



Messengers of Love

Summer Teaching Project Overview

The children we teach

Messengers of Love has identified two specific groups of children of Vietnam whose future currently are at risk: 1) The Vietnamese children in poor villages and 2) the Ethnic Minority Children in the highland mountains.

1) The Vietnamese children in poor villages of Vietnam



In recent years, we observed a steady deterioration in ethic and values within Vietnam's society, especially amongst the youth who grow up in poor families. We saw many children losing direction, with no guidance, no hope, no vision. We saw many teenagers skipping class to play game at game room. Many drop out of school due to addiction to games. With the economy expanding and many

companies moving their operations to Vietnam, many parents, especially those from poor villages, were able to find jobs for the first time working in factories. Long hours, low pay is typical. Parents do not get home until late at night. The children were often left alone after school and during summer break unattended without adult guidance and discipline. Values and ethical principals to ensure success in life such as responsibilities, respect, caring, citizenship, fairness, and trustworthiness were never taught nor instilled, at home or at school.

2) The Ethnic Minority Children in the highland mountains of Vietnam.



These children are from the ethnic minority families who live in the various mountains of Vietnam. Working the farm is the way of life. Higher education is not encouraged by their society. They are expected by their parents to quit school to work by the time they reach high school age. Village life is difficult with most children having to work in the field or in the wood picking bamboos to help out. In

the summer, they hang out around garbage dumps or play in the woods, or swim in the creek, which are unsanitary and often create skin diseases. Added to this is the fact that Vietnamese language is not their first language, which causes difficulties at school. Because of their lack of language skill and the lack of support from their parents, they often lag behind the rest of the children and many drop out by 9th grade. Our summer school program not only will instill hope, vision, character building and English language but they also receive reviews and help on other school subjects and the learning and practice of Vietnamese language to help them assimilate into the mainstream school and society.

We feel strongly that unless these children receive appropriate education and proper guidance, their entire future is at risk. Without the proper education and skills needed, these children will not be able to secure descent job or succeed in the job market. Without disciplines and ethical values, they will end up on the wrong path. Without direction, vision and guidance, they will feel hopeless and will loose motivation to work toward what is good.

As Martin Luther King once quoted: "Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education", MOL believes it wholeheartedly. We have modified our programs to include the "Summer English and Character Building" project, where Messengers of Love recruits individuals from the USA who are fluent in the English language, both oral and written, and have a desire to contribute to the education of underprivileged children to volunteer to teach not only English, but to help these children to improve their skills and outlook in life and build a solid ethical foundation and successful future.