

Welcome to the new, online-friendly version of the reSource newsletter. We're hoping that this version is much more readable electronically, and prints more cleanly for hard-copy enthusiasts. Our plan is to send you a short newsletter frequently featuring one of our priority projects. The information will be fresh and current, with updated photos and prayer requests. We appreciate your responses and feedback; please send your comments to catherine@resourceleadership.com.

Hanoi Bible College Officially Opens!

For several years, reSource has been part of the planning process for a new theological school in the city of Hanoi. In 2013, the Evangelical Church of Vietnam North - ECVN (N) - received approval to launch the Hanoi Bible College (HBC), and the school began operations in time for the start of the fall semester. Of the 25 students in the first class, 13 are Kinh (ethnic Vietnamese) and 12 are from minority groups such as the Hmong. HBC will serve both the established, registered church and the Christian population of Hanoi, preparing pastors to lead the congregations of northern Vietnam, both in the urban centres and in the highland regions of the country.



Student orientation for the first class of students at Hanoi Bible College in Vietnam

Some background on Christianity in Vietnam

Christianity was first brought to Vietnam in the 17th century by Roman Catholic missionaries. Protestantism was introduced later, primarily through the efforts of Christian & Missionary Alliance workers. The churches multiplied for several decades, but during the war for independence in the 1960's and 70's the number of churches in the North decreased significantly.

Since reunification in 1975, the relationship between the church and the state has not always been easy. The government offers official recognition to some organizations, allowing freedom to worship but requiring government approval for all operations, including the appointment of church leaders. The two largest officially recognized Protestant churches are the Southern Evangelical Church of Vietnam - ECVN (S) - recognized in 2001, and the smaller Evangelical Church of Vietnam North - ECVN (N) - recognized since 1958.

By some estimates, the growth of Protestant believers in Vietnam has been as much as 600 percent over the past ten years. Some of the new converts belong to unregistered evangelical house churches. With limited opportunity for theological education in the country, pastors and professors both must travel to Bible colleges and seminaries in other countries to gain the training needed to lead the new Christians. HBC will provide an opportunity for theological training to many Christian leaders in northern Vietnam without having to leave the country.

Next edition: an update from Mariel Deluca Voth on the latest developments in library development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Website: Check out our website for more updates.



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