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SALM67 Ministries

Praise Report Winter 2020

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God And a great King above all gods, In whose hand are the depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are His also. Psalm 95:2-4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year marks the seventh year of operation for SALM67 Ministries in Vietnam and as we look back on all that the Lord has accomplished, we are in awe of His abiding grace and boundless love. Taking inspiration from the Old Testament tradition of "Shabbat" or Sabbath, we felt it vitally important to the future work of this ministry to set apart some significant time during these first weeks of the year to reflect on how far the Lord has brought us, praise Him for His protection of our family and our team, thank Him for His bountiful provisioning of all our needs and seek His will as we plan the year ahead.

The following pages provide a recap of ministry activities for 2019 but first, rejoice with us as we look back on all the ways the Lord has allowed us to bless the people of Vietnam since we first set out on this mission. As our faithful partners in prayer and financial support, we know that our work could not happen without your help and encouragement and for that we are exceedingly grateful and abundantly blessed.

Bible Training Centers

- 3 centers have been established and new facilities constructed for two
- 70 classes taught in person or via internet
- 48 pastors and church leaders have graduated with a certificate from Luther Rice Seminary or West Coast Bible College & Seminary
- 75 pastors and church leaders currently enrolled in ongoing, advanced classes

Growth of the National Church - some of the biggest growth has been in the remotest areas where ties to idol worship remain strong and conversion to Christianity is often met with hostility.

- 31 national churches partner with us from the Highlands of Central Vietnam down to the MeKong Delta
- 18 national church pastors receive monthly support
- 17 new motorbikes given to pastors to facilitate their work in the community
- 16 congregations enjoy completely renovated or newly constructed worship facilities
- Numerous VBS sessions throughout the country reach thousands with the hope found in Jesus
- 400 new Believers added to God's Kingdom and nearly 100 baptisms - in 2019 alone!

Short Term Mission Teams - 18 teams have joined us on the mission field over the years, encouraging thousands through training, special conferences, community outreach and by sharing the love of Jesus

Social Outreach Ministries - All items below were distributed while always sharing the Gospel whether in a public school, government office or outdoor community venue - even in restricted tribal areas

- 1800 scholarships to children to pay for fees, uniforms and supplies required to attend school
- 5662 hand-made backpacks, filled with school supplies and personal items, given to entire schools
- 2421 food bags, designed to feed a family of four, distributed to needy families
- 25,000 children's vitamins and 104 hand-made dresses were given out in poor tribal communities
- 1 new home constructed and 3 others completely renovated for families in need
- Hundreds of children blessed with annual Christmas and Easter events at several local orphanages

Please join us in thanking the Lord for all that He has done and all that He will do in the months ahead. On behalf of the SALM67 team, thank you for walking faithfully with us on this path and offering so much love and encouragement along the way. As you read the recap for 2019, celebrate how the Lord has used your efforts to transform lives and spread His Glory throughout this nation.



Love and God Bless,

Dr. Shaun and Liên Miles





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Training Update

Training the national pastors and leaders enrolled in our Bible Training Centers and then working alongside them in their ministries are founding principles of the SALM67 mission. Our heart has always been to give them the tools they need to hear from God, digest His Word and reach their community for Christ. Our training is also designed to renew and encourage one's passion for obedience to the call the Lord has placed on their life. We meet for one week once a month, in one or both of our training centers located in the southern and in the central regions of the country. The student's travel expenses are covered and they are housed at the church with all meals provided. These pastors sacrifice so much to be with us - spending time away from family and jobs - and we want to honor them for their heart and choice to come and partner with us.



This year we held 20 classes, added eight new students to the rolls and graduated 25 pastors from the Bible Center in the central region. One of the highlights of the year was the opening and dedication of the long awaited, newly constructed Bible Training and Worship facility in central Vietnam. We were all incredibly blessed to have **Pastor John Bailey of The Springs Church** and his daughter Victoria join us in early January to help us celebrate this milestone. In addition, Pastor John led a three-day training conference attended by over 150 national church pastors and

leaders, preached an encouraging message at the ceremony for 14 students eligible for graduation in January and along with his daughter, assisted us with a number of social outreach events.

In the fall, the students in both training centers were greatly blessed by a visit from **Dr. Kevin Harrison**, the founder and President of our partner seminary **West Coast Bible College and Seminary**. He met us at our training center in the south where we celebrated with a large fellowship meal followed by a great evening service where Dr. Kevin brought a word from Heaven that stirred the hearts of everyone there. We then traveled to central Vietnam to hold our second graduation ceremony of the year for our Bible College students there and Dr. Kevin was a great encouragement to these students in their desire to be faithful in their call to serve to Jesus.



A key focus on training in both centers in the last months of the year was preparing them for their planned Christmas outreach events. Our goal was to equip them to not only share God's love with their communities but have a strategy in place to disciple new Believers after a profession of faith. Over the years, we have watched the Lord swing the door open wider and wider during Christmas and we wanted all our pastors and leaders to be ready for an even great move of God this year.

We ended our December training with our annual Christmas party in both the central and southern locations. These pastors and leaders work so hard serving the Lord and pouring their life out for others that it is always nice to refresh them and celebrate with them. Thanks to all of your support, we were able to provide polo shirts and dress pants for all of our men and traditional style dresses and a small purse for our ladies. This was a time of great joy and celebration after a year of studying so hard and preparing for a harvest this Christmas. It was wonderful to bless these dedicated servants of God with gifts in addition to providing financial support to each of our affiliated churches to help with their Christmas outreach events.



God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us -
That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

PSALM 67:1-2

National Church Update



This year we added five new bodies of believers to our family of national church partners bringing the total to 31. Currently, 18 of our national church pastors receive monthly from this ministry and we are hoping to expand that in 2020. Our supported pastors report quarterly on all that the Lord is doing for them and through them to reach their communities for Christ. Reading the quarterly updates from these pastors reinforces just how much love this ministry's daily work brings to a lost generation. Here is just two examples of how the training, ongoing discipleship and financial support have served to strengthen and expand the national church throughout the country.

Pastor A Suc has been involved in some miraculous ministries in the tribal areas located in the mountains of Kun Tum province and shepherds one of the largest congregations in our ministry, with nearly 300 believers. His own tribal people group has seen a miracle of revival over the last several years. Weekly, the churches send out teams looking to plant a new church, and at this time, they have four thriving congregations with three cell churches throughout the area.



We lost our beloved Pastor Tranh in August when he finally succumbed to the devastating effects suffered due to a stroke twelve months earlier. Pastor Tranh led the church in the Mekong Delta where our third Bible Training Center is located. We had just started our first week-long training session there in August 2018 when the stroke hit him and while it almost took his life, he was able to endure a very difficult road to recovery and spend another year with his family. His ministry duties were greatly reduced so we had to suspend training there and incorporate those students able to travel into our classes in the south. One such student is Pastor Tranh's son, Quynh. Quynh took care of his father night and day for the entire year following the stroke. During this time, Pastor Tranh was able to pour into his son all the wisdom and experience he had gained over his years in ministry, hoping his son might one day feel a similar call. This year Quynh joined the training classes after feeling led to take over the church his father had left behind. He was fearful that he would be seen as too young and inexperienced to be effective as a pastor. The training in November and December greatly encouraged him to walk boldly in God's call on his life. When he left the training and set out on the sever hours bus ride back home, he was preparing to preach his first message at the church.



VBS is one of the greatest outreach tools the Church has ever encountered and it has been especially effective in Vietnam, particularly in regions notorious for being hostile toward Christianity. The children attending were taught about God while being embraced by the love of Jesus and well over a hundred made a decision to pray the prayer of salvation. These new believers continue to be nourished by our local churches and pastors, benefitting not only the child but their family as well.

The team working in the south held VBS in two different locations, representing four churches and ministering to over 500 children. The team working in the tribal communities of the Highlands held VBS in nine different regions, representing over 11 churches and ministered to well over a thousand children - in addition to all the adults who accompanied them.



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Children's Support Initiative (CSI) Update

Scholarships

Our CSI events officially began in the fall with our annual distribution of scholarships to needy children and backpacks filled to overflowing as a blessing to school-children. Thankfully we had a team join us who helped with these events as well as with training at the Bible College. Salm67's Field Development Coordinator, **Caryn Carson**, her teenage son **Justin** and **Ellen Carnes** met us in Da Nang and then we all traveled to the tribal areas in the Highlands for the first of many outreach events. They brought with them 25,000 children's vitamins and 104 hand-made dresses that were handed out in addition to 600 filled backpacks along with scholarships and 200 food bags to needy families. Caryn and Ellen also held three Women's Conferences attended by over 300 women.



Christmas

Christmas is also a very busy time for our CSI efforts and the national church was instrumental in make this an incredible time of blessing to so many. Over 2850 people attended the 31 Christmas services held in 9 different provinces scattered throughout the country. From those events a total of 103 people prayed to make Jesus Lord of their life. The pastors and church leaders worked so hard to bless the communities where these events were held and it required diligent preparation. In addition to hearing the story of our Lord's birth and the preaching of the Gospel, those attending received a small gift and participated in a fellowship meal. They were also able to hand out some special gifts to children and families in need:

302 individually wrapped toys

383 food bags

18 new bikes (primarily as transport to school but often the only means of transport for the entire family)



The annual Christmas/pizza party at the local orphanage was again an extremely blessed event. In addition to giving toys and filled backpacks to 130 children, we were able to hand out 18 food bags to the workers there who are often in need. This year was unique in that there was a team from Australia doing an internship and those 50 teens and 10 teachers also heard the Gospel message, some for the very first time.

The Vision for Da Nang

Our commitment to what God has called us to in Da Nang remains strong and we know that He has been preparing the ground there for some time - what He has set apart will always be set apart for Him. Historically Da Nang had been a training ground for pastors and ministers prior to the departure of the French in 1958 and since that time, it has seen many battles, not only on the ground but in the spiritual realm as well. While we are in the very beginning stages of developing a permanent ministry base there, one of our pastors from the Bible College has been ministering weekly to a small cell group over the past two years. We wanted to involve this group in our Christmas events but wanted to start small. We asked this group of about 18 young adults to invite friends, family and co-workers to the Christmas service and 30 visitors came. The services encouraged those who were believers through the reading of the Christmas story, the special songs celebrating the season and then the Gospel message. We also handed out 20 food bags to those in need. At the time of invitation, two of the visitors responded by giving their life to Jesus. We were so encouraged by this response and truly know the Lord is already working to bless and change lives in this city that has been bathed in darkness for many years.



Looking Ahead

The Miles family has been stateside these last few months and will be returning to Vietnam mid-March. We would ask that you keep them in your prayers for travel mercies and especially for protection of their health as they return to Asia. We are anticipation of all that the Lord has in store for this ministry in the year ahead and we are exceedingly grateful to have you as a faithful partner in this work.

