



Mike's Notes

The picture on our masthead this issue is of some of our young people on their annual retreat -- this time to Phan Thiet, a coastal city just north of Ho Chi Minh. The annual retreat is a feature of our Summer Youth Project led by Steve Hawley, who serves on our Board and began making trips to Vietnam in 2011 while Dad was there. This past summer he made his 13th trip. He stays about a month each time and honestly, I find his schedule exhausting! Most of our report this month is from his trip in July.

Most mornings, Steve begins with breakfast with some of our young people to help advance their English conversation skills. He writes: "This particular morning" (see pic below) "was with Hiep as translator along with his wife, and Han, and Bin. Bin will be in 8th grade and Han in 10th. I have known both since they were very little! Both are bright, both want to be doctors, and both come from families of limited means. We spoke of how becoming proficient in English gives them a much better chance of success and how they are surrounded by adults who can and want to help them achieve their dreams.... but it will be very hard work. I told them I am going to refer to them as Dr. Han and Dr. Bin from now on -- a self fulfilling prophecy!"



"For years (Steve continues), Hai and Hiep (the preachers in Can Tho) have taught computer classes as an outreach to our group and others. Most of these youngsters do not have the means to have their own computer but we have eight very good used laptops and we purchased two more on this trip. Also, several of our young people are

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university students and we were able to provide them with new laptops when they graduated from high school. We had sixteen here in class this particular evening."



"When I first came to Can Tho, Tom Tune had the dream of starting a preacher school in our small meeting place and he talked of it incessantly. Although that goal never quite came true, it morphed into something amazing- English centers which began in our living room here. About ten of the young people in our spiritual family had studied at Four Seas Bible College in Singapore which uses English as the language for all teaching so we had a base who could teach English on some level. I was there the first day- WOW! We have come light years! The English tutoring was offered for free which caused complaints from nearby teachers who were losing customers. These grumblings caused our home school to shutter and move to a rented location which turned out to be a huge blessing! Ngan, who has accounting degrees and graduated from both Harding and Oklahoma Christian University, was brought in to run the show. She was able to get all the necessary paperwork/licensees taken care of and now we are a well oiled machine with two campuses, one in Can Tho and one in a nearby village. Tom's idea included the belief this would allow our spiritual family to employ members and hopefully, in the long run, become self sufficient!

"I met John Bailey and his lovely wife, Rose, in 2008 in Shenyang, China on a mission trip offering free cleft palate/ cleft lip surgeries to poor families and their children. When our English Centers opened, John, a dentist and known worldwide for charity work, became Ngan's chief benefactor



TOM'S KIDS

Tom Tune first went to Vietnam in 2005 to help Partners In Progress build a medical mission ship. While there, he established two churches and sent nearly a dozen young-people either to University or Bible college. He also began a program to help underprivileged children to go to school. Amazing Grace International, with your help, serves to continue the work he began there.

Steve Hawley, one of our board members, wrote the following about Dad the day after he died in 2013. I think it captures Dad well:

"Tom Tune died yesterday. Many people talk about living; Tom lived. He did things and went places most of us only imagine. He dreamed dreams that came true and had visions which have come to pass. He changed lives on multiple continents and the ripples started by his wake could cover the oceans. Tom was unlike any missionary I've ever met but that's a limiting statement. Tom Tune was unlike any person I've ever met."

Almost thirteen years have passed since Dad died and today, some of those little children are now attending University and contributing to the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for your support.

and made the dream of the English schools come true. The Centers were named in honor of Connor Brown, John and Rose's grandson. Connor tragically died in a car accident at age 12 while a student at Midland Christian School in Texas. What a legacy he left and continues to leave as the work here continues in his name. Without Connor and his grandparents, there would be no English Centers associated with our group.

"In 2016, the Connor English Centers decided to take the summer students on a field trip, a common practice in Vietnam. The initial response was very slow with only three students signing up. Ngan had a brainstorm- turn it into the MR. STEVE FIELD TRIP and within 10 days or so, we were up to 75. After that initial outing, my endorsement was no longer required. This year we had 172 kids (see pic. below) having a great time at the Can Tho Eco System resort."



Okay, Mike again. Steve's month-long ministry involved (so far, in this telling) morning English conversation gatherings, worship assemblies, computer classes, a field trip, and a multi-day trip to Phan Thiet for a retreat. By the way, that was just the first thirteen days - and I have not included everything. More about his trip in our next issue but for the remainder of this one, I want to tell you about another of our projects.

Of course, as you know, we pay the tuition for over a hundred students in elementary through high school. All of these students would have a really tough time going to school were it not for your help. Time has gone by and some of these students are out of school. Some have gone, or want to go, to college. At this point, we have eight students for whom we have awarded full university tuition. This would be a really big deal anywhere, but it is huge in

Vietnam. To qualify, a student has to have grades good enough to actually get into college - and that's no small feat in Vietnam. Second, they have to need the scholarship -- they are not going to make it any other way. Third, they have to have been a part of our Tom's Kids program. Fourth, they have to be regular in their worship and a participant in the activities of the church. Fifth, they must be recommended by Hai and Hiep, our two preachers in Vietnam. It costs about \$550 a term (3 terms a year) for tuition. There are exceptions to this. One of our students won a prestigious scholarship to a top tier university. It costs more for her. You might think that with a scholarship, the school pays. Not so. Scholarship means you get in. The student still has to pay. If you would like to be a part of this additional effort, please mark your contribution "University fund."

Thanks for reading and supporting this effort.

More later Mike