

Srilaksana Suntarahut

1924-2013

“Making this translation brought such spiritual strength to me. I love my Heavenly Father so much for pouring upon me this gift of tongues and language.”

Srilaksana grew up as the daughter of Thailand’s royal physician. She was eventually taken in by the queen and lived in the royal palace. There, she received a good education in both English and Thai. Though she didn’t know it at the time, her education would one day lead to incredible service opportunities.

In 1968, Latter-day Saint missionaries arrived in Thailand. Srilaksana was one of the first people to accept their message. At first she was reluctant to read the Book of Mormon. Then she decided to pray. She asked God to show her if there was anything good and true in the book. She opened it, and after reading just a few verses, her heart was touched. She believed in the restored gospel and chose to be baptized. At the time, the Book of Mormon had not yet been translated into Thai. Making the translation was especially difficult due to the language and cultural differences between English and Thai. Srilaksana was the perfect woman for the job. For the next six years, Srilaksana pushed through challenges to complete the Thai translation of the Book of Mormon. She then went on to translate the Doctrine & Covenants and Pearl of Great Price. During this time, she was also working, so she often translated late into the night.

Along with her efforts to translate scripture, Srilaksana also helped support new Church members in Thailand. She often bore her testimony of the gospel and welcomed new Church members into her home every Sunday afternoon. To this day, she is honored as the mother of the Church in Thailand.

Sources to Explore:

“Raised by a Queen.” <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/1999/06/raised-by-a-queen?lang=eng>

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“The Gospel Dawning in Thailand.”

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“Translating Scripture.” <http://htown-publishing.com/Translating%20Scripture/index.shtml>