

# PSALM67 Ministries

Proclaiming & Displaying The Gospel Throughout Vietnam

*O magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.. Psalm 34:4*

## Praise Report January 2023

In 2022, the Lord has once again blessed this ministry in ways too numerous to count. From our ability to return to Vietnam after a nearly three-year absence to the purchase of a building to plant a church and Bible Training Center in Da Nang, this past year has truly been an exceptional display of God's power and glory. We thank all of our faithful prayer and financial partners for their obedience to the Lord's call to walk with us in this work.

**Returning to Vietnam** - As we traveled back to Vietnam last June, the joy we felt reminded us of how the Children of Israel must have felt returning to Jerusalem for the first time after their exile. Looking back over these years being "strategically stranded" in the States, we realize how divinely orchestrated this time has been and sit in awe at all the Lord has accomplished for us and through us. However, nothing can quite express the incredible joy we all felt being reunited with family, friends and all our pastors and church leaders after such a long absence. Our schedule was filled with opportunities to visit our churches, preach, teach, minister and just enjoy our time with family - what an amazing gift from God!



Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City, June 2022



Pastor John preaching and teaching in the Central Highlands

No sooner had we settled back into our routine state-side, that an opportunity to return to Vietnam in November was made possible by World Challenge, Inc. This was thanks to John Baily, founding pastor of our home church, The Springs Church Jacksonville and who, after ten years at The Springs, transitioned to the World Challenge team. Pastor John has been a champion of SALM67 Ministries from the very start and we were thrilled at the prospect of doing ministry with him in Vietnam.

Our 12-day trip in November was jammed-packed with ministry activities. Our team took a total of 8 flights; spent 48 hours on the road in the van; visited 9 of our 41 churches; preached 2 revival services; handed out 100 food bags; distributed over 700 filled backpacks to school children; conducted 3 full days of training for 73 of our pastors and leaders in 2 different locations; slept in 9 different hotel rooms and loved on the nation of Vietnam. Fortunately for all of us, our strength comes from the Lord!

**Update on Da Nang** - The Vision for Da Nang truly flourished and was ultimately accomplished during a time of economic hardship thanks to the financial seeds sown in faith by The Springs Church, Tomoka Christian Church, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, The Church of Eleven22, World Challenge, Inc. and many, many other churches and individuals. Only God could orchestrate such a generous outpouring of resources during a time when, for the most part, we were not able to visit and share this vision with the churches that support us due to lock-down restrictions.



Dedicating the new facility in November

By the end of 2021, we had raised \$130K and by April 2022 had selected a potential site, ideally located in Da Nang and with enough space for all our needs. We finalized the purchase in May, saw it for the first time in June and then dedicated the space during our trip in November. It was only through a move of God that this ministry was able to secure \$260K in cash to complete this purchase. At the dedication, Pastor John charged us all by the grace of God and through the power of His holy Spirit to stay the course in using that facility for the glory of God and the souls of men. We are now in a season of intensive prayer, careful planning and diligent preparation in order to establish this building as a House of Worship.



Visiting the newly acquired property in June



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Joyful Reunions at the Bible College

## In-Person Training Returns

One of the most joyous occasions for our pastors and church leaders was the return of in-person training. We were able to conduct trainings at two of our Bible Training Centers while we were there in June and then again when we returned in November. On the first full day of us being together in June – after our 2 1/2 year absence – a lot of joyful tears were shed.

In June, the training sessions consisted of 5 full days of lecture and group study geared to bless and encourage these servants of the Lord on the attributes of God as seen in Exodus 34. One day, we spent over 13 hours on one verse alone and we still had not exhausted its full meaning – just reinforces how the deep the Word of the Lord truly is. We were also able to bless each one of them with a financial gift as they have gone through so much over these last couple of years.

When we returned in November, we were all greatly blessed by Pastor John's teaching – with Lien translating – on what it looks like to live and minister with great faith. We have felt a special move of God in all of our training sessions but one occasion especially stands out during training in our center in central Vietnam.

Lien had been translating and when we came to the time of prayer and worship the Lord touched her to pray with authority over all of the pastors and leaders. It was so powerful that it caused us to just weep from the presence of the Lord – a presence so strong that we all felt His kindness for His people at work, blessing and encouraging His servants. We opened up the invitation for the pastors and leaders to respond if they wanted individual prayer and one pastor's wife immediately jumped up to join us. She is such a special servant of the Lord and we know that God has His hands all over the ministry she and her husband oversee. She was seeking encouragement for the work set before them both and as we began praying for her, we could feel the Lord touching her and strengthening her in a very real way. Nothing like the Lord and His people!



Powerful Prayer in Quang Ngai

Earlier in the year, we were able to hold one full week of training via internet. When we conduct online training, we still gather all of the pastors and leaders together in our training facility. The morning session is lecture-style, with Dr. Shaun teaching and Lien translating from their home in Florida and then breaking for group work in the afternoon. It is always such a refreshing and encouraging time for these dedicated men and women of God.

After two years of being unable to hold VBS, we saw a tremendous outpouring of the Lord's goodness on this outreach program. Our Vacation Bible School programs ran from the middle of July until the middle of August in 13 different locations throughout Vietnam. We had planned for 490 children in those locations and we had a total of 426 children show up. Out of those 426 children, nearly half were not members of a church. This VBS season was absolutely incredible as we saw 143 participants surrender their heart to the Lord for salvation. Truly He will pour out His Grace!



Pastor John Teaching

## VBS Returns

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VBS in the Highlands

## Baptisms Across the South and Central Churches

In 2022, our churches across Vietnam baptized 94 new Believers. SALM67 Ministries partners with 41 national churches who are doing great work for the Lord, impacting lives for all eternity by faithfully spreading the hope found only in Jesus Christ. Pictured below (l-r) Preparing for



Baptism and Baptism in the Ocean in the South; Baptizing New Believers in the Tribal Highlands in Central Vietnam.

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,  
The world, and those who dwell in it.  
Psalm 24:1 (NASB95)

### Food Relief

The country is now “open for business” but the effects of the government’s strict lockdown policies are still felt in a very real way in many areas. The severe, but necessary, regulations led to much financial hardship. Families were unable to work and often unable to meet basic food needs. The Lord provided our pastors and churches with a prime opportunity to meet the need to help the hurting. We thank all of you who donated specifically to providing these food bags, as you blessed 930 families across the nation.

This ministry has been successful in its food relief efforts because we send the resources to the churches who then work with the local government to identify those families most in need. These families receive a 25lb bag of rice and other basic food items. The pastors present the Gospel message and pray over each family. Enabling the pastors to work within their community gives them the opportunity to be recognized as community leaders with a heart to help those hurting the most and strengthens ties with the local officials.



Handing Out Food Bags in the Mekong

### Backpacks in the Central Highlands



When we were in Vietnam in November, we were able to hand out 730 filled, handmade backpacks to children at 4 different schools in the Central Highlands area. Each backpack contained a winter jacket, school supplies, a snack and a toy. The joy on the children’s faces when they received this gift was something truly special but couldn’t compare to the joy we felt as we were able to tell them about the hope found only in Jesus. We are so grateful for the good relations our pastors have established with the local officials. These local leaders and officials warmly welcomed us and listened intently as we presented the Gospel of Christ – some even asking questions afterwards. The door is open for us to return for similar outreach opportunities in the future – a door only Our Great God could have opened for us.



### Christmas 2022

Christmas 2022 was a great success as the Gospel message was preached at outreach events in 37 of our 41 churches. We also saw the return of “Christmas at the Orphanage” where we were able to present the Gospel message and then bless the children and their workers with gifts and food – something not possible since 2019. All told, over 4000 people attended these events from the Mekong in the south to the Highlands of central Vietnam and 132 souls gave their life to the Lord.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide bicycles to 20 families in our churches in the Central Highlands area. These are very poor, tribal communities and a bike for them is more than a means to go to school, it is often the only means of transportation for the entire family.



The churches invited their communities to join them at Christmas, sharing the hope found in Christ and offering a meal. Small gifts were handed out as well. At the orphanage, the Gospel was presented to all the kids and their teachers, followed by a pizza party and gifts for all - toys for the kids and food for the workers.





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## SALM67 Ministries 2022 Highlights

### *Establish*

563 People surrendered their life to Jesus

94 New believers were baptized

41 National churches partner with us throughout the nation

21 National pastors supported every month

### *Encourage*

Returned to Vietnam in June and October

4 In-person training sessions for our 77 pastors and leaders

2 Week-long online training sessions for our pastors and leaders

4 Revival services in 2 locations to bless and encourage Believers

### *Extend*

VBS reached 426 children across 13 churches

Over 4,000 people attended Christmas events in 37 churches

148 Orphans and workers enjoyed a Christmas party with gifts and food

730 Backpacks with jackets handed out in 4 local schools

930 food bags given to poor and needy families

*The Lord used this ministry to shine His light and love to the people of Vietnam in a mighty way this past year - Join us in this work because Together We are Doing It!*



### **Miles Family Update**

The Miles family are remaining stateside for the foreseeable future and currently reside in Orange Park, Florida. Dr. Shaun is on staff at The Springs Church, overseeing the activities at their Westside campus while also directing all the training, discipleship and outreach programs of SALM67 Ministries through our Vietnam-based team of nation pastors.

Liên is busy helping Dr. Shaun with ministry as needed while managing the household with two active boys. Shaun Fisher is almost 7 and loving 1st grade - Daniel Hai, almost 4, enjoys co-op activities at the Church. Everyone is healthy and the boys are thriving - and we thank God for all His blessings.