

Doors Open in the Highlands



Last November, Central Vietnam was devastated by a typhoon that hit during the rainy season and flooding proved catastrophic for many areas. The tribal communities in the area were the hardest hit because their resources are already so limited and the horrific rain and resulting mud slides caused many to lose everything they owned. We have been praying for a way to visit the churches in the tribal regions since the beginning of last year. Because those tribal communities are very protected by the government, we could not make this journey without first going through a legal process to gain the necessary permissions. As God's timing is perfect, the approval for us to visit this area came through just at the moment of greatest need so the door was opened for us to help. We visited the tribal churches right after the typhoon hit and were able to bless over 275 families with much needed food bags. We also handed out another 60 scholarships for poor children to help replace items needed for school destroyed by the floods. Only by a miracle of His doing could a foreigner be in these highly restricted areas, let alone a pastor being able to share his faith and speak about the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living and His love for people everywhere.



Bible College Training

Training in the south over the past year has focused on church planting; leadership in the church; and sanctity of life. In November, the Lord brought a team from the **Passion Life Ministry** and they taught about how to preach and teach what the Bible says about life in the womb as a way to help combat the high rate of abortion in Vietnam – among the highest in Asia. In December, the students benefitted from the teaching of several pastors in the US who presented via FaceTime a number of lessons critical to successful church planting. Thank you to **Dr. Kevin Harrison, Dr. Chris Dowd and Dr. Bill Coleman** for your investment in our students' education. You are such a blessing to these pastors and leaders who shared heartfelt testimonies about how the Lord has blessed them in their ministries and how many are being saved and touched by the Lord. We just praise God.

This past year in Central Vietnam, we were able to provide six one week sessions to the pastors and leaders of the churches there. It has been extremely special watching how the Lord has blessed and honored that ministry over the years. During the last training session of the year, we heard several testimonies from pastors about how they and their ministries have grown thanks to the Bible College classes. Specifically, one of the tribal pastors shared the following: "For many years I was not able to read the Bible. I could not share the gospel and I could not preach the Bible because of my lack of ability." He continued, "For the last two plus years, I have come and been taught here and now I can read the Bible. Now I can share the gospel and I love preaching. I have been so filled with joy to learn so much, but my greatest joy is watching my congregation grow in the Lord. We are all so very excited."

Christmas with our Churches

This year we were able to bless more than we ever have at Christmas thanks to your generous support. All of our pastors and leaders in both the south and central locations (over 60 total) received a gift of clothing – something they can use for church and other ministry events. This was truly needed and they were all greatly encouraged by it. We were also able to help thirteen of our churches hold a Christmas event to celebrate the birth of our Lord with their church family and surrounding community. One of those churches is located in a very remote tribal community. They had been praying and preparing for their Christmas event to reach over 800 people and asked Pastor Hai to come up from the south to help. Over 500 people from that tribal community attended the event and listened to the message of Christmas. We give God the glory for this success specifically because: no one was arrested; many people showed up and showed interest in the gospel message; and the pastor, who is one of our students, has a big view of a big God and planned for a big event. In all over 2,500 people heard the gospel from our ministries this Christmas and while we may not have specific numbers yet as to how many were saved, we do know that the Lord totally blessed all these events beyond our biggest dreams.



Christmas Ministries

In addition to helping the churches, the Lord allowed us to bless over 850 children in seven different locations with Christmas events. This year was the first year that the Lord allowed us to go into three public schools in Central Vietnam to bless them with a Christmas event. This required a great deal of cooperation with the local government. The official in charge of this area had seen his community suffer terribly because of the typhoon and realized the needs were great so he gave us permission to hold this outreach. In addition to a toy, we were able to provide each child with much needed school supplies and personal items. Most of the people here had never seen Americans before and they enjoyed practicing their English with us. This event brought great joy to the community leaders, teachers, staff members as well as the students and was not only an opportunity to hand them a gift in a time of need, but also an open door to hand them the very thing that would last their entire life, which is the message of Christmas.



We also held events at two orphanages in the south. Christmas at the Vung Tau Orphanage is always a special time for the Christmas ministry because we held our first Christmas outreach event there several years ago. One boy there holds a special place in my heart because every time we arrive, he is always out front waiting for us and just runs, yelling my name and hugs me. For the next five minutes I have to walk around with him clinging to me. God has used his genuine love to bless me for sure. We were joined this year by friends Christian and Caleb Hunt along with their family and the Lord totally overwhelmed them with the love of these kids as well. It never seems to fail that while we go there to minister to the kids, they end up ministering to us by their great love.



The children at the Long Hai Orphanage are always a delight because even though they face so many challenges, they show us such joy and kindness when we arrive. This year we brought gifts for the teachers and workers as well as the kids, prayed over them and their families, and then shared the gospel message before handing out the gifts for the kids. All 150 kids waited patiently for everyone to get their gift and then they opened them all together. If you have never seen 150 grateful children open a gift at the same time on Christmas, then please watch the video on our Facebook page. It is heartwarming and totally amazing to witness such gratitude as they receive a gift with love.

BFI TEAM - For the second year in a row we welcomed a team from **Beautiful Feet International** for a one-week mission trip. The Lord used the team of four women in a tremendous way offering women's conferences for our churches in the south and central areas. They also worked diligently to help us prepare all the items we needed for the Christmas outreaches at the schools, churches and orphanages. The Lord truly used them to bless this country in many ways, but I think He used them in our life the most. There was so much to be done for all the Christmas activities - countless gifts to wrap and packages to assemble - and there was no way we were going to do it on our own but these ladies came with a mind to work and they worked hard with great fervor and joy!



Recapping 2017



Last year we saw the Lord show up in some amazing ways. We saw Him open up doors that we never imagined could be opened. We saw the Lord bless my wife with her American citizenship while we were back in the States. We saw the Lord provide regular monthly support for 15 of our pastors who need this desperately. We saw the Lord provide for 13 training sessions for over 60 students in two different locations. We saw the Lord provide the funds for the land and building for the training center and church in Central Vietnam. We saw hundreds give their life to Christ and baptized 22 of them personally. God has been and continues to be so good to us. All the Lord had done in and through this ministry over the past year could not have been achieved without your prayers and generous gifts of support. We at SALM 67 Ministries appreciate your sacrificial gifts and strive to steward them in a God-glorifying way. Thank you and may God openly and abundantly bless you and your family this New Year. Together we are doing it.

Love from Shaun, Lien and Shaun Fisher Miles



Please visit our website at www.salm67.com to learn more, view pictures and videos from the field, and read past field reports. Thank you to everyone who has pledged their monthly support and given financial gifts. We also accept donations online with a credit card or Pay Pal account. God Bless you and your loved ones!