



# Payap MA Program

## THAILAND



### Quick facts:

#### Potential population impact:

Millions in at least five nations

#### Number of languages served: 200+

**Geographic area:** Southeast Asia

**Timeline:** Ongoing



### Focus:

Providing training for missionaries and local Christians in:

- Language survey
- Bible translation
- Literacy
- Language development
- Capacity-building
- Research
- Academics



### Goals:

- Equip skilled linguists to work with people groups in Southeast Asia who have no Scripture in their language.

### Snapshot:

Ending Bible poverty in Asia—this is what many of the graduates of Payap University are doing. You can help millions of Bibleless people access God's Word by equipping emerging leaders in Southeast Asia.

Located in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Payap students are being trained in linguistics, Bible translation, literacy teaching, and related ministries. Your partnership equips them to bring hope and literacy to all peoples.

The mission of the Payap University linguistics department is to train skilled linguists and promote the research of languages, focusing on the languages of Southeast Asia. Wycliffe assists in this mission by providing personnel and funding.

### The Challenges:

**Many language groups in this region, and millions of people, do not have the Bible in their mother tongue.**

There are more than 200 minority language groups in Southeast Asia, each comprised of a thousand to several million speakers. And most of these language communities still lack the Bible in their mother tongue!

Linguistically, little or nothing is known about many of these languages. Language surveyors, Bible translators, linguists, literacy teachers and related Scripture engagement ministries are desperately needed. The church is between one and 10 per cent of the population in the region. It is difficult for these minority churches to grow without their own Scriptures.

## The Plan

Wycliffe Canada actively supports the linguistics program at Payap University by:

- Providing paid personnel (Wycliffe members)
- Supplying funding
- Awarding financial scholarships for Southeast Asian students

Over the past 10 years, **most graduates have gone on to work in Bible translation or language development** in and around Thailand.

Many of these graduates are Southeast Asian themselves and are therefore ideally suited to help reach their home region.

## The Impact:

### **Payap University graduates are making a difference.**

Graduates have gone on to work in Bible translation ministries and have brought the Scriptures to thousands of unreached people in closed countries. For example, recently a Thai-born graduate of Payap University named Kanya\* completed a translation for the Tang\* language in a closed country next door. Hundreds of copies have already been smuggled across the border into this sensitive country.

Kanya used the skills she acquired in her studies at Payap University and, as a result, 120,000 people in a restricted-access country are beginning to receive the Word of God in their mother tongue.

Unfortunately, for the majority of prospective national Bible translators, obtaining a master's degree is financially impossible.

Because we are serious about ending Bible poverty among all people groups, investment in the Payap University linguistics program and Southeast Asia is essential.



**Your prayer and financial support will help bring the Word of God to those who have never heard.**



**...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**

Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

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