



Wycliffe Thai Foundation

THAILAND & BEYOND



Quick Facts:

Potential population impacted: 66,175,000. Millions in neighbouring nations may be impacted as well.

Number of languages: 200+ language communities

Geographic area: Thailand and three difficult-to-access neighbouring nations

Timeline: Ongoing



Focus:

■ Encourage and equip Christians in Thailand to reach Southeast Asian language communities



Goals:

- Recruit and equip missionaries and Bible translators
- Provide missions education for church congregations
- Enable practical mission exposure
- Organize visits for local Thai pastors to restricted nations
- Provide scholarships for students related to Bible translation ministries
- Facilitate mission conferences and other educational opportunities for those interested in missions

Snapshot:

Wycliffe Thai Foundation sees Thailand as a natural hub to reach upwards of 200 language communities in restricted neighbouring Southeast Asian nations. Most of these languages still lack even a word of Scripture in their mother tongue.

Buddhism and animism are the dominant religions in Thailand. About 0.5 percent of the population is Christian.

"We are Thai. We can easily learn neighbouring languages and adjust to their cultures....The Thai church is key to seeing missions, including language work, advance in the region," says Tharawat Suebthayat, director of Wycliffe Thai Foundation.

The Challenge:

In Thailand, the Christian population is tiny and often persecuted. But Christians, including Bible translators and literacy workers, face more oppression in neighbouring countries. "They [neighbours] destroyed our properties and belongings, and reported to the government officer about us," says Pong, a national Bible translator. Despite being attacked, Pong hasn't lost heart. He says he can't turn back because his people need the Word of God. "Only God's Word can penetrate their hearts," he says.

The Plan:

Recruit, train and send missionaries: Temporary, short-term and long-term work opportunities are offered. These include training in oral Bible storytelling and teaching mother-tongue literacy.

Engage churches and Christians: Congregations are offered training in missions, and encouraged to send workers and support Bible translation ministries.

Support and encourage missionaries and believers in neighbouring countries: Pastors visit neighbouring restricted-access countries, and Christians are invited to Thailand for events and training. "I now truly know that Bisu* people are not walking alone in our faith in God, but we have brothers and sisters who care and pray for us," expresses a Bisu sister, one of only 13 believers in her entire people group, after attending a Café Wycliffe event.

*pseudonym

The Impact:

Young people in Thailand are joining the mission of Bible translation in Southeast Asia. "I want the people groups that I teach to be a good example for my people—to encourage them to love their language and their culture," explains Por, a former participant.

People are learning to read the Bible in their language.

"I can say now that at least 100 people in the tribe that I work with can read the Bible in their language, where before no one could!" Kanya says. She is a Wycliffe Thai Foundation member working with the Tang* people in a restricted access nation.

The Word of God is reaching those who are still Bibleless and illiterate. For example, there are more than 1,500 new believers among the Tang* over five or six years. Those trained to read have been returning home and teaching their fellow villagers.

During one workshop, Lily* said, "I am just from a small village, and I have never known other languages. A teacher came to my village with books in my language. I learned to read in my own language and began reading a Bible book. I read about Jesus. I read that He died and rose again and I read about how God loves me. **He approached me in my own language, so I wanted to trust in Jesus.**"

*pseudonym



Your financial gifts and prayer can help bring the Bible to thousands of people in Southeast Asia who have never heard the Good News.



...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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