

"WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE GOSPEL?"

Vietnamese inmate hears about the love of Jesus from imprisoned pastor

As a young man, some would call me a crusader. Others would just call me a rebel. I had an angry spirit, and I vented it on the communists who were persecuting my people group, causing havoc and making life difficult for us. When I attempted to rally the men of my village against the government, I landed in a prison cell and was sentenced to 13 years of hard labor.

Prison only increased my anger, which was slowly turning to bitterness. When I asked one of my fellow prisoners what he had done to cause him to be arrested, he said he was in prison for sharing the gospel. I laughed. Imprisoned for sharing? And what in the world is the gospel?

Over the next several months my friend explained the gospel to me. My heart warmed to Jesus, One who was also persecuted by His government. When I learned of His cruel death, my heart was grieved. When I heard of His resurrection I rejoiced but then wondered how this could be. When my friend explained that Jesus was God's Son, I asked, "Then why did He allow those men to treat Him like that?"

It was then I learned that it was our sin—my sin!—that caused Him to go willingly to the cross. God demanded justice for my sin, so Jesus took my punishment so that I would not have to bear it. Though my friend spoke of the sins of the whole world, I knew it was for my sin. My heart was crushed with my guilt and overwhelmed by God's love for me. Alone in the dark that night I cried out to Jesus for forgiveness. I thanked Him for taking my punishment and asked Him to take away the anger from my heart.



Many years later when I was released from prison, I began to share with my fellow villagers how God had delivered me of my anger and bitterness. I taught them everything my prison friend had taught me through the years. Soon I had a group meeting in my home to learn more about Jesus. God gave me wisdom, and I became their shepherd. Only Jesus can use a prison to set someone free!



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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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SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

VIETNAM



Water temple
Ninh Binh, Vietnam

THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF TRAINING IN VIETNAM

An update from Pastor Jim

I have been going to Vietnam since 2018. When we go, most of our time is taken up with Mobile Bible College training. The training at each location usually lasts for 3 days and includes about 24 hours of teaching (8 hours a day). So depending on how many training sessions we do, it involves somewhere between 48 and 72 hours of training. Along with in-country trainings, we also do online classes.

Like any ministry, there are challenges and problems that we encounter. Teaching students that are at different educational levels requires extra preparation. Dealing with a totally different culture requires wisdom and patience from both sides. The language barrier puts limits on our effectiveness.

Another situation that most people don't think about is the huge sacrifice many of our students go through to attend classes. For most of our students, that involves traveling and missing days of work and much-needed income. Learning to cope with these differences is a humbling experience.

All in all, I think God has truly blessed our training efforts in the OTAN Mobile Bible College. But I must admit there are times when I wonder how effective we are. I know we all experience times like that. That is usually when God steps in and takes over! The evening before I sat down to write this, something happened in our online class that greatly encouraged me.

I was teaching New Testament Survey in the book of I Corinthians. In this book, Paul addressed a lot of problems within the church. He confronted the problems directly and handled them in a wise, Godly manner. At that moment, I asked the Vietnamese pastors if they would be willing to share a problem in their church and how they approached it.

At first, they were hesitant to answer. Then one pastor stood up. He shared the details of a problem in his church and how he responded. I was absolutely amazed at the wisdom and grace with which he handled it. He dealt with the challenge in a biblical way and addressed it in love. His testimony was God's way of reassuring me that He is working.

Our training is not perfect, but we are making an impact for the glory of God! To God be the glory!

~Pastor Jim

Vậy, hãy đi dạy dỗ muôn dân, nhờ danh Đức Cha, Đức Con, và Đức Thánh Linh mà làm phép
báp-têm cho họ, và dạy họ giữ hết cả mọi điều mà ta đã truyền cho các người. Và này, ta thường
ở cùng các người luôn cho đến tận thế.

Matthew 28:19, 20 "The Great Commission" in Vietnamese