



**SEPTEMBER 2020 MINISTRY UPDATE**

Hello Friends and Family,

**T**hank you all for the notes, cards, thoughts and prayers regarding Mom's passing. Your kindness is very much appreciated. The picture on the right is from the **outdoor memorial service we held for Mom**. Pictured are my brothers, me, and our niece singing some of Mom's favorite tunes. We had a lovely time of remembrance; stories, laughter, tears, prayers... and, oh, lots of food!



**O**n the journey north to attend Mom's memorial, my cell phone was continually ringing as that was also the day that we **learned of our first positive case of COVID-19 on our campus**. My administrative team at *Village Christian Academy* successfully initiated our plan for this eventuality, which included the contact tracing process to identify those students and teachers who would then be in quarantine, notification to parents, and triggering our deep cleaning procedures with our custodial staff. Over the Spring and Summer months we developed a detailed plan for keeping school open during the pandemic and now we are simply "working the plan." And it is working well. Families, students, and teachers are making the needed adjustments and school continues for those students in quarantine via our remote instruction program. This is our new normal. And I am so **thankful for the quality team** I have the opportunity to lead. They are all, teachers and administration, doing a stellar job!



**A**s the hot, humid North Carolina summer comes to a close, I am **embarrassed to report that my body has yet to adapt to the Southern climate!** While working on trimming some of our front yard overgrowth of bushes and flowerbeds, on what I assessed as a cloudy and breezy day, I rapidly dehydrated and ended up **collapsing and passing out from heat exhaustion**. I know! I should have known better. And I do now! ☹️ Through this incident we have discovered some blessings. We have great and caring neighbors who ran to the rescue and worked to revive me. We discovered that the ambulance service is very responsive and that our local hospital provides good care and is only minutes away from our home. And I've also learned the lesson that while we live in NC **I can just forget about yard maintenance until October!** Seriously, we are thankful that the situation wasn't more serious. In the midst of it, I thought I was having a stroke, and for about five minutes I had lost my eye sight. That was scary. But I am well and fine now.

**F**inally, **work and ministry has begun in Vietnam**, although virtually (as you can see pictured on the right). We are breaking the sessions up by language groups. So, I provide a training in English to the ex-pat administrators and then repeat each session for the local school leaders with consecutive interpretation into Vietnamese. So far the trainings have gone tremendously and the feedback is exceptional. Your prayers and support of this important project are very much appreciated. Thank you!



*- Toby (for Tannia and Emma too!)*