

OCTOBER 2008

Dear ones,

The time? ...the late 60's and early 70's. Our country was split over the Viet Nam War. Nothing Washington was doing made any sense. Uprisings on college campuses reached a level of violence and at the height of the fever-pitch of emotion God launched "The Jesus Movement"! Students, sports teams, coaches, teachers, city governing bodies, political movements, businesses, whole families then neighborhoods felt the impact. We were stretched to the limit with the discipleship of new believers.\*

In the midst of all this mighty moving of the Spirit, God sent us to Viet Nam. In what was then war-torn Saigon, we met missionaries to our military men who startled us with a "Kingdom Spin" on what God was accomplishing under the radar through our soldiers.

After Saigon, we entered an even more terrifying war zone in a city in the Highlands. Surviving in the middle of the worst of the bombing was the Su Tong Tribe, numbering a thousand or so little bitty people. Homer Dowdy later wrote a book about this Christian tribe, "The Bamboo Cross", in which he reveals the astonishing mystery surrounding God's preservation of this thought-to-be insignificant tribe. "One of our military men interrogated a captured guerilla as to why the Viet Cong never attacked the tribe and here was his answer: 'There was a WHITE ARMY surrounding them. We could never PENETRATE it!'"

On our last night in Viet Nam we were in the living room of our host missionaries singing praises to Jesus alongside Sai, Chief of the Su Tongs, his two sons, two American missionary doctors and their wives. A knock came at the door and we were ordered by a military authority to flee. Immediately! Back in America, the war over, thousands of Vietnamese refugees poured into our city. Among them were Sai's two sons whom we invited to our church to give the Gospel to every Vietnamese we could corral. Later we learned that the two boys somehow found their way back through Cambodia to Viet Nam where they continued to run the trails, evangelizing other tribes.

Are the Vietnamese and Iraqis as precious to Him as we are? Through the Apostle Peter, once a proud Jewish keeper-of-the-Law, we learn this: "How true it is that God does not show favoritism".\*\*

You may be thinking, "Gosh, Jo, our country is in a mess! Why are you writing about all this stuff?" I don't know much, but this I do know: God's Plan transcends anything that is scaring the living daylights out of me right now!

— Jo

\*One of those "new believers", Ed Underwood, now a beloved pastor in his 60's, has just released his book, "When Breaks Your Heart". We highly recommend that you read it. David C. Cook Publishing

\*\* ACTS 10:34B