

Vietnam



First Old Testament

Project: 103024
Non Tax Deductible



842,000

people belonging to this ethnic
minority live in Vietnam

0.17%

are Christians, approximately 1,400

Overview

This project will translate the Old Testament for a Vietnamese ethnic minority* to join the recently translated New Testament and complete the first full Bible for this marginalised community.

The Need

These people are one of the most influential ethnic groups in the mountainous areas of North Vietnam. The growth of Christianity among the people is slow, perhaps because the current New Testament in use by the churches was translated by a diaspora group of the same ethnicity. While similar to their language, it cannot express and communicate God's word naturally for the people living in Vietnam.

Many of this ethnic minority, especially the young, cannot read the ancient text of their language and there is currently no Scripture in their contemporary language for them to read. There is a great need for Bibles to be translated into today's language.

The local people requested a New Testament in their language from Bible Society Vietnam, which was completed at the end of 2023 after four years work. To complete the full Bible, the ethnic group need the Old Testament in their language so they can use it to preach, study, and share their faith.

*Name of ethnic minority group is kept private for security reasons.

Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' – Matthew 4:4, NIV

Goals

The goal of this project is to complete and print the Old Testament translation by 2030. Bible Society Vietnam will also give permission for Faith Comes By Hearing to record an audio version, and by uploading it to the Digital Bible Library, the Scriptures in this minority language will be accessible online through YouVersion.

In 2025, the project will focus on key stages of the translation process, including drafting, internal review, translation consultant checking, and community review, covering significant portions of the Old Testament.

Beyond the physical product, the project aims to spiritually enrich the lives of Christians in this minority group. By providing the Bible in their heart language, Bible Society hopes to foster deeper faith, stronger community bonds, and a more profound love for God and neighbour among the people.

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is the 842,000 who speak this ethnic minority language in Vietnam. A short-term impact of the project will be that on listening to and reading the completed book of Genesis, the people will feel connected to the new translation and begin using it. In addition to this, the translation team members will be impacted by their training and work on Bible translation, and will be equipped to lead Bible study groups, Sunday schools, and inspire their communities to love the word of God as well as to follow it.

In 2025, it is hoped that the distribution of 3,000 copies of the New Testament will impact the audience, helping them feel connected to the new translation and accept it. The ultimate impact of this project is that Christians in this ethnic minority will be strengthened by reading and understanding the Bible in their own language, and will love God more, love one another, and love their neighbours.

Testimony

"What I appreciate most is that my family reads the Bible together every evening after dinner. Regardless of the quantity, we make it a point to read it consistently. I believe that the Bible needs to be studied and understood. It teaches us valuable lessons about family behaviour and interactions with relatives and friends... Our Church has recently been provided with additional Vietnamese Bibles... However ... everyone wishes to have a Bible [in our language] for personal use. Additionally, parents could use the Bible to teach their children about their ethnic language." — Katy, 53 mother and wife, Vietnam*

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Prayer Points

- Please pray for the setting up of the translation team for the Old Testament work, and for the project to go smoothly.
- Please pray for successful outcomes in the translation workshops, leading to the adoption of best practices and the enhancement of the team's translation skills.
- Please ask for God's protection and wisdom for the Bible Society Vietnam and the translation team throughout the project.