



September 2013

MISSION GRANT STORY

LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA -- \$72,000

The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to preach the Gospel in the languages of the people at Pentecost. Today He uses the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) to translate books that explain Scripture for people around the world.

In many of the Buddhist nations of Southeast Asia, Lutheranism did not even exist a generation ago. With the growth of Lutheran churches and missions throughout Southeast Asia, China, and Japan, requests have increased for Lutheran materials in their own languages.

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation has translated and published books like *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, along with Luther's *Small Catechism*, into the languages of Southeast Asia. Since 2005, LHF has published the catechism in more than a dozen Southeast Asian languages. Since 2008, LHF has translated *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* into nine Southeast Asian languages.

Due to an overwhelming response, requests for more books far outpace LHF's ability to provide them. In Thailand and Cambodia, the supply of books that was supposed to last for several years was eagerly claimed by Christian families in less than twelve months!

A Child's Garden of Bible Stories is used by parents, missionaries, and church leaders in

Southeast Asia. For most of these children, this is the only book they own, and they eagerly share it with friends. Adults use it because it is easier to understand than the Bible.

In the United States, with 4.4 million immigrants from China, Japan, and Southeast Asia, the gift of a book to a family for their children in a language they can read and understand opens doors to talking about the Christian faith and introduces them to their Lord and Savior. After reading their children's Bibles, parents often ask questions. Since many American pastors cannot speak the language, a copy of Luther's *Small Catechism*, written in their language, can be provided to guide the new Christians and answer their questions.

With the \$72,000 grant adopted at the Pittsburgh LWML Convention, 9,000 copies of Luther's *Small Catechism* and 6,000 copies of *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* will be printed for distribution so that Southeast Asians may come to know and love their Savior, Jesus Christ.