

Explaining my Considering Creation ministry

Hi,

My Name is Ron Myers, a Veteran Missionary and Bible translator to the Southeast Asian nation of Thailand, which is 95% Buddhist of the Theravada order, called the *Way of the Elders* because it's more orthodox than all the other branches of Buddhism.

Without the advantage of a Western Judeo-Christian worldview on which to base their understanding, they automatically fall back onto their Eastern metaphysical religious views. That being, the foreigner's Jesus is like their Lord Buddha, who teaches them how to do good (or make merit) and avoid doing bad. Incidentally, good or positive merit is called Boon, whereas bad or negative merit is called Karma.

Salvation to the Eastern mind is to avoid reincarnation or being reborn back into this world with all its pain, sickness, sorrow, and suffering. They know nothing about salvation from sin and death through the Lord Jesus Christ. So, they practice doing good by following Buddha's eight principles, hoping for enough reincarnations to attain perfection, thereby achieving the state of Nirvana. Nirvana is not Heaven as we know it, but a blissful state of nonexistent oblivion where they cease to exist as an entity; therefore, there's nothing left to be reincarnated.

So, the challenge we face is, finding a way to present the Gospel clearly so they will listen and hear by circumventing their tendencies to misconstrue the message that I just described. These hinder their ability to hear and accept Christ as their Savior. Or to exercise their God-given right not to believe.

However, when they reject what they presume to be Gospel, it's our job to find a way to bypass that pitfall, so they genuinely do hear and understand the real Gospel Paul preached. After years of trial-and-error research, I believe I have discovered that key. Approach them through dialoguing about Creation, which they call Nature – something every Thai person loves.

To meet this need, I have developed a Creator-awareness creation-evangelism icebreaker presentation; presently, over 100,000 are in print and distributed. Not passed out wholesale as tracts, but a pocket-size booklet to be given individually. This Approach Is So Important To Those of a Non-Judeo-Christian Worldview.

The bottom line is that if the hearer of the Good News does not have the foundational background to comprehend the meaning of the Gospel message, he who proclaims it is like an unintelligible foreigner (1 Corinthians 14:11). Consequently, without some degree of understanding of the five following points, the power of the Gospel to save is stripped of its power and intended impact:

- 1) The significance of Jesus' true identity as the 2nd person of the Godhead.
- 2) His Preexistence as God the Son - Almighty Creator and Lord of all.
- 3) The historically provable implications of His Person and Work.
- 4) His office as "The Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sins of the World."
- 5) His ability to save to the uttermost whosoever will come in repentant faith.

However, when you try to use the typical western evangelism approach, saying, Mr. Thai, Ms. Thai, do you know God loves you and Jesus died for your sins, it falls on deaf ears. All they perceive is you're trying to get them to abandon Buddhism, their beloved state-ordained, good-works religious way of life, and join your lesser foreign religion. They almost always respond, "All religions are equally good because they all teach us to do good. And yet, they are convinced that the Christian message, as they misunderstand it, is lesser than Buddhism in their eyes because it's 500 years younger. Therefore, it's less prestigious since age is a highly honored Eastern concept.

The crux of the matter is that two opposing worldviews are colliding, their Eastern worldview and our Judeo-Christian worldview. Their Eastern view is more of a transcendental meta-physical conceptualization of their surroundings. Subsequently, they do not hold the Lord Buddha in high esteem as their God but as their revered teacher, who discovered the eight-fold middle path to achieve Nirvana, their idea of salvation. Also, although they all adore Nature (Creation), they do not have a concept of origins or a Creator God. That's what I address in my booklet, *Considering Creation*.

Consequently, when you say "God loves you," they might well think, "Who is that person?" Then, when you add, "And Jesus died for your sins," Buddhists are taught anyone who dies a horrific death, as Jesus did, was because He did some terrible deed in one of His past lives. This means Jesus' Karma was finally catching up with him.

Interestingly, Buddhism also teaches no one can pay for another person's bad deeds. The Thai people have a favorite story where an innocent older brother died in place of his younger guilty brother. The older brother loved his younger sibling so much that he took his death sentence upon himself for murdering their mother in a fit of rage. This analogy is so great that we often use it when presenting the Gospel.

You might ask, "What's wrong with saying 'God Loves You and Jesus Died For Your Sins'?" Nothing. It's 100% true. And yet, without the underlying foundational truths that my *Considering Creation* booklet provides them, they literally cannot understand. But with it, they can clearly understand the Gospel message and its implications. There's a Creator God who Loves Them and that His Son Jesus Died for Their Sins.

So far, my *Considering Creation* booklet has been translated into French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. I have plans to translate into all major Asian languages remaining, like Laotian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Filipino, Indonesian, Burmese, Sri-Lankan, Tibetan, Nepalese, Hindi, etc.

The Thai often tell me, "That was a really good read; where did you get it? I always ask if they read it all because the Gospel is at the end. They say yes, followed by "I want to read it again, but I gave it to my wife, or my friend, to read too. Most also say, "You know, you make a good point here; I never really thought about it before, but there must be a Creator." They even pass the little booklets around between themselves to read. That's unsaved Buddhists evangelizing each other. Ya gotta love it!

So far, we've printed 100,000 copies and plan to print many more on a funds-available basis. The Population of Thailand is presently over 70 million – not counting another half-million living worldwide.

May God richly bless you for your faithful prayers and undergirding support.