



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188-1108

Phone: 414-256-3200 • Fax: 262-522-2800 • wels.net/vietnamhmongoutreach

Congregational Guidelines for “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” Special Offering

Theme

The Scripture focus for “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” is Colossians 1:6: “In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.”

This verse reminds us of the magnificent grace God has freely given to all of us as Christians. The Holy Spirit has used the message of grace through our Savior Jesus Christ to change the hearts and lives of our Hmong brothers and sisters in the faith in Vietnam, just as he has done in our hearts. There are so many in Vietnam who need to hear the good news of salvation from sin through Jesus. As Christians we seek to share the gospel message with all ends of the earth, to build up Christ’s church.

Goal

The goal of the “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” offering is to receive gifts totaling \$2 million by June 30, 2019, to fund the land purchase, building construction, and the first two years of operational costs for a theological training facility in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Congregations may want to consider setting a goal for this special offering, which is envisioned to be in addition to their Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). A couple suggestions:

- Based on the WELS 2017 Statistical Report, if each congregation would set aside one percent of its annual offerings received for “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam,” we would surpass the goal.
- The \$2 million goal is roughly 10 percent of the \$21 million committed as CMO subscriptions. Therefore, a congregation might consider a goal of 10 percent of the amount they have committed to WELS for their CMO.

Materials

Materials for the “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” special offering emphasis are enclosed and available online. Churches that collect and submit offerings on behalf of one or more partner congregations are receiving both their own materials as well as the materials for their partner congregations. Brochure count is based on average weekly attendance from the 2017 WELS Statistical Report. If you need extras, free copies can be ordered at the “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” webpage.

Enclosed

- Introductory letter
- Instructions
- Promotional posters

- “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” brochures
- Coupons and return envelopes for sending offerings to WELS
- December WELS Connection Video (if applicable; only sent to non-subscribers of *WELS Connection*)

Available online at www.wels.net/vietnamhmongoutreach

- Instructions
- Promotional bulletin inserts
- Promotional poster
- Informational flier/text for bulletins and newsletters
- Sermon
- Worship helps
- Bible study
- “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” logo and promotional graphics
- Digital bulletin board kits
- PowerPoint presentation
- Downloadable version of the December *WELS Connection*

Use of the resources at church

Considering holding a worship service during the month of December or during the church season of Epiphany (January 6-March 3). The Epiphany season is fitting as we are reminded that Christ was born to save *all* nations, as represented by the Magi who came to worship Jesus after his birth. Promote it using the poster, bulletin inserts, and your usual congregational communications. Prepare by downloading the worship service and Bible study resources. Put the “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” logo on or in the bulletin and insert the “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” brochures. Show the December *WELS Connection* video again that Sunday. Members could bring the brochures home and return with their offerings in future weeks. Once the congregational offering is gathered, the church office can use a “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” coupon and return envelope to send the offering to the synod’s lockbox (if you have misplaced these coupons, you can also make a check payable to WELS, note “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” in the memo line, and mail to the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry at N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188). WELS-Canada congregations do not receive coupons or return envelopes in their packages; instead please mail your offerings to WELS-Canada treasurer Robert Brander at Box 537, Picture Butte, AB TOK1V0.

If your church would like to continue gathering gifts for “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” beyond the service (the offering runs through June 2019), promote the ongoing collection and direct members regarding how to turn in their offerings. Continue sending gifts to WELS with “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” coupons and return envelopes (Note that with each gift the church submits, WELS sends more coupons and return envelopes).

Participation by schools

If your school collects mission offerings, consider designating “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” for your Q3 or Q4 mission offerings. A promotional flier and text are available online for communicating the offering to students and parents. Send gifts to WELS through your congregation or by mailing them to: WELS Gift Processing, N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI, 53188-1108.

Help

Please contact WELS for any assistance by calling 800-827-5482 or e-mailing mcg@wels.net.