



# WYCLIFFE THAI FOUNDATION | Thailand

## SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

Wycliffe Thai Foundation interns TungPang and Beam interview youth during the first language survey done among the Lua and Pai people. The goal was to determine the feasibility of a new Oral Bible translation initiative in Northeastern Thailand. (L) About 350 people gathered to celebrate the Wycliffe Thai Foundation's 25th anniversary and dedicate the newly constructed office building. All glory to God! (R)



## STORIES OF IMPACT

### A 25th anniversary celebration and brand new building

Thanks to your partnership, the Wycliffe Thai Foundation continues to expand and transform lives. One of our most exciting progress points from the past six months was the celebration of the Foundation's 25th anniversary and the dedication of the new office building in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

To mark these exciting milestones, the Wycliffe Thai Foundation gathered with about 350 community members, dignitaries and church leaders from Thailand, as well as representatives from Wycliffe Singapore, Wycliffe Canada and the Wycliffe Global Alliance. The event's theme, "In His Hands," was an invitation to worship, rejoice and thank God for His faithfulness over these past 25 years. At the same occasion, the Foundation cut the ribbon and dedicated their new multi-purpose office space and ministry centre. What a blessing to celebrate the completion of this construction project. The new space is now complete and fully occupied! Thank you for making this possible with your support.

### Language, identity and calling

The Foundation is dedicated to equipping workers for the Bible translation movement across Southeast Asia. You may remember IngRaw, whom we introduced in past updates. IngRaw became a Wycliffe Thai member in 2019. With the support of the Foundation, and thanks to a scholarship from Wycliffe Canada, she was able to pursue graduate studies at Payap University over the past two years.

For many Wycliffe Thai members, Payap University linguistics programs have offered crucial training for Bible translation and literacy work. Courses also offer a space for students to discern God's calling for their lives. IngRaw shares:

*"I have learned that language development is a bridge to proclaiming the gospel to local people, which is effective and gentle.*

*"When I studied for my Master's degree at Payap, I started to appreciate the beauty of language groups. I also have learned [that] language development will help minority language groups recognize God's love and care for them. The mission I intend to do after I graduate is to help these people recognize their identity, and see their true worth [in] Jesus Christ."*

What a gift to witness IngRaw discover the eternal impact of language development, and her growing desire to serve God through language work.

### An intern steps out in faith

TungPang is an intern that joined the Northern Thai 'Lanna' Literacy and Scripture Engagement project this past year. She pursued this internship after attending Camp Wycliffe mobilization event, explaining:

*"At the end of the camp, I decided to volunteer with Wycliffe for two years. I faced opposition from my family who disagreed and did not support me. But I am sure that when we live by faith, God will go with us. This thought gave me the courage to step out and intern under Wycliffe."*

Since beginning the internship, she discovered a passion for doing language survey work among unreached languages and has now joined a new Wycliffe Thai survey team preparing for an Oral Bible Translation among two large groups in Northeastern Thailand. TungPang's story is but one of many testimonies of Thai Christians mobilized for missions in this part of the world.



## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Finished the construction of the new office building. By God's grace, and with your support, this project was completed in just seven months, without causing any debt. Wycliffe Thai staff have moved in, and are using every square foot!
- Engaged local churches. Team members regularly met with pastors in Chiang Mai and other provinces to talk about missions and mobilization.
- Held missions prayer meetings. About 50 participants gather each month to pray about Wycliffe Thai Foundation's outreaches throughout Southeast Asia.
- Worked with other mission organizations in the region through conferences. The Foundation hosted a booth at the Arise Asia conference in Bangkok and also sent delegates to the "Missions in Action PLUS" missions mobilization event.
- Onboarded Oi, the new project coordinator for the Northern Thai Literacy and Scripture Engagement initiative. We thank God for sustaining this initiative in this transition.
- Continued to support new leaders and Wycliffe Thai Foundation members:
  - Saro, a Payap graduate, was commissioned by her church and sent to serve in a neighbouring restricted-access country. She is focusing on language learning before Bible translation.
  - IngRaw is progressing well in her MA Linguistics studies at Payap University. Khun Tara will begin his MA program in August.
  - Beam is thriving in his Northern Thai 'Lanna' literacy internship. He is training the newest intern, Jaja, to read the Lanna script. Together, they will plan events, teach literacy, and translate reading materials.
  - Tik is preparing to serve in Kinsha, a highly sensitive neighbouring region.
  - Boonlawee was welcomed as the newest Wycliffe Thai member!



## UPCOMING GOALS

- Produce new courses to train Wycliffe Thai members before their assignments. These will include skill sets like cross-cultural engagement, discipleship, teamwork, money management, etc.
- Continue to build partnerships with other missions organizations in Southeast Asia.
- Support new Wycliffe Thai members as they pursue their work in literacy, Bible translation and Scripture engagement in various regions.
- Walk alongside Wycliffe Thai members currently focused on their training and studies.
- Continue facilitating church engagement and missions mobilization events. These include Camp Wycliffe, Cafe Wycliffe, the Journey and Kairos courses.
- Actively participate in more Wycliffe Asia/Pacific region missions awareness and fundraising events.



## PRAY WITH US

- For emerging leaders in Southeast Asia. May God grant them strength, courage and clarity as they follow His leading.
- For perseverance for Wycliffe Thai Foundation members serving in new assignments. May the Lord provide for them in their work and partnership development.
- For deepened partnerships and mobilization with Thai churches.
- Praise God for the beautiful and inspiring new office dedication. Pray that the use of this new space would bring glory to Him!
- For the Lord's grace and direction for Wycliffe Thai Foundation members pursuing studies.
- That the love of Jesus would be shared in many minority language communities in Thailand, and beyond.