

PHILIP C. STINE
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21 December 2012

Re: New Vietnamese Bible and Vietnamese Bible, Inc.

I am happy to write a reference for the New Vietnamese Bible prepared by Vietnamese Bible, Inc.

For many years I was a translation consultant with the United Bible Societies, working primarily on languages in Africa although my graduate work had been in Thai and Southeast Asian Studies. Subsequently, from 1984 to 1992, I was the global coordinator for translation and research. From 1992 until my retirement in 1998 I was the UBS global program director.

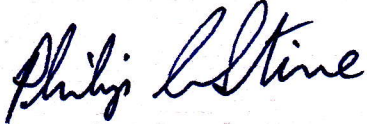
As translation coordinator I was based in New York. I received a request from our Asia office asking if I could help organize a translation project in Vietnamese in North America. They felt there was a significant need for a new translation in contemporary Vietnamese, but work in the country itself would have been difficult. Since I wanted to keep my hand in working with projects, I agreed.

I had early contact with VBI, and realized they had the potential and the resources to carry out a project. Consequently I helped the team with the organization of the work, and met with the translators on a regular basis to give them technical training and assistance. I also carried some of the early materials to Vietnam in 1991 to test the materials there. When my new position required me to move from the U.S., my colleague, Dr. Gerald Kendrick, assumed the consultancy role. Knowing my interest in the project, he kept me apprised of progress and developments.

The translation team produced excellent materials. Their own training helped them resolve theological and exegetical issues, and as they learned more about translation methods and practices, the result was material that would be readily understood by average readers and yet exhibit exegetical fidelity. Not a formal literal translation, it is rather one that followed the principles of dynamic or formal equivalence. That is, the effort is to have a translation that carefully retains the meaning of the original texts, but yet is expressed in clear, natural Vietnamese.

The work was not based on any English or French translation, but on the source language texts. For the New Testament, the *UBS Greek New Testament* was the base, and for the Old Testament, the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. These are the best and standard Greek and Hebrew texts available, and are used by translators universally.

This was not the work of one or two individuals. All drafts were reviewed and discussed by the whole team, and all revised materials were subsequently reviewed by a large number of Vietnamese speaking church leaders before final drafts were prepared. Dr. Kendrick and I approved all the material before it was submitted for publication. Although the UBS was not the publisher, we gave assurance to VBI that the translation met our highest standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Philip C. Stine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip C. Stine, Ph.D.

United Bible Societies Director for Translation, Publishing and Distribution, Retired