

BRING HOPE TO HANOI SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

AUDIO

VÍDEO

sc. **01** In 2018, a South African Adventist, Jannie Bekker, was sent to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, with two million dollars and the daunting task of establishing the Adventist church's first Urban Center of Influence in the heart of the city.

sc. **02** Despite the sale price of land in Hanoi exceeding 3.4 million dollars, Jannie was surprised by a generous offer of an excellent plot with a new seven-story building for only 1.8 million. The rest is history. On May 22, 2018, the community center opened to the public. "God made Himself present in the most miraculous way I have ever witnessed," Jannie said. "He gave us much more than we asked for."

sc. **03** With a population of nine million, Hanoi has only a relatively small number of Seventh-day Adventists. The Urban Center of Influence, aptly named Forward Venture, offers opportunities to reach more people for Christ. The center houses a community library and an English school where one can develop relationships with people and help educate children. There are also healthy cooking classes and even a running club that meets every Sunday morning. The Hanoi Seventh-day Adventist Church is also housed in the same building. The Center's activities have allowed for the development of solid bonds and even friendships with government officials.

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sc. **04** "An opportunity arose to partner with the Vietnam Religious Affairs Committee, and we are teaching English to twenty-eight of its members," says Tunnel, the Center's director. "As we see people attending language classes and church services, we know God is at work. God can work miracles. So we look forward to seeing what He has in store for us."

sc. **05** This story is an excellent example of what is done with the resources that are sent to the Unusual Opportunities fund. This fund allows the General Conference to respond quickly to urgent needs. But how are resources provided for the Unusual Opportunities Fund?

sc. **06** If you live in administrative regions of the church where the Combined Offering Plan is practiced, your unassigned offering today will be automatically distributed to equitably provide for all missionary projects of the church worldwide, including the "Unusual Opportunities Fund." That is why the Combined Offering Plan recommends that your "Promise" Offering (or your regular offerings) be given as unassigned offerings.

sc. **07** But in addition to your unassigned Promise Offering, you may also give a special offering directly to the "Unusual Opportunities Fund." You may do so by indicating "Unusual Opportunities Fund" on the envelope or visiting AdventistMission.org/donate and selecting "CG Unusual Opportunities Fund." As we partner in this mission with God, may we put our desires last and God first.