

Hughes News

hughesministry.com

Bill and Julie Hughes

online giving: <http://globeintl.org/members/hughes-bill-julie>

At this writing, Bill and I are about halfway through our furlough travels. We have had many opportunities to visit supporters and speak of the work in Thailand. We always love to talk about our wonderful people there who are full of faith and taking the message of Jesus to the unreached of Northeast Thailand.

Today, my aunt brought me some of our old newsletters she had kept safe from years back and I spent the afternoon reading some of them. God has been so faithful! Our hearts are still longing for a great harvest in Thailand and especially in the Northeast where we have spent most of our years. Thank you for believing in us and sending us out.

The northeast region of Thailand where we live and work, is called Isaan. Historically its people were part of Laotian heritage, but since Thailand was unified as one nation, central Thai was declared to be the national language. Today **18 million** people speak Lao-Isaan in the home, but are educated in schools where they must speak, read and write central Thai. As reading and writing the Isaan script was officially banned in the early part of the 20th century, even the script has been largely lost.

Bill and I began to see how important it was to honor the Isaan people and their language and bring the gospel to them in a communication that would truly touch their hearts. We began acquiring audio stories and songs in Isaan and then finally found a retired missionary who had been working on an Isaan translation of the New Testament. We began printing portions of the New Testament, in order to see if our members could read it and understand it. Seeing the joyful response of the people gave us the clue we were on the right track. Last year we were able to obtain printed copies of the entire New Testament and are convinced that it has been an important component of the growth we are seeing.

Now, our services are mostly in the Isaan language Everyone can now listen to the stories and repeat to others. Even the children are telling the Bible stories and are praying for people to be healed! We are encouraged that using their language empowers them to be a witness and use the Word of God in their daily life. **We believe having the scriptures in their heart language will be a key in seeing the Gospel be passed on to future generations.**

Before coming to the States, some of our ministers brought us to a village to pray for this man who was lame. The team sent us an update with a photo. He is now practicing walking through the village and rejoicing in what God has done for him. Praise God!



Thank you for being a partner of this Gospel ministry! We love you! Bill and Julie Hughes 