



Vietnam - 102532

The First Christian Library - *Bible Advocacy in Vietnam*

Overview

This is a brand new project, which Bible Society Australia is thrilled to be supporting.

Bible Society Vietnam (BSV), in partnership with the Christian Business & Marketplace Connection – Vietnam, is establishing The Christian Library in Ho Chi Minh City.

BSV wants the Library to be locally sufficient by 2024 and is seeking project support to pay for two key staff and to grow the Library resources. 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

There is no such library anywhere in Communist Vietnam. Praise God that this inaugural Christian Library, with BSV holding the operating licence, has official governmental approval!

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.

Other potential patrons of the library are preachers and church workers who are desperate to refresh their Bible engagement and theological reflection in order to improve their preaching.

A third group is evangelical lay people keen to gain a greater understanding of the Bible. 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, 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.



Strategic Goal and Impact

The ultimate goal of this project is to initiate Bible engagement activities among the Vietnamese Christians through Bible reading,

learning, and preaching, as well as Biblical and theological studies facilitated and sustained by the Christian Library.

Impact

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. We believe that access to these resources will increase the theological insights of generations of students into the future.

These would include books on the cultures, religions and histories of the people groups in Vietnam; books authored or translated by Vietnamese Catholics and Protestants in the

disciplines of Biblical studies, theology and ministerial studies; and key English resources. For example, major commentary sets; standard references in Biblical studies and theologies; updated academic textbooks.

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.

A greater awareness of BSV as a go to place for Bible engagement and advocacy.

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 resources development program of the library – the Board envisages the Library holding up to 20,000 titles in the next three years.
- Pray that the development of The Christian Library will strengthen church relations, particularly helping to equip ministers and lay people in Bible engagement ministry.