

# Lent 2020 Hope Haven

## *Giving Up & Giving Out for Our Friends in Vietnam*



The season of Lent is here. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 12, we will reflect on our identity created by the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

During the last 8 years, First CRC has engaged in a “Give-Up-and Give-Out” Lenten Ministry. Just as Jesus gave-up His life so that others might live, we imitate Him by giving-up so that others will be blessed by the life and ministry of the Church. That’s what gospel-driven Christians do.

Our 2020 “Give-Up-and-Give-Out” Lenten theme is focused on our partnership with Hope Haven International Ministries. Our congregation has been assembling and boxing wheelchairs since August 2019 and our Wheelchair Mission Team is set to distribute them in Vietnam in May 2020 (May 15-24, 2020). And the need is urgent. It is estimated that more than 5 million people in Vietnam need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Our Hope Haven - First CRC partnership, therefore, is a concrete way to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus.

Here are just a few little-known facts about Vietnam:

- Vietnam is officially an atheist state. Yet many of its citizens are religious. The three main religions are Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Sometimes, they are grouped together as one religion called the three teachings or tam giáo.
- Vietnam is the world's second largest producer of coffee, with only Brazil producing more.
- Vietnamese people generally do not own a car. That is the luxury of the wealthy. Vehicle taxes range anywhere from 100% to 200%, making motorbikes and other modes of transportation far more affordable for the average citizen. In 2013, there were 37 million registered motorbikes, compared to just two million registered cars.
- The Vietnamese flag was officially adopted on November 30, 1955. The five points of the star on the Vietnamese flag represent five groups of workers: intellectuals, farmers, youth, workers, and soldiers. The red symbolizes bloodshed and the revolutionary struggle.
- Football (soccer) is the most popular sport in Vietnam, other sports of interest include table tennis, volleyball, badminton, tennis, and martial arts.

The wheelchairs distributed by Hope Haven provide the disabled with mobility, inclusion, and the opportunity to live a fulfilling life. The wheelchairs, therefore, are safety-tested and tailored to meet the needs and size of each individual.

The First CRC Distribution Team consists of Phil Bonnema, Dale Bloem, Chris De Berg, Gabby Eckardt, Kaitlin Hoogendoorn, Roger Kooi, Joy Scholten, AJ Slagter, Cindy Slagter, Brenda Thornton, Holly Van Hofwegen, Brad Van Surksum, Ken Veenstra, Cindy Ver Burg, and Jodi Zylstra. They will be led by Megan Schouten.

We hope that you will “give-up” so that our Church and, more specifically, our Distribution Team, will be a reflection of the gift of generous grace freely given to each of us.



# 40 Days of Prayer, Service, and Sacrifice

## ASH WEDNESDAY: Matthew 25:31-46

The World Health Organization estimates that 70 million people need a wheelchair. Yet, only 5-15%, or 10,500,000, actually do, and 10,000,000 of those are in one of the 34 developed countries. That means almost 60,000,000 from 156 developing nations need a wheelchair most. You are invited to begin your Lenten “Give-up in order to “Give Out” journey by depositing the cost for each family member’s lunch into your Lenten Offering Envelope.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: Philippians 2:1-11

It is conservatively estimated that 5,000,000 people in Vietnam need a wheelchair. The provision of a Hope Haven wheelchair will greatly increase the mobility and quality of life for a child, woman or man. You are invited to prayerfully deposit into your envelope \$5.00 per family member toward the cost of one wheelchair.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: 1 Peter 2:4-12

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is technically an atheist country. Yet, the three main religions alive there are Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. The Christian Church is also actively announcing in word and deed the good and better news of Jesus. You are invited to prayerfully deposit into your envelope \$1.00 for each Christian affiliated organization your family attends this week (GEMS, Cadets, Christian School events, and similar things).

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT: Acts 4:1-22

The five points on the Vietnamese flag represents different types of people: intellectuals, peasants, workers, traders and soldiers. Christians believe that in Christ all believers have equal dignity, value and purpose. Pray that each citizen will discover true life in Christ. You are also invited to deposit into your envelope \$5.00 (\$1.00 for each point on the star) so that the gospel will achieve its purpose in Vietnam

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Colossians 4:2-6

Vietnam is the world’s second largest producer of coffee. For each trip you make to the coffee shop this week, you are invited to deposit into your envelope \$5.00. Pray, too, that the gospel will produce a rich harvest of new believers in Vietnam.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 & 9:6-8

Unlike Americans, most Vietnamese people do not own a car. It is a luxury reserved for those who are wealthy. You are invited to make a deposit into your envelope the amount that matches how much you spend on gas for your vehicle(s) this week.

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Matthew 28:16-20

Every day the world population increases by 187,500 – the size of Sioux Falls. It is estimated that 1.85%, or 3,500 more people, are in need of a wheelchair today than yesterday. You are invited to deposit into your envelope an unspecified amount that helps meet the anticipated physical needs of each image bearer of God.

## GOOD FRIDAY: Luke 4:14-30

White skin is a beauty standard in Vietnam. Rather than seek a tan, the Vietnamese use beauty products that have a whitening effect to give a sense of purity. Good Friday announces that the blood of Jesus alone makes us pure. You are invited to deposit into your envelope \$1.00 for each beauty product or personal hygiene item used in a typical morning by members of your family.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** The Lenten Offering Envelopes will be received in a special offering during the worship service.



## Lent: February 26 – April 12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			ASH Wednesday February 26	27	28	29
March 1 First Sunday of Lent	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Second Sunday of Lent	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Third Sunday of Lent	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Lent	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Fifth Sunday of Lent	30	31	1 April	2	3	4
5 Sixth Sunday of Lent	6	7	8	9	 GOOD FRIDAY	11
 EASTER April 12						