**Report on Vietnam Ministry**

**Aug. 8-16, 2025**

**\*My 60’s background**;

1. President Kennedy assassinated 11-22-63 probably by L. B. Johnson to avoid going to prison for corruption in TX. He advanced US involvement in VN war to distract from his crimes.

2. The seniors in my high school were required to take physicals and prepare for the Military Draft. The spectre of this suicide mission for young men to fight guerilla warfare with Vietcong lingered from 1963-1970. The terms “Saigon” and “Hanoi” gendered terrible thoughts. It is estimated that USA lost 282,000 soldiers including some MIA or POW, and 150,000 wounded. North Vietnam was communist and supported by Russia and South Vietnam was democratic and supported by USA.

3. I received successive deferments by being college student/grad (1963-67), being married (1966), and having a child (1968).

4. Two of my acquaintances died almost immediately upon arrival. Reports of drugs and alcohol kept the young men “sane” for the next day of potential death.

**\*The Trip:** JFK to Taiwan to Hanoi, VN > luggage delayed!

**\*The Ministry:** 6 VN men plus 1 on line, Missionary Fiel plus Dan Armacost (Missionary to Myanmar) plus church member Matthew and church attendee Kim Chi.

 From North VN: Pastor Jonathan, Matthew, Kim Chi

 From Central VN: Pastors Jeremy, Paul, Mui, Hoang, Methodist “pastor” Nhien

 From South VN: Pastor Ezekiel

**\*Theological issues:**

1. Who is the Bride? > OT Saints (Isa. 49:18; Jer. 2:2 ff.; Ezk. 16:1 ff.); John the Baptist (Jn. 2:29); OT and NT saints (Rev. 21:12, 14); Not all of the Bride is the Bride (Rev. 19:7-9; cf. Rom. 9:6).

2. Ancestor worship and food given to Buddha—should Christians eat the food? Application of I Cor. 10:16-33).

3. Practice of church discipline (Mt. 18; I Cor. 5; II Cor. 2)

**\*Challenges for SE Asia;**

 1. Under Socialist Republic public proselytizing, buildings, and crosses prohibited.

2. American business model projected on foreign Christians, such as need for a church building, deputation, disqualified pastors, tithing and finances, non-biblical structure of organization (elder and deacon boards, treasurer, etc.).

3. SE Asia has half of the world population! The need for biblically qualified and trained missionaries!

**\*Map**

**“The 60’s Perspective”**

**The Spectre of the Draft for Vietnam,**

**Left few young American men calm,**

**Since it was said:**

**“Tis better Dead than Red.”**

**But need for Vietnam is the Gospel bomb!**