

Viet Nam Exhibits Peaks and Valleys

SAIGON—Christians now meet to worship Christ aboard ships off the coast of Vietnam. Jim Ridgeway, missionary in Vietnam reports that congregations now meet aboard the aircraft carriers U.S.S. Enterprise and U.S.S. Hancock.

The church of Christ aboard the nuclear powered Enterprise meets in the ship's chapel every Sunday at 11 AM. There are fifteen members of this unusual, "floating" congregation. Aboard the U.S.S. Hancock, Christians meet at 9 a.m. in the Log Room Annex.

Three missionaries spend a large portion of their time working with members of the Armed Forces in Vietnam—Wayne

Briggs, sponsored by the Lennon Road Church of Christ in Flint, Michigan; Jim Ridgeway, who is sponsored by the Hazel Street Church of Christ in Pine Bluff, Arkansas; and Lynn Yocum who is sponsored by the church in Salina, Kansas.

However, all the news from Vietnam is not optimistic. Because of a shortage of workers and because many letters have been sent to the wrong address, it has been almost impossible to contact and follow up leads immediately. This problem has been increased by the fact that Lynn Yocum will be in the states until August and Wayne Briggs was only recently discharged from the hospital.

A letter came telling of a man who believed in Jesus Christ and wanted to be baptized. However, with two of three workers temporarily out of action, this contact could not immediately

be followed up. This was only one of several similar letters.

Recently, Jim Ridgeway flew from Saigon to Dong Ha near the DMZ and to several other places—more than a thousand miles—to locate a man who wanted to be baptized. Before another contact could be followed up, the man's life was ended by a tracer. Because of a shortage of workers, a bullet got there first.

Do you know any Christians stationed in Vietnam? If so, please send their complete military address (full name, rank, serial number, unit, and APO number) to Wayne Briggs, Church of Christ Mission, APO

96243, San Francisco. Emergency requests for visits to wounded or sick (both Christians and non Christians) should be sent by telegram to Wayne Briggs, 7 Nguyen Thong, Saigon with a follow up letter. Telegram is the fastest means of communication; but they are sometimes lost.

Even though Lynn Yocum will return in August and Wayne Briggs has already returned to Vietnam, there is still a need for more men to serve Christ as full-time workers in Vietnam. This is especially true for men who will learn Vietnamese and work with the Vietnamese people.

First Sermon Preached in Local Tongue

By Wayne Briggs

CHOLON, Viet Nam—Jim Powell became the first missionary in Vietnam to preach in one of the local languages on May 24.

Powell works with the Chinese and delivered a twenty-five minute message in Mandarin Chinese.

Jim and his wife Diane arrived in Vietnam during the later part of August, 1966 and have been in Vietnam only about nine months. However, for several months before his first sermon, he has been using his Chinese in personal work. The Powells are supported by several congregations in Mississippi and the south. They both attended Freed-Hardeman College and the Summer Missions Seminar at Harding College.

There are more than 800,000 Chinese living in Cholon, Saigon's twin city. To more effectively reach these Chinese-speaking people, Jim formed the Cholon Church of Christ in December, 1966. Since that time, attendance has grown from a handful to over thirty. Members of the congregation provided the meeting place from the beginning.

Commenting on working with the Chinese, Jim Powell remarked: "The only way I felt that I could be really effective was to learn their language. You can convert people to Christ using only English; but it is extremely difficult to build up a congregation."

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AWOL Private Converted By Ex-Buddhist

SAN FRANCISCO — An AWOL private from Houston, Tex., was converted to Jesus Christ by a Vietnamese evangelist. The young PFC had deserted from the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was hiding in the Buddhist temple area in the city of Bien-Hoa — about twenty miles north of Saigon.

While hiding from military police, he met a Vietnamese Christian who happened to be an ex-Buddhist monk. The Christian led the young man to the place where Christians meet in Bien-Hoa. There he talked with the local Vietnamese evangelist and learned about the way of Christ. The young man from Houston surrendered himself to Jesus Christ and was baptized by Brother Nguyen Dan Bao.

After becoming a follower of Jesus Christ, he decided that he must turn himself in to the military police.

American missionaries from Texas and Michigan made arrangements for him to do this and arranged for Eugene Scott, an Army Chaplain, to counsel with him and to intercede on the PFC's behalf in view of his changed life and return to duty.



WORSHIP ON WAR VESSEL — Ted Stubbs, Carl Holden, Jerry McGlaughlin and Leroy Carter on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hancock between launch and recovery of planes. (Photo by James Ridgeway, missionary to Viet Nam).