

“FOLLOW ME!”

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said,

At once they left their nets and followed him. – Matthew 4:19-20

(“GAN YIE MAAH!”)

“and I will make you fishers of men.”

18th Annual Mien Christian Family Camp, Aug. 14-16, 2009 at Viola, CA

Last year the newly published complete Mien Bible was the focus of many big celebrations. Following appropriately upon that emphasis **THIS YEAR’S FAMILY CAMP ZEROED IN ON MISSIONS & Jesus’ words to Jewish fishermen :‘FOLLOW ME!’**

Mien Christian Mission Fellowship leaders had chosen this year to express special appreciation to missionaries who had served extensively among the Mien peoples. Missionaries were encouraged to attend and these 8 did: Dr. Herbert Purnell, Dr. Henry Breidenthal, Kwang Kim, John Goddard, C. W. Callaway, Ann Burgess, Verna Aspray, & Anne Thomas.



These five OMF missionaries attended

The challenge of missions was especially emphasized in the Saturday night service led by Pastor Yao-Fu (Prasarn) Saelee and in which Dr. Henry Breidenthal preached. In that service albums of appreciation containing pictures and thank you notes from many Mien Christians were given to missionaries present. Similar albums are being mailed to 11 other missionaries.



Album presented to Dr. Herbert Purnell



The Richmond worship team did a good job of selecting appropriate mission & praise songs. This challenge was also given in testimonies and presentations by missionaries, in devotional times, in a missions forum, and in the sermons.

There was so much needing to be crowded in to the short weekend that most sessions went considerably overtime but many joyfully held out to the end of each.

Attendance was good again with a **total registration of 389** including 8 from France, 4 from Canada, 4 from Alaska. Of the total about 40 were children and 25 young adults.



Children & young adults worshipped together in this beautiful lakeside amphitheater

To the young adults Andrew Lai brought messages on Isaiah’s call in Isa. 6 and “The Potter” of Jer. 18 & “How to pray like a missionary” with corresponding workbooks. “Uncle Jackson” spoke to the children on “the fruits of the Spirit.” Pao Ho, Caryn, Mey Chiam led those sessions.

Reports mentioned encouraging progress being made in 2 countries among the Mun/Lantien (Janx Canh Zeiv) the ethnic group most closely related to the Mien. Anne Thomas challenged youth to learn Mien language & culture from their grandparents and consider creative tentmaking-means of serving in closed countries.

Morning devotional times were led by Pastor Yau Fu with fervent repentance and earnest prayers that we might be effective witnesses for our Lord.



On Friday night a goodly number rededicated themselves to the Lord and several made known their desire to yield their lives to Christ.

Then on Saturday afternoon we rejoiced to see five new believers baptized in the camp lake:



Dr. Herbert Purnell presented the progress on the “Mien to English dictionary with cultural notes” which he has been diligently working on for many years with valuable help from Gway Fong and Ann Burgess. Many eagerly await its publication as well as valuable Bible study aids being produced.

In his sermon Herb caused us to ponder these facts: There are 7 million churches in the world & 10,000 different people groups = 700 churches to each people group

Why then are we Christians not adequately evangelizing these 10,000 groups and why are we not reaching the 1,000 people groups which have not one Christian?

Poignantly pointing out with many figures, and illustrations the unfinished task before us Dr. Henry reminded us **“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required”** (Luke 12:48 NKJV) and following Jesus’ example **“we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”** (1 Jn. 3:16)

Can you see now why many of us were challenged to be more faithful in following our Lord and are already eagerly looking forward to our **19TH ANNUAL FAMILY CAMP to be again at LASSEN PINES ON Aug. 13-15, 2010?**

Yours from a fellow follower of the Master,
C. W. Callaway

A big “Happy Birthday” surprised me at family camp:



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