

July 3, 2018

Greetings from Vietnam!

Women's Retreat



Our first Women's Retreat in March remains one of our most memorable days in Dalat, Central Highlands of Vietnam. This retreat had been long overdue, so it came with much joy, laughter, and tear. Our theme is "Prayer: the Heart of Mission Ministry," focusing on prayer beads, prayer walk, prayerful spiritual gifts, and women's value through Bible studies. Many women were impressed with prayer

beads and prayer walk and found it both exciting and struggling to embrace another beautiful way to pray with God. We also found it touching and inspiring to see our worth through the stories of women in the Bible studies. We were excited to discuss how to build Vietnamese Women's Ministry that uses the gifts we have in response to our needs. We brought home with us renewed passion and commitment, and hope and energy for our women's ministry.

Thank you Roberta Eddy, Jamie Wirth, Joyce Peters, Suzanne Hopkins, and the Shawnee Valley District for making this significant retreat happen. I still remember the most touching moment when Pastor Jamie said that your group fast for the Women's Ministry in Vietnam!

2018 Bible and Backpack Program

This year's program has been delegated to Ngan Nguyen, a young volunteer who has closely worked with me since we started it in 2014. With her love for the children and her ability to highly organize, Ngan is ready to take on this significant program. I am grateful that the program not only fosters education for the children but also provides an opportunity to develop future leaders from among the young volunteers. Thanks to the generous giving of the Saddler Family Funds, the N.C Annual Conference, Shawnee Valley District, many churches and individuals, we will be able to send Bibles and backpacks to more than 300 children this July. I invite you to continue to support the children and the potential leaders of the church through the Bibles and Backpacks.



Ngan Nguyen

Leadership Transition

The United Methodist Church in Vietnam is in a leadership transition. You may be aware that leadership change is hard on all concerned even though change is inevitable. Maintaining status quo is often the easier way. We have been praying for the new beginning with new visions and focuses. We are thankful to have our Interim Country Director with us. We have prayed for a new Country Director who has character, integrity, and vision. Please join us in praying for a successful transition in which the Director, the Executive members, and the local pastors all work together to establish a ministry setting where trust is built, understanding is reached, all are humble to share power with one another, and all gain self-confidence to take their authority and give voice to things that matter.

Protests in Vietnam



Protesters gathered in front of the Independence Palace in Saigon

June 2018 is marked with mass protests in Vietnam that have not seen for decades. Protests erupted over the weekend of June 9-10 across the country against two prominent draft laws on the special economic zones and cyber security. The first law proposes to lease three new special economic zones to foreign investors, potentially Chinese investors, for up to 99 years, which raises deep concern

over China's long-standing violation of Vietnam sovereignty. The second law, which has recently been passed by the National Assembly, tightens the already present control of the people's freedom of speech online, and their right to privacy. June protests showed how widespread the people's frustration and distrust are in the government. They were also a sign of the people's overcoming their fear and silence to protect their rights and their territorial sovereignty in the face of rising repression. There is a long way ahead. Please pray for their voice to be heard and the safety of those arrested.

It is meaningful to serve in Vietnam during this time of leadership transition and witness one of the most historic days in Vietnam's history. I invite you support the Vietnam mission.

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(Please designate your gift as Bibles & Backpacks)

To support my Advance # 3021965:
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Peace and blessings,
Quynh