

DR. STEVE AND MARGIE DOTY

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS THAILAND

Margie and Steve Doty are missionaries who have touched thousands of lives for Christ in their work as Wycliffe Bible translators.

Our church began partnering with them in 1997, while they were in Kenya. In 2001 they moved to Thailand, where they remained until just before the recent COVID-19 pandemic in 2019.



Steve and Margie met in the Philippines, where Steve worked for Wycliffe. Margie went on to Houghton College in New York, and then joined Wycliffe. They then married and were sent to their first assignment in the Solomon Islands. There they helped translate the Bible into the Pijin and Lau languages. Over the years since then, they have raised three children, have been involved in translation activities and translator recruitment in the United States and accepted assignments in Kenya and Thailand.

In Thailand, as Wycliffe translators, Steve and Margie were both associated with Payap University, the first Christian university in Thailand. Steve traveled throughout the region teaching people how to translate the Bible and would return to encourage the translators and check their work. He was supervisor of the coordinators of six departments: Linguistics, Literacy, Translation, Language Learning, Language Survey and Computing. Margie taught linguistics and Bible translations.

In 2012, Margie became the Linguistics Institute Director of Payap. In 2015, she was named Wycliffe's Regional Associate Director for Thailand. Margie continued to teach Phonetics for new missionaries and local people.

Translators in the area face many challenges, because the teams are working in multiple countries and many languages. Each language has its own pattern of sounds, pattern of written symbols, and pattern of word order. The overall goal is to create as accurate and true a translation as possible. Further compounding their task is that it is so dangerous that neither Steve nor Margie may work any longer in many of the countries to gather the linguistic information. They train the local language specialists to go to the regions being studied.

Their return to the US after 18 years abroad happened just before the pandemic hit. They have been headquartered at Houghton College during the Covid restrictions, where they have taught classes. Steve has additionally had to deal with managing translation teams across many countries, and time zones in the process of checking their work.

Two of their children are married and living in the US. Their youngest, Leah, also a Wycliffe missionary, became an HPC-supported missionary beginning in January, 2022 (see page 10).

The Dotys' most recent visit to HPC was over the Fourth of July weekend in 2021.

Birthdays: Steve, Feb. 9; Margie, May 24

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