

TRANSLATION PROJECT - The translation of the Vietnamese New Testament, under the joint sponsorship of the American Bible Society and the Christian and Missionary Alliance, continues at a patient pace to this date. The committee, composed of Vietnamese who are also engaged in virtually full time work in other areas, continues to give serious and joyful effort to this important project. Such a project, it should be pointed out, is tedious and slow under the best of conditions, as anyone who has ever engaged in it would acknowledge, but without a full-time staff it has proven slower than ~~anticipated~~ first anticipated. Yet the committee is in no way discouraged, rather it is encouraged that much progress has actually been made. How easy it would be to turn aside and leave the work to some future full-time group, but this will not be done, for the vital importance of this project is sensed by each of those who have put their hand to the plow. The committee members seek no praise. Their reward will be a Bible that is easy to read and understand in the Vietnamese language.

At the end of 1966 basic drafts have been completed on the following N.T. books:

Mark	I II Timothy	Revelation
Acts	Titus	
Ephesians	Philemon	
Philippians	James	
Colossians	I II Peter	

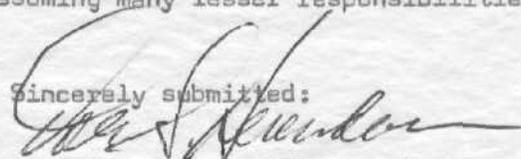
The book of Ephesians is complete and at the printer. We trust it will be distributed shortly. The book of Mark is also well along, as is Acts. Work is also under way on the following books:

Matthew	I II Thessalonians
Luke	
John	

We trust that all basic draft work on the New Testament will be complete by 1967's end. This first and important step is however not the final one, for each draft must be carefully checked by the exegetes, and this is perhaps the slowest part of the translation process, and the most important. We also are in need of stylists, men qualified in the Vietnamese language, who can check each book for style, grammar, flow, and "up-to-dateness."

The personal reward in this task is that the draft writer, and especially the exegete, must master the meaning of the text, and with understanding comes strength, knowledge of the truth, and deeper comprehension of the will of God. The committee would again urge the Church to pray for the project that completion may come early. Pray for Dr. William A. Smalley, translation consultant with the American Bible Society, who though soon leaving for furlough, will continue to have the overall responsibility for this work. Pray for Rev. Ted Cline of the United Bible Societies here in Saigon as he sees to the publication and distribution needs, as well as assuming many lesser responsibilities of the project.

Sincerely submitted:


Dale S. Herendeen (Exegete)