

Baptists, Mennonites receive religious practice certificates



Members of the Saint Mennonite Việt Nam Association sing a hymn. — VNA/VNS Photo Trảng Dương

HCM City — Baptists and Mennonites each received a certificate for religious practice yesterday.

The deputy head of the Government's Committee for Religious Affairs, Nguyễn Thanh Xuân, affirmed the State's consistent policy of ensuring religious freedom and said that, since the promulgation of the Ordinance on Beliefs and Religions two years ago, close to 1,000 clerics of different faiths have been ordained.

According to Xuân, more than 500 religious establishments have opened their doors while thousands of others have undergone renovations. More than 1,000 religious books with millions of copies have been published, including

more than 500,000 copies of the Bible.

In the Central Highlands alone, more than 1,000 Protestant groups have registered for religious practice, hundreds of pastors and missionaries have been promoted, and the Bible has been distributed in the Ede, Giarai, and Bana ethnic minority languages.

The Baptist Church in Việt Nam was established in 1989 and has more than 18,400 followers and 500 ministers, practising in 135 congregations in 23 cities and provinces throughout the country.

Pastor Nguyễn Thông, provisional president of the Baptist Church in Việt Nam, expressed thanks for the Government's support.

Pastor Nguyễn Quang

Trung, provisional president of the Việt Nam Mennonite Church, citing the church's motto of "living the Gospel, worshipping God, and serving the nation," thank the Government for creating favourable conditions for the church to worship in 80 congregations in 13 provinces and cities.

The ceremony was attended by Pastor Gerry Keener from the North American Eastern Mennonite Missions, who represents the Mennonite World Conference.

The Việt Nam Mennonite Church was established in 1983 and has more than 5,300 members, including 2,500 ethnic minority members in the Central Highlands. — VNS