

PHILIPPINE MISSION

August 25, 2009

VIETNAM A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

Vietnam is a beautiful land with many beautiful people. But, under the hand of communism religion is not freely practiced.

Yes, there are some groups that have been tolerated, but in most cases Christianity is forced to go underground. The official religion of Vietnam is Buddhism. Catholicism is also recognized and is to be reckoned as one of the strongest exponent of pseudo-Christianity. The type of Christianity that Catholicism introduced in Vietnam is worship of Mary. Mariolatry is freely practiced in Vietnam, as evidence in many statues displayed in churches and even private houses.



SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY:

Last July 22 to August 8, we had the second chance of going to Vietnam to bring the pure gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our main message is Jesus Christ crucified, resurrected and exalted to the throne in the right hand of God. This simple gospel is what the people the entire world must know not only in Vietnam.

Since we arrived from our Mission Trip in Vietnam I have been trying to make some report of our VN'S TRIP but my class in PIBS has consumed all my time this past days. I am also preparing for our trip in Leyte which will be this coming **Sept 7 to Oct. 1** for our fourth annual Evangelistic and edification campaign. We will cover 14 churches this time excluding Tacloban.

OUR VISIT AT BIHN DJUNG

Our last trip in VN can be considered more productive in comparison to our first visit; that is as far as the use of our time and meeting more people is concern. Binh Djung is more than three hours by bus from Saigon. Going there we have to take three different buses and finally on the last seven kilometers, ride a motor cycle. Our purpose was to visit the oldest congregation and the oldest member of Vietnam. We have visited the oldest church and the oldest member in VN and I think we have better understanding of the situation there now in comparison to the first trip. We had also one baptism in Binh Djung. Maybe you ask how many Christians are there in Vietnam and how many congregations are there existing today. Only God can tell how many Christians and churches are there in Vietnam.

THE NEED AS I SEE IT.

I also see the real need in VN.

First, we really need a brother to be our interpreter. Our interpreter this time for our class was not good. He had a hard time coping with me and he refused to interpret some of the things I said when it clashed with his denominational views. He is somewhat of the Pentecostal type and Baptist in his view on his salvation. Some of the brethren were able to detect his shortcomings so sometimes they have discussion in their Vietnamese dialect and I did not know what was said. Second, we need harder for Vietnam, for a freedom to practice religion.

FIVE-HOUR STUDY AT A KFC RESTAURANT IN SAIGON:

Before we proceeded to Dalat, brother Minh arranged a one-day Bible study in Saigon at KFC restaurant there at least 14 people came including women. I was asked by brother Minh to have a short summary of what I have taught last December, since most of the people present that time were present to hear my ten-day class in Dalat. How do you summarize the entire story of the O.T. in one setting? Will, to be frank, it was my first time to summarize in the Bible in one setting and I was able to do it in **five hours**.

SECRET MEETING WITH A MISSIONARY IN VIETNAM

We also meet brother Stephann, the French Missionary who is from Laos and married to a Vietnamese we had a short visit with him in the hotel. He came to us in our hotel in Saigon after our class in Dalat. After his sad experience of being imprisoned in Vietnam for three days, he is now very apprehensive and cautious. He said that the reason that he is slowing down now is because he does not want to jeopardize the local brethren. Their group meets in the house of a sister who is from Singapore. He said he is doing something to register the church in Vietnam so that it will be granted a legal status. However, once a religion is granted a legal status, only local people can preach and it will be still under the watchful eyes of the police. We were told that every church that is legally recognized is being watched by the police. Every meeting has at least one police assigned who observes the meeting to make sure that the requirements are being strictly followed.

MEETING WITH NEW CHRISTIANS ON OUR LAST DAY

On the next day we also met two local people who claim to be members of the church of Christ. They came from denominational backgrounds and it seems that they are good people. They were Daniel and Caleb. Daniel works with the NGO and Caleb is their "Pastor". We are invited by Daniel to a dinner and later to their Prayer Meeting in one of the houses of their members. There were at least 16 people in the house mostly women and mostly relatives. The group was semi-Pentecostal.

After the prayer meeting Daniel invited us to his apartment which is a three floor house. He said he is renting it at 250 US; a very nice place in their standard. He was very friendly. They were able to find us through the website of Thung Anh.

While Jun and I were in VN I reflecting why God has send us there? There must be a good reason. God never makes mistakes, and we are just to trust Him in his leading.

OUR HOPE FOR OWN INTERPRETER

Speaking of a future interpreter, I think the young man Thrung Anh is our hope, we pray that God will empower this guy. He is very dedicated and honest in intention and very talented. That is the reason that we want him to come to Cebu and train him about the Bible and English. There are some qualified English teacher here that can help him.

I am thinking of six months bases. He can stay here for six months and come with us back to VN when go there. He can also teach us some Vietnamese words and phrases while here so it will be an exchange of knowledge. We learning a little Vietnamese words and him learning Bible and English. Of course we need your full support for this project.

Brethren, PRAY FOR VIETNAM, for its people for the Christians and for those in the government.

This is all for now.

Your brother,
Reuben Emperado