

## The Lord's Move in Hanoi, Vietnam

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, is located on the north of the country and has a population of 8 million. It is the political, cultural, economic and educational center of Vietnam. In 1987, a young couple who operated a ceramics factory established the Lord's testimony in a suburb of Hanoi. During the early stage of the church life, despite suffering numerous persecutions by the government and family members, the saints with a love for the Lord still boldly preached the gospel to workers, neighbors and colleagues. Many believers were brought into the church at the time, but many also left because of persecutions. Nevertheless, because of God's mercy, many saints remained steadfast and faithfully attended the meeting every Lord's day. The number of saints increased from 15 to 20.

Under the Lord's sovereignty, the government ended its long-term persecution of Christians, and the saints became bolder in joining the meetings. The number of regularly meeting saints in the year 2000 was between 20 and 30. There was a lack of increase due to the shortage of training and perfecting in the truth. The regular church meetings at the time were the Lord's Table Meeting and the Bible-reading meeting. Although the saints were preserved in their faith, they were not perfected to become normal and functioning members.

Because most of the local churches in Vietnam are located in the south-central part of the country, while the church in Hanoi is located in the north, there was the need for much intercession, care and blending for the church in Hanoi. The co-workers in Vietnam began praying for Hanoi towards the end of the 20th century for the strengthening of the church. In 2011, Hanoi started to hold truth trainings three times a year. The saints were perfected to practice the new way by studying the truth. Many began to open their homes for the saints to meet. A number of brothers in denomination were attracted by the opening of the light in the word. The number of saints regularly meeting gradually increased and reached 50 to 60. Many saints were ushered into the church life through the home meetings. Every truth training also brought in a number of baptisms.

Although the number of saints in the suburb of Hanoi had

increased, many saints in downtown Hanoi remained unable to attend the meetings because the venue was too distant from the city center. Seeing the need for a meeting place in downtown, the saints began to pray for this matter. In 2015, a brother living in downtown opened his home for the district meeting. Although the place was small (the size of residences in Hanoi is generally small), it was a great encouragement to the saints because the Lord answered the prayer of the church for a district meeting in the center of Hanoi. At this time, together there were about 60 saints both in the suburb of Hanoi and in the city center.

Seeing the blessing of the Lord, the responsible brothers began to gather to pray and seek the Lord's guidance for the going on of the church. The goal and burden of the church were focused on the young people, yet there was no student or young people's work in downtown Hanoi. At the end of 2017, a young couple from the suburb of Hanoi received the burden and moved to the city center, renting a place near the campus of Hanoi University of Science and Technology where they coordinated with a newly wedded couple in the area to carry out the student propagation work on campus. At the same time, a young couple was sent by the Lord to Hanoi to serve. The Nazarite Training in Vietnam also joined in the coordination by sending trainees to Hanoi. The three young couples faithfully met with and visited the young people. Together with the trainees and the saints, they preached the gospel in the university and gradually imparted the burden for the young people to all the saints. The elderly saints began to participate in service by preparing love feasts for the meetings. Gradually, more and more saints were recovered and new believers were brought into the church life. The need for a bigger meeting place consequently arose. The church continuously prayed for and fellowshiped regarding this matter in the Body. After much fellowship and prayer, in April 2018, one saint was burdened to purchase two houses near the University of Science and Technology to be the venues for the district meetings and for the saints in downtown Hanoi to meet.

Under the leading of the Lord, when the saints went to different



universities in Hanoi to preach the gospel, they discovered that one third of the students and colleges were concentrated in Cau Giay district. The saints continued to pray for the student work and the serving ones. In the middle of 2018, a co-worker with his family immigrated from the southwestern part of Vietnam to Hanoi, and rented a house in Cau Giay. At the end of the year, a young couple who had been trained and served in Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City for seven years also returned to Hanoi to stay. These young families coordinated with the saints to visit and encourage the backslidden brothers and sisters, through which some have been regained to enjoy the church life anew. This year, the young people jointly organized a gospel picnic for the first time, as well as the first children's summer camp, bringing love and concern to people under their care. There are now 18 to 20 young people who regularly attend the small group meetings. In addition, the foreign saints who live and work in the Cau Giay also take part in taking care of the young people. They open their homes once a month to prepare a love feast for the young people, and frequently invite them over individually for meals to fellowship regarding the burden and goal of the church life.

There are three aspects to the current burden and goals of the church in Hanoi. First, regarding the God-ordained way, we hope that the saints will practice going out to preach the gospel and feed the

new ones. Second, regarding the perfecting training, we hope that the saints will treasure the training and desire to be perfected to become normal and faithfully functioning members. Third, regarding the meeting venue, we hope to find a stable meeting place in Cau Giay. We believe that through the prayers of the saints and with the blessing of the Lord, many students and young people from the University of Science and Technology and in Cau Giay will soon be captured by God to become precious materials for the building up of His Body.



## Serving Ones' Training in Pakistan

Thank the Lord for His leading and for the support of the Body. The Serving Ones' Training in Pakistan concluded smoothly on June 9. It lasted for five days and was attended by 34 saints from four churches.

The burden of this training was to establish two models: the God-man living and the God-ordained way. We deeply realize that the God-ordained way can only be carried out by a group of vital people. Therefore, in this training we wanted to help the saints see that morning revival is not just morning reading of the word; it is to have genuine contact and fellowship with the Lord in the morning to be genuinely revived. Every morning we allotted nearly forty minutes for personal contact with the Lord, after which we came together to share our experience of meeting the Lord. At the end the serving brothers would give a word of fellowship to render further help. Through such practical exercises, almost all the saints touched the Lord and were revived.

In addition, the training also helped the brothers on how to live a hidden and rooted life by practicing three kinds of prayers: unceasing prayer, prayer at set times, and persevering prayer. Through the shining of the Lord's Word, we all had to admit that in the church we have had many outward activities but are lacking fellowship with the Lord in the inner chamber. The result is constant busyness but limited fruit. During the training, the brothers all consecrated to have set times of prayer. May the Lord honor our consecration and cause us to live a life that takes root downward and bear fruit upward for Him to gain the glory!

In establishing the model of the God-ordained way, we were helped to see afresh that the God-ordained way is the best way to make sinners our co-workers. In practice, the brothers encouraged us to be patterns. Each consecrated to have morning revival with at least 2 new ones every day for 10-15 minutes. In three months, that will translate to at least 80 times of contact for each new one. By

practicing this steadfastly, the Lord will surely be able to gain that one. In addition, we gave special focus on the statistics of the small groups. The brothers from different localities came together for prayer and fellowship and listed the names of the saints in each locality and district, ensuring that each one was enlisted in a small group by his own standard to form an army to bring the meetings to the homes of the new ones and practice mutuality in the small group in order to perfect and keep people.

Through this training, all of us were truly enlightened to see our real condition. We were adjusted and strengthened. May the Lord's mercy and grace follow us, that we may live before Him a life that is rooted downward to be a pattern in our localities that the church might be built up!

