

# PSALM67 Ministries

## Praise Report Winter 2021

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We want to personally thank you for all your faithful prayers and financial support throughout the trials of 2020. We are so thankful for all the Lord has done even in the midst of a global pandemic. Last year presented all of us with many challenges never faced before ... but GOD. The Lord totally showed up and displayed His glory in the midst of trying situations, causing it all to work out for our good. The pandemic shut down the world and we were unable to return to the mission field, but that delay meant we were able to spend precious time with my mom before her passing in July. Churches were shut down here and in Vietnam, and yet the Gospel continued to transform lives and add souls to His Kingdom. As you read this report and particularly as you review the recap below, celebrate the work of the Lord while imagining all the individuals represented in these numbers. Each changed and renewed life has the potential to spread God's Word to those around them. By bringing God's message of hope, love and redemption to their family, friends and community, they are proof positive that the work of our Lord can never be shut down.

### Celebrating the Work in 2020

- 6 training classes held, in two locations, when lockdowns permitted
- Over 8,100 heard the Gospel at outreach events in 34 different locations
- Over 300 people surrendered their life to the Lord as a result of these events
- 90 people baptized
- 5 successful church plants
- Over 300 Bibles given out
- Over 500 food bags distributed to the needy
- 300 children received scholarships
- 8 portable generators purchased for post-typhoon assistance
- 150 children blessed with gifts at a special Christmas in the Tribal Highlands

The numbers do not tell the complete story because the real story is how the Church in Vietnam is stepping up and bringing Jesus to their communities in the midst of hardship. At a time when so many want to step back and protect what they have, the people of God have gone forth in boldness and love. So many of you have stepped up - in your generosity, prayers and encouragement - and we are all so thankful. Together we are witnessing a move of God sweeping across the nation of Vietnam yet we hold fast to the idea that the best is yet to come.

May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones and may God continue to bless the work of this ministry for His Glory.

Love and Blessings,

Dr. Shaun and Liên Miles







# SALM67 Ministries

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In spite of all the challenges they faced this past year, our national pastors worked very hard to shine the Light of Christ in new ways and to as many people as possible, thus expanding His kingdom in truly remarkable ways. We wanted to celebrate this work by highlighting just a few testimonies of how they faithfully prayed through adversity to bring glory to God.

**Pastor Cang** has been serving the Lord faithfully for many years in an area about three hours north of Ho Chi Minh City. Once a month, he travels about an hour away to train a group of tribal pastors and church leaders. This door opened after years of prayer - he specifically prayed for the opportunity to take what he had learned at the Bible College and teach those pastoring in the tribal communities near him. It took over a year to obtain the required permissions to do such work in these restricted areas but he remained faithful. This past Christmas, he scheduled two days of events, in two different tribal locations, where 257 people showed up and sixteen surrendered their life to the Lord. Pastor Cang has poured into this tribal group over the years and his efforts returned a great harvest.



funds back in 2019 - but pressure from his neighbors and issues with the local officials blocked progress. In September 2020, he was granted the needed permissions but construction ran into further opposition. Pastor Hieu is a man of great faith and diligent prayer and in December, the Lord rewarded him by pulling down all barriers and construction of the new worship facility finally began. He diligently prayed and prepared for his Christmas event and over 100 people showed up with 33 giving their life to Jesus.

**Pastor Hieu** has endured so much persecution and hardship over the years because he ministers in an area where a particularly insidious blend of pagan traditions exerts a stranglehold on the people living there. After years of struggling to share the Gospel with seeming little progress, the Lord gave him great discernment on how to better witness to the people here. He also developed materials to train others on how to make the Gospel clear to those struggling with pagan practices. He has since seen a great harvest of people committing their lives to Christ. For the past few years, Pastor Hieu has been trying to build a new worship facility - receiving



prayed over and all could feel the power of God ministering to His servant. He left renewed and re-energized and at Christmas, he had over 100 people attend his outreach event with 25 surrendering their life to Jesus.

**Pastor Lam** serves the Lord at 130% and is devoted to always giving God all the glory. After graduating from the Bible College in the south, he obeyed a call from the Lord to move his family back to his hometown in central Vietnam and establish a church there. Last year the Lord provided the means for a new worship facility to be built to accommodate the needs of his growing congregation. However, this new church was in the direct path of the typhoon that hit that area late last October. It tore off the brand new roof and ruined the inside, leaving him devastated, but God met him in his pain. At the December training, he was





# You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great. Psalm 18:35 (NIV84)

Lockdowns due to the global pandemic along with the devastation resulting from the typhoons meant there were numerous opportunities for the Church to shine the Light of Christ far and wide throughout a hurting nation.



Vietnam has bolstered their economy over the years through tourism, which has fueled an economic boom since about 2012. The year 2020 was poised to be record breaking year for such commerce, but then the Pandemic hit. The nation was forced to close its borders to all foreign travelers to prevent a major outbreak of Covid-19. Their strategy proved successful, but at a huge cost to the economic welfare of the country. The complete lockdown began in the middle of March and everyone in Vietnam was under strict orders to remain home and not travel, just like most of the world. During this time, our pastors and churches were restricted in how they could meet and offer spiritual resources to their members, so they adjusted. They did what they knew they could to minister



to those in need around them - meeting daily for prayer and then spreading the joy and peace of Jesus to their members and community through phone calls, visitation and small group gatherings - while always honoring the guidelines in place at the time. By mid-May the restrictions had eased and the church was able to meet and gather as before. In June and July we were able to hold training sessions again with the focus on how to adapt and adjust ministry during lockdowns. By August, there had been a resurgence of cases so lockdowns were re-imposed. The economic devastation left so many families in need and the churches responded - thanks to our generous supporters. From the south to the Tribal Highlands, the Church distributed over 500 food bags to families in need along with prayer and Christ's message of hope and love.



While the country was still suffering due to the restrictions imposed by the lockdowns, the rainy season hit with a vengeance. This is a period from late September to mid-January when severe flooding is rampant. This year the flooding had just begun when a series of typhoons made landfall, one after the other, in the same general area in central Vietnam. The winds were not as devastating as the rainfall, but that was catastrophic. It brought the flood waters to extremely dangerous levels. In fact, one hit during our October training session and we were forced to end the classes early so pastors could return home to their families. The following afternoon the storm made landfall with the eye wall traveling directly over our training center. The devastation to property in this area was truly heart wrenching.



As soon as the storm had passed, the pastors who had stayed behind set to work moving limbs and fallen trees around the church and neighboring homes but felt an urgent need to do more. So, with generous gifts from the Hunt Brothers Inc.,

Tomoka Christian Center, and so many others, we were able to purchase eight generators, hundreds of food bags as well as hand out financial gifts to help with needed repairs. Our team, along with the local pastors, mounted the generators on the back of their motorbikes and then traveled around this ravaged area.

They went house to house to charge people's phones, pump water into containers, remove limbs and debris, and cover roofs with tarps. People asked "what do I pay you" and they responded that they were there to shine the love of Christ throughout their local community. The local churches were able to strengthen their ties to those they serve by lending a hand and then passing out food bags to those most in need. At a time when the needs are the greatest, the people of God are stirred by the Spirit of God to get involved, revealing God's Glory in ways only He can orchestrate.





# Update on The Vision for Da Nang

**Listen to what the Lord says: “Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. Micah 6:1**

Despite our inability to return to Vietnam in 2020, we remain as committed as ever to the Lord's plan for a church plant and Bible Training Center to be established in the third largest city in the nation. Da Nang was chosen for its strategic, central location; growing and diverse population; proximity to a large number of tribal, unreached people groups; and almost non-existent Christian presence.



In early October we were able to send Pastor Hai to Da Nang to seek out available properties suited to our needs. He visited dozens of locations during the course of the week and he was able to narrow down some excellent choices that would accommodate the Bible Training/Ministry Center/Mission Living accommodations we are envisioning. His research has allowed us to fine tune and confirm our budget for this capital campaign - \$360,000 will be needed to secure the land and either build new or renovate an existing building according to our specifications.

Even though our plans to return to the mission field are still on hold due to the pandemic, the Lord has been stirring hearts to join us in realizing this Vision. To date, generous pledges from **The Springs Church** in Jacksonville and **Tomoka Christian Center Church** in

Ormond Beach, as well as several individuals, have brought us to just shy of \$100,000 in funds raised. We also have monthly pledges secured to help us reach the additional \$4000/month needed to cover the operating expenses of this center since we don't want to sacrifice any of the training and other activities ongoing at the centers in the south and central areas. We have a long way to go, but the Lord has already gone ahead of us and will surely show Himself strong.



In mid-December, our entire US-based ministry team got together for a special event hosted by **Pastor Brian Garrison** and **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church** in Deland. The evening featured a traditional Vietnamese meal along with prayers and testimonies. Our goal was to give people a taste of Vietnam at the holidays while providing an overview and update on ministry activities as well as on the status of the Da Nang church-plant. The SALM67 Ministry team is available to hold similar events at local churches or discipleship groups for those interested in learning more about the ministry and the plans for Da Nang. Please contact us if you have a group interested in such an event.

The Miles family will remain stateside for the foreseeable future - returning to Vietnam is not possible right now due to travel restrictions. Dr. Shaun is busy teaching, preaching and serving at a few different churches; Liên is busy managing the household with two active boys - Shaun Fisher, 5 and Daniel Hai, 2. Dr. Shaun and Liên teach the students in Vietnam via

internet on a monthly basis when the lockdown status permits. Everyone is healthy and the boys are thriving - and we thank God for all His blessings.

Please continue to pray for all the pastors and leaders in Vietnam - for their health and the health of their families; for their ministries; and for their communities. Please know that they lift you all up in their prayers as we do in ours.



A SIMILAR STRUCTURE IS PLANNED TO HOUSE THE DA NANG MINISTRY & TRAINING CENTER AND MISSION TEAM HOME

