

Vietnam



Engaging Ethnic Minorities

Project: 102638
Non Tax Deductible



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 in Vietnam are
Christians

Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with Bible Society Vietnam (BSV) to engage ethnic minority groups in Vietnam with Scripture that has been translated into their native languages. This project focuses on creating and distributing Scripture engagement materials, such as illustrated Bible stories and study guides, carefully designed to reflect the unique linguistic and cultural contexts of each ethnic community.

The Need

Ethnic minority Christians in Vietnam often face significant challenges, including intense pressure and marginalisation. These communities need encouragement and spiritual nourishment as they navigate their daily struggles.

Preserving indigenous languages is crucial, and access to Scripture in these languages plays a vital role. While many ethnic minorities speak their native tongue, they lack familiarity with reading the Bible in it. This is largely due to an education system that focuses on teaching the national language, Vietnamese, and the lack of books in minority languages.

Now that Scripture translation efforts are underway for these communities, there is an urgent need to support them in engaging with God's word in their own languages — bringing both spiritual growth and cultural preservation.

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 the access to learning God's word and stories of Jesus through printed books, and encourage Bible engagement through Bible Study groups.

In 2025, BSV will develop, print and distribute 1,000 sets of illustrative Bible engagement materials based on the book of Matthew to support six ethnic minority groups. Each set includes bookmarks and a Bible study guide written in each group's native language.

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

Impact

Throughout the years of this project, translations of the book of Mark and illustrated comics containing stories of Jesus were printed, recorded as an audiobook, and distributed in various minority languages. These materials have helped minority communities grow in their faith and contribute to the literature in their languages.

Bible Society Vietnam has also worked with church leaders in training them to lead Bible studies using these materials, leading many to engage with God's word together in their language.

The goal of this project is to impact the lives of 13,000 people, aiming to reach ethnic minorities whose levels of Bible engagement have been very low, as well as new believers aiding them with these Bible engagement resources to grow in their faith. These people will be able to read God's word and apply it in their daily lives, and in turn impact their communities.

Testimony

"I believe that the Gospel publications based on the book of Mark and the four stories of Jesus' birth, temptation, death, and resurrection are all very easy to understand ... The four-arrow Bible study method is logical and can be utilised in small groups ... participants can express their opinions and engage in a very interactive and enjoyable manner. This method can also be used to guide children in the Church, and I find it very beneficial for our local work." — Tuan a children's minister*

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Prayer Points

- Please pray that these Scripture resources will help ground believers in God's word, strengthening their faith and their relationship with the Lord.
- Pray that the distribution of these materials will reach many, opening hearts to the gospel and the saving grace of Jesus Christ.
- Pray also for the successful distribution of these materials to all targeted tribes as well as the protection and guidance for all individuals involved in this project.