



# The Good Newsletter

GOOD SAMARITAN MEDICAL DENTAL MINISTRY

VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2018

## MISSION DIRECTOR'S 2018 REFLECTION

*Dr. Vien Doan*

Mission 2018 is now over. One year of planning and preparation went by so quickly. Many tears were shed as we said goodbye to one another, promising we will return. This experience has touched the lives of so many people, from patients to new members to seasoned veterans; from career professionals to student volunteers.

For our patients in the 3rd poorest of 58 provinces in Vietnam, we tried our best. There are so many stories to tell. These are just a few highlights.

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## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

GSMDM distributed a jacket, backpack, and pair of boots each to 500 preschool and elementary school students in July. We went to four different schools this year.



TRƯỜNG QUANG THÀNH, NGUYỄN BÌNH  
TRƯỜNG HỒNG QUANG, QUẢNG UYÊN  
TRƯỜNG BÌNH DƯƠNG, HÒA AN  
TRƯỜNG NÀ LUÔNG, HÒA AN



# MISSION DIRECTOR'S 2018 REFLECTION

*(Continued from Page 1)*

## Respiratory Failure

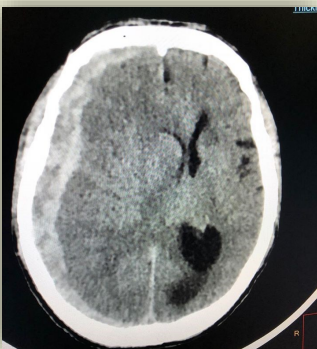
A 33 year old man was involved in an accident causing his left lung to collapse with a broken scapula, an indicator of the severity of the injury. The local surgeon put in the chest tube but the suction machine was not working. We found him while making rounds and transferred him to the ICU. Soon after arriving, he went into respiratory distress requiring intubation. A chest CT confirmed a large portion of his lungs was still collapsed despite the chest tube. We used our own equipment donated by Riverside Community Hospital to re-expand the lung.

Being on the ventilator, he became agitated and had to be continuously sedated and paralyzed. Two days later he was extubated, but after eight hours, had to be reintubated. The injuries were so severe, we did not think he would make it. His family sold everything they had to pay for his care up to this point. It costs \$65 per day to stay in the ICU, so the family wanted to take him home to die. Our ICU physician said to me: "That would be a travesty." We simply could not let that happen.

We guaranteed payments to the hospital for the remainder of his care, not knowing how long he would be there. We had to leave two days later, but we showed the local physicians how to continue to care for him. Three days after we left, he recovered and was able to be off the ventilator. Today, he lives.

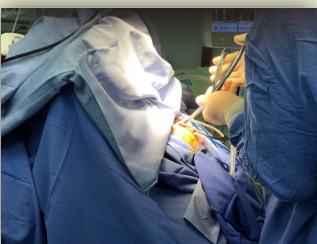


## Subdural Hematoma



A 71 year old man was transferred to our ICU from a distant village. He was normal until the night before when he suddenly slipped into a coma. Our Rapid Response Team was again activated; ruling out life threatening causes quickly while wheeling him to radiology for a head CT.

This image of the CT showed a subdural hematoma on the right side of his head. Upon further questioning, we learned that he fell ten days prior but was not able to see a doctor because of the remoteness of his home.



He was taken to the OR immediately after the diagnosis was made. Our anesthesiologist worked in conjunction with their local trauma surgeon late into the evening. The blood was evacuated and the patient was transferred back to the ICU. The next day he woke up and started moving. We were all amazed. On the following day, he was taken off the ventilator and transferred out of the ICU. Today he lives.

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## MISSION DIRECTOR'S 2018 REFLECTIONS

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### Septic Joint

This young boy was seen in Bao Lam, the furthest district in the province. The father carried him into our clinic because the night before, he suddenly could not walk or stand. He had no trauma and no fever.

The x-rays showed he had either possible Slipped Femoral Capital Epiphysis or an infection. While waiting for our orthopedic surgeon to arrive, a CT scan of the hip was done at the hospital five hours away.

Upon his arrival on late Sunday afternoon, our radiologist concluded it was most likely an infected hip. The next day, the little boy was taken to the operating room. The hip was aspirated, irrigated and treated with IV antibiotics.

Here he is five days after treatment. Standing, walking, running as a child should be able to do. To be sure of full recovery, we sent him enough medications for six weeks, both oral and intramuscular.



### Small, but Big Enough

Many times, our treatments seem minor. They appear small to us but can still make big differences in the lives of those we reach. There are many treatments that the physicians there can do without us, however, there are also many patients who have no resources to see a doctor. This is where we were able to help.



This old woman had difficulty breathing because the tumor on the left side of her nose obstructed half of her nose. A simple resection restored her breathing to normal, bringing a big smile to her face.



This little girl had to live with a tumor on her forearm all her life until we came. Removing it gave her an even bigger smile.

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GOOD SAMARITAN  
MEDICAL DENTAL MINISTRY



# MISSION DIRECTOR'S 2018 REFLECTIONS

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## My Own Journey

Returning to Cao Bang for six straight years, I saw significant improvements in the healthcare system, yet I have not been able to focus on community development and training as I had hoped. I had two personal objectives this summer: 1) Upgrading the diagnostic capability of the radiology department; and 2) improving critical care. Those 2 objectives appeared monumental and the chances of achieving them were low but I needed to try.

## Carotid Angiogram

The hospital has a fairly new CT scanner but they were not aware of its full potential. They were missing critical diagnostic studies. For us physicians, knowing our patients' vascular status is of paramount importance. Diagnosing arterial blockage and treating them before they become problems will help save lives and limbs.



I did not know whether or not it could be done, but I asked our expert radiologist to train the hospital physicians to do angiograms. I believe that out of respect, he took on the challenge, but with much skepticism and rightly so. But just one morning after he arrived, with help over the phone from an in-country representative that he contacted just before leaving the US, the system was completely set up to do an angiogram from head to toe, with the exception of cardiac.

This was a major accomplishment; something I dreamed about but did not think would happen. I could not believe my eyes. Images produced by the scanner are on par with any major hospital in the US. These new tools will definitely help save many lives and limbs, now and far into the future.

## Critical Care Team 2018

Summer 2017 was a painful start in a new chapter for GSMDM. I took on the task of helping the hospital improve their critical care services. I did not know what I was getting myself into. I came unprepared, and left brokenhearted. However, I did learn what we needed and came back better prepared in 2018.

Our equipment and supplies were state of the art. Our medical specialists and nurses were dedicated and highly skilled. With God watching over, we literally saved lives and in the process, earned the trust of our local friends. At the end of the week, the hospital medical director told me: "Please take my ICU and do as you wish to bring us to the next level."



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## MISSION DIRECTOR'S 2018 REFLECTIONS

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### Unrelenting Hope

Regardless of what we could or could not do with our hands, there was always something we could do with our spirits. We gave people hope, UNRELENTING HOPE. Until next time, thank you so much everyone for your prayers and financial support. We could not have done this without you. May God bless you so much more in return.



*But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

ISAIAH 40:31

## GSMDM 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

GSMDM will be celebrating our 20th  
Anniversary in 2019!

We will be holding a celebration in Vietnam  
in July, and another one in California at a  
later date.

It would mean so much to us if all of you  
come and celebrate with us!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2018

SEPTEMBER 21-23: Mission Committee Annual Retreat

SEPTEMBER 30: Summer Mission Applications open. To apply, go to [www.gsmdm.org/summer-2019-application](http://www.gsmdm.org/summer-2019-application), or like our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/gsmdm](https://www.facebook.com/gsmdm) for the official announcement and link to the application.

If you are a licensed medical or dental practitioner interested in traveling to Vietnam with our Field Team, please contact us at [www.gsmdm.org/contact](http://www.gsmdm.org/contact).



### OCTOBER 2018

OCTOBER 12-14: Board of Director's Annual Retreat



### NOVEMBER 2018

NOVEMBER 10: For the Love of a Child Annual Gala at Riverside Community Hospital. Save the date for a fun-filled night of food, drinks, auctions and entertainment!

NOVEMBER 11-16: Summer Mission Skype Interviews

NOVEMBER 17: Summer Mission Southern California In Person Interviews

### JANUARY 2019

JANUARY 4-6: Summer Mission January Retreat

### JULY 2019

JULY 4-20: Summer Mission Dates; 20th Anniversary Celebration in Vietnam





## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Committee Retreat
- Board Retreat
- For the Love of a Child Gala
- Mission Director's upcoming trip to Cao Bang
- Summer Mission 2019 Selection
- Our patients still receiving care



*"But the needy will not  
always be forgotten, nor the  
hope of the afflicted ever*

*perish"*

- Psalm 9:18



Our programs are made possible  
by the love and generosity of  
people like you.



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or go to:

[www.gsmdm.org/donate](http://www.gsmdm.org/donate)

