



NORTHERN THAI-LANNA LITERACY & SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

Students at a local school gathered for the weekly Lanna Literacy Club program! (L)
Interns Beam (left) and TungPang (right) with a display of Lanna literacy materials at Wycliffe Thai's Foundation 25th anniversary celebration. It is wonderful to see these interns discover and use their gifts through this internship program. (R)



STORIES OF IMPACT

God's provision in light of changes

The Northern Thai (Lanna) initiative has undergone significant changes in the past six months. Usana (also known as "Na"), the project coordinator, resigned from her position last quarter. We are so grateful for the groundwork Usana laid for the start of the Lanna Literacy Internship program.

In this period of transition, the team turned to God for His guidance and provision. By His grace, Oi, a former member of the Foundation for Applied Linguistics (FAL) was identified as a promising new leader. Oi brings a wealth of mother-tongue literacy experience, as well as a passion for mentoring and discipling young people.

The project consultant shares: *"We are so thankful for Oi to be joining the team. She is very experienced and very connected to the Northern Thai community and culture. . . I think she will be a great mentor for the interns. Please pray for their adjustment to each other."*

During the past quarter, Oi spent much time in training and orientation and is now coordinating the projects with great success.

Interns are growing and learning

Last update, we introduced TungPang and Beam, the two Lanna interns. Since then, Tungpang has completed her internship. Praise God, her place was quickly filled with Jaja, another motivated

young woman eager to learn about Northern Thai literacy and Scripture engagement. These interns continue to amaze us! The last two quarters were mostly dedicated to their training. The hope is that this internship program will build local capacity for literacy initiatives as well as meaningful engagement with the recently published Northern Thai Bible.

It is very exciting to see these interns learn so much about themselves. During her internship, TungPang discovered she is a great teacher. Last quarter, she was even asked to teach her Southern Thai language at the Wycliffe Thailand prayer meeting! She had never done anything like this before, but prepared a great presentation. The whole group was engaged and eager to learn from her. TungPang also discovered through one of the specialized training sessions that she loves analyzing languages. She has since felt a strong call of God to transition to the newly formed Wycliffe Thai Foundation language survey team in northeastern Thailand."

Beam discovered that he loves learning to read and write the ancient and beautiful traditional script of his own Lanna language, and that he can also pass on to others what he has learned. Beam is now teaching the Lanna script (writing system) to the newest intern, Jaja, as well as to kids and adults in the new "Lanna Love" literacy clubs in schools. We praise God for these recruits and the good work they are doing so far!



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Welcomed new project coordinator, Oi.** We thank God for sustaining this initiative during this important leadership change. Oi's orientation went well and she is now serving as coordinator!
- **Drafted Lanna reading materials.** Intern Beam has been writing Bible-based stories using the Lanna script. These materials are being used to boost literacy rates and help create a Lanna language library.
- **Provided training opportunities for Northern Thai interns.** The project interns were able to participate in an "Arts in Literacy" course at Payap University, gaining basic foundations for creating a literacy primer. They are now better equipped to use computer software for literacy work.
- **Discipled interns.** Prayer meetings and office devotions have been formative for the team.
- **Hosted weekly Lanna Love Literacy Club meetings for children.** Young people in the community are keen to learn to read in their language through these clubs. They are being exposed to God's Word in the process, as Scripture is used for teaching!
- **Built awareness about the Northern Thai-Lanna Internship program.** The team was able to introduce the program at a "Café Wycliffe" outreach event at a local church in Chiang Mai. This was a great opportunity to share the value of mother-tongue literacy work through sessions for youth and adults.
- **Held three successful Lanna Christmas events.** These community initiatives were wonderful ways to share the meaning of Christmas and celebrate the Lanna language!



UPCOMING GOALS

- Continue equipping the interns and new project coordinator to learn the Lanna script. This is a very complex, traditional writing system. As they achieve a certain proficiency level, they are then able to teach it to Northern Thai students.
- Continue resourcing the team as they advocate for the preservation of the Lanna language and culture, and carry out literacy programs for children and adults.
- Collaborate with Payap University student Ingraw's "Northern Thai Materials Development Team." The vision is to produce a set of literacy materials for Northern Thai people. Ingraw will equip the team, and the interns can then teach others through workshops.
- Provide training for interns on using Bloom books, a software program used to create and publish literacy materials.



PRAY WITH US

- Thank the Lord for new team member Oi! Please pray for Oi as she moves forward in her new role as Lanna Literacy Coordinator. She has had to learn and adjust quickly.
- Thank God for Jaja, who is replacing TungPang as an intern. Please pray for her as she begins to learn the complex Lanna script so that she, in turn, can teach others.
- For Oi's connections with the Northern Thai community in Chiang Mai to benefit this initiative and open doors for effective community and Scripture engagement.
- For literacy efforts to bear fruit in Northern Thailand, and lead many hearts to God.
- That the Lord would provide another two new Lanna interns for next year.