

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER
VIETNAM



AN UPDATE FROM JIM AND SUE

“...and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” II Timothy 3:12

Dear Friends,

I became OTAN'S Vietnam ministry manager in November of 2017. Through the years our training has progressed quite well. Last year, we graduated our first class of college students and have already started our second group of students. In September we started our first OTAN Bible Institute training.

Our training in the north continues to do well. God has blessed us with an abundance of qualified teachers! God has been faithful in providing the necessary funds to finance the training. We are grateful to God for His many blessings.

On November 29, things took a turn for the worse. That evening, “Dr. C” was teaching our pastors Old Testament Survey in an online Zoom call. In the middle of his teaching session, our Bible College was raided by Vietnamese police.

Five of our pastors were taken in for questioning. They were interrogated for three hours and later released. All of their cell phones and laptops were confiscated and later returned. On their cell phones were pictures of OTAN's director and of me (Jim).



Hmong mountain village



Hmong man with white buffalo

Our pastors were told that their names would be turned in to local authorities where they lived. As a result of all of this, we have had to rethink how and when to do training in the future.

I am glad to report that to date none of our pastors has been taken in for further questioning by local authorities. Also, none of our 35 students has dropped out of the program. Our pastors have a boldness and a determination to continue their training.

As I reflect back on all that has transpired, I can clearly see God's hand of protection and direction. Please continue to pray for the protection of our pastors and their families.

~Jim and Sue



Hmong field workers

“COULD YOU PLEASE PRAY FOR MY HUSBAND?”
The humble, compassionate hearts of the Hmong women

She sat in my class at the end of a row, quietly and unobtrusively listening, watching, gleaning what she could. She was Hmong, as were most of the ladies in that crowd.

Many Hmong villages have become Christian, which has changed the entire atmosphere of the village. In other villages, that is not the case. Alcoholism and drug abuse run rampant which, in turn, often leads to spousal and child abuse.

I knew that many of these women were poorly educated and that much of what I was teaching was new to them. What I did not surmise was that for some, what I was teaching was a lifeline of hope. At the end of my lesson on that last day, she shakily stood to her feet.

“Could you please pray for my husband?” she said. “He is not a Christian. Often when he comes home at night he is drunk and violent. I know that Jesus can change him if he will only listen,” she cried. I was touched by her request—not for herself or for her plight, but for him.

Another meeting, another location, another woman. She also asked for prayer for her husband, who was not a believer. She was keyed in, seemingly more educated than some, and had a gracious spirit. We talked about the passage in I Peter that gives instruction on winning an unsaved husband, and she was hanging on every word. When we stopped to pray, she immediately fell to her knees in humble submission.

It is impossible to be around these women without being touched by their simple, childlike faith and genuine humility. They are hungry for hope, hungry to learn about Jesus. What a privilege to be able to share the truths of Scripture with them!

~Sue

Your gifts make our connections with these tribal women possible. Thank you for your partnership with us.



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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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