



PAYAP MA PROGRAM THAILAND

FALL 2021 UPDATE

(Left) Hope takes a break from her studies to enjoy a kayaking trip with friends on a lake near Payap University. (Right) Payap University Wycliffe Scholarship students with peers.



STORIES OF IMPACT

Payap graduate and his translation team complete half of the New Testament amid persecution

A Payap MA Linguistics graduate from a neighbouring country works in a country that has experienced recurrent instability for a number of years. On top of instability, local believers face persecution from their own community. The mother-tongue speakers on the translation team have persevered in their work, despite attempts to run them out of their villages. Even when a local translator's son was kidnapped, they did not give up.

This amazing team has now translated half of the New Testament, and has begun to share their work with others. They have heard that in previously hostile villages, people are now willing to listen to the Good News because it's coming to them in their own language!

A message from Hope, a scholarship recipient

"I am so grateful for the progress I have been able to make in my studies during the last three months. I was able to finish my thesis draft and defend my linguistics paper in early May despite all the distractions from my home country.

My country is in conflict right now. When this news hit, every citizen was shocked and we still are in a state of denial. I was almost at the edge of breaking away from hope. 'God, it's not

fair. Why do we have to suffer again under the hands of cruel leaders?' These were the thoughts ringing in my head over and over again. I couldn't focus or do my work well. I was sinking down, but then Holy Spirit convicted me through Scriptures from Romans 8:35-39 (NLT):

'And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.'

I had read these very passages in a trauma healing workshop I took exactly one year ago. I never thought these verses would come back and speak to me now at just the right time. I am overwhelmed by how God works in each of our lives, preparing us without our own knowledge.

These verses reminded me that nothing will separate me from God and through Christ I will have victory.

I am thankful for all those who have shown their deepest concern and love, and I'm thankful that I am surrounded by godly people in times of worry and conflict. Your kindness and prayer support have always been one of the greatest blessings from the Lord.

Please don't worry, now I am doing well and praying strongly."

- Hope



Recent Highlights (In The Past Six Months)

- A literacy/language development track is being developed as part of the linguistics program.
- Hope, a Wycliffe scholarship student, successfully defended her thesis early in May.
- Saro, a Wycliffe scholarship student, maintained a perfect GPA of 4.0 in her classes, and has completed all courses needed for graduation. She is currently in her final independent study phase of her studies.
- The Payap scholarship coordinator has been amazed to see the Lord making seemingly impossible scholarship situations work out in favour of the students. The whole Payap team expresses great thankfulness to you as donors for helping make this happen!



Upcoming Goals

- Continue to develop a degree which includes linguistics, exegesis, and biblical languages with Asia Biblical Theological Seminary in Chiang Mai.
- Host three certificate courses, in the classroom, if restrictions are lifted.
- Enable Royson, a student from India, to begin his Payap MA linguistics studies with a partial scholarship from Wycliffe Canada.



(Left) Hope enjoys time with her friends during a break from her studies at Payap University. (Right) Saro, a scholarship student, practicing a praise song with a small Bible study group.