

the CALL

1963



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A Good Catch After a Night at Sea

USIS

THE CALL OF VIET NAM

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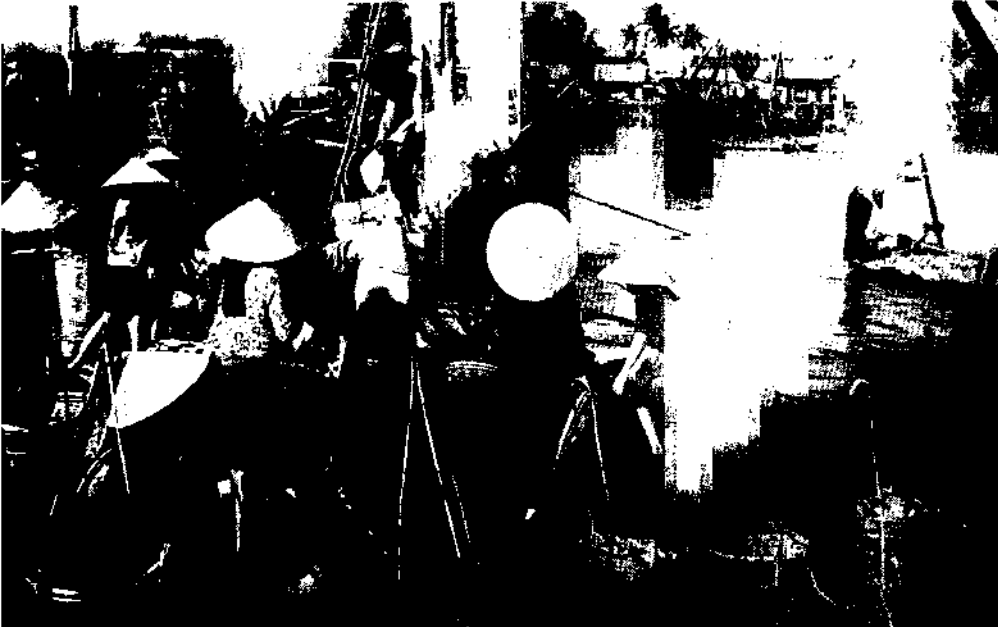
Co-editor: Miss K. E. Mack



COVER PICTURE :

MANY, many fishing villages in Viet Nam are found along the more than one thousand-mile seacoast. A fisherman has a very meager livelihood, solely dependent upon a good haul of fish to supply food for his family as well as some to sell. What seasons are best for fishing, where schools of fish are to be found, how to draw the net — these are vital to the fisherman.

In this issue we are stressing fishing and its relationship to various phases of Gospel ministry, not only among folk of the sea but among all who would be « fishers of men. »



Getting fish ready to sell

USIS

MIRACLE BESIDE THE SEA

by J. H. Livingston

OUT on the sea a hundred or more men wearily let down their nets in hope of a midnight catch. At the foot of the hill stretched a fishing village, dead in sleep. Alone on the hillside, silhouetted in the July moonlight, stood a nearly-completed church building. In the shadows beside the building were stacked some 3,000 roof tiles in ten neat rows. Tomorrow these tiles would crown this simple sanctuary and rest there for a life-time view of the gorgeous South China Sea. Peace seemed to pervade. Yet, just thirty feet from the new building, three men clad in black crouched unseen. Drums of hatred pounded in their hearts. Suddenly they sprang into the clearing, grabbed great coral

rocks and spent their hatred by breaking scores of the precious roof tiles.

Bitter words, derision, intimidation, the stings of malicious lies, all these and more the humble fisher-folk of An Cuong have endured for Christ's sake. The family of Anh Trieu, a village school teacher, had always ardently practiced ancestor worship. On especially designated days they sacrificed offerings of tea, bananas, rice cakes and other delicacies to the spirits as every religious Vietnamese has done for centuries. But one day Anh Trieu believed in the God of Heaven and shortly thereafter he willingly took down the altar which had always adorned his simple home.

Immediately close relatives and neighbors came to persuade him to give up this foreign religion. «If you don't worship your ancestors their spirits will bring sickness to your children. The demon spirits will send disaster and calamity to your home and eventually they will steal your soul and destroy you forever.» Anh Trieu was tormented for days by their jeers and haunts, but he was determined to follow Jesus. He said, «I have worshiped the spirits of my ancestors for many years, yet I never have been satisfied and I have met many misfortunes in spite of my faithfulness to them. Now I am resolved to follow the God of Heaven and I offer myself for His service.» Anh Trieu has proved himself faithful. Recently he was one of 87 new believers that were baptized in a little creek near the village and thus gave public testimony to his faith in Christ.

But why such opposition and persecution? The simplest answer is: where the Spirit of God moves in miraculous power, there the hosts of evil array themselves for battle. Four and a half years ago no one named His name at An-Cuong. Today 460 fisher-folk have turned from demon fear, sin and ancestor worship to open their hearts to Jesus.

While many provinces in Viet Nam have had a continuous witness for over forty years, because of the shortage of national workers and missionaries and due to years of war, Quang Ngai had no such evangelistic thrust. It was four years ago that this province of 700,000 people first received evangelistic penetration. During those first days 160 adults prayed for salvation. Today 800 new Christians in eight church groups meet weekly to worship the living God.

Here is the story of An Cuong, one of those groups. At the time of the first evangelistic campaign at Chau O, two young men from An Cuong opened their hearts to receive the message of Christ. Back in their village they began a vigorous witness. One young man, like Andrew, led his brother to the Lord. The brother was a village leader, raw, hot-tempered, yet with a heart tender like a child's to find out the things of Christ. We call this brother Peter. Each time the missionary visited the village Peter knew every sick person and led us to each home for prayer.

Our Spirit-filled student evangelist was invited to this village. With only an old half-broken loud speaker, his Bible and hymnal, he simply walked down the narrow village paths, lined on either side with dingy mud huts, walked around the boats veiled with their hanging nets, and sang the melodies of Christ. Today 97 families have forsaken idolatry and the bondage of centuries to become children of Light.

These fishermen also gave an enthusiastic witness for Jesus in outlying towns. One day last summer two men came to our home, «We have many friends in a new village who want to repent and to pray.» The student pastor and I went at their invitation and 37 souls came to Christ. Today in this area there are six groups of Christians.

With souls seeking Jesus every week, it has been imperative to ground these new believers in the «a-b-c's» of the faith. Through the hearty co-operation of our pastors we have been able to hold seven Adult Village Bible Schools in the province during the past two years. Each school lasts five days with an average of 29 teaching hours of



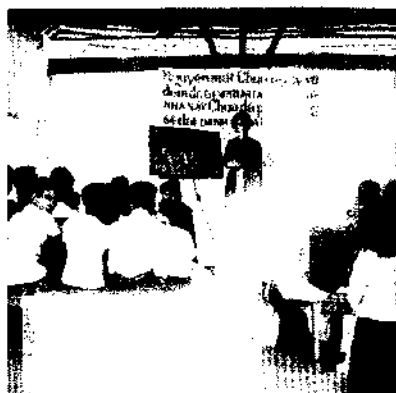
*To Ly Son Island for first
Gospel witness*



Going to distribute tracts

Bible. At An Cuong local enemies of the Gospel upon seeing such amazing advances determined not to permit the use of their school house for meetings. Rising to the occasion the Christians spread great sails over the courtyard of a home and 200 adults attended the Bible School in the shade of these sails to shelter them from the broiling July sun.

Overlooking the coral blue South China Sea stands a monument of unity and love for Christ — the An Cuong Church building. It is doubtful if the amount of zeal, labor and love that produced this building has ever been surpassed in central Viet Nam. Here is a new group that did not have a resident pastor. They had known loss of their « fish crop » for the past three years. Huge stones, each weighing 200 pounds were cut from the earth and carried, four men to one stone, to the building site. Limestone was brought from the sea, heated, pounded into pure white lime to be used in construction. Every cement block was made by hand. The day tiles were purchased for the roof, Christians carried them on their shoulders from the main road three kilometers away. Just as



*Photos by Livingston
Instruction in the Truth*

the people were finishing the church building their first resident pastor arrived! In three weeks they had put up a nice thatch parsonage.

One family took two windows out of the walls of their own home, plastered over the holes with mud, and offered them for use in the new parsonage.

In glorious answer to prayer, God has broken the heathen powers of stinginess, the fear of want and all the mountainous obstacles that loomed so large before this group. Today a Church is established at An Cuong.

AMBITION WITH KNOWLEDGE

by G. J. Kleinhen

“OH, how I've grown in the Lord since I've come here! Surely we must serve the Lord zealously when we get back to our churches.” Thus a youth expressed the feelings of the student body at the close of the last Short Term Bible School session in Vinh Long.

Miss Nam was an outstanding student evidencing a great desire to learn. She was a fine example to the other students. Even teachers watched her carefully. Why was it Miss Nam applied herself so well to her studies? All listened eagerly as she gave testimony of Christ's love and His help as she sold goods in the market. A few days after graduation she became the bride of a student pastor and began the important role of a pastor's wife.

Christian youth are ambitious to serve their Savior but many times they do not know how to do this effectively. Often they lack adequate training in Bible, basic theology or teaching methods. Yes, they want to serve Him but just what can they do or where can they go to get the necessary training? Due to shortage of finances, family obligations, or other obstacles they are unable to spend eight months at the Nha Trang Bible

School. For this reason the Short Term Bible School has been instituted.

Forty-four young people attended the month-long S.T.B.S. session, some coming over 150 miles by bus or by boat. Several youth who had planned to attend were at the last minute called into the army while others were fearful of being inducted before the school closed. Enthusiastically the young people studied courses in Old Testament Survey, Acts, Romans, Child Evangelism, and Music, meeting in classes eight times a day.

Apart from classroom activities, volley ball and ping pong provided recreation for the fellows. The church building echoed with the sound of students as they gathered twice each day for prayer and to sing songs of praise. Saturday was devoted to practical experience as students went from house to house distributing tracts and witnessing.

Graduation morning students were both happy and sad — sad to depart from school and new friends but happy to return to their churches to serve the Lord in a richer and fuller measure than ever before.

Happy fellowship



Graduation morning





Studying the Word

LU Q. LAM

We can train others to become "fishers of men" through...

A DEEPER LIFE CONFERENCE

by Lu Quang Lam

SIGNS of progress are evident in the world, how much more should they be in the lives of obedient believers! After an elapse of a year since our last Young People's Conference, this year was more successful than the previous one. We give praise to the Lord for the wonderful spiritual blessings gained.

Living on the hot plains, to us seven days of cold Dalat weather were almost unbearable. And this year it was unusually cold. As soon as we ascended Dalat mountain we began to shiver. We were very thankful for the supply of blankets and clothing from relief barrels that the missionaries loaned to us to help keep us warm.

When we awoke the first morning we found the thermometer read 46 degrees. A number of young people unaccustomed to roughing it in the cold were ready to return to Saigon, but after earnest prayer concerning the weather there was a definite change. We got used to our surroundings with good food and invigorating air.

Our morning schedule included a period for private devotions and group prayers, breakfast, and morning message with Rev. Eddy Ie from Indonesia as the special speaker. He gave a series of talks both morning and evening on "How to Become a Strong Christian," "Consecration," and "Christian Marriage" were the themes of his closing messages. Pastors from the three Chinese churches in Saigon also participated in the conference giving special talks. Each morning following the message we divided into groups for Bible study, concentrating on the book of Colossians which we found a bit difficult.

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*Not only are we
"fishers of men"
but we must provide...*

BREAD FOR THE HUNGRY

by E. A. Cline

DEDICATED to the premise that each individual has the right to have the Word of God in his own language and at a price he can afford to pay, the desire of the Bible Society in Viet Nam is simply to be a servant of the servants of God. The practical results of this dedications and purpose

are the publishing and distribution of Bibles, New Testaments and Scripture portions in many languages.

The beginning of the Bible Society in Viet Nam goes back to the end of the last century when in 1890 the first Gospel portions in Vietnamese were prepared and printed. In 1902 the British and Foreign Bible Society sent a French colporter to Viet Nam, who worked in the Da Nang area. Scripture portions in Vietnamese, Chinese and French were sold very successfully throughout the countryside. Vietnamese colporters were also employed, and thus the Word of God reached thousands in this land.

In 1911 the Bible Society moved its headquarters from Da Nang to Hai-phong. That same year The Christian and Missionary Alliance started work in Viet Nam, purchasing the Bible Society house and property in Da Nang which for more than fifty years has served the Mission and the National Church.

Since these humble beginnings the work of translation and revision has never ceased and today there are millions of Vietnamese and thousands of tribespeople who can read the Scriptures in their own language. The Bible is available in both Vietnamese and Chinese and portions are printed in the tribal languages of Raday, Koho, Jarai, Bahnar, and Chru. Many other smaller tribal groups as yet have no Scriptures in their own language.

We who for so long have had the Word of God in our own tongue often take for granted the many years of patient toil that have made the Bible



E. A. CLINE

Christians and missionaries co-operate with Van team

possible for us. In Viet Nam we can see in progress the various steps that are necessary for the preparation of a good translation into any language since work is now underway on two new manuscripts for the New Testament in Raday and Koho.

A missionary usually begins the work of translating with the assistance of several who are native speakers of the language. Often this initial work is done to fill the need for use of Scriptures in Short Term Bible School sessions. The Scriptures are not paraphrased but each shade of meaning is referred to in the original languages before translating word by word. This is slow and painstaking work, a task of many years before completing a copy of the New Testament. Once the first rough draft is ready it is checked carefully by another committee who corrects and improves it as much as possible. The manuscript is typed, proofread and any errors corrected. A copy of the first manuscript is then sent to the head office in London where a team of linguistic experts begin the checking and cross-checking that are necessary

to ensure consistent use of particular words and to further polish the translation. It is very undramatic work, but after so much effort has already been expended it is the earnest desire of everyone concerned that the translation be as clear and as nearly perfect as possible.

Finally the manuscript is ready for the printer and after the type has been set a few copies are prepared to be proofread by those who are familiar with the language. It is a happy day when the final printing is finished and the bound volumes are dedicated to the glory of God.

Once the Scriptures are printed, distribution is perhaps the most important phase of the whole effort. In Viet Nam the Word is distributed by means of colporters, a Bible Van and a Bible Depot in Saigon, as well as by pastors, missionaries and Book-rooms throughout the country.

In the blazing hot sun and through pouring rain colporters travel from village to village and market to market reaching people who have come in

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TEACH OTHERS ALSO

by E. S. Arnold

ANDREW « first found his brother Simon » and « brought him to Jesus. » Thus we read the account

of a « fisher of men » in the Gospel of John. But in this case it was Stephen, the elder, who brought his younger brother, Timothy, to the Lord.

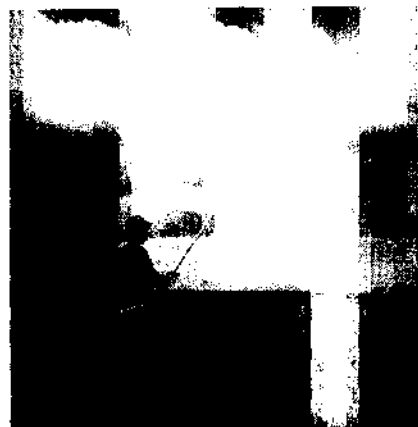
Timothy at Children's Meeting

EE



*Fishermen in flooded ricefield
(is one worth the effort)*

US



At first Timothy evidenced a rather half-hearted interest in his new experience in Christ. But the Lord had His hand upon this lad's life. He was led into a closer walk with the Master, until one day he knew God had chosen him to give his life in full-time service to « fish for men. »

Timothy gained as much formal education in the Chinese language as was possible here in preparation for going to the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong. He still lacked some courses for entrance into the freshman class, but these could easily be made up in the « prep course. »

To get permission to leave the country to go to Hong Kong was the big problem, especially in view of the strict enforcement of inducting young men into the army. It was suggested that perhaps Timothy could go to Hong Kong on a visitor's visa and then gain permission to remain there after reaching the colony. This proved unsuccessful for the Hong Kong government insisted that he must have a student visa in order to remain for a period longer than a month. And from this end it was impossible for him to obtain an extension on his Viet Nam re-entry visa. What should he do? From every side he was encouraged to work through devious channels to obtain the necessary permission.

Timothy was reminded that the school authorities could not

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V. OLIVER
Shopkeeper measuring coffee

FAMILIARITY breeds contempt, is a common expression among English-speaking people. Having lived in Viet Nam for a year the strangeness of the Orient has gradually worn away and in many areas that which was new has now become familiar.

No longer am I amazed at the myriads of bicycles, the constant blowing of automobile horns, various types of street peddlers, colorful clothes and many other features of normal day to day scenes in this eastern country.

Living in Viet Nam has brought me into daily contact with the people and consequently the normal phases of their culture have become commonplace. The gradual molding of a missionary's life into a new cultural pattern can create problems. Over-familiarity can be the stepping stone to a .lost vision. . All of us have had to fight against the besetting sin of failing to be aware of the spiritual

How Is Your Vision?

by V. L. Oliver

needs of .the man on the street. . This same deadening of the spiritual pulse can attack the missionary as he takes his place in a new culture.

For the new missionary in the midst of his language study or the older worker who is busy meeting city officials, giving out medicine or repairing his automobile there is the ever-present danger of becoming spiritually blind to the true need of the national. The Buddhist priest or the little woman bowing at her altar of wood near the busy sidewalk can become just as familiar to us as the clerk in the supermarket at home. Often the result is that we pass them by and our hearts are not stirred because we fail to see them as the Lord Jesus saw the multitude when He said, .Lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest. .

As every missionary in Viet Nam, I want to see with the spiritual vision of our Lord Jesus. Today your ambassadors in Viet Nam send out a call to our fellow-laborers in the home land, .pray that we may continually see as God sees, and thus respond with love to bear the burdens of . a world a-weary. .

WHEN I came to Viet Nam I got acquainted with «nuoc mam» in a hurry. The day after our arrival we had a Vietnamese meal and of course with it — you guessed right — «nuoc mam.» When I got near the dining room, my olfactory perception told me something was rank. However, my compelling desire for a repast propelled me on to my destination. When I arrived I saw the offender — a brownish, transparent liquid in a little sauce dish. As I was about to speak, another new missionary took the words out of my mouth asking «What smells rank?» «It's dead fish water! Dead fish are put into a big wooden vat with salt and allowed to rot. When they are completely rotten the liquid is drained off to use as a sauce,» came the reply. Little did we suspect that one day we would live in the town where it's made!

In south Viet Nam there are two places where «nuoc mam» is mass-produced, Phan Thiet and an island off the mainland. The production of «nuoc mam» is not so repugnant nor is it so simple as the above reply suggests. Fresh fish with rock salt are packed in large wooden vats (800-1200 gallon capacity) and enough water added to just cover the fish. This is allowed to cure for six to nine months, depending on the variety of fish used. At the end of this curing stage the liquid is siphoned off the fish into other vats, then from vat to vat until it is of even consistency. This siphoning process takes another two to three months.

While this second stage is taking place, the original vat of fish and salt

is going through another curing stage with a second fill of water to produce a second-grade «nuoc-mam.» One vat of fish usually produces three or four «waters.» Each successive grade of «nuoc mam» is decidedly inferior and effuses a stronger odor than the former.

«Nuoc mam» is absolutely essential in serving Vietnamese meals, giving meats, vegetables and rice a unique flavor and aroma. Get some clothespins for your noses for we hope to take some «nuoc mam» to America when we go on furlough. Would you like to come and «eat rice» with us?

WHAT'S THAT RANK ODOR?

by K. F. White

Fish and salt for nuoc mam

USIS





Distributing Scriptures to Soldiers

Bread for the Hungry

(continued from page 9)

from surrounding areas to buy and sell. With the aid of picture rolls they tell Bible stories to a group of interested listeners who are happy to buy a Scripture portion for the low price of one piaster (about 1-1/3 cents). In many areas the witness of the colporters and the Gospel portions are the very first contact people have had with the message of salvation.

The ministry of the five-man team who travel with the Bible Van has been blessed by the Lord. Equipped with a loud speaking system, the van pulls up to a market place and the evangelist immediately begins to address the people. Others of the team, often with Christians from the nearest church, begin from house to house to witness and sell Scripture portions, working long hours during the day and often holding evangelistic services in the evening. One of the Van team gave this account, "After a long day

of work we were walking down the street. Our hearts rejoiced as we saw a merchant in this shop, a pupil in that house and an old man in another studiously reading the Gospel portions they had purchased during the day. Sometimes the purchase of Scripture portions brings a different result. A housewife bought some portions from one of the men. When her husband returned home and saw her reading one of the books he rebuked and beat her. But the lady managed to hide the books under a mat. Upon hearing of this the team member went back to the shop and offered to return the money in exchange for the literature saying that he did not want to cause trouble. However, this housewife was determined to read the books and refused to give them up.

The Van team works in close cooperation with the local church and missionary. In this way they can reach the most needy areas more effectively. From the coastal town of Quang Ngai the missionary wrote, "In seven days we sold over 5,000 Scripture portions and gave out over 10,000 attractive tracts. We preached Christ in sixteen major markets and saw (including night evangelistic services in which the evangelist of the team preached) 31 people come to Christ."

During the past year the Bible Society sold more than 200,000 Scriptures. But more important than this is the large number of precious souls that have come to know the Lord. There is bread enough for the hungry. Our task is to make it readily available to them.

A Deeper Life Conference

(continued from page 7)

The afternoon was devoted to recreation. After the evening message we had group prayers and retired at ten-thirty.

What were some of the results from this conference? Through group prayers, young people who at first were very hesitant to pray aloud learned to pray audibly. Those with spiritual problems sought the counsel of the pastors. Some students who study English at one of the street chapels in Saigon attended the conference with the thought of going on a little vacation. They became very conscious of the fact that there was One who loved and cared for them. Through the working of the Spirit from the ministry of the Word, a number of them were really born-again. A goodly number responded to the special message on consecration, yielding themselves to God to use as He desires. All of the young people upon returning home, testified to the fact that their desire for prayer and to read God's Word was greater because of having attended the conference.

This group of one hundred young people learned to live and fellowship



Weary after a long hike

together in a way they had never before experienced. We were all reticent to leave Dalat and the oneness in Christ we enjoyed. But we will always carry with us the precious memories of our week together in learning to know Christ better, and with God's help we want to live more fruitful lives for His glory.

(Rev. and Mrs. Paul Contento, O.M.F. missionaries, sponsored this conference — Editors).

PRAYER REMINDERS

A large number of our missionary personnel will go on furlough following our Field Conference in June. Pray that the Lord will give added strength to those on the field and that they will know Divine wisdom in how to best occupy the many needy areas. Pray, too, for those who return home that they will be renewed in spirit and strengthened in body, enabled of the Lord to have a fruitful ministry during furlough.

A number of fine property sites have been viewed with regard to the Saigon Youth Center and International Protestant Church ministries. Prices of land are exorbitant. Pray that the Lord will direct us to the place of His choice and at a reasonable price.

RECENT fires in Saigon have destroyed thousands of homes. An Alliance chapel was located in one of the most seriously effected areas. During the past year since its opening over 140 adults and 70 children have turned to Christ.

Twenty-six families, either members or interested friends, lost their homes and are in great need. Funds have been granted to rebuild the chapel. Pray earnestly that government permission for a good piece of land will soon be granted so these young believers may have a place of worship.

REMEMBER to pray continually for the ten new graduates from the Nha Trang Bible School who are beginning ministries in new pastorates. Pray that they will be strong in the Lord and bear a good witness for Him.

IN these days of constant unrest we need your faithful prayer interest for God's protection over all who are His.

A young Vietnamese preacher ministers to a rather unique congregation in the village of Tung Nghia. There are Vietnamese, French, Cambodian, Black Thai and Tho tribal groups. In recent months about 40 Cambodians have turned to the Lord. Pray that soon a

Cambodian preacher will be sent to labor among these believers and other Cambodians who work on a nearby plantation. They find it difficult to understand spiritual truths in the Vietnamese language.

OVER 600 Chinese children in Saigon attended the several Vacation Bible Schools held by the three churches during the hot season. Pray that the concentrated study of God's Word will continue to bear fruit. Many of these children come from heathen homes and need to be upheld daily in prayer.

PRAY for the pastor of our Saigon Alliance Chinese church who is on a three-month leave of absence because of poor health. Pray that God will bring healing to his body and refreshing to his soul.

HAVE you remembered to pray daily for the three missionaries still held by the communists? Try to put yourself in their position. You would long for the faithful intercession of God's children.

A few months before the close of the second semester at the Nha Trang Bible School a student requested to say a few words at the evening Prayer Meeting. He mentioned the fact that students would soon be going out into the work but many had no burden for the lost, their hearts were cold, the financial need at the school was acute, possibly necessitating the closing of school early. The student led out in prayer confessing his own

NEWS NOTES

need to meet God in a new way. After he prayed others followed. This spirit of brokenness and a desire to meet God afresh continued for several days. It was not necessary to close school early for the financial needs were met. May the outpouring of God's power be manifest daily upon each student as he serves the Lord.

THE pastor of the newly-erected Vietnamese church in Xom Cui, a suburb of Saigon, invited the Chinese pastor and people to use their building for Children's Meetings. In January this ministry was started, showing real promise. Plans are being discussed now concerning the establishment of a new Chinese Alliance church in this area.

MR. and Mrs. D. R. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Henry (emergency), Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Jeffrey, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Kleinhen, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lemon, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Mangham, Jr. (Chairman), Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Mock, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Sawin and Mr. and Mrs. H. W.

Webster have gone on furlough since our last issue. We are glad to welcome back to the field Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Dutton, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Revelle and Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Sutherland.

A pledge of almost \$1,000 US has been made by interested believers in Da Nang toward a church building in a new section of the city. Several Christian families from the main church in town will form the nucleus of this work. Because there is no building available to rent it will be necessary to build. It is the hope of the Da Nang Christians to begin another work on the road to the airport which also is a rapidly-growing area.

Teach Others Also

(continued from page 10)

guarantee him with the Hong Kong government if he was not willing to enter with a proper visa. In his hour of great testing there were those who were willing to stand in prayer with this youth. Not until Timothy met God in full surrender, willing to return to Viet Nam and ask for the proper entry permit, did he find real peace.

Upon his return to Saigon, Timothy was scorned and misunderstood. Why was he so foolish not to have stayed in Hong Kong? But He Who loves the righteous kept Timothy during these trying times. It was suggested that he wait several months before making application again for permission. His chances seemed very slim. But our God Who delights in the impossible enabled Timothy to obtain his exit visa through the proper channels within

a period of three months! He could go with a clear record and with God's favor upon him.

During the months of waiting, Timothy made practical use of his time in studying special courses that would be helpful when he reached school. His spare time was devoted to a ministry among children, both in Sunday School and in helping with Children's Meetings. He proved to be a very faithful worker.

Following an entrance examination upon arrival back in Hong Kong last September, he was able to enter Seminary as a freshman! His school vacation periods are being used profitably to carry on special ministries among children. One area he visits requires a two-hour hike one way after getting off the ferry that stops at the island. Is it worthwhile to be a «fisher of men?» Stephen «first found his brother» Timothy, and now Timothy is teaching others to become «fishers of men.»