

ECR: Winter 2008 Newsletter

-----o0o-----

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 14th annual medical team treats 1111 patients
- Baptists are given legal status in Vietnam
- Volunteers continue to make ECR their “home away from home”
- Patient updates
- Houston for July 4th
- Audio Bible project progressing well



Most of the 2008 team – at Mang Lin village

Since 1994, ECR has taken an annual team of volunteers to travel to Southeast Asia to conduct free medical clinics in very poor areas. These med teams have worked in four provinces of Vietnam and in Cambodia. Since that first venture, 128 individual volunteers, each paying their own expenses, have worked for a week or more on from one to 12 teams. Treating a total of 16,772 patients in these clinics, these teams have helped open doors that would otherwise have been closed to us, have brought some people back from the brink of permanent disability and even death, and given new hope to many who simply didn't have any left.

Some have asked for more details of the project. In this most recent week of clinics, in the highlands outside of Dalat, we officially treated 1111 patients -- the actual



Phoebe Pham (translator) and Dr. Mike Hall

number was closer to 1150. A total of 32 people were on the team. We spent \$4178 on medicines. (The meds that were left over will be used in those villages in the coming months).

We have 12 patients in need of further help, and three were being processed as of Feb. 1st.



K'Ho children in Hang Hot village

In addition, we gave \$500 for surgery for a 15-year-old burn victim in Can Tho., and \$70 for follow-up exam and medications for a previous heart surgery patient. Meals and water for the team totaled \$1365. Hotels totaled \$2893, and in-country travel totaled \$2170. Miscellaneous other expenses were about \$400. Air travel, including trip insurance, totaled \$41,000.



Shirley Martin examines a patient at Mang Lin

This puts the actual total cost per patient at \$46 -- not too bad for a house call and free meds, not to mention the joy of being part of it all. When you consider the ministry that evolves from this investment, you realize how efficient the effort is. We hope you will remember these patients, and our program, in the weeks and months ahead, and continue to help financially as we step through those now-opening doors.



-----o0o-----

The AUDIO BIBLE project is progressing well. We now have all but one book of the New Testament recorded, and are preparing the audio files for MP3 downloads later this spring. A second recording is being made in a more southern dialect, which will give us wider appeal and double the usable audio library for other applications.

Other work has been completed for use on the audio players, with evangelistic and devotional messages delivered in a minority language, along with wider distribution of the existing Vietnamese-language messages. These units continue to be highly effective in reaching those with limited or no access to printed literature and those with no reading skills.

-----o0o-----

Baby The-Anh , with severe facial disfigurement, touched us all quite powerfully when we printed his picture after examining him early in 2007. This child's palate was repaired in October of 2007, and he is soon to have an ophthalmic procedure to correct more of his problems. The doctors in Vietnam have done excellent surgical work for this child. The change is already wonderful, and we look forward to sharing his story and pictures later in the year.

We continue to provide medicines for Phuc, the young man with "falling down seizures," and have provided for My-Loan to have the follow-up treatment and medicines she needs after heart surgery. Several patients from the January '08 clinics are being processed for various problems, including two who require removal of filmy growths from the eyes (ptygerium), sonograms, TB and malaria checks and goiters. Your help with these medical needs can change a life.

-----o0o-----

In October of 2007, the Vietnamese government issued decrees affording legal status to several religious entities, including Baptists. This is an important milestone for the believers in Vietnam, as well as for organizations working to reflect His light there. We have begun to see signs of openness, but there is always a need for sensitivity and care. Add your prayers to ours and others' for the Word to be shared and shown wisely, and that we might all walk circumspectly.

Since December 1994, these volunteers have participated in one or more med teams:

Aaron Harless	Hue Vasick	Nhan Hai Tran
Adam Cao	Ida Steinberg	Nicolas Doan-Van
Adele Inamine	Janet Camacho	Nina Pham
Ai-Linh Bryant	Jay Currin	Paul Cuoc Dang
Al Hartness	Jay Ulbrich	Paul Hai Phan
Alan Tran	Jennifer Hoover	Paul Hoang Huynh
Angela Scott	Jennifer Vu	Pearl Maeda
Anh Pham Nguyen	Jim Elmore	Pham thi Thuy-Lan
Barret Hoover	Jim Hoover	Phoebe Pham
Bich-Hiep Le	John Fox	Phuong-Anh Nguyen
Bruce Harless	Joseph Krepps	Preston Price
Cameron Gram	Joshua Nguyen	Rachel Hanh Tran
Carl Lum	Julianne Huynh	Rachel Thanh Lai Dang
Chau Nguyen	Kathleen Nguyen	Reed DeVault
Che Linh Phung	Katie Currin	Ron Bryant
Chris Truong	Kevin Tillman	Ronnie Vu
Cill K'Gin	Khoa "Tin-Tin" Dao	Sandy Phung
Cill K'Sinh	Larry Wright	Rita Seaman
Clarence Chinn	Le Ngoc Trai	Sang Pham
Cuong Giang	Le-An Jackson	Shirley Martin
Dan Seaman	Leanne Pham Ebeling	Stephanie Madrid
Dao Phuong	Leslie Balderas	Steven Strauss
David Leung	Lieng Bui	Steven Lawley
David Mai	Linda Dang	Stevens Ta
David Truong	Linh Nguyen	Sylvia Silver
Deborah Hoover	Lisa Dinh	Nguyen Thien Tan
Dennis Joao	Lisa McCammon Allen	Thai An Hoang
Do Quyen	Ly-Huong Bui	Thinh Nguyen De
Hong-Nhung Nguyen	Lyly Dao	Tim Jordan
Duc Nguyen	Mai Le	Timothy Tang
Ed Dierdorff	Marc Price	Toni Farmer
Ellen Livingston	Marcia Bailey Tillman	Tuan Anh Nguyen
Emily Nguyen	Maria Smith	Tung Su
Emily Drennon	Mark Vasick	Tuyet Luong
Emma Chinn	Mary Jane Devault	Vickie Parker
Florence Lim	Mike Hall	Vo Hung Phi
Frank Dang	Minh Han	Vu Le
George Maeda	Mori Hiratani	Vu Thuy Hoa
Hanah Ta	My-Lien Tang Hoang	Wayne Crull
Hannah Truong	My-Trang Dang	Xuan Lien Le
Hien Pham	Naomi Miyamoto	Yvonne Nguyen
Hoa Nguyen	Nathan Tran	
Hoang Bui	Nguyen Thanh Nhan	

VOLUNTEERS are an important part of our activities and our make-up – probably more than most realize. This last med team took the number of volunteers to 128, and grew the “family” significantly. This “family” is all at the same time a collection of friends, a missionary pool, a ministry team and a support base. These are people we work with, correspond with and rejoice with as we see each other grow and mature in life and faith. The med teams change you – the bonds formed never go away, the thrill of seeing people touched by the love of God never wanes, and the sense of shared ministry resides perpetually in the heart.



*The Matt and Lisa (McCammon) Allen family
(Lisa was our pharmacist in 2003)*

Maybe this is something you need to work into your own life schedule.....

-----o0o-----

PLAN NOW to be in Houston for **the July 4th TRADE WINDS EXTRAVAGANZA**. We have placed an order for three days *of Certified Hawaiian Trade Winds* to accompany our 19th-anniversary Open House and Board of Directors meeting. We put our order in early for these cool breezes, so please don't miss the opportunity to



enjoy them with us. Contingency plans will include an air-conditioned space in the unlikely event of it being overly warm in Houston in July. Plans to meet in the Astrodome did not work out, so we will opt for a different venue, which will be announced later this spring. **GUARANTEED**, the fellowship will be great!



-----o0o-----

**Make a donation at www.e crus.org, or send a check to “ECR” at
937 Sunnyside Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464**

*All gifts are tax deductible under IRS guidelines for 501c3 organizations
(EIN: 94-3276559)*

A financial statement is available upon request from the
Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs,
P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218