

Nguyen Khanh **Thuy** is typical of the type of individual that can be helped by a Vets With A Mission medical team. She turned out to be special because Thuy really didn't want charity or even a wheelchair. This young woman, stricken by polio years ago, simply wanted some help so she could become independent. She couldn't get any assistance from the government, and when she heard an "American Doctor team" was visiting her Ward, she hobbled to Man Thai Clinic near Son Tra (Monkey Mountain) in Da Nang. Thuy's legs are terribly deformed with one being significantly shorter than the other. She got around on dirty, old crutches but they prevented her from working. "If only I had a big shoe," she called it, "I could walk and work with my hands." Here was an opportunity to make a difference in this woman's life, and Joette (Ward) took a personal interest in her condition. She was sent to the government run Rehabilitation Center only to discover it had been closed. But when there is a will, there is a way. Joette asked if she knew of a shoe shop, and Thuy said she did. So off to the shop she went. It wasn't long before she returned with an estimate to have a special shoe made. VWAM provided the funds to get the special shoe crafted. *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled," (Matthew 5:6).*



A VWAM charity team is always viewed with great curiosity and excitement. This is particularly true when it comes to **children** like these, all school-aged friends who did everything together. From the first day they came to the clinic, made their way through Triage and out the Pharmacy, they couldn't pull themselves away from hanging around the clinic. They were mesmerized by the American women especially the younger ones, and one Vietnamese-American who could have been their Grandmother. You could tell they wanted to "do something, to be involved in some way," and it wasn't long before they were put to work—and they loved it! These four young girls unpacked, unboxed, and placed into plastic bags 1,000 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste so they could be given with medicines from the Pharmacy. Chuck (Ward) gave them money to go buy an ice-cream in appreciation for their hard work, but when they returned with the cold treats, they offered the cones to team members first. Charity comes in all forms. *"Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth," (Matthew 5:5).*

What kind of person serves on these humanitarian teams? People who pay their own way, leave family, and take vacation from work. It's individuals like **Tuyet**, serving her second time as a volunteer translator. A Vietnamese-American from Southern California, she and her family fled Vietnam after the communist take over. Her assimilation into American culture has not been an easy journey, and while Tuyet has experienced more than her share of heartache and disappointment, she would also tell you it has been a journey of triumph and living the "American Dream." But her heart was heavy this trip because the daughter she raised from aged two, Annie Le, was murdered in September 2009 just days before her wedding. In spite of her brokenness, she found a



way to reach-out to “her people” to “comfort them” even in her time of grief. Tuyet may not know it but she was an inspiration to everyone. Hopefully she was “comforted” by her fellow team members during this special time together. *“Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted,” (Matthew 5:4).*

Hoa is a married woman with children from Hoa Hai Ward near Marble Mountain. She's from a family that owns a marble business and one of six Sisters. For years several of the Sisters have helped with translation services and whatever else you can imagine — you name it, they've done it! On this team she worked each day in the Pharmacy filing orders, explaining the purpose of the meds, and instructions on how to take them. Because of her invaluable service, she was invited to attend the celebratory, end-of-trip, special dinner that honors Vietnam vets. It's a wonderful affair and special time of sharing that usually touches all team members especially the vets and their spouses. But this time it was Hoa who was touched. As the dinner concluded and team members were saying their good byes, Hoa broke down and began crying. When attempts were made to find out what was wrong, we learned she was simply overwhelmed with the camaraderie between her and team members. She said there was *something different, a special feeling*, when working amongst the team. She was so attracted to the friendship and love team members gave to one another, and shared with her, that she missed it and didn't want it to end. She had returned to her job at the marble business the day before, and it wasn't anything like she experienced working with the team. Could it have been her first experience with the Holy Spirit? *“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God,” (Matthew 5:8).*



Over two thousand years ago Jesus taught the “Beatitudes” to the disciples on the mountain, and He's still teaching us today in places like Son Tra Mountain in Vietnam. The Story of One...