

**Ron & Cheryl Myers**

**GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER**

**August 2020**

*A Faith-based Ministry Sustained Through the Prayers and Partnership of God's People*

## **"The Joy of The LORD Is Your Strength" (Nehemiah. 8:10)**

*"Serve the Lord with Gladness; Come into His Presence with Singing" (Psalms 100:2)*

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends in Christ,

You've heard it said that the battle is in our minds, not our surroundings. It means that victory or defeat in a believer's life depends on one's state of mind. As cross-cultural missionaries, we face an unimaginable task, so it's imperative that we not allow the enemy into our thought life by nursing a defeatist attitude. It's estimated that one-in-twenty career missionaries leave the field every year to return home in defeat. That's 5.1% of the total missionary work force each year! Of those who leave, a huge 71% do so for preventable reasons. *Cited from: Too Valuable to Lose: Exploring the Causes and Cures of Missionary Attrition.* A major reason for leaving the ministry and returning home are feelings of defeat, discouragement, or disillusionment over a variety of solvable issues. Many over language and culture skills, i.e., communication difficulties.

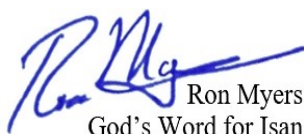
If I said I've never been tempted to quit when crushing disappointments overwhelmed me, I'd be lying, having been *badly burned, twice!* We all face them, but what do we do with them? I often write to a missionary in Thailand's spiritually parched Isan region, encouraging him to not *throw in the towel*, or allow Satan parking space in his mind. God's power and presence are just as real, no matter the situation. We are often the only ones in our respective locations with the saving truth of the Gospel. Is it any wonder why Satan wants us gone? It's a known fact that the more God blesses our work, the harder the enemy fights to hinder and destroy. We are soldiers in a spiritual battle over men's souls. If we give in or "tap out," Satan wins. It's like a soldier going AWOL. If, as Christians, we knowingly disobey explicit biblical instructions to be occupied with Christ's business until His return, we are AWOL. (Luke 19:12-13) We all need to have some integral part in taking the Gospel to those still sitting in spiritual darkness at the ends of the earth. (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:14-15; 2 Cor 10:16)

Jesus said, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled; Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* (John 14:1 & 27) The unstoppable Apostle Paul tells us, *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and the power of his might. Above all else, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked [one]."* (Ephesians 6:10 & 16) What are these stinging darts Satan targets us with? Fear, doubt, panic, and discouragement to name a few—all aimed at us center-mass, designed to take us out. *Abiding Faith* and *Praise* towards God renders these attacks powerless.

Consider Nehemiah. He faced an impossible task—rebuilding the walls around the city of Jerusalem, the remnants of which lay in disrepair from when they were captured and led into exile. Before they set about to rebuild the wall, Nehemiah encouraged the people, saying: *"This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."* On the one hand, Nehemiah had an enormous task to accomplish, with enemies to fend off on the other. He also had naysayers and detractors who opposed him from the start—as we all do when we step out to accomplish something. Nehemiah and the people worked tirelessly to rebuild the walls while they remained vigilant against the actions of their enemies sworn to defeat them—trowel in one hand and sword in the other, led by the commandments in God's Holy Word; the Law of Moses. By God's Grace, they accomplished the job they had set about to do.

Consider also King Jehoshaphat, who learned that great armies were coming to destroy Judah. (2 Chronicles 20) In fear, he inquired of the Lord and proclaimed a fast. All Judah gathered to seek the Lord as Jehoshaphat stood in their midst, praising God for His greatness, and crying out for His protection. He pled their situation to the Lord, saying how helpless they were before such a mighty enemy; not knowing what to do except look to Him. Then, the Spirit of God came upon their prophets, who proclaimed: *"Do not be afraid or dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, but stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."*

The following morning, Jehoshaphat appointed singers who went before their army, rejoicing and singing praises to the Lord for His mercy. The moment they began praising God, He caused their enemies to turn on each other. All that was left to do was to gather up the spoils. The Judahites found such an abundance of valuables and jewelry it took them three days to gather it all. They gained victory over their dire circumstances by praising the Lord for His greatness, not by entertaining negative thoughts or depending on themselves. Victory is found in Christ alone, Romans 8:37; *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."*

  
Ron Myers  
God's Word for Isan

In closing, Cheryl and I thank you for your prayers and partnership. Please pray for my co-worker Bao-Ter's upcoming court appearance in Bangkok on Sept 8—that he'll be cleared of all civil charges, as he was of criminal charges. He helped a friend in good faith by cosigning a check that ended up having insufficient funds due to a planning glitch. There is nothing Satan won't attempt to delay God's message from going forth. (2 Corinthians 2:11)