



PAYAP MA PROGRAM THAILAND

SPRING 2021 UPDATE



STORIES OF IMPACT

Hope thanks you

"My Payap scholarship has always been a motivation to our people. My community has been badly affected by government conflict and was abandoned. Due to civil unrest at the border, the majority of my community does not have any access to education or jobs to support their children's education. This is also the reason why most of us cannot speak or learn the country's national language.

I was born in a society with no hope, but my parents didn't give up on me in the midst of war and gave me an education.

Now, because of your kindness to sponsor me to study linguistics, my people see that even though we are neglected by our government, God is working to bless us. We are hopeful that in the near future, people from my community will be blessed in their work and goals. So, I am glad that God made this study possible, blessing His people even in the midst of the pandemic. Please continue to pray that God will use me and other scholarship students and that the seeds that you are sowing in His kingdom will not be in vain.

Thank you. I will always remain grateful to the sponsors who are supporting me to have this life opportunity."

Hear from an alumni and former professor at Payap

Dr. Kirk Person is a Senior International Consultant in Literacy and Education with SIL and an alumni of the Payap MA program. Kirk has worked with the United Nations promoting Multilingual education. He says, "When I first attended the Payap MA linguistics program, there were only three students in my class... But seeds grow.

"Research has found that disadvantaged children from linguistic minority groups are much more likely to succeed in school if their language is included in the curriculum. One of the key objectives of my current job is to help connect high-level decision makers to ethnic minority representatives whose on-the-ground experience should inform government policies. In this, the ever-growing network of Payap alumni has been invaluable!

"Through their Payap studies, these alumni have developed technical competencies that are second to none. Nationals who used to be my students are now professional colleagues, speaking at United Nations forums and earning the respect of national politicians!

In doing so, they contribute to SIL's goal to see communities thriving through Bible translation, literacy and other forms of development.

The Kingdom of God is growing throughout Southeast Asia. Over the past 30 years, Payap's MA program has been a unique part of that expansion—the fruit of which becomes clearer with each passing day."



Recent Highlights (In The Past Six Months)

- The seven students admitted to the MA program have started their regular graduate classes and are generally doing very well.
- As many as eight students are on track to graduate in 2021.
- Classes will be online for at least one more semester. All our professors currently teaching are in Thailand except for one. In the next few months, we anticipate the arrival of at least three others for next semester's classes.
- Classes at Payap University have continued online and will be available online next semester also.
- Scholarship students are progressing well:
 - ◆ Hope is on track to complete Payap's program in 2021.
 - ◆ Opel has graduated and together with his wife Nat, is in final discussions with SIL and Wycliffe Thai Foundation leadership about their first field language assignment.
 - ◆ Saro will do her oral exam and Independent Study Project throughout 2021, focusing on a minority group in a neighboring country. She will graduate in 2022.



Upcoming Goals

- Continue honing and developing better systems for holding online courses.
- Ensure that six to eight students graduate in 2021.
- Help overseas students arrive in May 2021, Lord willing.
- Help scholarship students thrive:
 - ◆ Support Opel and Nat as they transition to a field project among the Eastern Lawa people of Thailand for one year where they will join an established team in promoting literacy, Scripture use and Bible Translation.
 - ◆ Support Hope as she works to submit her data paper on Eastern Yakon* and have it accepted by a linguistic journal.
 - ◆ Work with Saro as she pursues her final Independent Study project.



Pray with us

Father God, we bring the Payap MA Program before you. We pray that students who are outside Thailand now will be able to return to continue their studies. We pray also that visas will continue to be renewed.

We pray for the scholarship students. For Hope, we pray for her and her family's health. And we pray for wisdom as she works with her adviser. We pray for wisdom and strength for Saro also. Use her well as she studies and also as she teaches Sunday school. May the students and teachers at Payap know your ongoing strength and peace during the pandemic. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

