

## “Our lives changed almost immediately.”

### *How the gospel impacted this Vietnamese family*



I know the power that God has to change lives. I have seen it happen in my family. Growing up, we were extremely poor. My family had prospered well before the war and been rather influential. Because of that, when the Communists took over, we were stripped of all of our belongings and forced to flee to the jungle.

When I was 12 years old, my parents left me in charge of my siblings while they went to another district to work. I was responsible to make sure my siblings were fed and taken care of. Food was scarce. We often foraged the forest together to find something to eat. During that time my parents rarely were able to come home.

Finally after two years, my parents returned home to live. My father, though, was a bitter and broken man. He turned to alcohol, which was very common among our people during that time. The alcohol made him mean and angry. One time he became so angry with my mother that he chopped off her long, beautiful hair. I was afraid of him.

One day my father learned that there was a missionary who was distributing rice to needy families. He went to visit the man to see if he could get some rice. That missionary shared the gospel with my father. For him, the gospel was like water to a dying plant. He gave to Jesus all of his bitterness and anger and accepted the love and forgiveness of a Savior.

Our lives changed almost immediately. My father stopped drinking. His anger was gone. He became kind and loving to all of us. He began reading the Bible and teaching us about the One who loved us so much that He died on a cross so that we could live forever with Him. It wasn't long before we all had received Christ as our Savior too.

I love my father and have great respect for him. He and my mother are wonderful examples of what a loving couple should be. My father is a leader of men and a pastor now. I am old enough to remember what his past life was like, and I truly know that the power of the gospel can change anyone.



Cherry blossoms  
in the mountains  
Sapa, Vietnam

The family in this story is a key part of our work in Vietnam. Over the past 20 years, they have experienced countless persecutions for their faith and for their work to spread the story of Christ's love among their people. They have also experienced God's blessings and seen the fruit of the gospel story. Would you take a moment to pray for them today and to thank God for their faithfulness?