



## Engaging Ethnic Minorities

### Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with Bible Society Vietnam (BSV) to engage ethnic minority groups in Vietnam with the Bible, newly translated into their languages.

### The Need

Christians from ethnic minorities are often subjected to intense pressure. These marginalised Christians need encouragement, as they face daily challenges imposed by their circumstances.

There is an urgent need for ethnic minorities to preserve their own languages and be able to read the Bible in their mother tongue language. The people speak their indigenous languages but are not familiar with reading the Bible printed in their own language, as the education system only teaches Vietnamese, and there are no books in the minority languages. Now that Scripture translation is underway in these ethnic minority languages, there is an importance to meet the peoples' need: to help them engage with God's word in their own language.



# 98.8m

people live in Vietnam

# 14.7%

of the country's population are from 53 ethnic minority groups, each with its own distinct language, culture and traditions

# 9.2%

of the population are Christians

**"... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."**

1 Corinthians 9:22b, NIV

# Goals

This project aims to give ethnic minorities immediate access to God's word in their languages, providing an opportunity for non-believers to get to know Jesus through printed books, and enabling Bible engagement through Bible Study groups.

In 2024, BSV will develop, print and distribute 6,000 sets of books in ethnic minority languages. Each set including a comic book of Jesus' stories, a book of Luke (with an audio file), a Bible Study guide, and four bookmarks. The project will expand to include four new groups, reaching six tribes in total.

In January-March, the BSV team will develop the book of Luke, Bible Study Guides and bookmarks, with design and printing in April-June. The audio book of Luke will be created and uploaded, and the book sets distributed in July-September, plus training for small group Bible Study leaders, which will continue until December.

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# Impact

In 2024, the goal is to impact 6,000 people directly with the book sets received, and many more indirectly. These resources will impact both long term believers from ethnic minorities whose levels of Bible engagement have been very low, as well as new believers and those who have not yet come to faith. People will be able to read God's word and apply it in their daily lives, which will in turn impact their communities.

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# Testimonies

"The stories are more interested in [my language]!" — Susan, who lives in a remote area and has never had access to Scripture in the ethnic minority language of her family. Susan (along with 650 other families in her province) received translations of Mark's Gospel and the stories of Jesus in their own language, allowing them to experience God's word in their heart language and preserve the use of it in their community.

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# Prayer Needs

- Thank God for the distribution of Bible stories and the Gospel of Mark in 2023 to people from the different tribes; pray they would get to know about Jesus in their own languages and put their faith in him.
- Pray that the book sets, including the book of Luke, will have a great impact on the tribes, with new believers grounded in God's word, and many unbelievers saved.
- Pray that Christians would be empowered as they learn to read God's word.
- Pray that non-believers would come to know the Lord through this program.