

A decorative border of globes in various colors (blue, green, yellow, cyan) surrounds the text. In the bottom left corner, there is a larger globe with several black silhouettes of people running around it.

Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose

WORLD MISSION MONTH, January, 2022

The words of Peter to Jesus (John 6:59) NRSV:

"Lord to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

How do those words get shared around the world?

Each week in January, 2022, a different organization and person or persons serving with that organization will be featured.

Here is the focus for the second week:

The Ministry
In Scripture Translation
of
Lisa Koester Xayavong and her family
in Asia

If you are inclined to support through prayer the person or organization which is featured, of course, that would be great.

Money is also always needed for personnel and organizational support.

World Mission Month is organized by the World Mission Group which reports to the Witnessing Committee.

The World Mission Group acknowledges with appreciation the full support of Pastor Bev Swanson, Music Ministry Coordinator Tova Olson, the Messiah Office Staff, and the Technical Broadcast personnel.

Questions or Comments may be directed to Ray Blacklock, Chairperson, World Mission Group, or its members: Nora Gilbertson, Vincent and Mary Ellen Eriksson, Connie Landstrom, Erhard Pinno, Cece Watts, Advisor Pastor Bev Swanson

To God be the Glory!

January, 2022



Achiuq, Aria, Anna and Lisa Xayavong

Lisa and Achiuq Xayavong – Wycliffe Bible Translators (Anna 10, Aria 7)**

Mission: Ending Bible poverty by facilitating the translation of God's Word among minority language communities worldwide.

Website: wycliffe.ca

Wycliffe Bible Translators is probably among the most known mission organizations in North America. The heart of what we do is right in our name: Bible translation. Our reason for engaging Bible translation is given in the mission statement of Wycliffe Bible Translators Canada, "A world where translated Scriptures lead to transformed

lives among people of all languages." The reason we see the need for Bible translation in minority languages is that we, like you, want to see the Word of God transforming the lives of people of every language group.

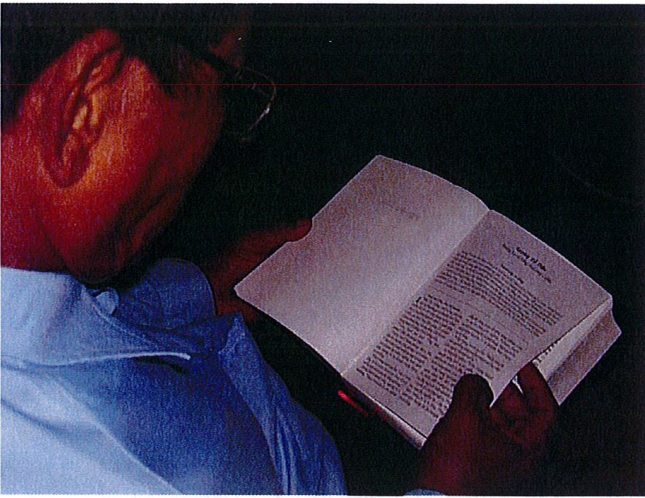
Today 1 in 5 people do not have access to a full Bible in the language that they best understand. Bible translation is the way to bridge that gap. A good translation involves a careful study of both the language and culture of the target group. Often the process involves developing a writing system for the language and literacy programs to enable a community of readers. Once the translation has been completed, many communities need someone to walk alongside of them to help them learn to engage with the Scriptures and apply them to everyday life.

You may be wondering if a translation is ever done exclusively in an oral format. The answer is yes. Most of the minority groups that we work with, however, are living in countries where the national language is written and so they prefer to have a written version of their language and Bible. In addition, children who are able to learn to read and write in their own language have an easier time learning to read and write in the national language.

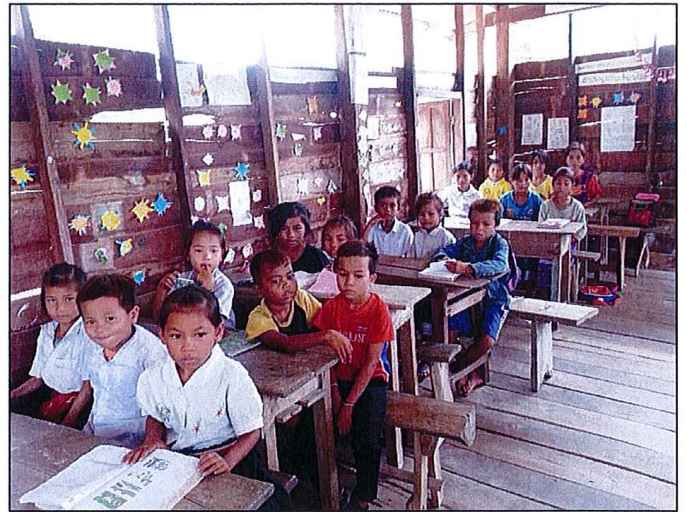
Let me tell you a bit about my journey. In 2003, I (Lisa) left Canada for a country in Mainland South East Asia. After learning the national language, I moved out to a village and worked with a national team on translation for the So people. In September of 2010, I married Achiuq Xayavong, a member of the B.T. people group. The B.T. already had a New Testament at that time and were in the process of translating the Old Testament. Both of us have worked with a number of translation projects in the years following. The complete B.T. Bible was dedicated in 2014.

In 2018 our family moved to Achiuq's home country to be closer to some of the people that we are serving. Since that time, Achiuq and I have been involved with three different people groups and I have had the role of language learning coach for some of our members. Please pray for our work and for our homeschooling efforts.

****Pronunciation note: Achiuq Xayavong pronounced Achiw Sigh-awoang**



Man reading his own Bible at the dedication



School children in a local village



Our house



Eating together during a workshop



BT village