

# A Dragon Child Returns

adapted by JAGON RAINEY from an interview with LUCY NGUYEN-HONG-NHIEM conducted by DAN DUFFY

In December of 2010, Lucy Nguyen visited Viet Nam with her brother and sister-in-law.

MY FIRST TIME BACK SINCE 1975!



WE FIRST ARRIVED IN HO CHI MINH CITY.

THERE WERE MANY CHANGES AND THE TRAFFIC WAS SCARY.



After a week, Lucy traveled to the village where she grew up.

HERE IT IS MUCH QUIETER AND COOLER.



I WAS ABLE TO VISIT MY FATHER'S OLD HOUSE AND HIS RICE FIELDS.

THEY'RE STILL THERE, BUT ARE NOW OWNED BY PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT.



I ALSO VISITED THE NEARBY MONTAGNARD VILLAGE OF PLEICHUET. WHEN I WAS YOUNG, THEY HAD SMALL COTTAGES, BUT NOW THERE WERE SOLID BUILDINGS ONE OR TWO STORIES TALL!



TO ME, THEIR LIVES SEEMED TO BE UPGRADED. PEOPLE SEEM TO BE HAPPIER, AND THEIR LIVES IMPROVED.



WHILE I WAS IN THE VILLAGE, I VISITED MY BROTHER, WHO IS A REDEMPTORIST PRIEST.



HE'D LIVED IN THE U.S. SINCE 1985, BUT RECENTLY DECIDED TO RETURN TO HIS OLD ORDER IN VIET NAM. SINCE COMING BACK, HE'S WORKED ON MANY PROJECTS.



HE HAS BEEN TRANSLATING THE BIBLE INTO THE MONTAGNARDS' LANGUAGE AND BUILDING A HOUSE FOR THE PRIESTS TO LIVE IN AND TEACH SEMINARIANS.



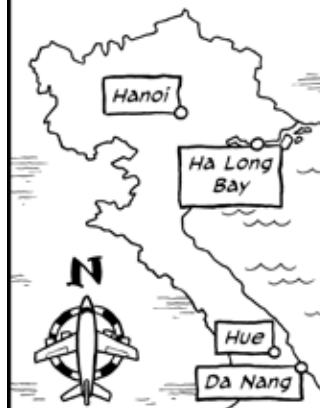
THIS YEAR WAS HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BECOMING A PRIEST. THE MONTAGNARDS WANTED TO CELEBRATE AND INDUCT HIM INTO THEIR COMMUNITY.



THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE SINGING AND DANCING. MY BROTHER, WHO OFTEN SEEMS BURDENED BY HIS DUTIES, WAS RELAXED AND TELLING JOKES. HE WAS SO HAPPY!



Later on, Lucy traveled to cities in northern Viet Nam.



She had never been to this part of the country before.

I HAD ONLY SEEN THESE PLACES IN BOOKS AND DVDS THAT ARE MADE FOR TOURISTS...



...BUT IT IS NOT THE SAME AS BEING THERE AND SEEING THEM WITH YOUR OWN EYES.



I AM HAPPY THAT AT THE END OF MY LIFE, I COULD SEE ALL THE BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRY.

