

PROJECT NO: 102190

TAX | NON-TAX

Vietnam



Easy to use Study Bible



Overview

Bible Society Vietnam (BSV) is translating the Old Testament and related content to complete a Vietnamese Study Bible, an easy-to-use resource for Vietnamese Christians to deepen their engagement with the Bible and grow in their faith.

The Need

An increase in church planting has led to a strong need for accessible resources to improve biblical knowledge among lay preachers, Sunday school teachers and enthusiastic attendees. Vietnamese evangelical Christians received a revision of their Vietnamese Bible in 2010. They now need a one-volume, easy to use Study Bible to help them engage more meaningfully with the Bible. While BSV also understands there is a need for a scholarly edition of the Bible, for the time being, the needs of the average church goer are the most urgent — for an accessible Study Bible that aims to serve the majority of Vietnamese evangelicals.

Over two years (2018-2019) Bible Society completed work on the New Testament (NT) of a Vietnamese Study Bible, including the adaptation of the study notes of the CEV Learning Bible (NT) to the Vietnamese Study Bible, and the development of new materials relevant to the Vietnamese context.

> 1m

Vietnamese evangelical Christians
(according to the 2009 Census).

< 6%

of Vietnamese are non-literate.

Goals

The goal of this project consists of the development of the content related to the Old Testament for the Vietnamese Study Bible.

The projected Study Bible is aimed at the average Sunday School attendees and their teachers, plus the lay preachers and evangelists in remote areas who have little access to formal Biblical studies. The Vietnamese Study Bible is an easy-to-use accessible source of reference with helpful charts,

tables, diagrams, and information. It can help preachers to become more effective (and accurate) in their preaching and help believers to have better access to the Bible.

The goal is to extend this project for another year, until the end of 2023, to make it more adequate and relevant to Vietnamese Christians. Bible Society Vietnam are interested in developing better content by adding notes and adding/revising articles, especially

those addressing the following issues relevant to their readership: social aspects that have been neglected or spiritualised in the teaching of the church; women in leadership; inclusive love for wider society rather than just internal love that has separated the church from Vietnamese society; a positive worldview to balance out the Christians' negative worldview; social justice including poverty, immigration, hospitality, etc.

Impact

This project has already been running for a few years, so all the books of the Bible have been translated and first edited. Psalms and Proverbs have also been second edited, and many Old Testament books have been reviewed. The Pauline letters have been checked by a Translation Officer.

The hope is that the Study Bible will help Vietnamese Christians and pastors understand the Bible better, come to know God more, love him more, and spread his love to their neighbours within the church and outside it.

Testimonies

"My generation often contemplates the word of God within the modern context and brings God's word to today's social setting. If the last generation is concerned with exegesis and biblical doctrines, we are more drawn toward the application of biblical knowledge to solve today's problems of young people. And the ideas should be presented in a concise and clear manner. Before I started my theological program at the Institute, I worked with many young adolescents. I saw that many of them have the urge to study the Bible more deeply. But the Bible study program at the church is too distant from every day's vicissitudes of their life or the answer that they are looking for. I was driven to help them come closer to the Bible.

"When I was given a copy of the Gospel of Luke in Study Bible format, I was impressed by the design and layout of the book; it's very catchy and helpful. Those who study the word of God will benefit from the Study Bible because there are many features. The pages are so lively and interesting to look at. The footnotes and illustrations help the readers easily imagine or visualize the background in which the biblical story happened." - *Sky is a 26-year-old student at the Institute of The Bible and Theology.*

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for the translation team to be healthy and continue to make good progress.
- Pray that the team can also stay focused on the quality of the project.
- Thank God for the achievements of the last few years and pray that the Study Bible would be brought to completion soon.