

## June Newsletter 2021 Volume 18 Issue 6



### In This Issue

- Exam Prep at Vinh Son
- Projects Update
- Sao Mai School News
- Another Angel needs help
- Baking Bread at Phu Quoc

### It's preparation time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester exams

**On May 10th, 2021, all the students in Kontum province will start the 2nd semester exam at the end of this school year 2020-2021.**

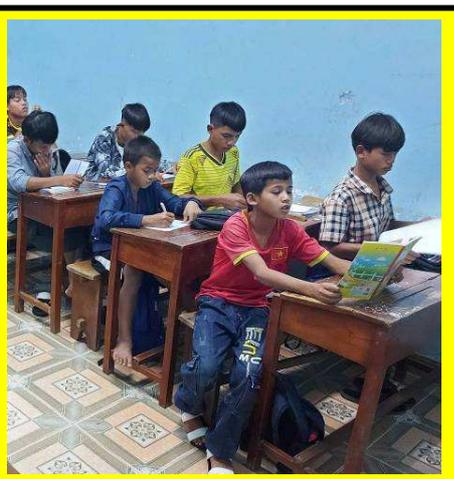
After nearly five months of trying to study at school, the 2nd semester exams are a good occasion for all the children of the 6 VSO's who must review their recent study at school. Therefore, they must actively review all the subjects to have a stable mentality and be ready for their 2nd semester exams. Everyone hopes to get good results at the end of this school year.

During the 1st semester, all the children of the primary school did not have any days off and they always studied hard in class. They listened to their teachers' directions and were very eager to lift their hands to speak to develop their lesson plans in class. At home, they tried to learn by heart all the lessons and to do their homework assigned by their teachers. At night before going to bed, they prepared enough books and notebooks and put them well in their school bags for their study at school the next day. Thanks to the Sisters' encouragements and the teaching help from the tutors, we hope that many children will achieve good results.

For the children at junior and senior high schools, due to the affects of Covid-19 pandemic, their studies at school were interrupted continuously. Consequently, the teachers of all the subjects composed outlines with the focus of basic knowledge of the subjects that were related to the exam questions. The objective was to help the students who had to do their own reviews at home. If the children had some problems in the contents of the outlines or didn't have enough knowledge of the outline material, they can study with their classmates, their teachers or with the Sisters and tutors at Vinh Son. They can also refer to the exam questions of the previous years to help prepare.

All the children have mixed feelings of happiness and sadness when they enter the exam season. Along with worried and nervous expressions, they also have a burst of joy when they have an unforgettable mark. Wishing all the children of the 6 Vinh Son who are going to have their 2nd term exam with confidence and calmness, do the exam well to get their good results. We also hope they will be safe from Corona virus during the exam season.

**Education is so important in the lives of these children. FVSO is honored to support both K-through 12 classes as well as graduate school programs.**



**Inquiring minds study hard for the upcoming exams, girls on one side of the room and boys on the other.**

**During their academic years, the children of Vinh Son will be tested each year as a guide towards their goal of higher education or skill development.**

**Success is not easy.**

**Your ongoing support has allowed us to tackle significant civic improvements**

### **2021 Major Projects Status**

We have started new capital improvement projects that will have a huge, long-term impact. The repair of the girl's bathroom and the new boys dining hall at VS-1 are well under way. The chicken coop and pigpens at VS-2 are also progressing. Construction plans for the new activity hall at VS-3 have been submitted for a building permit. These ambitious projects have been approved because of your generosity. In the future, we hope to be able to fund a new dormitory at VS-4 and a pigpen at VS-6. These improvements are in addition to FVSO's continued focus on basic needs, our top priority every year. No one will go hungry.



**The new chicken coop at Vinh Son 2**

## Three Cheers for the students of Sao Mai...Congratulations!

### School News at Sao Mai

Students have to finish their studies earlier than usual, so the time to study for the exam becomes urgent and multiplies. May 14, 2021 the school year ended. In return for the months of hard work and practice, they now bring home certificates of merit and gifts, the results of the past school year. Especially the 1st graders, who have just entered school age, have never received an award, so they look very excited to show everyone their gift.

The school year has ended, instead of the predetermined program that rewards the children with "travel" trips to help them experience life from nature, from the environment, from the people around...now because of the Covid epidemic, the children had fun together and helped with the work in the Community. That makes the brother, sister and Sister's love more intertwined.

### Another Angel in their midst

Entering the Eighth week of Easter, the Lord sent an angel to the Sao Mai Orphanage Community. His name is Nguyen Phuc Thien, and he will be 3 years old this year. Thien has no father, mother, brothers and sisters. He was brought to the Community by the villagers. With many serious diseases, even though he is 3 years old, he looks so small. Thien can not speak or walk, only drinks milk. Looking at him, everyone loves poor Thien. So, the Sao Mai Orphanage Community has a new member. Please pray that he is given health to grow up and be healthy.



Wherever she goes, Ms. Martha (far left with Y Wa Le and Y Huyen) brings a smile big enough to light up an orphanage. Most of the pictures you see in our monthly newsletters were taken by Martha; her loving presence and devotion to the children are felt throughout all 6 of the Vinh Son Communities.



## “Abandoned” on a sandy beach, Y Thuan embraces her new home

***“I have arrived at a safe place for my practice.”***

### Scholarship Student, Y Thuan, Welcomes Change

After a day, for me, I was very scared and confused. Then I learned a lesson for myself that where I go or where I need to have skills, I can always seek help from people around. This morning I was alone from Ho Chi Minh City flying to Phu Quoc. This is my first time flying. I have to get used to the new living environment. The first time, I moved by bus from Kon Tum to Saigon and this time was from Saigon to Phu Quoc Island. For me, it is difficult to adapt to a new environment, but I still believe that I will overcome it.

The habitat here is very good and has a very cool climate in the morning and evening. Before I came here, I did not get a clear understanding of the climate and my mistake was that I wore only one jacket at present in very cold weather.

As for the difficult means of transport, each time I want to go from the hotel to the city or the shopping center, I have to spend about 800,000 dong, because where I live is on the foot of the land near to the sea. The second difficulty is that the church is also very far away.

I feel happy because I am safe and I will start working tomorrow. Thank you for always helping me. **Y Thuan**

### FVSO Contact Information

**FVSO: P.O. Box 9322  
Auburn, CA 95604-9322**

**Email: [FriendsofVSO@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofVSO@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org)**



**Phu Quoc Island is a popular tourist destination in summer. It has the most beautiful beaches in Viet Nam.**

**Phu Quoc Island is Viet Nam's largest island. It's blessed with beautiful scenery and rich natural resources.**

### Legacy Fund Update

**The goal is:**

**\$2 million dollars  
by March 2027**

**Legacy Fund Balance**

**\$920,820**



**amazon**smile

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, at no cost to you. Shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), and find the same convenient experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Just type in the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage to make your choice.

### Orphanage Facts

About 775 Montagnard children live in 7 orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku areas of Vietnam.

\$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.

Orphanages are run by the Sisters of Miraculous Medal (Vinh Son) and St. Paul Chartres (Sao Mai).

### Officers & Board Members

Patrick Leary  
Nga Wynne  
Gene Mapa  
Bart Ruud  
Clyde Lewandowski  
Michael Little  
Pat McKee  
Dave Chaix  
Hank Gonzales  
Ken Tokutomi

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Senior VP  
1<sup>st</sup> VP  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

### Donation Information

Checks should be payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son.

FVSO is a humanitarian, non-profit organization approved by IRS code 501©(3). Donations are tax deductible.

Donations are accepted year round and are also available on-line.