



Kicked-out of Da Nang, Teams serve in Thua Thien Hue Province

VWAM's Certificate of Operation (COR) was renewed (Expires April 24, 2020) just before the first training team arrived. However, it came with disappointing news. After nineteen years operating in Da Nang City and Province, it was to be no more, as continuing fall-out from Nguyen Van Chinh's asylum decision ended ministry in Da Nang. The only city that VWAM may have an office is **Hue**, and the only area it may provide humanitarian assistance is in **Thua Thien Hue Province**.

This complicated arrangements for the first training team, **March 4 - 17**, because a new location had to be selected and approved on very short notice. Since VWAM was denied permission to work in Hoa Bac/Hoa Vang outside of Da Nang, customs refused to release fifty first-aid kits. It took nearly two weeks to "Work things out," and the training team ended up only losing one day of instruction and teaching.

Nurse Coordinator/Board member Steve Scott led the team. He was assisted by vet **James Galbavy** from **Lake Mary, FL**. The **VLS** or **Village Life Savers** program is a basic first-aid regimen meant to improve survivability in the villages for victims of trauma, drowning and electrocution, heart attacks or stroke, work or farming accidents, venomous bites, etc. With no EMS system in the countryside, rendering first-aid and stabilizing a victim in the field

greatly improves their chance of a good out-come before being taken to a local clinic, and eventually transported to a hospital 1 - 2 hours away.

The VLS program has been well received, and the A Loui District Department of Health asked that the program be offered again in Spring, 2018. VWAM will offer another three-day course for to take place at the A Loui District Administrative Center.

VWAM's Medical Director/Board member, Dr. Mike Bernardo, headed up the **Physician Training Team, March 9 - 18**. Joining him were **Dr. Roger Hamm/Board member**, from **Waynesfield, OH** and **Dr. Oscar Palomo** from **Galup, NM**.

The three physicians provided hands-on instruction over three days, also at the A Loui Administrative Center. Twenty-four clinic doctors, nurses, and mid-wives participated. Most instruction was in use of an ultrasound for diagnostic purposes, emergency medicine, diabetes, wound care, bandaging and advance suturing techniques.

The first medical team, with **31 members and 13 interpreters**, served March 17- April 1 in Quang Binh District, and A Loui District. The April 1 - 15 team had **26 members and 17 interpreters** that served in Nam Dong District and Hue City. A total of **23 vets** from both teams returned to or visited Vietnam for the first time.

Unfortunately, several team members had to cancel their participation. **Mike** and **Sharon Connolly**, NP's **Rhonda Hertwig** and **Fred Belau**, **Dr. Vu** and **Nurse Kayla Nguyen**, **Dr. John Weaver** and **vet Merwin Fuller** all had to cancel due to work or health issues. Another team member, **PA John Gardner**, was issued a visa only to have the Vietnamese cancel it without explanation just two weeks before his team trip.

But as much as that was a disappointment, VWAM was blessed with 17 student interpreters from Thai Nguyen University north of Hanoi. Led by **Board member Bill McDonald and Sue**, they experienced many "Firsts." First airplane trip and hotel stay. First time to wade in the ocean. First time to see "Reconciliation" occur between former enemies, and to hear vets' stories of their service during the "American War."

It was for many the first time they saw, in deed and action, the **love of Christ** being carried out by dozens of strangers from all over the United States. Team members from different denominations or no denomination, united in one purpose, veteran and civilian alike, loving on and caring for their people. It had an impact.

Most importantly, at each team meeting, the students and team members **heard testimonies** and the **Gospel**. For many it was their first time. **Isaiah 55:11 NKJ** reads, "So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void. But it shall accomplish what I please. And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Quang Thai - Quang Loi -
Huong Lam Clinics
Thua Thien Hue Province
March 17 - April 2
&
Huong Phu - An Hoa - Huong
Lam Clinics
April 1 - 15
Hue City and Thua Thien
Hue Province

"Patient Statistics"

- 3,206 patients.
- **Two Heart** procedures - **\$6,730**; two procedures pending (Est. \$5,895).
- **Medicine dispensed** - **\$17,693**.
- **3,206 dental hygiene kits & vitamins** (Adult and/or Child) - **\$22,442**.
- **497 dental patients** — **\$49,700** in services.
- **66 special patients** (Not heart) requiring lab tests, x-rays, CT/MRI scans, EKG's, ultrasounds, hospitalization & surgery or other minor procedures - **\$3,355**.
- **Medical equipment distributed** included 1 self-propelled cart (\$345), 9 wheelchairs (\$765), 9 walkers (\$290), 2 sets of crutches (\$80), 20 canes (\$378), 1 hearing-aid (\$420) & 7 prosthesis (\$1,430) for a total of - **\$3,708**.
- **269 eye patients** (217 eyeglasses dispensed) & **23 cataract procedures** - **\$11,175**.
- **Food stipends** - **\$365**.

Team Spotlight!



VWAM recognizes its **Program Coordinator, Tran Xuan Nam**. Despite many challenges before and during the teams, including a serious illness, **Nam's dedication and performance was outstanding!** He's standing next to one of VWAM's Interpreters.

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If You Weren't There, You Can Be! Enjoy A Collage Of Photo's From All Four Teams...

