

-Eyes of Compassion VN – Story from Thien Nguyen Vien, Huynh Yen Oanh

December 25, 2021

We received 16,610,000 VND (= US\$709.00) on behalf of 35 people who were infected by Covid-19 outbreak in Gia An hamlet, Tanh Linh district, Binh Thuan province. Since this is our first trip to the village, we decided to leave one day earlier than previously planned. We traveled over 300km round trip to bring your gift/donation to the Covid patients. We witnessed first hands the people living in these small remote villages. They are very poor and struggle for earning a decent livelihood.

We made it to the village around 4:00pm on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. We bought: 10kg rice, one box of instance noodles, eggs, variety of dried foods that have long lasting shelf-life. The purchases were big enough to divide into 35 packages. All of the households we visited are very poor. They have from bare minimum to none. Among these households, there are 3 elders who are also blind. It's remarkable to see how these three live and manage their daily chores. They grow a little garden for vegetables and raise chickens for their livelihood. Though their crops haven't produced much, but they are trying their best to live independently without any aides from the community. The rest of the households are not that much better off. As you can see through some photos, many of them do not have money to patch up the broken walls or make much needed repairs to their houses.

There are three younger men who have serious mental illness. The first man's young child fell into a well and drowned. He was traumatized by the accident and nowadays just walks around the town to looking for his child. The second one suffers chronic diseases in addition to his mental depression. He mostly lingers by the cemetery. The neighbors built a little shelter nearby for him to live. The third person is in permanent state of paranoia and totally disconnects with people near him.

One young girl's parents abandoned her and she now has to live on her own. To make a living, she works at a sandwich shop every day after school. She is in eighth grade. Many elderly people are very poor. They cannot afford even a pair of sandals for their feet. A single mom sells vegetables to support herself and her disabled son. Another woman who recently arrived with three young children from a Mekong Delta province was infected by Covid. They have no food in their newly rented house.

When we came to deliver the gift, everyone was so happy to see us. Some elderly people cried while others kept saying "thank you(s)". We are happy to be able to help. However, at the same time, feel sad for those who have to face life difficulties in the village.

On behalf of the villagers, we thank you, Eyes of Compassion Relief Organization -Canada, and Kathy Jones –VA, USA. Your love, compassion and support the people in Vietnamese through pandemic hard life are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,  
Huynh Yen Oanh