

Approx
Early January 1998

John Taylor

To:

Cc:

Bill Rose (E-mail); Susan Little (E-mail); Leon Wit (E-mail); Hilary Smith (E-mail);
Patricia M Smith (E-mail)

Subject: Newsletter, Treasury, Steering Committee

Kerry:

Sorry to be so long in responding re the newsletter. Below is an update on the current status of Louis Braille. I wish I had news of much progress, but there hasn't been much.

After much thought, I have decided to step out of my administrative roles with FoVNH. I am concerned that the organization is heading in a direction that conflicts with what I feel is in the long run helpful for the Kontum montagnards. I don't have great ideas about what we might do in the short run. I feel very uncomfortable about soliciting funds and then being forced by a feeling a duty to spend the funds before we have a clear understanding about our long-term strategy. I feel we are raising unrealistic expectations that will only lead to local disagreement. I feel strongly that interpersonal gifts that are not part of planned FoVNH efforts should be kept very separate from any FoVNH activity, to avoid even a remote perception of favoritism. Finally, I think we would be far better off to link up with Pleiku Trust to help guide more substantial projects than to sprinkle small sums ineffectively here and there, perhaps annoying the government in the process.

Our bank account as of 1/9/98 has a balance of \$19.50. I just noticed that I misplaced Hilary's \$50.00 check between papers on my desk and have not yet deposited it. I will return that to her. I plan to close the bank account. It will incur too many fees unless it is replenished. I will send you the check and a final statement of all income and expenses. I will be happy to contribute toward costs of the newsletter. I very sincerely appreciate all the effort you have put into this project and its newsletter.

John

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Dr. Braille Update

Now a year since his severe stroke, Dr. Louis Braille, long time friend of Minh Quy hospital and the montagnards, is making slow progress. In the last month or so, he has occasionally been able to stand briefly with assistance and take several steps with his walker. He still has little use of his left arm or leg. Vision continues severely impaired for objects to his left. He greatly enjoys periodic gatherings with his many friends at the home of his daughter, Peggy.

As ever, Louis appreciates cards and letters from his friends around the world. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Louis E. Braille, MD

Port Orchard, WA 98366
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