



OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

VIETNAM



AN UPDATE FROM JIM AND SUE

Dear Friends,

Our September trip was stressful, but it has also provided us with tremendous blessings. Just prior to leaving the US, one of our team teachers had to have emergency surgery. The teaching load had to be adjusted and divided between the two remaining teachers. The other instructor had to return to the States after the first two conferences due to his job, so Jim did all of the teaching—8 hours a day for 2 days and then 4 hours for the third day. It was exhausting, especially considering the heat, but, as always, God’s grace proved to be sufficient.

The Hmong people traveled very far to get to the sessions, some as long as 24 hours. One group was from a heavily persecuted province in the far north near the China border where being a Christian can get you killed. One woman said she had never seen a Westerner before. It was humbling to think they came that far to hear us.

One highlight for me (Sue) occurred during the worship time with the ladies in a beautiful mountain city. They were from 4 different tribal regions. Though they all understood Vietnamese, they each had their own tribal language as well. At one point we were singing “As the Deer,” and I noticed that each group was singing in their tribal language. So with our English added in, we were worshipping together in five languages! What a thrill!

This country is teeming with people, very few of whom have ever heard the gospel. Pray for the Hmong people, for their safety as they return to their villages, and for the teaching of Scripture to flourish in their lives.

~ Jim and Sue

OTAN Bible Institute (OBI)

In our first training we taught a course on apologetics from the OTAN Bible Institute curriculum for the first time in Vietnam. That group of men is the most educated of all the ones we train, and the men had lively discussions and challenging dialog.

Mobile Bible College Training (MBC)

At our second location high in the central highlands, we taught the first course with our second class of students for Mobile Bible College. What a great group of young pastors-in-the-making! They are sharp, determined, disciplined, and—especially—grateful. One young man told Jim that what we were offering them is not available to them anywhere else because of their level of education. What a joy it was to see them taking notes, asking questions, and absorbing the lessons.

Marriage and Family

One of our primary topics here is one that the people requested: marriage and family. The Hmong marry very young and, especially the older generation, lean toward a male dominant culture. We shared love and respect principles, encouraging them to be a united team in serving the Lord. One sweet woman wept on Sue’s shoulder as she told how she and her husband were forced out of their village when they became believers. They lost all their earthly possessions to gain Heaven.

Vì Đức Chúa Trời yêu thương nhân loại, đến nỗi đã ban Con Một của Ngài,
để ai tin nơi Ngài sẽ không bị hư mất nhưng được sự sống vĩnh phúc.

John 3:16 in Vietnamese



“GO TO THE CHRISTIANS. THEY CAN HELP YOU.”
A young Raglai boy’s life is forever changed by the gospel

“My name is Banh. When I was a little boy, my parents—members of a poor Raglai tribe—sent me to live with a Vietnamese family who wanted a worker for their sheep farm. The work was hard, and I was given little to eat. I grew up bitter and angry, unloved and lonely.

“When I was grown I returned to my village, but those lonely years had taken a toll on me. I began to live a wild life, abusing alcohol and fighting. Some people in my village became concerned about me. Though they were not Christians, they told me that the Christians could help me with my bitter feelings and anger.

“I went to talk to some of those Christians. When I heard that God loved me, that God had sent His Son to take the punishment for my sin, I bowed my head and asked God to forgive me and to take control of my life. God took away my bitterness and gave me joy instead. From that moment, I had a hunger to learn more and more. At that time, though, I could not read or write.

“I spent many nights learning the basics of reading from my wife who could read. With God’s help, after only two years I was able to read the entire Bible. Though I had limited access to Bible training from a mentor, I gained what I could from online courses. Eventually I felt God calling me to be a pastor. I wanted to share with others all that God had done for me.”

Banh and his wife started a church in his village with just five people. Within a few years, his church grew to 150, and he began attending OTAN’s pastoral training. Today he has a church of over 500 believers! He has disciplesd many young men and has gone into other villages with them to begin more house churches.

Banh understands the importance of the Great Commission. He says, “People are hungry and hurting. They need to hear the life-changing message of the gospel.”

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Is God calling you into the mission field? We’d love to talk to you about it! Connect with us at otan.org/serve.

CONTACT OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS

The pastors and church workers we partner with are grateful for your prayers and financial support. God is using your investment to further the gospel and strengthen the body of Christ around the world. If you have questions or want to know more about our outreach in Vietnam, we’d love to connect with you.



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