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REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP (RTF-USA)



"The Word of God is not bound"



Purpose of RTF-USA

The Reformation Translation Fellowship (RTF-USA) has been translating theological works into the Chinese language since 1949, with several new languages added around 2020. The purpose of RTF-USA is the building up of the church by translating and distributing the best Reformed books into various languages. These works are distributed through physical publications and they are posted on our website for free downloading by all of those in need. We pray that our work would be an encouragement to many underserved language groups around the world, without usurping the role of the church. All of RTF-USA labors are made possible by the generous contributions of our donors.

Our Doctrinal Foundation

The doctrinal foundation of RTF-USA is the Reformed understanding of Christianity as set forth in the Westminster Standards (Confession of Faith, Larger Catechism, and Shorter Catechism), and the Three Forms of Unity (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, and Canons of Dordt). All of our books are doctrinally sound and reflect the beliefs and traditions of our Reformed fathers in the faith.

Our History

In 1948, South China Missionary Rev. Samuel E. Boyle did not realize the strategic importance of his vision for translating Christian literature from English into Chinese. The ministry he started and named the Reformation Translation Fellowship (RTF) has played a major role in the growth of Christianity in China, helping to shape the changes taking place in that great nation.

There is no official date for the start of RTF, but translation work began in December 1948, soon after the Charles H. Chao family joined the Boyle family in Canton (now Guangzhou), South China. The first RTF books were published in 1950. Since then, hundreds of titles have been translated and distributed in mainland China and mailed all around the world. Overall, several million volumes have been distributed as a result of the ministry of RTF.

RTF-USA is now one branch of several different RTF ministries around the world. We are a non-profit ministry based in the US, focusing on the free distribution of Reformed books into various languages. With greater persecution in recent years, RTF-USA has turned its attention primarily to digital books and building the online library at www.rtf-usa.com.

Our Work

Today, RTF-USA continues its work of translating and printing Reformed texts in a variety of languages. The process begins with an assessment of the needs within the church. What groups are in need of translated Reformed literature? What books are currently available in that language? What resources are available to allow RTF-USA to complete a particular translation? Are funds and translators readily available? When the project is approved, the text passes to our translation and review teams, and then it moves forward to receive art and final book formatting. When completed, the translated book is posted online and considered for physical publication and distribution.

Our Goals

RTF-USA seeks to provide Reformed translations for the whole church, from children to pastors. Recent goals include a full Systematic Theology, Church History texts, and a Bible Commentary for every book of the Bible.

Although RTF-USA has traditionally focused its attention upon China since 1949, a partnership was formed in 2021 to help with Urdu translation in Pakistan. As we continue to work with various churches in need, RTF-USA has also expanded to help with Spanish, Hindi, and Japanese efforts. Many of these language groups have few Reformed resources in print.

