

Huynh Family

2012 HIGHLIGHTS



A Year of Adventure

In 2012, Pastor Khanh and First Lady Jennifer had the opportunity to minister around the world. In January, Pastor Khanh went to Malaysia where he trained 250 ministry leaders. While he was there, he ministered at Grace Church in Klang, Malaysia and River of Life Sanctuary in Kuala Lumpur.

In June, Julianne and Samuel teamed up with thirteen young adults, two pastors, and three medical doctors to help organize VBC's first mission trip to Brazil. The group led a week-long Vacation Bible School in the *favelas* to reach over 100 children. The school principal, teachers, parents, and students accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and received prayer and healing.

In August, both Pastor Khanh and First Lady Jennifer were given a religious VISA to minister at an annual convention for the Southern Baptist Church of Vietnam. There, they trained 430 pastors, leaders, and believers in healing and deliverance. Hundreds of people received their healing and many were set free. They witnessed people who were wheelchair-bound get up and walk. To this day, we are still receiving praise reports and testimonies from the training. From Vietnam, they continued on to Australia to minister at the Nep Song Moi Conference. They trained over 90 people in a School of Healing. Praise God many were healed, saved, and delivered!

Jennifer Hanh Huynh: 2012 Woman of Prestige

First Lady Jennifer was honored as one of the top 10 most influential Vietnamese American Women of Houston in 2012. She received a Woman of Prestige award, presented by the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce. We praise God for Jennifer's heart to serve His people with compassion and humility.

Joel and Patricia's Engagement

Joel and Patricia met at Houston Baptist University. During the years they dated, God brought them together as they pursued excellence in their undergraduate and master degree, served in ministry, and enjoyed each other's hobbies. It was clear that God made them for each other. On August 1, 2012 Joel asked for Patricia's hand in marriage. A documentation of their love story was played as Patricia was in tears of surprise and joy surrounded by family and friends. As Joel stated, "In my life there are two things I am sure of, my eternal life is in Heaven and that I want to spend the rest of my life with you." Patricia accepted Joel's proposal and the wedding date is set for August 31, 2013.

The Adoption Story



I'm blessed to have two heroes in my life – first, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and second, Pastor Khanh Huynh. I was born out of wedlock and raised by my father. Growing up, I did not know who my biological mother was, nor have I ever met her. I was told that when I was born, she did not want anything to do with me and sold me to an orphanage. But by God's grace, my father rescued me and took me home.

God brought me to VBC in 1992, and I accepted Christ when I was 14 years old. Once I met God, I knew I wanted my father to experience the same thing. My father was an alcoholic. When he was under the influence, I was the focus of his physical abuse; however, when he was sober, he was a loving father. I desperately prayed that my father would get to know Jesus. My father spoke only Vietnamese, and because of the language barrier, I could not sufficiently explain the love of God to him. I turned to Pastor Khanh for help and he spoke to my father about the love of Christ. For a while, my father agreed to come to church with me every Sunday, but the power of alcohol overtook him. As much as I pleaded and asked him to give it up to God, I knew in my heart that he was not ready. Even

so, I never gave up praying for my father's salvation or stopped encouraging him to turn to God.

In 1998, my father became very ill while on a trip to Vietnam. When he came back, I could not recognize him because he had lost so much weight. I knew my father's life was in jeopardy, so I immediately called Pastor Khanh to come and minister to him in the hospital. I remember standing in the corner of the room sobbing, as I watched my father use all his strength to press his palms together and lift them up to the sky, asking God for forgiveness. At that moment, he gave his life to Christ. One hour later, he passed away.

There are no words to express the indescribable peace I felt knowing that I will one day see my father again in Heaven. Pastor Khanh led my father to Christ and he has been my hero ever since. He has taught me so much through the years as a follower of Christ. I have watched him and learned how he serves God with all his heart. Pastor Khanh is more than just a great mentor in my life; he is my spiritual father. I have so much love for him and his beautiful family.

Within the past year, my prayer life for the Huynh family changed. I used to pray a general prayer for God to bless and protect Pastor Khanh and his family. But recently, and in secret, my prayers became, "God, bless and protect mom and dad." This was the moment when I knew that there was a shift in my heart for this family.

On October 21, 2012, God answered my prayers. Yvonne and I invited the Huynh family over for a casual dinner. I had no idea that evening would be one that I would never forget and forever cherish in my heart. During dinner, Pastor Khanh and Jennifer wanted to make an announcement. They stood up and said, "Children, mom and dad want you to know that you have a new brother." At first, everyone giggled and joked that Jennifer was pregnant. But then Pastor Khanh, whom I now get to call dad, looked at me and said, "Thanh, Co Hanh and I have always seen you as a son. But today, in front of the entire family, we would like to make it official." At that moment, I was completely overwhelmed with love and tears of joy. I was released from the feeling of abandonment and loneliness and immediately felt like I belonged to a family of my own. For the first time in my life, I can finally call someone mom. I am looking forward to celebrating my first Mother's day with her. Mom absolutely captivated my heart when she shared how she had always loved me as her own son.



I never asked to be adopted, but it is such an honor that the Huynh family has embraced and accepted me as their son and brother. Even as I write this testimony, I am giddy all over again. I am still in awe and cannot be any happier. Yvonne and I are blessed to be a part of this amazing family that we now call our own.

I want to end with these two statements. First, it is never too late to adopt. Secondly, you are never too old to be adopted.