

Preaching and Teaching the Word

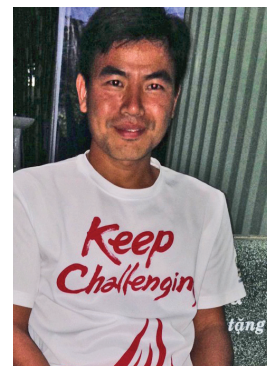
We were able to preach every Sunday and Wednesday service for the entire three months we were there. God really honored the preaching of His Word through us by touching hearts and changing lives at almost every service. The Vietnamese culture is naturally shy and reserved so for them to respond openly and publicly to the leading of the

Holy Spirit shows a significant sign of God's movement. In addition to these services, the people meet every morning at 5:30 am to seek the face of God in worship, short devotion and time of prayer. When we were here at the start of the summer, only about 15 people regularly attended this service. The Church here is growing at such a rate that the attendance at the early morning services has nearly doubled. It is an amazing time of worship and study of God's Word.



Learning the Vietnamese Language

When I was called to the mission field here in Vietnam I was told by a very dear friend that I did not need to learn the language. Well, that was probably one of the worst things that anyone could tell a missionary because being able to speak to the people one is ministering to is a crucial part of loving that people and understanding their culture. With all the time I have spent in Vietnam, I have been able to pick up some phrases, but have never really spent purposeful time learning the language. Since I have been back, I have been working with a young pastor who is teaching me. We have been friends for a long time and initially began spending time together as he wanted to learn English and also how to study the Bible. Now this relationship has shifted, where I am the one gleaned from him and he is the one depositing in me. We both have something to offer to one another and without each other it would not be possible to become all that God has called us to become. This is the picture of the body of Christ that each member is unique but without the other members, it simply does not function well at all.



New Church Building Leads Many to Christ



When the church here began construction on their new building, they hired a team of professionals, rather than relying on the skills of their members. This was truly a divine appointment because many of the workers wanted to know what this "Jesus" was all about. The pastors and other members of the church shared the gospel with these men and they were even curious enough to attend services. In all, building the church led four men to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The new church is scheduled to begin regular services in March!



Central Vietnam Outreach

In early December, we worked to raise support to send supplies to two Pastors in Central Vietnam so they could minister to those who have been the most severely impacted by the flooding that had ravaged the area since the November Typhoon. We sent food supply bags for 50 families and 100 gift bags for the children as well as 80 New Testament Bibles. The Pastors were able to minister to so many people and visit eight different House Churches in eight different locations in the region, where four prayed to receive the Lord and over 60 people attended Church for the first time in their life. The Pastors reported back with such jubilee because they had been given the resources to really help some desperately needy folks and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We just praise the Lord!



Christmas and New Year's Day

For the second year in a row, the Vietnamese Church received permission from the local authorities to sponsor a Christmas-themed public outreach event designed to spread the Gospel message to those who had never heard it. Over 200 people showed up who had never previously been to Church and an estimated 30 people prayed to receive Christ. After the worship services, we passed out gift bags to the adults and children. Those bags consisted of food, personal items and toys that had been donated through another missionary outreach. As the guests looked through the gift bags, their faces showed utter disbelief over the generosity of people who did not even know them. It was an amazing time of Christ-centered outreach that blessed the people in every area. Even more amazing was that it was allowed to happen, with full approval of the authorities, in a communist country.



To celebrate the New Year, we organized a special time of worship with the church's youth group. It started out as an encouragement to the youth group on how to live in harmony as the body of Christ, but it ended up being much more. Several young people who had never heard the gospel before showed up and took part in the fellowship. At the close of the message, the youth gathered in small groups to pray for each other for the New Year. These small groups gave the Christian youth an opportunity to share the Lord with the non-Christians, and as a result at least two prayed to receive Christ into their hearts. It was wonderful time in the Lord and a great way to start off the New Year.



Baptizing New Believers

Before we left, we were able to baptize nine new believers who had completed the New Believer's Class. There are 35 people in the current class who will be ready for baptism soon. What a glorious day in the Lord that will be!



Bible Institute Opens

One of the main purposes of SALM67 Ministries is to establish a Bible College/Bible Institute that eventually will be entirely operated by Vietnamese pastors. The Lord has supernaturally provided the land and facilities as well as the curriculum through a partnership with BTCP. In addition, Luther Rice Seminary has committed its help in teaching the curriculum and will offer a certificate of graduation to all students. Our very first class was scheduled to start in mid-January, and to show their support, a team from Luther Rice came over to help us get the institute off to a great start. What an incredible blessing it was to have this team travel nearly 36 hours to be with us! This was another indication that God was moving on our behalf concerning the people of Vietnam. The team included Dr. Ron Long (Missions Director at Luther Rice), Dr. Dan Yaw (Pastor of Northside Baptist Church Lakeland), and Dr. Dan Lewis (Chairman and Advisor for IAGM). We had a total of 20 pastors registered for these classes but most days had 10 -15 non-registered people show up – just to hear the Word of God and learn more about it. Class topics included Hermeneutics, Power of God's Word, Applying God's Word in Life and in Ministry among others. We are incredibly thankful as well as truly blessed to have had this kind of hands-on assistance from Luther Rice Seminary.



Pictured left is Dr. Don Yaw, and right is the entire group from the first class of the Bible Institute



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 for your support and God Bless!