

TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH GOD'S WORD IN ONE'S HEART LANGUAGE

July 2016

Dear Family in Christ,

"I used to doubt what they preached... when I learned to read God's Word in my own language, I was convinced they were teaching the truth."

—Wai (name changed), 65-year-old woman from the Asho Chin minority language group in Myanmar.

When God's Word speaks in one's heart language, lives are changed! Hence, Bible translation is an important part of our work at the Bible Society; and this work is never done until all peoples, languages, and nations have access to God's Word—especially amongst the minority language groups in Asia.

According to figures from the *Global Scripture Access Report 2015*¹, which reports on Bible translation progress, there are currently 6,887 languages in the world, spoken by over 7.3 billion people. Only 281 million people have some portions of the Bible, leaving 497 million people with no Scripture translated in their language at all! Highlighted below are some of the translation projects we are engaging in, and together with you, we are committed to impact and transform their lives through God's Word.

Myanmar has an estimated population of 51.4 million², of which about 6% are Christians. Out of 135 sub-races and language, only 68 ethnic language groups have received either the whole Bible or New Testament or portions of the Bible.

Today, the people groups are requesting for translation in their mother languages. The Bible Society is currently implementing 20 translation projects, involving four translation officers, to support Bible translation work in Myanmar.

"Being able to read in my heart language will make my identity feel real to me."

—Lam, 22, Vietnamese migrant.

Vietnam has more than 50 ethnic groups, each having its own language. In recent years, many have turned to the Lord (about 60%). Most of these believers cannot read Vietnamese. They speak minority, tribal languages—Jarai, Koho, Nung, Muong



Making God's Word available to all through Bible translation.

and Tay. The Bible Society works with local churches across Vietnam to help translate Bible portions into ethnic minority languages.

We also praise God for the Bunong people of Vietnam and Cambodia. They have finally received their very first New Testament in their language 50 years after the first attempt to translate the Scriptures into Bunong was stopped by war! Visit bible.org.sg/bunong to read the full story.

Your contributions will:

- Make Scriptures available in various heart languages for spiritual growth.
- Engage the minority language group with God's Word.
- Equip the minority language group with basic skills through literacy programmes.

Let us make the Word available to all so that more lives can be transformed. (Mk 16:15) Your support today is vital in helping us fulfil these translation projects around the world!

In His grace,

Rev. Ezekiel Tan
General Secretary

¹Global Scripture Access Report 2015 — Language figures compiled by United Bible Societies and Wycliffe Global Alliance.
²The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Myanmar population census 2014.

母语书写上帝话语，深入心灵、转变生命

亲爱的主内家人：

“以前我经常怀疑他们所讲的道……但当我学会用自己的语言阅读上帝的话语后，我确信他们在教导真理。”

—— Wai (化名)，65岁的缅甸少数语言族群阿肖钦族妇女。

上帝的话语是何等重要！（提摩太后书3:16-17）当你用自己最熟悉的母语——也就是直接深入心灵与思想的语言——来阅读圣经的话，生命就此改变！圣经翻译是圣经公会一项重要事工；这项事工是要为人们提供认识上帝最好的资源。因此，直到各国、各语言、各民族的所有人——尤其是在亚洲的少数语言族群——都能够接触到上帝的话语，我们的工作才算完成。

根据2015年全球圣经拓展报告中关于圣经翻译进展的数据显示，目前世界上共有73亿人口和6887种语言。其中只有2.81亿人拥有圣经或其中的某些书卷，而4.97亿人根本找不到用自己的语言所翻译的圣经！以下是我们所参与的一些圣经翻译项目。让我们与您携手，一起致力于用少数语言族群自己的语言所写的上帝的话语来影响和塑造生命！

缅甸约有5.14亿人口，其中6%是基督徒。政府所公布的民族和语言族群超过135个，其中只有68个语言族群已拥有了翻译成自己语言的整本圣经、新约圣经或圣经某些书卷。

今天，各族群都希望将圣经翻译成他们自己的语言。目前，圣经公会正在开展20个翻译项目以支持缅甸的圣经翻译，共有四位翻译同工参与。您慷慨的捐赠将帮助我们吧圣经翻译成少数民族自己的语言，好让他们更深地认识上帝。

“能用我自己的语言来读圣经会让我有身份认同感。”

—— Lam, 22岁的越南移民。

越南有五十多个不同的族群，他们都有各自的语言。近几年，因着很多人归主，一些族群成为越南基督徒比例中的大多数（约60%）。他们中的绝大多数不会越南语，而是说部落语言如嘉莱语、科霍语、依语、芒语、岱依语，并且通常居住在很难与外界接触的偏远落后山区。圣经公会与当地教会合作，将圣经部分书卷翻译成少数民族语言，而您慷慨的捐赠将帮助他们在属灵上成长。

我们也感谢上帝，柬埔寨和越南的布农族在经过50年的漫长等待后，终于第一次拥有了用自己的语言翻译的



通过圣经翻译让上帝的话语传到全地全民。

新约圣经。50年前，因为战争，把圣经翻译成布农语的首次尝试被迫中止！请登录 bible.org.sg/bunong，阅读完整的故事。

您的捐赠将会：

- 使圣经可以被翻译成各种语言，以帮助属灵的成长。
- 让少数语言族群亲密接触上帝的话语。
- 让少数语言族群通过识字班课程掌握一些基本技能。

让我们致力让所有人都能接触到上帝的话语，好让更多的生命被改变。（马可福音16:15）您今天的支持对于帮助我们在世界范围内完成这些翻译项目至关重要！

靠主恩典

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '陈业伟' (Chen Yew Wei).

陈业伟牧师
总干事

¹2015年全球圣经拓展报告——关于语言的数据由联合圣经公会和威克里夫全球联盟汇总。
²联合国人口活动基金会（UNFPA）2014年缅甸人口统计。

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory... full of grace and truth... John 1:14 (ESV)

道成了肉身，住在我们中间，充充满满地有恩典有真理，我们也见过他的荣光……约翰福音1:14（和合本修订版）

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