



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Vietnam: Joyful reunion & on the run again!



It was so nice to land in Vietnam and feel the warmth that had alluded us in China. As it had been a few years since I was last in Vietnam, I noticed several improvements with the roadway from the airport. The city itself was crowded with people, many of them tourists. It was easy for Vicky and me to fit right in walking the streets. The situation in Vietnam for the CTC program is even riskier than in China. In spite of this, I arranged to teach our students for two days then travel to another city by bus. There I would speak to a house group that was led by a young Christian friend who was away ministering in Malaysia. After that, Vicky and I would take a long bus ride to spend a day in Hai Long Bay before our return flights home.



We arrived on Saturday afternoon. After getting settled in, we went for an evening walk around the downtown area. A group of young women all wearing red dresses stopped us and gave each of us a long stemmed red rose. I suppose it was some kind of promotion for a local company. I was wearing my black Stetson, and they wanted their photos taken with Vicky and me. They probably thought I was a rich Texan. Ha Ha!!



As we walked along, we came to a street fair where officials had blocked off traffic for several blocks. Merchants had set up booths along the street to offer items at a discount. Vicky thought she was in shopper's heaven! The fair was a close second to her favorite shopping place for discounts, namely garage sales! Fortunately for me, the fair was only on the



weekend. Thank you Jesus!

Early Monday, a driver picked us up and drove us to the location where the students were waiting. It was a special time for me to be with students in Vietnam, as it always is, since Vietnam is where our CTC program got its start. The situation and format is still basically the same, only the locations and faces have changed. Now our graduates are doing the teaching! Although I did not expect Vicky to teach, she came along anyway as she wanted to meet the students and be a part of what was taking place.



Everything was as I expected. The driver drove around while guys on motorbikes went ahead to make sure the coast was clear. When we got to an alley off the main street, the car stopped. The driver signaled for us to get out and walk down the alley. We did as directed with me trying to shield my face as much as I could by wearing my Stetson and looking down as we walked. It is not as much an issue for Vicky because her skin is naturally darker. When we were in China, everyone thought she was Chinese; when we were in Vietnam, everyone thought she was Vietnamese.

On Tuesday, I had Vicky stay at the hotel partly because of the risk and partly because she was not going to teach. Everything started off quite normally. We followed the same procedure as the day before, but around lunchtime things began to change. Two events changed the course of the day and my time with the students. The first event involved the completion of a promise made several years ago and my unexpected reunion with Le, one of our original and beloved students. For those of you who don't know the story, I will give you the shortened version.

Pictured here are Le



(Lay) and her sister, Tinh, on the rooftop of the hotel where I stayed and held secret CTC classes. The photo was taken in 2000, prior to Le's graduation.

Le's Story

Le was a rice farmer looking for a better life. She made the two-day train trip from her home in hopes of finding someone to teach her English. The Lord led her to Cuc, our CTC director and a born again English teacher. Cuc promptly led Le to faith in Christ. Le then returned to her family and led all five of her sisters to Christ. However, when she shared her faith with her brother, a Communist police officer, he beat her and threw her out of the family home. She came back at the same time we were starting CTC and joined the group. Each time our training finished, she would go home and secretly share everything she had learned with her sisters and others she had led to Christ in her village. Eventually, her brother found out and threw all of her belongings out of their home and set them on fire. He then beat her so badly that friends had to pull him off as he would have killed her for bringing such disgrace to the family and their village. Her friends actually hid her in a barrel for three days so he could not find her.

After a few more trips like this, she had a group of over twenty meeting together and learning from the CTC curriculum. Her brother found out, had the place where they were meeting stoned, and brought Le before the district head of the Communist Party. The Party leader threatened to have her name removed from the approved list of people who could live in her village if she did not renounce Christ. This would make her an unwanted alien in her own country. Le tried to lead the officer to Christ but to no avail. Her name was removed and she was ordered out of her village. We raised about \$600 at that time to find her a place to live. Le remained faithful to Christ and her studies.

The week before their graduation, my first group to graduate from CTC, Le's sister, Tinh, called. She told us about the beating she had received from her brother when he found out she had been witnessing. She wanted to come be with Le. She made the two-day trip, and our students went with Le to meet her at the train station. Tinh arrived all bruised and battered, torn clothes, and no shoes as I remember. She did not look good, and we were very concerned for her health. In spite of her condition, she sat in class all day, every day, that last week and listened to me teach on how to prepare a message and preach. At the end of the week, each student was to preach for five minutes, giving one point and an illustration. After they finished that assignment, they were to do two points in ten minutes. As the last few were finishing, Cuc came to me and said that Tinh had requested to preach. I said, "How? She has not been part of our study except for a few days!" Cuc then

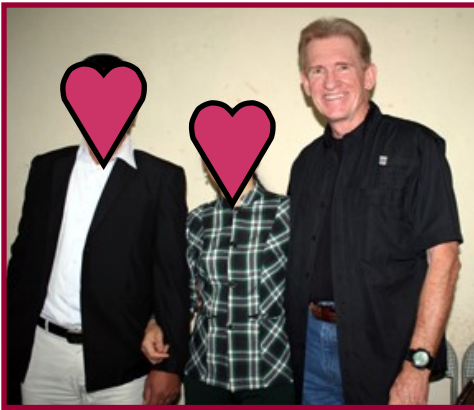
helped me to speak with Tinh, and I agreed to let her try. Tinh then said that she wanted fifteen minutes all at one time. The next day, after everyone else was done, Tinh stood behind our makeshift podium, picked up her Bible although she never opened it as she quoted every verse, and began to share perhaps the best message I have ever heard.

She shared that she was never noticed by anyone; her parents paid little attention to her and no boys cared for her. She felt very alone and unloved, good for nothing more than rice farming. That all changed, however, the day Le told her about Jesus and His great love for everyone. Suddenly, her life had meaning and value beyond rice farming. Then she told us about her friend who was a known prostitute in the area where she lived. She told us that she had invited the prostitute to come to a secret house church meeting. The prostitute was reluctant because everyone knew what she did. Still Tinh persisted until the prostitute finally agreed to go with her. Tinh shared that when they walked together into the small room filled with people, the believers welcomed them without hesitation or any ill will toward her friend. Sitting in the back, the prostitute cried as she heard the people worship and praise the Lord. Then the pastor invited those who wanted to receive forgiveness and healing for their souls to come forward. The prostitute stood to her feet and walked forward to receive Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Next, Tinh looked at each of us. With great authority she pointed her finger at us and said, "If God can use an unwanted rice farmer to win a prostitute to Jesus, then He can use you, and you, and you....!" There was not a dry eye in the room. Later, I asked Le where Tinh had learned to preach. She said that she had taught Tinh everything I had taught to the class. When Tinh had told Le that she wanted to help her in ministry, Le told her that she had to learn to preach and share from God's Word. So every night, after returning from the rice fields and fixing herself something to eat, Tinh would practice preaching—to God.

After Le graduated, she and Tinh went to live together in the small house. Le began to work with youth in house churches. Church leaders soon recognized her as someone with formal training. This opened many doors of ministry for her. Tinh would walk all day carrying a tray with trinkets to sell to tourists to support her and Le's ministry. If you're not reaching for a tissue by now, I don't know why as I'm on my third already.

Years ago, someone had given me a \$50 cash offering for Le, which I carried with me each time I returned to Vietnam in hopes of delivering it to her as I had promised to do. I had not seen Le for many years, however. As we were finishing our lunchtime and about to begin



classes, Le entered the back of the room with her husband, Huy. They had only been married a month and heard I was in Hanoi. They arranged through Cuc to come and see me. Seeing her, meet-

ing her husband, and hearing what God was doing in her life and the life of her sister was a gift from God. I delivered the \$50 gift still in the original envelope and fulfilled my promise of many years ago. I apologize for hiding their identity, but it is for their protection.

Le shared with me that Tinh was now happily married and living in the central highlands of Vietnam, where she and her husband were involved in full-time ministry. Le works with the AWANA ministry that teaches Christian leaders to reach children with the gospel and engages them in long-term discipleship. She is now working across five Vietnamese provinces and has helped plant over 200 house churches.

I want to thank those of you who have invested in this ministry for many years. It will be so exciting to see what God has accomplished through all of those we have helped to train and disciple. For those of you who have yet to partner with us, this is just one story of how the CTC program is making a difference across the world, even in places like Vietnam where there is strong resistance by the atheistic Communist government. One report says that Vietnam is third in the world for persecution of Christians. If you have yet to partner with us, please consider joining the Project Gideon program and **giving \$15 or \$30 faithfully every month**. We will apply every cent received to training people like Le and Tinh. Your giving can make the difference!

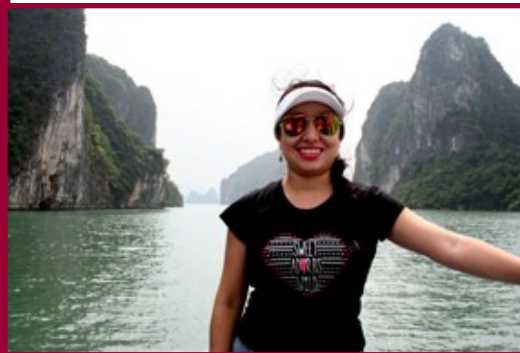
Well, getting back to my second day with the CTC students, another event occurred that changed my teaching schedule! Just after Le and Huy left and I was about to start teaching, the owner of the house where we were meeting came to tell Cuc that the police were coming and that I needed to leave immediately. I was on the run, again, grabbing my laptop and Bible. We hurriedly gathered the students and took a group photo. Then I was off down the alley by myself until I made it to the street and began to walk down the block, trying to do so unnoticed! Finally, one of the students on a motorbike came, picked me up, and took me back to the hotel.

Wednesday, we left to meet Houg, to whom Cuc had introduced me many years ago. Houg is a young Christian seeking to serve the Lord and at that time was living with her mother. She had attended some of the CTC sessions that were held in her area but was not able to attend enough to graduate. Now married and expecting a child, Houg and her husband are very involved in ministry and have a house church in her mother's home.

Houg went with us to a hotel to get something to eat before we went to the house church group where I was to speak that evening. I had worked several hours preparing a power point on an over view of the book of Revelation, our topic for the evening. I taught for over an hour and answered questions. The group said it was the first time that anyone had explained "end time" things to them! They all took photos of my computer screen power point with their cell phones. They were very grateful for the teaching!



On Thursday, we went by bus to Hai Long Bay, a tourist destination where there are many unusual rock formations in the bay. We paid for a four-hour trip on a large boat. When it came time to go, however, they asked for more money as they did not have enough passengers. I refused to give them more, realizing that even if I did, they would probably cut the trip short. Naturally, they did not want to refund the money and allow us to get on another ship. We went into the bay and saw some of the beautiful formations although it was a bit hazy. Still, the view was something quite unusual to see with the green water and rock formations. The trip was only two hours long, which was fine with us as we had a long bus trip ahead of us. We said goodbye to Houg and gave her some money for coming with us.



On Friday, Cuc called me to see if I would be interested in seeing some of the drug rehabilitation houses that a group of our students operate. Naturally I said yes. A

driver took Vicky and me to see three locations, one church that serves a couple of the locations, and a nearby village area.



As I understand, this ministry got started because of a couple of drug addicts that got saved and joined our CTC program. They

cleaned up their lives and wanted God to use them to help others who were in similar situations as they had been. I first reported on their ministry in August of 2014 as they were pulling drug addicts off the street and sharing Christ with them. The program had terrific results. They are now running eight locations and have two more that they are about to open with graduates of the CTC program. They call their ministry **“Family of New Life.”** Most, if not all, of the staff for the eight locations are CTC graduates. Their vision is for fifty such drug rehabilitation programs. When they bring someone in, that person must want to get clean. That is

done the old fashioned way, quitting “cold turkey,” allowing the drugs to work themselves out of the body. They have special rooms set up for this. The brothers in Christ stay with the new



inductees around the clock until they are clean. Then they start them on a strict regiment of Scripture study, chores, and physical activity. It is a two-year commitment for the inductees, with the cost paid by the families of the addicts as well as some of the things they grow and sell. When the former addicts are in the last part of their second year and showing signs of really wanting to serve God, they are brought into the CTC program. Upon graduation, if they desire, they can be considered for a staff position in another rehabilitation location.



The leader of the program, a CTC graduate, took me to a church that stands on land donated to them.

They raised funding for a simple building but still need a place for bathrooms and parking. There is a piece of land on the



other side of the building that we can't see from this photo that measures 150 square meters, or about 1600 sq. ft. It could be purchased for 60 million Vietnamese Dong, which is about **\$3000 USD**. If any of you would like to sponsor this project or help, you can do so by mailing your gift to the PO Box at the bottom of this page, marking your check **“VN church.”** Our graduates are doing something that no governmental institution in Vietnam has been able to do successfully. Help them to continue to make a difference!

This report finishes our travels for 2015. By now I have most likely been to Africa and back and perhaps some other location as well. To say that we need your prayer and financial help is to put it mildly. We **REALLY** need your prayer and financial support both on a **personal and project level**. I keep stressing projects as opportunities for you to truly make a difference in your giving, a difference that you can see in the reports that I share each month. There are so many opportunities! I do not even try to share them all because I do not want to put you on overload. Some things we just do as we are able. I know that God must touch hearts to encourage people to give. I pray for the Holy Spirit to help us by doing so. I cannot do what is not supported. It is that simple. I cannot give what I have not first received. So I ask the Holy Spirit to bless you so you can be a blessing. Be a goer or a sender, but please do something for the Kingdom that will make a difference. We love and appreciate all of you who faithfully stand with us! You are always in my prayers!!!! Thank you for your support, and may the blessing of our precious savior rest on you as you seek to be a blessing to His Kingdom.

TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!

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