



**LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**

International Ministries Facts about

Vietnam



THE MINISTRY...

Office Established:

Ho Chi Minh City, 1999

Locally known as:

The Voice of Hope

Director:

Doan Thanh Truc
since 1999

Population:

86,116,559

Ministry in Action:

- Bible Correspondence Courses
- Equipping the Saints
- Video projection
- Performing arts: puppet show and musical performances
- www.luthasia.net/Vietnam



Showing of animated series

TODAY IN VIETNAM...

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)-Vietnam works with existing government-recognized congregations and organizations to assist in outreach in this country, where atheism is the "semiofficial" religion. Government regulations prohibit any religious activities outside the church; therefore, LHM-Vietnam cooperates with local congregations to spread the Gospel through programs such as **Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC)**, puppet shows, videos, and musical performances.

Since all television and radio stations belong to the Vietnamese government, LHM-Vietnam cannot broadcast Christian messages through the media. The ministry center meets this challenge by showing LHM produced animated cartoons to young audiences inside local churches. Residents in remote areas, especially children, do not have access to televisions, making LHM-Vietnam's video projection a popular event.

Children and adults take delight in watching the LHM-Vietnam puppet shows. The team performs plays such as "The Lost Son" to teach about the love, forgiveness, and salvation of Jesus Christ. Many audiences are so inspired after watching the puppet shows that they vow to trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.



Puppet ministry

With such strict government regulations inviting youth to the church to listen to the Gospel is not easy. Therefore, LHM-Vietnam creatively attracts youngsters with its evangelistic music show performed by a Christian musical team.

LHM-Vietnam's **Equipping The Saints (ETS)** program trains lay persons to nurture the spiritual life of individuals referred to LHM. Most of the local congregations lack the materials as well as the means to train their congregational workers, so ETS is highly appreciated in the community.

RELIGION IN VIETNAM...

Religion and religious philosophies have played a very important role in influencing Vietnamese culture. The major faiths that most Vietnamese follow are Christianity, Buddhism, and several local religious movements.

After conquering Vietnam in the 1500s, China introduced Buddhism, which grew to encompass approximately 54 percent of the Vietnamese population. They believe that through the Buddhist after-life they will one day be released from their poverty-stricken lives.

Although its constitution declares Vietnam a country with freedom of

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HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Become a sponsor through **Reaching Out** and assist LHM ministry centers around the world. Call 1-800-944-3450 for details, or visit our Web site at www.lhmint.org.

Volunteer your talents in a two-week **Global Work & Witness** program. For details visit www.lhmint.org/globalmission.

WANT TO KNOW MORE...

For the latest listing of fact sheets of all countries in which Lutheran Hour Ministries is carrying out its vision of *All Nations, All Peoples, All in Christ!*, visit our Web site at www.lhmint.org.

Our world is full of people who NEED to know they are loved. Please join us in reaching out to them with God's love.

CONTACT INFORMATION...

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religion, the communist government stifles religious organizations and activities that it feels threaten its power.

Communism presents a major challenge in the operations of LHM-Vietnam, and can even be dangerous at times. In spite of the challenges Christians face, LHM-Vietnam continues to share Christ's love with the community and to bring the true heart of the Gospel to people who want to hear a message of hope.

THE COUNTRY...

Vietnam has endured more than 1,000 years of outside rule by both China and France. In A.D. 938, the Vietnamese revolted against Chinese rule and won their independence. The French later colonized Vietnam and ruled from 1859 to 1954. When the French defeated the Vietnamese people, the French signed the Geneva Accords and Vietnam was separated into two zones: North and South. After the Vietnam War of the 1960s and 1970s, Vietnam assumed communist rule and the zones were reunified.

Vietnam stretches for 1,000 miles along the eastern coast of the Indochinese Peninsula. Shaped like the letter "S," Vietnam is just south of China, and neighbor to Laos, Cambodia, the South China Sea, and the Pacific Ocean. The Red River Delta, Mekong Delta, and almost the entire coastal strip resemble a quilt of bright green rice paddies.

THE PEOPLE...

The origins of the Vietnamese people are generally traced to the inhabitants of the Red River Delta between 500 and 200 B.C. Despite some regional and local differences in customs and speech, the people retain a strong sense of ethnic identity that rests on a common language and a shared cultural heritage. Vietnamese is the official language, the mother tongue of the vast majority of the people, and is understood by many national minority members.

Friendly and gentle, contemporary ethnic Vietnamese live in urban as well as rural areas, and engage in a variety of occupa-

tions such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing. Unemployment is an obstacle facing the Vietnamese, making it difficult for some families to afford to send their children to school.

Foreign investment and tourism have introduced Vietnam to the developed countries of East Asia and the West. These influences threaten the communist government because they encourage individualism.

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

You can help us reach unchurched people around the world by:

- Considering a gift today for International Ministries
- Praying for the overseas ministry staff and volunteers
- Getting involved in short-term mission trips
- Continuing to learn about the ministry by visiting our Web site at www.lhmint.org.

For more opportunities to serve, contact: cheerful@lhmint.org or (877) 333-1963. Through your commitment we can reach people around the world with Christ's message of hope.



Youth publicly announce their faith after a video show