

VIETNAM EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP

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A CALL TO PRAYER

*To all the Pastors, Preachers and Members
of The Vietnam Evangelical Fellowship.*

On behalf of the Board of V.E.F., we respectfully send this letter to you Pastors, Preachers, and Members, greeting you in the Name of our Lord Jesus.

Praise the Lord for His salvation and grace and for including us in His Kingdom in the Name of Jesus Christ! Because of this we have the privilege to worship Him and to serve Him - our Sovereign and Faithful God (*Ephesians 1:3-10*).

As Christians will know, immediately after the 30th of April, 1975 many churches were closed, and Bible schools and church institutions were used for other purposes. Because of the requirement of our spiritual needs, we formed churches in private homes to maintain our worship and spiritual activities. From 1975 until today, we have, for the sake of the Lord Jesus, suffered much persecution and discrimination from different levels of the Government.

On 18-6-2004, The National Assembly Standing Committee issued an official Ordinance on Religion, No. 21/2004/PL-UBTVQH11 scheduled to come into effect on the 15-11-2004. This Ordinance will create many problems and disadvantages for the church, especially for our gatherings for worship and at the same time it will highly likely, permanently outlaw our house churches that have not been recognized since 1975. Many articles in this Ordinance will also provide a legal basis for local authorities to hinder and persecute the church.

In this situation, we feel the call of God to follow the example of the saints in the time of King Xerxes' of the Media-Persia Empire (*Esther 4:13-16*) that is to humble ourselves, calling upon our God for the church and freedom of worship to God in Vietnam.

On behalf of all pastors of the Vietnam Evangelical Fellowship, we are authorized to respectfully proclaim to all the Lord's people, a call to all Pastors, Preachers and Christians to devote three days each month, from September to November

2004, as following: 5-7 September; 3-5 October; 7-9 November, in order to fast and pray for the following requests:

1. that the Almighty Lord would continue to protect and vindicate the Church (*Acts. 5:38,39*).
2. that all believers in local areas would faithfully gather to worship the Lord and stand firm in all circumstances (*Acts. 5:41-42*).
3. that all leaders of the churches, all leaders of small groups, all of the host families of churches would have the wisdom and courage needed to lead the flock (*Acts. 4:29-30*).
4. that the government of all levels from the central to the local, throughout all of Vietnam, will soon recognize God's Sovereignty so that they will withdraw the Ordinance issued on 18-06-2004, and so that they will give up their prejudices towards the Church, and stop all forms of persecution and hindrances to Church's activities (*1 Timothy 2:1-2; Proverbs 21: 1*).

May God's peace be with you.

Respectfully, on behalf of the VEF Leadership Committee

Rev. Pham Dinh Nhan
Chairman