



## Teaching new stories

Ngoc and Mark share how the ministry in Indochina is opening eyes, empowering young people with disability and sharing the Gospel in culturally relevant ways.



*Mark and Ngoc have served in Indochina since 2020. They love to see people exploring faith in Jesus within their own culture.*

Our partner NGO in Indochina was founded in 2007 by Hoa (Peter), with a vision to equip young people with disability with the skills they need to be able to live independently.

This led to a vocational training centre being formed to train people with disability in teaching, business management, English, baking and more. This is the foundation of a rich ministry, where many people have experienced God's love over many years. Before moving to Indochina, we had both served short-term with Hoa at the centre and seen first-hand its positive impact.

In April 2021, Hoa sadly passed away. And we were asked to prayerfully consider coming alongside his wife, Hien, to provide support and encouragement so that she could continue the ministry. After praying about it, we discerned God's calling was for us to join the ministry.

We celebrate that our partner NGO is fully managed and operated by local people with disability. As team members, we come alongside these young people with disability and share the love of Christ by doing life together.



Through this ministry, we can see that young people with disability are being empowered and encouraged to do things that they otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to do.

For example, there are four English teachers who provide night classes to 150 children from the community. In Indochina, people with disabilities are often undervalued, while teachers are held in high regard. This means it is very rare for people with disabilities to be teachers and to teach able bodied children.

However, at our partner NGO this is exactly what is happening. The community is entrusting their children's education to teachers with disabilities.

Perceptions don't change overnight, but we believe that this experience is opening the eyes of the students and their families. We hope that as they see their teachers as empowered, intelligent and capable people, their perceptions of people with disabilities more broadly will change for the better.

Please pray with us that this will happen through the love of the Father and His transforming power.

### Suong's story

Suong is a 25 year old woman who was affected by Agent Orange. As a result, she has a severe deformity which prevents her from being able to walk. Before she came to our partner NGO, she had not gone to school because her family thought she would not have a future due to her disability. She could not read or write.

After being trained at our partner NGO for five years, she decided to move back to her hometown. Since then, she has opened up an English school and is a well respected English teacher in her community. Praise God for this transformation!



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### House church

In this culture, hospitality is incredibly important and frequently practised. People often spend time in each other's homes to share a meal and talk about life.

Therefore, we have a strong conviction that running church at someone's house is culturally appropriate in this community. We also find this practice biblically familiar. In Acts 2:42-47, we read an account of how the first believers gather everyday at someone's house, for communion and to study God's Word together.

So we have begun a weekly house church where we prepare a meal and invite the local staff to join together. Afterwards, we run 'wordtime', where we share Scripture and explore how it could be applicable to our own lives. Then, we invite everyone in the group to share what's going on in their life with us - the ups and downs and how their week is going. Finally, we pray together. It's a simple, yet rich time together.

From our experiences, it takes perseverance, disappointments, genuine relationships and time, for people in Indochina to truly experience God's genuine love. This is because the people of Indochina have been oppressed and taken advantage of by so many different countries, governments and wars over the nation's history, so it takes time to build trust.

Our hope and prayer is that through our house church ministry, our friends will have the opportunity to experience God's love and care, and to slowly grow in relationship with Jesus.

### Cong's story

There is a young man, Cong, who comes from a strong atheist background. He is one of our excellent teachers and is very well respected among his students. However, when he first came to us, he had a cold and unapproachable demeanour.

We had the impression that he strongly opposed our faith, but over the years his heart has softened and he is becoming more open to having conversations about Jesus. He's not there yet, but we pray that through the house church he will one day choose to follow Jesus.