

IF THEY WEREN'T HUNGRY THEY WOULDN'T WALK 7KM TO 12 KM TO GET A NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF DRY FOOD PACKAGE.

On November 18, 2020, four of us went to give 230 gifts to the villages of Cat and Tria, both located in Huong Son ward, Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri province. These two villages are located in isolated, hard to reach areas due to environmental erosion of the mountains. In the past, each family living in this area has received only 1 box of noodles (24 pieces) dropped by airplane because the rescue team could not get there.

At 5:00 am, we packed up the packages on the truck and started our trip. We got there at 9am. The truck was only able to drive slightly over 50 to 70 km per hour since travelling 1 km on mountainous roads is equal to 3km on a normal road. When the truck reached the part of the road where it could no longer continue driving on, we stopped to distribute the gifts there because of the poor condition of the roads, where some of the road had collapsed and the bridges were swept away by floods.

The villagers had to start walking at 5am to meet us to receive gifts because Cat village is 7km and Tria village is 12km away from where we were.

Those who did not have their own vehicles walked to receive the gifts and walked back to bring them home on their shoulders. For some old people, sick people or young mothers with many children, we had to ask young people to use their scooters to take the gifts for them. The scooters rode through muddy roads and very steep mountains, so a downhill vehicle must have 2 to 5 people pulled back or it will plunge into the cliff. We asked them to help and deliver goods to those who couldn't meet us because of their circumstances, so we gave 200,000 VND out of our pocket to each person. They were very happy to help and it warmed our hearts.

Dear auntie! After the goods were distributed at the gathering place, 4 scooters gave the four of us a drive to go further to visit the villages and some of the houses of the elderly and the sick people who could not come out. When I was there, I saw people's poor living conditions, poorer than the word "poor" can express. The entire two villages do not have a well, they have to go to the stream and carry water to their home. In the rainy season, the water is very turbid and unhygienic. I came up with the idea to ask you to drill a well for them. Will that be possible my dear auntie?

When climbing over the mountain road, I was very tired and I couldn't breathe. But the more tired I got, the more compassion I had for the people there. And when the villagers received their gifts, they were very happy. It made the 4 of us rejoice and our hearts were filled with happiness.

Before I got up there, I asked the villagers what they needed, so I bought the things below. The truck went up the mountain on a dangerous road, so we did not dare to buy many heavy goods such as rice and we did not rent a truck with a large tonnage because it wouldn't have been able to go through the narrow roads and landslides. There are 230 families up there; I bought 230 gifts without leaving anyone out, because everyone is equally poor. Fortunately, Buddha blessed our trip and we travelled there and back safely.

One gift package contains:

1 bottle of cooking oil		28,000 VND
10 cans of canned fish and canned meat		
	14,000 VND x 10 =	140,000 VND
1 bottle of fish sauce		16,000 VND
2 salt packs		5,000 VND
1 bag of MSG		28,000 VND
5 kilograms of rice	16,000 VND x 5 =	80,000 VND
1 pair of boots		35,000 VND
500 gram of shrimp paste		45,000 VND
The total value of one gift is		382,000 VND

Total breakout:

230 Gifts Cost 382,000 VND x 230 = 87,860,000 VND (3700 USD or 4800 CAD)

Money to buy socks, hats, wool towels for the elderly,

Milk and candies for children 4,240,000 VND

Freight truck 1,800,000 VND

Total additional fees 6,040,000 VND

The cash fund is used to donate separately to families with special circumstances like the previous trips.

The four of us rode our own scooters and paid our own expenses. I asked some villagers to use their scooters to go to gathering places to transport goods for the families of the elderly, women, ill patients who cannot walk 7 to 12 km. We have donated 200,000 VND out of our pockets to give each of them without using the money from the Eye of Compassion's relief fund. Please allow us to contribute. When we run out of money, I will ask for the fund later.

Your child,

Ho Vu Hai Son