

November 19, 2018

Warm greetings from Vietnam!



It is Thanksgiving, giving thanks . . . I have been reflecting on being grateful in the midst of tremendous change and challenges that the Vietnam Mission Initiative has been facing during its significant leadership transition. With the long-term country director refusing to retire quietly, the new leadership team has been going through a difficult and uncomfortable situation in taking their roles. The transition, however, provides an opportunity for the leaders to evaluate the vision, build relationships, develop leadership, trust, and hope as we move into the future.

I have seen people showing faithfulness, commitment, and dedication to building the church regardless of challenges and struggles. Pastors and lay leaders have held firmly to God with persistence and trust that God has started to make things right and he will complete his good work for the United Methodist Church in Vietnam. I am encouraged to see Executive Committee members moving into their leadership role, learning to lead together to take the mission through to its next phase.

I have seen young people being nurtured, stepping forward to give their time and effort to leadership. I am pleased to delegate all three programs—Bible & Backpack, Used Clothes, and Health Kits—to capable young people with the confidence that they are able to accomplish their tasks.

I have also seen in the Bible and Backpack program many children with happy faces. It is wonderful that some of them started going to college this year! They give me hope for the future leadership of the Vietnamese UMC.



Thào Nguyễn, Dợ Sùng, and Ngân Nguyễn—our program young leaders.



Children in Hoi An, Central Vietnam. The program provided 322 children with bibles and backpacks this year.

I would like to share with you a story of two siblings Trần Thị Bảo Ngọc and Trần Thị Bảo Ngà, 5th grader and 3rd grader, who could continue going to school this year thanks to the Bible and Backpack program. Here are the words of their pastor Nguyễn Kim Thơ:

“Their father has been sick since he fell in an accident. Their family is very poor. They thought they would drop out of school this year because their family could not afford buying them school supplies. Thanks be to God for the gifts of the Bible and Backpack program that the girls could make it to school. Their family and church are very grateful for the program. Their father hopes that his daughters will receive the gifts again next year so that they will be able to stay in school. They are good children at school and faithful children at church. I pray that the donors understand their love to learn and their struggle to overcome difficulties in order to keep supporting this program.”



Triều Tiên and her daughters.

And here is another story of a single mother Võ Thị Triều Tiên: “My husband left me for another woman when my three children were very young; the youngest child was just a newborn. I had to support my family of four, including my old parents. In my despair, I came to know the Lord and An Nghiep Church. I experience God’s love through the church caring for one another. I am very touched by the gifts my children receive every school year for God uses caring people to help the needy to keep us going. Seeing my children being so happy with the backpacks over their shoulders, textbooks, and school supplies . . . seeing them treasure each and every item, I can smile, thankful to God . . . God has blessed my family and I can affirm that the Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”

I also understood how diligently Global Ministries leaders worked to move the Vietnam mission forward. I appreciated the hard work they did, the difficult decisions they made, the actions they took together with the VMI leaders to lead the Vietnam mission into the future with trust and hope.

I know that God will continue his work through all of us to keep building his kingdom for the children, the poor, and many other disadvantaged people in Vietnam. And I invite you to join Giving Tuesday, November 27 to expand God’s kingdom and his love in Vietnam and around the world.

1) Give to a program #14932A (Please designate your gift)
https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/SPageNavigator/gbgm_donate.html?type=1001&project=14932A

2) Give to my advance (Missionary Support) # 3021965
https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/SPageNavigator/gbgm_donate.html?type=1001&project=3021965

Happy Thanksgiving!
 Quynh



Happily taking used clothes home.