

My wife and I would like to thank you for your continued prayers and support of what the Lord has called us to do. We believe whole heartedly that we are entering a time of revival and renewal in Vietnam. Now is the time to work for the Lord in Vietnam for history is being made. God has His hands upon this place in a special way and it seems like daily the blinders are being peeled back from the lost and they are coming unto this marvelous light of the Gospel. We will be in Vietnam from the beginning of May until the end of June. During this time, we will visit several Churches, pastors, associations, and Bible Colleges as we prepare to move back to Vietnam full time in November 2013. As my wife and I prepared to leave for Vietnam, we had so many uncertainties about what we were going to face and how we would overcome the obstacles set before us. However, we knew that the Lord was moving in this country like never before and we knew the Lord had already opened up a door for us to be a part of it – so the work as well as the way to overcome any obstacles – had already been laid out for us by the Lord. Our hearts are filled with anticipation of what is to come and how the Lord will use us in His work.

Our Journey to Vietnam

Visiting a third-world country for an American is not an easy thing. We have become accustomed to a certain level of comfort and having essential items readily available. Vietnam is no different and it is one of the hardest places to live for a foreigner because it does not have available most of the essentials Americans rely upon. I am fully aware of this and it causes so much difficulty within me. In addition to missing certain “luxuries” that are lacking in Vietnam, it often seems things are handled in this country in a way completely opposite of the way they would be handled in the US. It is hard not to try to impose the way we are used to getting things done when in a foreign country but as visitors, we have to respect their ways things work in the country we are in. At times I have caught myself mumbling and complaining about how different and even how difficult it was instead of being thankful. While we were on the plane on our way to Vietnam, the Lord spoke to me through His word: “Have this attitude in you that which was in Christ Jesus our LORD.” (Philippians 2:6) and especial this verse from later in that same chapter “Don’t think highly of yourself but serve, walk in obedience, don’t grumble or complain, and hold out to the Word of Life.” (Vrs. 6-13) That one really penetrated my heart like a razor. Think for a moment about the life and work of Jesus. He left Heaven where He was worshiped and adored, to come to earth where He was rejected and was murdered and yet He uttered not one complaint nor one moment of grumbling. This was surely a prophetic word from God concerning what I would need for this trip. I began to see how important it was going to be for me to have God’s attitude within me in every situation if I was to be truly successful in carrying out God’s work in Vietnam. I would face some serious tough situations concerning travel, food, sickness, heat, living conditions, and not understanding the language. However every time grumbling or a complaint would emerge from my heart toward my mouth I would remember what the Lord had told me. “Have this attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”

Condition of the Church

5 A.M. Prayer Meeting - Once arrived at our final destination, we got into the full routine of worship. The first time we attended the 5 AM prayer meeting, held daily at the Vietnamese Baptist Church, we assumed that it would be just a couple of folks kneeling down silently praying. What we found was a church full of people – sometimes out the door – worshipping, studying the Bible and then pouring their hearts out in prayer to the Lord for a full hour of worship. We looked forward to this daily time of prayer and praise and saw what power there was in spending that time with the Lord – certainly a contributing factor to the revival that is happening in this area

Bible Studies Nightly - There have been so many people being saved over the past several months that they had to start offering New Believer’s classes four nights a week. After the new believers finish their classes, they are baptized at the beach as a witness to their faith. For the first time I was able to baptize three new believers and what a joy it was to have this opportunity. The day we were baptizing, the beach was especially crowded, and people everywhere were wondering what we were doing, baptizing these young people in the Name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Afterward we prayed and worshiped the Lord while they just watched. In addition to the New Believer’s classes and other weekly Bible study classes, there are Wednesday night House Church worship services. This is a joyful time of worship when most of the church members not in other classes, cram into one family’s small home to praise God and ask the blessings of the Lord upon that home. What a powerful time. The Youth Groups meet on Saturday nights to worship and have Bible study and fellowship. The youth have grown in number and in their spiritual maturity as well and it is so obvious that the Lord is rising and stirring the young generation to serve the Lord in a powerful way, bringing revival to this nation. So many young people in this group are interested in going to Bible College, not only to learn more about God’s Word, but also about ways to serve Him through ministry. It is exciting to witness this move of God within the younger generation.

Entire Families Being Saved

We have seen how God has really blessed individual lives and families as a whole in miraculous ways. More often than not, we have seen that when one person comes to Christ, their entire family follows. Read the words of one of these families that were miraculously saved by the Lord Jesus Christ and how they are now on fire for their Savior. "It was like what befell Job who lost everything! Our family lost almost everything. Father was found to suffer from diabetes, my brother from Leukemia. What terrible blows! Then all our pigs in our farm died – simply perished! We lost everything! We had about 1,000 pigs. Suddenly they were gone! All of them, like in the story of Job. Then God took Cong Tuan. It was 'blow upon blow.' But no – it was God's hand of mercy! He was leading us to salvation. For during this time of treatment in Singapore we had the opportunity to be witnessed to and loved on by the Church in Singapore. God really used them to lead my brother to the Lord and then opened the door for me to make Jesus Lord of my life." First Cong Tuan (The brother with leukemia) and his Sister believed! Then their Mother followed (and gave up suicidal ideas). Later, the Father also believed, followed by many relatives and friends. The sowing of the Gospel continued day after day, week after week. Relatives and friends received the Gospel – and believed! Idols and ancestral spirits were given up. Presently, the number of conversions is up to 50 and counting—praise the Lord! Three years ago, Lien and I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with Tram (the writer of the above) but she was closed to the truth that Jesus was the only God and that He alone offered life, true life. We had not heard from her in almost two years before we read her report of how she and her entire family have been radically saved from Buddhism and Ancestry worship.

Travel To Central Vietnam

We were given to opportunity to meet with a church in central Vietnam and I really had to recall the Word the Lord had given me on the airplane about not grumbling and complaining. We traveled by bus – not a recommended source of travel in Vietnam – and endured 20 hours of incredibly cramped and uncomfortable travel conditions. However the Lord really used it to encourage me to be thankful. During this trip, we were able to scout out some land and pastors who we would be more than likely partnering with us in the future to build the extension campuses of the Bible College. We had a chance to preach in one of the churches and it was a great experience. The church in this region has not yet been touched by the Lord in the way the church in the south has, but it is surely blessed and powerfully moving toward great things with God and for God. We had a chance to share from John 1 and the eternal nature of Jesus the Christ. It blessed our heart to be able to try to wrap our minds around this eternal God who created everything, and then came and "Dwelt amongst us" (John 1:14).

Purchase of Bible College Property

Through God's great mercy we were able to purchase land that surrounds the current church property in order to build the first Bible College nearby. Construction has begun on a central meeting area and an area for bathrooms and showers. Funds are still needed to purchase an additional strip of land in order to build the dorms room necessary for the Bible College students. A grand estimate needed for land and construction and furnishing of all the buildings is roughly around \$115,000 (USD). To the Vietnamese, this amount seems inconceivable, but we know that we serve an awesome God and He will provide in His time. Because of my background in construction, I wanted to help with the building of the initial walls and foundation, thinking it would be a walk in the park and fun to be able to just labor. My job was to take the rocks and bring them throughout the property line. No problem right? Wrong, it was so hot that it tired me out after just one trip. Wheel barrel after wheel barrel I became more exhausted and started to wonder why in the world was I doing this. Listen to some of these real thoughts: "Why do I have to do this? I mean the Lord used me to help purchase this and supply the funds for this to be done, I mean come on I am an American Missionary with a Master Degree and working on another one, why am I carrying these rocks? I am going to be one of the Professors. No Professor is suppose to work like this." All of these thoughts passed through my mind as I loaded and unloaded these heavy rocks in the scorching heat of this tropical nation. Then I realized I was grumbling, and complaining and realized that there was not a servant's heart and attitude within me. Then I caught myself meditating on what the Lord had showed me weeks earlier on the plane, "Have God's attitude within you". I stopped thinking "WHY ME?" and started saying, "WHY NOT ME?" I started to be filled with great joy as my body tired out under the strenuous work and the scorching heat.

Classes Begin January 2014

With the land purchased and work started on the Bible College construction, we sat down with the Pastors of the Vietnamese Baptist Church and really laid out what our vision was and how it could assist in their work. As we talked, it became clear that what the Lord had laid on our hearts – open a Bible College so pastors can be trained in His Word – was the same vision the Lord had place upon their hearts. We all realized that Lien and I are the Lord's answer to their prayers. This left me with a sense of AWE as we realized that if we are God's answer to their prayers, He will provide for all that is yet to be accomplished. We decided during this meeting that since the property was purchased and construction already begun, we would actually open to students beginning in January 2014. What a great sense of joy – but also a great deal of stress involved in meeting this timeline. We still need to find a curriculum of study and a partnership with a Bible College or Seminary, among other things. As I sat back and thought about the work in preparing all the material and the foundational course guide, I was getting overwhelmed for it is a lot of preparation. Then I realized again that since Lien and I are God's answer to their prayer that these doors would be opened and all we will need will be provided.

Please visit our website at www.salm67.com to learn about how you can be a part of the work God is doing in Vietnam. You can also see videos and photos. Thank you for your support and God Bless!