

**Lisu Bible Proposal (summary)---(from the Canadian Bible League to ARK AID)  
December 2018**

- Lisu believers in Myanmar and China number approx. 800,000 and between them, up to a couple of years ago, they only had a few Bibles printed in 1968
  - o “I had heard of a story of one old, falling apart Bible that was used by five pastors. And these pastors each took care of multiple churches. The Bible was usually left in one place, and the Pastors would go there to prepare their sermons, then they would travel and preach that message to all of their churches.”
  - o Mark’s team was able to provide this group with ~18,000 Bibles just before shifts in China that would likely have made it impossible to get the Bibles to them; now each leader has their own Bible
    - There is some possibility that more Bibles can still reach China
  - o The 18,000 Bibles printed and distributed more recently only helped one denomination of believers and there weren’t enough for one for each family within that denomination (short about 10,000)
  
- Currently, Mark is working with the other 3 denominations who, together, have about 500,000 believers—mostly located in Kachin State of Myanmar
  - o Much of this state is at war so many of the believers here are in IDP camps
  
- First goal is to get 100,000 Bibles printed and delivered here (this could take years)
  - o Secondary goal could be to get this Bible to believers in Thailand who also need and want it
  
- Specific Bible requested is the original translation (1968) because newer translations are more difficult for the average villager to understand
  - o Issues with this translation:
    - No electronic version (although Mark has a clean copy that could be scanned for \$3,648 USD)
    - Originally B6 size but we would enlarge it to A5 size to make footnotes more legible
    - Some spelling errors but we don’t have capacity for a revision; if we did, the whole thing could be retyped and then completely checked & revised (this would take a long time)
  
- Pricing for purchasing:
  - o A5 PUR:
    - 10,000 Copies @ USD 4.346 each
    - 20,000 Copies @ USD 4.056 each
    - 30,000 Copies @ USD 3.959 each
    - 40,000 Copies @ USD 3.889 each

- 50,000 Copies @ USD 3.833 each
- 100,000 Copies @ USD 3.765 each
- A5 Sewn:
  - 10,000 Copies @ USD 4.942 each
  - 20,000 Copies @ USD 4.652 each
  - 30,000 Copies @ USD 4.555 each
  - 40,000 Copies @ USD 4.484 each
  - 50,000 Copies @ USD 4.399 each
  - 100,000 Copies @ USD 4.331 each

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The ARK AID proposal sent to the Canadian Bible League  
January 2019

Some information about the Lisu Bible:

The 1968 OT and 1938 NT Lisu translation, published by the [Trinitarian Bible Society](#) in 1980, is [available](#) in PDF format (not digital, but with scanned pictures) on the [internet](#) in the Fraser script from 1920. The [unicode of this script](#) (for a possible OCR transposition) is also readily available ([more](#)). The [coding](#) is also available. The TBS says the following on their [web page](#): "**Lisu (for Burma/China)** - We have a complete digital text available of the original TBS Lisu Bible which was first published in 1980. Sadly, we have still not found anyone to undertake an evaluation of the TBS Lisu Bible and some corrections proposed for it, and of another Lisu Bible published in more recent years by another organisation." Perhaps the digital copy can be obtained from them somehow?

The Fraser [script](#) is the [most predominant](#), and is also recognized as the [official script](#) of the Lisu by the Chinese government. I do not know how many of the about 730,000 Lisu in China, and 600,000 Lisu in Burma, and 55,000 Lisu in Thailand, (see [wikipedia](#)) use the Fraser script. Wikipedia also states that there are "more than 700,000 Christian Lisu in Yunnan and 450,000 in Burma" ([OMF](#) gives a lower figure). I am also assuming that the 1968 version was written in the [dialect](#) of the Northern Lisu.

Another question: is the hymnal + Bible combination for the Lisu a possibility? ARK AID wants to propose a gift-matching scheme for this year with the Canadian Bible League (or another organization) similar to what we did last year. We have the approval that the transportation costs and distribution costs will be met by Christian Far East Ministry. We propose the following with the BLC:  
The tentative proposal (concept) is as follows (emphasis on 'tentative'; please give suggestions); I have added a few possibilities:

--The purchase, transportation, and distribution (in Burma and/or China and/or Thailand) of the 1968 version (copyright restrictions?) of the Lisu Bible in the Fraser script. To be printed in Japan for approx \$ 4.33 US/Bible (in the case of 100,000 Bibles with the A5 sewn format: our preference). We realize that the price/Bible increases when less are published. ARK AID has no problem with the eventual use of funding for the publication of Bibles in a different language group if the Lisu publication for some reason is not viable. In such a case please let us know what the proposal is before the initiation of a different project.

--ARK AID Foundation in the Netherlands matches all gifts given to the BL Canada for this project to a maximum of 100,000 Canadian dollars, which if collected would = Can. \$ 200,000 (after gift matching). Purchase, choice of language group, printing location, transportation, and distribution to be done by Mark S in collaboration with BL Can.

--The matching of funds concerns 'new' money; that is to say, gifts or grants not yet given, but to be given with the incentive that for every one \$ given, it becomes two. These individual gifts should be earmarked for "Matching funds for Lisu Bibles", or similar. Mention can be made that Association ARK AID, or an anonymous donor, is matching the gifts. For this, extra attention is necessary via internet, folders, or otherwise. An example of this matching carried out by Bibliaglobal.org can be found on the webpage: [Bibles.AAA.ngo](http://Bibles.AAA.ngo). The incentive motive for this gift matching would not be present if a request is made to an organization that regularly gives grants to the BL (such as the BFM Foundation) to re-designate a grant for this gift matching project, although a BL associate, or BFM, or churches, or otherwise, could advertise and raise funds for this matching project.

--BLC will attempt to find other individuals or organizations who, like ARK AID, are willing to provide matching funds for this Lisu project (as BLC did in 2018); this to make an attempt to get the 100,000 Lisu Bibles published.

--If the funds from ARK AID and others have been matched, but the funds needed to purchase 100,000 Lisu Bibles has not been reached, it would be desirable that BLC add the necessary amount out of their general reserves to realize the 100,000 printing (this is not a condition of this proposal).

--Last date for gift matching possibility is December 31, 2019; or earlier if the maximum amount is reached before then.

--Responsibility for distribution is given to Mr. Mark S. in coordination with BL Can.

--Funds for transportation and distribution are collected via [Christian Far East Ministry](#)

--Matched monies from Ark Aid for the NTs are sent (preferably) directly to the publisher in Japan to avoid international money transfer costs, with the exception that \$ 25,000 Can will be sent directly to the BLC from a source in Canada. If it is

*required that ARK AID funding must first go to the BLC in Canada, that will be agreeable.*

*--The BLC will not, because of this project, reduce in any way other existing or planned projects with Mr. Mark S.*

*--If changes are to be made to this proposal, then there should be prior agreement with respect to exact costs and quality of publication, and methods and areas of distribution.*

*--All Bibles are to be given for free with attention to the fact that resale not be allowed.*

*--Reporting about publishing, costs, progress, distribution, pictures, testimonies, etc., should be as it has been done for past projects.*