

PROJECT NO: 102532

TAX | NON-TAX

# Vietnam



## The First Christian Library



### Overview

Bible Society Vietnam (BSV) has established The Christian Library in Ho Chi Minh City and is aiming for it to be locally sufficient by 2024. BSV is keen to grow its capacity in Bible engagement and advocacy through this project, along with deepening relationships with churches and the Vietnamese community of Christian businesspeople.

### The Need

Up to 3 000 students are enrolled in theological education and ministerial training programs in Ho Chi Minh City. Most of these theological programs have no library, which means the students are under equipped in their theological training.

Preachers and church workers are desperate to refresh their Bible engagement and theological reflection in order to improve their preaching. Evangelical lay people are also keen to gain a greater understanding of the Bible.

Yet, before this project, there was no Christian library anywhere in Communist Vietnam. Praise God that this inaugural Christian Library, with BSV holding the operating licence, has official governmental approval!

# ± 3k

students enrolled in theological education and ministerial training programs in Ho Chi Minh City.

# > 60k

Christians reside in Ho Chi Minh City.

# Goals

Bible Society Vietnam (BSV), in partnership with the Christian Business & Marketplace Connection Vietnam has established The Christian Library. The ultimate goal of this project is to initiate Bible engagement activities among Vietnamese Christians through Bible reading, learning, and preaching, as

well as facilitating and sustaining biblical and theological studies.

This project will support two key staff and grow the library resources to 20,000 titles. Once this library is well established, BSV and other donors would like to replicate The Christian Library in Hanoi City in North Vietnam.

The Library Trustees are keen that after three years of international support (2021-2023), the Vietnamese Christian community will be able to take ownership of the ongoing running costs. In the meantime, a key cost of this project is the salaries of the library director and library officer.

## Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is 5,000. This includes the 3,000+ theological students as well as 2,000 other hoped for patrons of the library (among the 60,000+ Christians who reside in Ho Chi Minh City).

Since its beginning, the project has successfully imported 1,200 new Biblical studies and theology books. This has increased the library to around 10,000 books, with the board considering e-library options for future-proofing.

This library will provide easy access for Vietnamese Christians by providing a wealth of both Vietnamese and English Biblical and theological resources and other evangelical Christian literature. Access to these resources will increase the theological insight of generations of students into the future.

The Christian Library will also be a source of great encouragement for lay people, enabling them to do their own theological study and reflection, leading to a strengthening of faith.

So far, the project has already impacted 3,500 people.

## Testimonies

“My dream is that this library will be a model of Christian partnership in Vietnam. Vietnamese Christians must take ownership of Christian ministry in Vietnam.”

*John, businessman and supporter of The Christian Library*

“The Library makes it easier for me to find relevant materials for my term papers. I will certainly visit it in the future.”

*Rebecca, MA student at an underground seminary and wife of a Protestant pastor in Ho Chi Minh City.*

## Prayer Needs

- Pray for the governance of the library, especially that the Board of Trustees and the Office of the Directors will function well and help the library to achieve its mission.
- Pray for the resource development program of the library – the Board envisages the library holding up to 20,000 titles in the three years of the project.
- Pray that the development of The Christian Library will strengthen church relations, particularly helping to equip ministers and lay people in Bible engagement ministry.

