire had been lighted. What a joy to learn that since last month the attendance at the Hoa-luu church has jumped from ten to over one hundred and ten. A week ago we heard that there were seventeen more in one of the villages last visited that had prayed after our departure. This morning we were told that there are at least six whole families that have decided to follow Christ. Thus the church that we did not see six weeks ago is developing as a result of seed that was planted and Spirit-nourished.

*B. R. Houck*

## *Baptizing Them that Believe...*

**R**ECENTLY baptized in the ocean at Qui-nhon were some fifty-four Christians. Most of them have been saved during the past year and have proven themselves faithful followers. Many more are now waiting for baptism, and scores will be ready as soon as they receive the necessary instruction.

*Chester & Mary Travis*

The church at Ba-tri, for years beset by poverty and the political unrest in that area, has recently begun to show unusual progress and blessing. Thirty-four of those who found the Lord during the past year are being baptized here.



*Qui-Nhon Annual Service*



*Baptism at Ba-Tri*

# Teaching Them All Things...

## LAY - WORKERS - THE KEY TO EVANGELISM

**M**ISSIONARY strategy calls for the training of lay workers. Both missionaries and national pastors have found that ordinary laymen skilled in personal soul winning are a most effective means of getting converts who stand true, and of reviving the church. Two years ago, we held our first Short Term Bible School at Vinh Long with the objective of training such laymen. We had an enrollment of thirty-five men students. Six months later we opened the classes to both men and women, and our second school welcomed 111 fine young people. We have just closed our third school with a capacity attendance of 208 — representatives from 42 churches.

When students come to us, many of them are entirely untrained as to discipline and study habits. At first it is rather hard for them to submit to a strict schedule that accounts for every hour from the 5:15 rising «drum» until the 10:00 P.M. lights out. However when examination time comes at the end of the month, they see the wisdom of this enforced application. Courses taught this year were: Old Testament Introduction, Child Evangelism, Acts, Romans, Personal Soul Winning, Y. P. Organization, and Music.

At last — graduation night — and not a little excitement. The church was filled to capacity, with missionaries, pastors, government officials and Christians from miles around making up the audience. The program consisted of two short messages and a flannelboard talk for children by three of the students, all centered around the school theme, «Our Precious Bible». It was interspersed with special musical numbers — a male chorus, male quartet, ladies chorus and several mixed chorus numbers. We of the faculty are satisfied that not only the closing exercises but the entire month of teaching was a success.

Now the young folks are gone — some to continue their studies in our Central Bible School, others back to their churches. They all carry with them a new awareness of the lost condition of their people and a new confidence in their ability to explain the way of salvation as taught in the Word. Let us pray that the earnestness and zeal of these more than two hundred fine young people will find an outlet in practical Christian work in their home churches.

*P. E. Carlson*



# EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD...

**W**AR had left their church in shambles. For nine long years they had met on the Lord's Day for worship in a little thatch chapel. Their pastor had been imprisoned long ago by the Communists, and as yet no replacement had been sent. Most of their number had been scattered, moving to the cities for protection. Only a handful had stayed behind at Thach-ban, undaunted by trial and suffering, and inflamed with faith in God and love for souls.



They were gathered for worship as usual that first Sunday we visited them — gathered around a little kerosene lamp, singing praises to God, and bringing their burdens to Him in prayer. It was easy to preach the Gospel there; people were eager to hear and ready to believe, for the testimony of these simple country Christians had been clear and genuine. The little group of Christians grew fast, and their chapel had to be enlarged. The Bible School sent Mr. Khoa to Thach-ban, a student pastor on fire for God. Before long the church outgrew their building, and it was impractical to enlarge the already leaning old chapel. They must build — but how? There was no money in the church treasury, and the Christians were poor.

Pastor Khoa challenged the Christians to do their best and assured them that God would certainly help. One after another, new Christians and old pledged to help: a brick-maker who had just believed pledged over two thousand bricks, a lumber man pledged wood for some of the beams, the carpenters and masons pledged labor to build, the farmers pledged labor to

dig and carry dirt, the merchants and tailors pledged money.

Pastor, deacons, and Christians — all had a part: some doing the work themselves, some feeding those who worked, and others too old or too busy to work paid someone else to take their places. Men, women, and children alike pitched in on moonlight nights, carrying loads of sand from the river and bricks from the furnace. Then, when money and materials ran out, they all stopped for a while and united in prayer to God for the needs of the church. When God answered, work began again and continued until at last the roof was on and the building fit for worship.

There is yet much to be done — the building of fence and floor, the purchase of doors and windows, and the completion of painting and white-washing. But these Christians are not discouraged — they are praying and believing that the God Who has helped them thus far will complete that which He has begun. They firmly believe that, « Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. »

*Tom Stebbins*

Fall 1959

# NEWS

Praise the Lord for government permission to build a church in the heavily populated Chinese section of Saigon. Praise the Lord also for providing much larger and more useful living quarters for Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, missionaries to the Chinese in Saigon.

*A three week Short Term Bible School was recently held in Tourane with some thirty students in attendance. Another school is planned for the Nhatrang area in the near future.*

Since the last issue of *The Call* the following missionaries have returned to the field from furlough:

Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Houck, Mr. & Mrs. D. I. Jeffrey, Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Fitzstevens, Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Sawin, Miss Betty Arnold, Miss Nancy Mack, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Kowles. We look forward to the arrival of new missionaries Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Davis and Miss Helen Erlandsen.

*We sincerely appreciated the short visit of Rev. R.M. Chrisman, Area Secretary for the Far East, on his way home from Indonesia in August.*

The National Church Conference was held in Vinh Long during the month of August. Mr. Jeffrey was the main speaker, giving messages from the book of Joshua. There were around eight hundred people in attendance for the first three days of meetings.

# PRAY

*Pray for the seventy-five students at present studying in the Central Bible School at Tourane. Remember also the twenty-six students out in their two year practical work assignment, that they may be used of the Lord in the opening of new and strategic centers.*

The Fishers have had to return home on emergency leave. It was discovered that their daughter Carol had a curvature of the spine as a result of polio several years ago. Pray for her speedy recovery and their soon return to the field.

*Several attempts have been made to reach a small island of about ten thousand inhabitants some eighty miles off the coast of Phan-thiet. Because of uncertain winds and*

*dangerous currents only one attempt at visiting the island has succeeded. However, there are some four baptized believers and forty have prayed. Pray that these may continue to shine for Christ in this unlighted area.*

At present there is a great desire on the part of the Vietnamese to learn English. Because of this, there are many opportunities for the missionary to teach using the Bible as his textbook. Classes are crowded, interest keen. Pray that this method of evangelism will bring results.

*This is the first time that a Chinese-speaking missionary has been assigned to Central Vietnam with its large Chinese population. Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Kowles as they begin their ministry in this area.*