THE SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. — Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

Unlike most Deaf people in Thailand, Pastor Montri has an exceptional gift for reading English and Thai, which enables him to access the Scriptures. But growing up Buddhist, there was a time when he didn’t know anything about the Bible.

When he first attended a Deaf church, the Deaf members struggled to understand the Scriptures. False teaching took root.

Pastor Montri attended another Deaf church and received sound theological teaching. He learned more about the Bible. He recognized his sin, his need for a savior and he accepted Christ. “If there was no Jesus when we died, who would help us?” asked Pastor Montri.

SEEING LEADS TO BELIEVING

For Pastor Montri, like approximately 70 million other Deaf people around the world, “hearing” happens with the eyes. Thai Sign Language is nothing like spoken Thai. They are as different as English and Japanese. This creates a challenge in clearly communicating deep spiritual concepts. You can’t simply sign word for word — you have to use the unique and complex grammar of Thai Sign Language.

Continued on next page
Participants at a training session demonstrate Thai Sign Language.

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Pastor Montri’s early experience showed him how desperately the Thai Deaf need the Scriptures in their own language. He attended Bible college, becoming the first and only ordained Deaf pastor in Thailand.

“There were concepts in the Bible that I used to just sign according to the Thai grammar,” said Pastor Montri. “But as time went on, I realized that the Deaf weren’t understanding.”

A VISUAL SOLUTION

Eight years ago, Pastor Montri learned about a project to translate the Scriptures into Thai Sign Language. This was the solution he’d been looking for. Please pray for the Thai Deaf who will be receiving God’s Word for the first time in their heart language.

GIVING THAT DOESN’T COST A PENNY

You can fund the work of Bible translation by simply doing things you are already doing!

• Shop on AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com
• Use goodsearch.com as your internet search engine
• Find online coupons using goodshop.com
• See if your employer will match your donations to Wycliffe at wycliffe.org/corporatematching

YOUR GIFTS ARE CHANGING LIVES!

FROM FIRST WORDS TO CHANGED LIVES

This past summer, Wycliffe partners like you helped ensure that Bible translation moved forward in 20 language projects in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Papua New Guinea. With your help, one of the African teams has now completed the entire New Testament for distribution in 2017.

GOD’S WORD CHANGES LIVES IN DIFFICULT PLACES

Your generous giving has empowered translators working in highly sensitive regions around the world. In one country, Wycliffe partners funded the training so translators can start work in the Gospel of Luke. Soon key Bible stories and Scripture for the “JESUS” film will be translated to introduce more people to Christ.

AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR BELIEVERS IN SUDAN

In 2016, Lumun believers gathered for a Christmas service, where the gospel is still read in Arabic. Father Butrus Trelle asked the translation team to “prepare the words … in the Lumun language for the next celebration.” Thanks to your gift at Christmas, the Lumun believers will soon have the story of Jesus in their own language.

Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. — 1 Timothy 6:12 (NLT)

In November, you told us how God’s Word has transformed your life! Thank you for your testimony of God’s faithfulness.
A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART

First Baptist Church of Wycombe, Pennsylvania, has a heart for giving. For the past 13 years, the congregation has celebrated Christmas with a Christmas card tree. Members of the church family share Christmas greetings with each other by hanging their cards on the tree. In turn, the money saved on mailing the card is put into a gift box under the tree. This year the church chose to donate the money collected to Wycliffe.

“There was so much excitement and interest this year that we far exceeded our goal from our small church family,” says Dolores Fink. Dolores and her husband have coordinated the Christmas card tree since its beginning. This year, with the approval of the church elders, they selected two projects from Wycliffe’s Gift Catalog—Bikes for Sudan and the “JESUS” film for Ethiopia.

Children in junior church cut out bicycles and decorated the wheels and handle bars with glitter to accompany cards on the tree. Dolores says, “Everyone wanted to be part of changing lives and showing God’s love to those who have never heard the Word of God in their own languages and the message of hope that it brings.”

First Baptist Church of Wycombe may be a small country church, but their heart for giving is big!

If you have a story to share about how your church or family connected with Wycliffe’s Gift Catalog, please let us know at frontlines@wycliffe.org.

YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES

We are grateful for your partnership in Bible translation. Your gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund have helped provide the life-transforming Word of God to people in the language they understand best. Thank you!

# of Projects Supported this Quarter 400+
Total Funds Distributed $1,428,429

You are helping to change lives. Give today with the enclosed form, visit Wycliffe.org or call 1-800-WYCLIFFE.
Dorothy, a long-time supporter of Wycliffe, wanted to make a significant gift to support Bible translation, so she met with her attorney. Originally, she thought about leaving her Investment Retirement Account (IRA) to her adult children, and her other assets to support the ministries she was most involved in.

But Dorothy’s attorney explained that if her son and daughter inherited the IRA, both the children and the estate would have to pay taxes on the asset. By donating the Investment Retirement Account to ministry and giving her children other assets, the children would still receive a nice inheritance while avoiding taxes and the probate process on the IRA.

Dorothy contacted her IRA custodian who sent her an IRA beneficiary designation form. She completed the form, naming Wycliffe Bible Translators as the primary beneficiary of her IRA, and mailed it back. Dorothy was thrilled with this simple plan. She said, “I can continue to use my IRA to provide for my needs, as long as I live. Then when I pass away, my IRA will go to Wycliffe Bible Translators to support its work.”

Naming Wycliffe Bible Translators as the beneficiary of an asset is a simple, tax-wise way to make a significant legacy gift. A variety of assets can be used to make the gift — retirement plans, such as an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) plans, life insurance policies, commercial annuities, and investment, checking or savings accounts.

If you would like to learn more about making a gift to Wycliffe through a beneficiary designation, please contact the Wycliffe Foundation at 877-493-3600, or by emailing info@wycliffefoundation.org.

“Translator’s Notes”* say about the manger?” an SIL consultant asked the team.

As the team read the notes, they realized that a manger was an animal feeding trough not a nice “ókpáng,” which every Mbe mother wants for her newborn. God chose the lowliest way possible to come live among us.

One translator said, “We feed our animals out of an old worn-out basket that is not usable anymore except to feed the animals. We call it ‘ɛ́dzábrí.’”

The team tested it, reading the story of Jesus’ birth to church groups and individuals in Mbe villages. As the Mbe listened, they were visibly moved. Picturing the newborn baby lying in the animals’ feeding basket, they understood that Jesus was willing to do whatever it took to reach them.

* “Translator’s Notes” are commentaries used by Bible translators for whom English is a second language.