

## ZION FULL GOSPEL MISSIONS TRIP TO HANOI – DECEMBER 4 – 9, 2008

On December 4, 2008, 8 members of Zion Full Gospel Church set foot on the soil of Hanoi Vietnam. Four of the eight members in the team were first timers and they came with expectation to wanting to experience what missions was all about.



What greeted us from the onset of the trip was the hot and dusty air that polluted the environment. Commuters and travelers had mask over their faces to protect themselves from the polluted air. As we make our way to our hotel (Nam Hai Hotel), I witness for the first time, how much the place has been developed. Ten years ago, I had been to the Hanoi that was filled with bicycles everywhere but today it was more motorcycles and brand new taxis that populated the road and new thin four storey slender looking buildings across the horizon. Hanoi has been modernized to a certain extent.



We started our missions on day 2 by visiting Orphanage Centre 1, where we witness the abandoned babies in the home. These babies are being looked after by the centre and to prepare them for adoption. The team also performed some musical items for the teenagers there were at the home too. Gifts like milk power, toiletries and sundries were given out. In the evening three of the teams' members visited a home cell and had a time of fellowship with the people as they enjoyed learning the dance item by team members.



Day 3 saw the team at Friendship House. This place as a single storey house when I visited it 10 years ago. Praise God today stands a four storey building housing 60 children. The team had time to interact with the kids through handicrafts, games and dance. These 60 children are all supported by sponsors, with a monthly fund of USD 20-25, raised by GMT to see them through their growing up years. Each sponsorship has to be committed for 2 years. The funds are put into a general pool to be used to pay for the children's housing, education etc... These children come from poor homes whose parents could not afford to provide them with proper education and wholesome developmental growth. GMT hopes to open a fully self-run children's home through the plowing and sowing of the ground and reachout through friendship evangelism. In the evening, we visited the home of a GMT staff who shared with us her testimony.



Day 4 the team visited a home of Madam Tumvi who runs a Mercy Home for Children. Music is the hallmark of this home as Madam Tumvi is a renowned celebrity in Vietnam who taught music to the children. Ministry to church leaders was a welcoming sight as I shared the word. The team did their dance item much to the delight of the people and they were willing to learn those dance steps as preparation for their own church Christmas item.



Day 5 the team visited a rehabilitation centre for drugs addicts and home care for HIV positive abandoned babies. It was a touching sight as we see these young lives suffering at a very young age. However through medication, the death rates of these babies were lesser and some even experienced healing and tested HIV negative.



All in all, it was an eye opener for all of us on the trip. Regretfully there were not much ministry opportunities but in all things we give thanks. After all we are not the message but His messengers as we make our lives a tangible expression of God's love.