

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS

TRAINING AND RESOURCING PERSECUTED ASIAN PASTORS
TO REACH THEIR PEOPLE

Winter 2020



*TO PROTECT OUR
NATIONALS AND STAFF,
PLEASE DO NOT POST
THE CONTENTS OF THIS
NEWSLETTER ON SOCIAL
MEDIA*

“A and the Word was
made flesh, and
dwelt among us, and we
beheld His glory, the
glory as of the only
begotten of the Father,
full of grace
and truth.”
-John 1:14

Vietnam Ung Ministry - Firstfruits

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(On the back)



VIETNAM UNG MINISTRY - FIRSTFRUITS

Reaching The Poor And The Fatherless



Many of you have been a part of Mai Ung's ministry in Vietnam for several years. Mai was servant-hearted with an inspiring vision of what God could do in her community. Mai passed away this September, but her ministry continues through those she trained and mentored. Duc Tran and Nu Hanh were discipled and trained under Mai for many years and are now stepping up to lead the ministry.

Firstfruits Ministry reaches out to the community in many ways. The **Joy ESL** program provides free English classes that teach English directly from the Bible. The **Tender Quilt** ministry allows financially disadvantaged high school and college students

to receive help with their tuition and a small amount of spending money for their quilt work. They study the Bible as they work on the quilts. **New Life Shelter and Child's Home** reaches out to women considering abortion. They provide for the needs of pregnant mothers and encourage them to choose life. Many decide to keep their babies, but others choose to give their children to the ministry orphanage where they are raised by loving caretakers.

Duc and Nu Hanh are working hard to continue Mai's legacy in Vietnam. Watching them step up to take leadership roles in the ministry has been so encouraging. We are seeing nationals continue to train and equip nationals as they strive to carry out the ministry. Consider partnering with us as we support Firstfruits in Vietnam.

Partner with us via check by sending it to the OTAN office, memo "Mai Ung Firstfruits Ministry" or, give online at otan.org by selecting the "give" tab and scrolling down to "Vietnam - Ung Ministry Firstfruits."

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VIETNAM UNDERGROUND BIBLE COLLEGE UPDATE

Training And Resourcing National Pastors

The Underground Bible College in Vietnam has been going very well since its launch in October. The National leaders in Vietnam asked OTAN to launch the semester by teaching the first courses. We have been able to complete our first book of study from the Bible Training Center For Pastors curriculum via Zoom, and we will begin a complete the second course in January.



Although the pastors and trainers who have been involved with our Zoom teaching have enjoyed getting to know the Bible College students and seeing them grow in their knowledge of the Bible, this method of teaching will not continue indefinitely. The National pastors in Vietnam, who have already completed this curriculum through OTAN, will begin teaching the courses soon. We are excited as we work together to make this underground network of pastors an independent Bible College to equip new pastors across Vietnam.

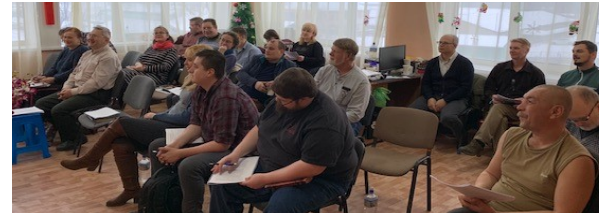
Please continue to pray for this ministry. It is a two-year commitment for these pastors, many of whom have never had the privilege of formal Bible training. The equipping received at this Bible college will impact hundreds of congregants. The school is full at this time, but there are many waiting for a chance to enter the program in the year of 2022. We have a large task ahead of us. Help us empower these pastors to reach their people with the gospel.

To donate, send a check to OTAN including "Vietnam Underground Bible College" in the memo line or go to otan.org, click the "give" tab, and select "Vietnam Underground Bible College."

We are excited to launch a new, effective and interactive, curriculum for pastoral training. We plan to begin this new curriculum in January with our Russia ministry. Unfortunately, we are still unable to travel to Russia for this training, but we are thrilled to still be able to hold this training via Zoom.

These materials are focused on facilitation, rather than lecture-based teaching. The students are given the materials and study expectations in advance so that when the training begins, everyone should have completely studied the material being taught. The teacher then focuses on drawing out the knowledge that the students have grasped by using various forms of interaction. This is a very empowering way to equip pastors as it allows them to engage one-another, learn from each other, and share what they have gained from their studies. In OTAN countries where pastors are under restrictions, scrutiny, and persecution, uniting pastors with one another equips them in ways far beyond the practical. These men need the prayers and encouragement of one another daily.”

Because of the nature of the training, it is necessary to have the students in one place, however, this does mean that the training will have costs associated with it. We expect the cost of this pilot training to be \$3,000. This covers a wide range of affiliated costs including the translation of the new curriculum into Russian, a hotel for the pastors to gather, and the cost of food for the training. The national pastors will have an investment as well, especially in the time they will give to their studies before and during the training.



Pastors and their wives attend a training

If you would like to partner with us as we launch this training curriculum in Russia, you can do so by sending a check to OTAN with the memo "Russia Training" or, give online at otan.org by clicking the "give" tab and selecting "Russia Ministry."

PERSECUTION RISING IN LAOS

Families Shunned For Their Faith

Although the Laotian government verbally recognizes religious freedom, they take no steps to protect those rights and religious persecution often arises, especially in rural areas. Local government officials have warned citizens not to convert to Christianity. Christians are often targeted for their beliefs and are sometimes imprisoned, beaten, or tortured for refusing to recant their faith.

Two families living in a Buddhist village have had to face this difficult part of their culture head-on this year. A family of four and a family of six converted to Christianity. The Buddhist village discovered their new-found faith in Christ, and demanded that they renounce Jesus and turn back to their traditions. When the families refused to renounce Christ as their Savior, they were forced to leave their village. They were not even allowed to take anything with them from their homes.

Both of these faithful families now live in makeshift tents or abandoned buildings. They know, first-hand, what it means to give all they have for Christ.

Our hope is to help them relocate to a new village where they could find jobs and new homes. Please pray that these new believers will continue to grow in their faith as they trust the Lord to provide for their needs. Also, pray that their children do not become embittered toward this new faith because of their hardship.

You can partner with our ministry in Laos by sending a check to OTAN with the memo, "Laos Ministry," or give online at otan.org by clicking the "give" tab and selecting "Laos Ministry."





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PASTOR WORKER REPORT

An Update From The Antioch School In China

The ministry in China has experienced many changes this year. We are glad to report that none of our team has been infected by COVID and everyone was able to come back together and continue the academic year in-person about six months ago. We are excited to see this group of two-year students graduate in January. Please pray for them as they return to their hometowns to serve in various ministries.

Pastor Enoch, who has served as the head pastor of the Chinese church which partners with the Antioch School, is going through a transitional period. He and his wife Andrea will be moving back to Enoch's hometown. Co-pastor Jason will be stepping up to take the role as the head pastor. Please pray for Enoch and Andrea during this change. They will continue to partner with OTAN work in China, but they will not be able to help teach at the Antioch school. Also, pray for Jason as he takes on a larger role at the Church.

You can partner with our national pastors in China by sending a check to OTAN with the memo "China Pastor/Worker", or online at otan.org by clicking the "give" tab and selecting China Ministry.

An **easy, safe, and secure** way to **support OTAN's continued training** is Text-To-Give. (Text-2-Give # 540-274-5524)

- Open a text message to 540-274-5524 and enter keyword: **OTANtraining**, a space, then your amount (For example: OTANtraining 75)
- You will receive a text to confirm your donation and will be provided a link to set-up your device for text giving. Once you create an account and choose a method of payment, you are set to Text-To-Give any time in the future.
- Follow the directions, and you will receive a confirmation text and email with your receipt. Don't forget to save the number to your phone, so you can easily give again at any time.