

the CALL

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photo by Ruth Kelek

THE CALL OF VIET NAM

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RICE is basic to the economy of Viet Nam, the commodity upon which eighty per cent of the population depend for income and survival. Before World War II the Indochina provinces which now form south Viet Nam exported over one million metric tons a year. In 1960, due to increase in

population and per capita consumption, exports amounted to less than one-half this figure, even though rice production exceeded prewar levels. More than two-thirds of the inhabitants of free Viet Nam live in rural areas with eighty-five per cent of the cultivated land sown to rice.

Harvesting



Tilling the soil with buffalo-drawn plows, sowing seed in carefully irrigated fields, transplanting tender rice shoots, cultivating and continual care until the rice turns from a lush green to a golden brown, ripe to harvest, all requires months of diligent toil. Stalks are cut, bundled and carried to the threshing floor. After threshing comes the process of winnowing, sifting, separating and storing ready for delivery and consumption.

Missionary endeavor is similar to these various phases of growing rice resulting in a harvest as people are won to the Savior. Will you join us in prayer as fellow-laborers in this great task ?



SEVENTEENTH PARALLEL EVANGELISM

By Garth Hunt

ELEVEN hundred kilometers north of Saigon, lying between the South China Sea and the high rugged mountains that divide Viet Nam from Laos, is one of the largest pioneer areas in free Viet Nam — the province of Quang Tri. Farming some of the poorest soil along the narrowest strip of land in all Viet Nam are close to 300,000 people.

The Geneva Agreement of 1954 partitioned north and south Viet Nam at Quang Tri province. Just a few steps

over the free side, simple peasants unconcernedly plow their fields and plant their rice as their ancestors have done for the past 2,000 years. Bondage and fear fill their hearts because of animism and ancestor worship, while at the same time their lives are filled with arduous toil, extreme poverty and perpetual sickness. From morning till night their thoughts are turned to providing for the needs of that day, for food is scarce. Hence little thought is given to their spiritual needs.

In 1936 the first attempt was made by our missionaries to witness the Gospel among these people. After four years of concentrated effort in one area, little results were achieved, and the rented chapel was closed. Missionaries and national workers were few, so it was not until 1957 that a second attempt was made when a month-long tent campaign was held in the capital city of Quang Tri. Again results were few. Only a small number believed in Christ. But « God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. » Out of this group there were a few farmers who would one day form the nucleus of the first church in Quang Tri.

A year later missionaries from the bordering province joyfully accepted an invitation to preach the Gospel to some interested farmers living in Long Quang. Not a few turned to the Lord. What a thrill it was to see that « good soil » at last had been discovered! More meetings were arranged, and within two months scores of rice farmers turned from idolatry. After so many years of barrenness, God was calling out a Church for Himself.

Satan does not give up his territories easily. A series of events followed which caused this wonderful harvest almost to be lost. Seasonal flood waters prevented regular contact; the fall rice harvest demanded the farmers' attention; intimidation by men of authority and the imprisonment of one of the strongest converts all contributed in overtaking this first group of believers. But God was mindful of their need! Several months later permission was granted for the first missionaries to take up residence in this province. Together with a national worker, we sought to regather the harvest.

Only a few of the 170 who had prayed remained true. But then visitation and encouragement resulted in some of those who had fallen away

to come back, while still others believed. At Christmas time a simple thatch chapel was erected for their special program. A new spirit of enthusiasm and hope prevailed. Before long the Christians began work on their new cement church building, the first one in the province. With great rejoicing it was dedicated to the Lord in August, 1960. Praise God! There is now a group of 160 Christians at Long Quang, and the possibilities for growth are most encouraging.

About this time God led a needy school teacher to us. Out of work, his wife having just died leaving him with six children and facing eviction from his home because of indebtedness to the government, the man was in desperate straits. God wonderfully saved him and used him to penetrate the populous area of An Tho. Upon his invitation, several series of meetings were conducted and in a short time over fifty turned to the Lord. A national worker was placed in the village and a chapel opened. By the spring of 1961 well over a hundred people believed in Christ.

Upon seeing the new Long Quang church building, the An Tho believers were deeply impressed. Discussion and prayer resulted in a decision to launch their own building program, even though they had no money and had just suffered a serious flood. God always undertakes when faith is exercised. Together they trusted Him to supply their need for food, as they sacrificially gave 391 days of labor on the church. With great joy and thankfulness the building was completed by the end of November, just fifteen months after these Christians had believed.

God was moving in still another area. The latter part of January, 1961 nine men from Binh An, meaning peace, came to the Long Quang church. After hearing the message of God they believed. The following

week a group of us trudged through sand and water, wind and rain to meet the new believers and preach to the villagers. Praise God! Over fifty people turned to Christ after hearing the Gospel on two occasions. This fishing village was beginning to experience the true meaning of peace. Throughout this past year regular weekly services have been held with ten families standing fast in the Lord. Pray that the Binh An Christians will be the means of reaching many other crowded fishing villages nearby.

Although there had been much preaching and visitation in the village of Truc Khe, five miles from the 17th Parallel, there was but one believer. After opening the An Tho church we were able to return to Truc Khe and marveled to see how God had worked. A young farmer turned to the Lord after observing the conduct of this Christian and hearing the Gospel. He became the key man in the village and has been instrumental in bringing several of his brothers and relatives to the Lord. Twice a week this group of Christians meets for prayer and worship.

Evangelistic meetings were conducted during the summer of 1961 at Ha Thanh, three miles south of the Parallel. Fifty turned to the Lord. This was the fifth group of believers. A national worker is now living there with people continuing to come to his thatch-roofed home for instruction in the things of God. Christmas 1961 was the first Christmas for these believers. What a touching experience it was to listen to the children give recitations and to see the glow of joy on the faces of parents!

God in His mercy has seen fit to give the people of Quang Tri province another opportunity to respond to His message of love. Praise God! Some have. May many more believe while they have freedom to do so.



Planting



Irrigating



Threshing



The Daniel Bordreuil Family

ALIENS AND PILGRIMS

In question and answer form we have the testimony of Rev. D. P. Bordreuil, one of our French missionaries, who has done a commendable piece of work his first term in Viet Nam. — Editors

HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO ENTER THE ALLIANCE ?

I had a call to missionary service before I ever heard of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. I came to learn more about our Society, to love it and become part of it after applying as a missionary to Viet Nam. At that time it was the only evangelical mission in the country.

HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR CALL TO VIET-NAM ?

In 1949 at a French Keswick Convention I learned that Rev. Jean Fune was the only French Protestant missionary in Viet Nam. Considering the colonial relationship between France and Viet Nam, I was stirred by the fact that French churches had failed to witness there for Christ. This prepared me for God's call to become the second French Protestant missionary to Viet Nam.

HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR WIFE ?

Pemmy was born in Holland, but after World War II went with her parents to South Africa. Later she went to France to study at the Aix-Marseille University while I was

there in my last year of Seminary. After our marriage, we spent eighteen difficult but enlightening months at Nyack Missionary College. U.S.A.

WHERE HAVE YOU WORKED IN VIET NAM ?

Despite many trials during the first two years of language study, the Lord proved His faithfulness to us. Our appointment to Phan Thiet helped us break the language barrier.

Near our home we opened a Book-room. Here we have had the joy of leading people to Christ through Children's Meetings and English classes. Special meetings in the district also have been fruitful. Too, monthly English services for US army personnel in our area have been a part of our ministry.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE ?

Our hearts are in the work here, but we have accepted an appointment by the Society to remain in France after furlough to promote Alliance missions. There is great need to organize prayer groups, hold Missionary Meetings and witness to the numerous Vietnamese students in Paris introducing them to evangelical churches both in France and in their home country.

Please pray for us that we shall have wisdom and courage for such a frightening undertaking.

V IETNAMESE tradition holds that the right of inheritance belongs to the eldest living son. Included in this right is the duty of offering incense on the family altar. After the death of my two older brothers, this task became mine.

Given to the ideals of Confucianism and Buddhism, my father was unequaled in our community in the use of charms and fetishes. As a small child, they made a deep impression upon me. The older I grew, the more zealous I became in my parents' religion. I respected other religions, reading much of their literature. But the Gospel did not yet interest me. Through the persuasion of a persistent Christian friend, however, I agreed to attend a service, only to observe.

One day, about a year later, my heart was suddenly seized by fear. I saw myself about to die. As I recited a Buddhist prayer a strange voice said, «Only Jesus saves.» The more I chanted the more insistent was the voice. Then I recalled the occasion when the pastor had used a book while preaching. I needed that book and sent for it. It was the Bible. Not until I had finished the four Gospels and the Acts did I stop reading. I learned that only Jesus Christ can save sinners. After several days of heart struggle I surrendered to Him.

Persecution followed when I witnessed to my family. Relatives insulted me. My father threatened to beat me to death. An aunt attempted to arrange a marriage for me into a rich family, hoping I would forsake following Christ. Unsuccessful in convincing me, my father drove me from home. It was

while in the furnace of testing that the Lord called me into His service.

Ten years later the Lord led me back to visit my parents. On Sunday they willingly went to church with me, and there they poured out their hearts in simple words of repentance and acceptance of Christ. Faithful members who had prayed with me for that moment echoed words of praise to God. Since that time thirty members of my family have been saved. I have gained a true inheritance in Christ!

A TRUE INHERITANCE

by Pastor Nguyen Thanh Mau

Offering Incense





Mr. Phi

Mr. Ma

THIRTEEN DISCIPLES



Mr. Hieu

Mr. Binh

Mr. Kinh



Mr. Khai



Mr. Phong



Mr. Nguyen



Mr. Phien

PICTURED here are thirteen young men who graduated in April from the Nhatrang Bible Institute.

PHI — Our «Peter,» quick to express an opinion, and straight in his ideas of right and wrong. In his two years of practical ministry he «did the work of an evangelist.»

MA — Steady, consistent and dedicated to Christ. This young man has stood out in his over-all devotion to Christ, application to his studies and quiet influence among his fellow students.

KHAI — Every class has its poet. Khai has a subtle sense of humor and a flare for entertaining his fellow students with some very apt comments at the right moment. An excellent preacher.

PHONG — Perhaps the clearest thinker of the senior class. Phong, with excellent ability in his own language, could well become an outstanding teacher of the Word.

NGUYEN — An inexperienced young man when he went near the 17th Parallel to serve his two years in the «harvest.» God molded him and his wife into precious vessels. He has a genuine love for his people and the ability to build a solid work.

by L. S. Herendeen



Mr. Van



Mr. Duong



Mr. Quang



Mr. A

PHIEN — Soft-spoken, quiet and unassuming — first contact would make one wonder about this lad. Yet facts are revealing. He served with remarkable blessing near mountainous jungles. No complaints, just a steady witness, and a constant endeavor to « make Christ known. »

HIEU — God led this young man to a difficult area. It drove him to discover a secret. Prayer: consistent, definite, inclusive. And God responded. Great testing came this year when his young wife passed away very suddenly. A victorious testimony as God led him through the fire.

BINH — A new work and a fisher among men of the sea. Hundreds came to Christ. Proof again that the « quiet young man » often is much used of God when he is given to the Savior.

KINH — Quiet, serious and mature, this lad was sent to minister to a new church of some 300 Christians meeting in a thatch chapel. Before leaving he dedicated a new church building and witnessed God's outpoured blessing upon the congregation.

VAN — As every class has its poet, so it has its Socrates — the questioner, keeping things interesting in the class-

room. This is Van, plus a generous streak of humor. For one year he served with the district evangelist. Then he ably served a new church near the 17th Parallel.

DUONG — Another quiet, soft-spoken lad, who in spite of physical weakness was used of God to strengthen the church in La Hai. The Gospel was spread throughout his area, at present a trouble spot.

QUANG — The fact that his branch church lay some ten miles distant did not hinder this lad in the least. To the contrary, he gave himself in such a way that the results meant the upbuilding of a small parish unto the glory of God.

A — Pleasant and easily met, A served on the Gospel Boat for one year. More than 100 came to Christ through this witness. Transferring to two small churches for his second year, A served well in the midst of constant enemy threat.

Thirteen disciples. Thirteen million Vietnamese. This year they join in gathering the ripened harvest. Will you take time right now to pray for them? They need it, and so does Viet Nam!

DAISY was weeping as she waited at the airport. It would be several years before she would see again these friends who had helped her since fleeing from north Viet Nam. The thought of going to another new place was dreadful.

Adjustments at the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong were difficult. Daisy had been used to having a servant do things for her, but there she had to do her share in cleaning the dormitory. How would she make out?

Six years have gone by, and with them Daisy has learned many precious lessons. Now, quite mature and assured of God's leading to come to Viet Nam, she is working with us among the Chinese of Da Nang. Praise God for answered prayer in the arrival of this co-worker!

Daisy Kwok is the first missionary sent out by the Chinese Missionary Fellowship of our Hong Kong Alliance churches. They provided for her outfit and passage to Da Nang in addition to paying two-thirds of her salary until such time as the Chinese Christians are able

to take on her full support. Last year's Southeast Asia Conference at Zamboanga doubtless sparked this vision of foreign missions.

Since the beginning of the work here among Chinese two years ago, all who have confessed faith in Christ are young people. English classes have been a means of contact to encourage attendance at services. Backgrounds of idolatry, ancestor worship or materialistic ambitions are binding, making it difficult for many to take a firm, bold stand for the Lord. We long that those who have prayed shall go on to baptism and fearlessness in witnessing.

Within the past two months three more young people have prayed. One of these, a young girl, was urged for a decision to accept the Lord but replied, «I must wait until I understand God's Word better.» Before the lunar New Year she said, «Now I want to accept Christ.» What a joy to hear her pray the penitent's prayer! Please join with us in praying that she and others will grow in grace, knowledge and zeal, to be an attractive influence among other young people, that they too shall yield to Christ.

Miss Kwok and Mrs. Kowles



BRIGHTER DAYS

by A. G. Kowles

A MIGHTY VOICE

by W. R. Houch



Broadcasting Gospel Music

JUST seven years ago the Gospel radio and recording ministry in Viet Nam was in its infancy. At that time there were three fifteen-minute daily programs through Far East Broadcasting Company facilities in Manila and a half-hour weekly program over a local station. Today, free radio time and public address broadcasts total 21 hours weekly. This is truly a mighty voice, preaching the Gospel on six local radio stations covering nearly all of free Viet Nam in addition to the short wave stations at Manila beamed into both north and south Viet Nam.

March first marked the beginning of Gospel programs for French-speaking people of this land beamed from Manila. Recently we have been asked to provide Vietnamese Gospel programs for a new Christian radio station soon to operate in Australia. Time has been requested on Trans-World Radio in Monte Carlo for a ministry among the thousands of Vietnamese in France.

Letters from a number of listeners who have believed in Christ as a result of these programs have been a source of encouragement. Several sol-

diers have written telling of their new-found faith. Some have told us of whole families being baptized and now attending church regularly. Others have written requesting Scripture portions. This mighty voice is being heard in the homes of officials. Recently Mr. Giap, our announcer, gave this report. As he was bicycling home at noon, all along the way he heard radios in restaurants, shops and homes tuned to the monthly youth broadcast with Rev. Le hoang Phu as the speaker.

From student listeners we have had such responses as, «I am getting an education but I need a religion.» — «tell me more about Jesus.» — «help me in my thinking.» — «please send me a Bible.» — and from a young boy, — «I have accepted Christ and I know he saves, but my family is persecuting me. Please do not forget me.» He gave us the address of a friend where we can contact him further.

This is today's Macedonian Call right from the hearts of these people. Pray with us that there shall be not only a large listening audience, but also a great number who shall obey the call to repentance and salvation.

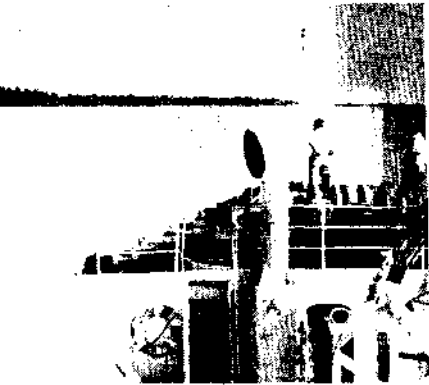
OBSTACLES

AS the French ship D'ARTAGANAN docked in Saigon on January 16, 1926, two young missionaries aboard felt this was the fulfilment of their prayers and hopes. Certainly it was the culmination of a series of events that could be labelled « missionary preparation, » studying at St. Paul and Nyack Missionary Colleges, marriage, a pastorate in the Northwest District, seven months of language study in France, and then Indochina (now called Viet Nam).


French rule was in full sway and this did much to color our first impressions. Everywhere there was evidence of European culture which tended to soften the impact between West and East. But who could praise the textbooks which the French had prepared for Vietnamese language study? Nevertheless, after eleven months of study we were appointed to a district and told to preach. We have been doing so ever since.

Missionary work seemed to be a compound of obstacles and challenges. Because our Mission had no cars, travel was done on busses, trains, horsecars, boats, bicycles, rickshas and oxcarts. In 1926 there were but a few churches in south Viet Nam. There were no ordained pastors, and inexperienced preachers got their messages without benefit of the Old Testament, which was not yet translated.

Of necessity baptisms, dedication of children and marriages awaited



Up the Saigon River



Mr. & Mrs Paul E. Carlson



Opening a new street chapel

AND CHALLENGES

by P. E. Carlson

the arrival of the missionary. Often we were away from home three or four days each week, preaching, visiting, teaching singing and contacting officials. During our first term we experimented with some success in making our hymns more singable and producing some new ones. This general pattern was altered somewhat during the four years we taught in the Tourane Bible School. More recently we prepared Sunday School lessons for the National Church and took part in Short Term Bible School ministries. But preaching God's Word to Christians and unbelievers has been the burden of our hearts.

January, 1961 marked our appointment to the great city of Saigon-Cholon in an effort to open new churches. If we were unaware of it before, we now know that this is a formidable undertaking. One fact is immediately evident, if spiritually-minded people are zealous for such a program, Satan is just as zealously *against* it. The «ancient foe» of Luther's hymn is a very present foe. Only the positive fact that we have the «right Man on our side» gives us courage to press on to establish Gospel centers in every strategic area of this city of over two million people.

When the first chapel was opened, it did not receive the full co-operation of the existing churches. Although there were some forty converts, it was decided to discontinue meetings at the end of a year. Our second attempt was at Ban Co,

and again our «ancient foe» tried to work us woe through dissension among the Christians of the sponsoring church. But the «right Man» overruled, and now there is an aggressive church supporting their own pastor and gradually adding to a fund for a permanent place of worship.

We felt that a long-range program was necessary to reach our goal of a minimum of twenty new churches. A three-point program was outlined with emphasis on «evangelism in depth» and systematic visitation of every home in a given area. A special letter and a tract are distributed in each home while the visiting team notes the reactions. These are classified as opposed, indifferent, or welcome, and each is subject to a different approach later on.

How is the program working? With varying results it has been tried at three more chapels. There were over sixty decisions at Dakao, only ten at Phu Tho and about thirty at Pham The Hien. Like any plan, the results are proportionate to the zeal and effort put into it.

Although the evangelistic preaching has presented clearly the way of salvation, still the visitation program has not been implemented with the zeal it deserves. As we open more chapels we ask you to pray that those who know the Lord will take time to tell those who do not know Him. Only then can we be assured that the new Church-program in Saigon will be effective.



Mr. Quan teaching hymns. . .



. . . with converts

PRISONERS FIND CHRIST

by Royce Rexilius

*. . . through the ministry
of a zealous banker.*

Mr. Tran van Quan, head of the National Bank in Can Tho, is an ardent Christian. Some thirty years ago he found the Lord as his Savior while in Laos. Years later, living in Rach Gia, he was granted government permission to hold services in the city prison. Over a period of two years more than 1,000 prisoners accepted Christ. One of these converts is now living in Can Tho. Recently he wrote Mr. Quan asking to be introduced to the local church, which he wanted to attend. A chaplain met two other released prisoners, now fervent Christians serving in the army.

A short time ago Mr. Quan was transferred to Can Tho. Immediately upon his arrival he received permission to hold a weekly service in the local prison which has 800 inmates. Within three months over 130 accepted Christ. Following his release, one of these prisoners came directly to see Mr. Quan. He took him to church the following Sunday morning where he was introduced and gave his testimony. He had not heard about Christ while living in an isolated

country area, but he had found Christ as a prisoner!

Recently Mr. Quan has asked for only inquirers to gather each Saturday evening. He teaches them the Word in preparation for baptism. The latter part of February two special evangelistic services were held inviting all the inmates to attend. Close to three hundred attentive prisoners gathered on both occasions with fourteen accepting Christ. Despite a busy schedule at the bank, Mr. Quan now desires to hold two weekly services — for preaching to the unsaved and for instructing believers.

In connection with this prison work Mr. Quan has opened a lovely reading room. Tracts, books and Bibles as well as Gospel magazines in Vietnamese, Chinese, French and English are displayed attractively. No doubt this is the first reading room of its kind in a Vietnamese prison. From early morning until late at night the room is filled, with the seed being sown in many hearts.

Through this zealous layman God has opened up a door of fruitful ministry.

A Cultural article on **CHILDBIRTH** in country areas
of Viet Nam

by Mrs. S. J. Lemon

Like American mothers - to - be, Vietnamese country women also prepare for childbirth, but in quite a different way. Two clay charcoal pots, fuel and some onions are purchased; special roots and leaves must be gathered; and old clothes mended and prepared for the new little one. Worshipping « Ba Chua » and her twelve midwives is also necessary, for they give the baby a healthy body.

Before the baby comes, a small room is built especially at the back of the house. The new mother will live there for a month after the child is born. During this time she will use separate eating utensils, for it is believed that if a male child eats from her dishes or any of her leftover food he will be stupid all his life.

For a month prior to birth, the mother drinks a special preparation which she believes washes the baby and assures an easy delivery. Shortly before the baby's arrival she bathes, and washes her hair with a special soap made from leaves. This she will not do again for a month for fear of illness.

Rice, lean meat, and salty, dried fish cooked with red pepper is the

new mother's diet. She drinks only a very bitter solution made from roots and leaves. Charcoal fires burn under her bed, regardless of weather conditions to help her regain strength quickly. To insure beauty, she puts salt water on her face three or four times daily and dries it over a charcoal fire.

Shortly after childbirth one of the family tosses onions on the fire so that the odor will drive out evil spirits who might try to take the infant. Performing the ceremony of selling the baby to « Ong Tao, » the guardian spirit, is believed to bring added protection. He will give it a different name. If the child is especially pretty, an ugly name is appropriate. Before putting clothes on the baby they are first thrown on a dog. Spirits hate dogs and will not take a child who wears the clothing of a dog.

Fear of spirits connected with childbirth causes us to understand readily why a woman would be saddened at the thought of having a new little one. Oh, that the power of the Gospel shall reach more of these women, setting them free from these fears!

NEWS NOTES

FURLOUGH bound since our last issue: Mr. and Mrs. D.P. Bordreuil (France via U.S.A.), Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Fowler, Mr. D.S. Herendeen, and Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Hunt. Returned: Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. B.T. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Travis, and Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Wood, after emergency furlough.

REJOICE with us that visas have been granted for returning and new missionaries as well as one Chinese worker. We are happy for the arrival of Chaplain and Mrs. H. W. Webster to carry on full-time ministry at the American Community Church as well as among military personnel. May our hearts be encouraged to believe God for an even greater increase in personnel.

YOUTH Centers have been established in the cities of Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and Bien Hoa. Reading rooms. English classes and recreation are a means of attracting young people to listen to the Gospel through evangelistic meetings. Pray that many shall be won to Christ and established in Him.

FOUR Chinese young people are desirous of entering the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong to prepare for the Lord's work. Present government restrictions hinder them from obtaining exit visas which will allow them to remain at school until they have completed their studies. Pray that God will open the way before them.

A new church has come into being at Binh Duc in Quang Ngai province. In a month's time sixty-one prayed for salvation.

IN this issue you will have read about God's working in Quang Tri province, the opening of new churches in Saigon, the radio ministry and the Chinese work in Da Nang. Three new church buildings have been completed in Quang Ngai province despite poverty through crop loss. Special request for prayer was made for these phases of the work in past issues, and God has been pleased to answer. Let us remember to give praise for what He has done. Our God is worthy of all praise!

PRAYER REMINDERS

FOR some unknown reason, fishermen along the Quang Ngai coast have been unable to catch enough fish for their own needs, let alone enough to sell. As a result, some 600 Christians in two fishing villages are in want. They need prayer that God will undertake for their needs.

CONTINUE to uphold in prayer our National Church chairman, Rev. Doan van Mieng, and his committee. With the heavy responsibility of overseeing several hundred churches in addition to solving problems which arise from unrest within the country, they daily need God's anointing for their ministry and His wisdom in leading the work.