



DEVASTATING LOSS IN THE WAKE OF TYPHOON YAGI

Seventeen-year-old Thao's* story of hope after traumatic loss

It was midnight in early September of last year. Vietnam's coast was experiencing a storm the likes of which we had not had in many years. In our mountain village far from the shore, the rain was relentless. My mother rose from her bed and went outside to check on a strange noise she had heard behind our house. When she returned, she assured us that the ground seemed solid and there didn't appear to be any leaks anywhere.

Then we all heard another frightening noise—a loud *whoosh*. My father jumped up, but before anyone could do anything, our house was covered with mud. The house was dragged down, down, down into the river. Somehow, I was thrown from the house into a grove of trees.

The villagers came running to help us. I heard my mother screaming from the river, but no one was able to get to her in time. She, my father, my sister-in-law, and her one-month-old baby were all killed that awful night. When my older brother, who had been away at school, came back to our village, it was only to find that his wife and infant son were both gone.

That night and for several nights after, my brother and I slept in a makeshift tent on the edge of our village. The nights were the most frightening. I was afraid of wild animals, as well as distressed as I continuously relived the memory of that horrible night.

My pastor came to me and suggested that I go to live with a young lady he knew through OTAN. Gia* takes in orphans, finds them jobs, and teaches them to read or learn English. I did not want to leave my brother, but I had nowhere to stay other than in the tent. After praying with my pastor, I left the village.

We met Gia at an OTAN women's conference a few days later. My heart and mind were still very traumatized, so I cannot say I heard much of what was taught, but everyone there enveloped me with love and encouragement. For the first time since that horrible night, I felt safe.

Now I am living with Gia's family. I am learning English and have been given a job. My new "family" prays with me and gives me godly guidance. I am thankful that my pastor found this new place. Pray that I make wise choices about my future.

*Pray for Thao and her brother as they continue to mourn the loss of their family and as they find God's hope for the future. Thank you for supporting OTAN's outreach in Vietnam. We're so grateful! (*Names changed for security.)*



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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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WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

VIETNAM



CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE AND PROVISION

An update from Jim and Sue

Greetings Friends,

I trust that each of you experienced the joys of Christmas and the freshness that a new year brings. Spending time with family and friends always brings treasured memories. In this newsletter I would like to reflect on what God has done in 2024.

CHURCH PLANTING:

Each year it is exciting to see new churches being planted. In 2024 our Vietnamese pastors planted 24 churches! Our Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI) training along with our Mobile Bible College training better equips these young men to take on the responsibilities of being a pastor. The combination of DCPI and MBC will have a long term effect in Vietnam.

MOBILE BIBLE COLLEGE:

Currently we have 35 students enrolled in our Mobile Bible College. In 2024 these students made measurable progress. They are now about halfway through a three-year course. Last year several of the Vietnamese pastors started teaching some of the classes. These Vietnamese teachers were graduates from our first group of students in the Mobile Bible College. This is a dream come true, to see former students investing their lives in other young students. They are literally reproducing themselves!

PASTOR LEADERSHIP:

As the ministry grows, more leadership is required. We are blessed to currently have two leaders with many years of experience who have mentored many young pastors. These two men are actively praying and seeking God's wisdom for two more pastors to take on leadership roles. As we train these young pastors, we want to ensure that we have good leadership in place to mentor them.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:

Each month I talk to several Vietnam pastors through a translator. Every December they share with me special services they are doing for Christmas. Their plans are always creative and are used as an outreach to their people. I always look forward to hearing what God does with their efforts. Almost always there are numerous decisions for Christ.

GOD'S PROVISION:

God is faithful! In the month of December, the Vietnam ministry received a very gracious love gift. This will be a tremendous help in funding future training and continuing the work God is doing there. Time and time again, God has proven His love for His people. We are truly grateful for those of you that lovingly support us in prayer and finances. Wishing you God's best!

Jim and Sue, OTAN Vietnam Ministry Managers



Sapa, Vietnam
village in winter