



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

August 2022

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

Thailand's Present Spiritual Condition

"But the Greatest of These Is Love" 1 Cor 13:13

by Ron Myers

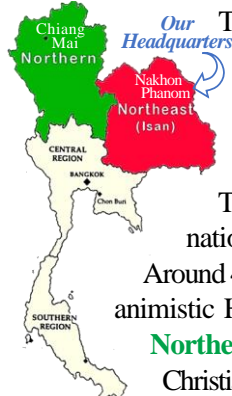
"For God so Loved [Thailand] that He Gave His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish" (John 3:16).

It was great to see my friend and coworker Baaw Ter again. After over two years of absence due to Covid-19 lockdowns, I was back in our ministry headquarters, Nakon Phanom Province in Thailand's northeastern or Isan region, nestled on the western banks of the mighty Mekong River, across from Communist Laos. We essentially picked up where we'd left off in 2019 – fine-tuning the narrated version of the Isan New Testament – now on its own website channel. We continued teaching, visiting, and encouraging believers as God opened doors of opportunity – reaching out to lost souls for whom Christ died and rose again – proclaiming eternal victory over sin, death, and Satan himself.



Baaw Ter and Ron

While searching YouTube for our channel, *God's Word for Isan*, I came across the phrase *God's Word for Isan* posted on a Bangkok church website. Not being our website, I decided to check it out. An Isan Christian was reading from John chapter 8. Curious, I compared it with my Isan translation. I was elated when I realized he was reading from our John-Romans book, of which we had printed 34,000 copies in June 2011 – proof positive that our work is bearing fruit. I published 10,000 copies of the Isan New Testament five years later, in June 2016.



The following is a brief recap of Thailand's spiritual condition. This data is taken from the *Joshua Project's* demographics database of facts and figures. It divides *reached* vs. *unreached* peoples into regions, provinces, and villages according to percentages of exposure to the Gospel and the approximate number of Christians.

Thailand has had a representative parliamentary democracy since 1923, with a monarchical figurehead. Although it has freedom of religion, every Thai king *must* be a Buddhist by tradition. Feelings run deep among many Thai. Since 94% of the general Thai populace is Buddhist, they believe that to be Thai means to be Buddhist, their national heritage and state-ordained faith. Anyone who leaves Buddhism is tantamount to forsaking their birthright.

Around 4% of the Thai populace are Muslim, residing in the southern provinces bordering Malaysia. The remaining 2% are animistic Hill Tribes living in Thailand's mountainous regions. Thailand's total number of Christians is only 0.75%.

Northern Thailand with its modern westernized city of Chiang Mai is Thailand's most evangelized region with 4% being Christian. Ironically, though, some new missionaries feel God is *calling* them to Chiang Mai! One wonders why. 😊

Northeast Thailand (Isan) comprises 1/3 of Thailand's total population and landmass – the most spiritually-parched region with 99% being Buddhist. Isan has 43,000 remote rice-farmer villages. Yet only 2% are considered reached, the remaining 98% having had *no* Gospel exposure. The number of born-again Christians in this vast village hinterland is about 0.1%, with relatively few missionaries. However, they now have the Word of God in their own Isan language with a potential readership of 28 million – over 30 million including Laos and Lao refugees.



Enjoying each other's company

After my return to San Diego, Baaw Ter texted me saying he was taking his estranged Buddhist wife, Joo, on a much-needed vacation, visiting the ancient northern Lao city of *Luang Pra Bang*. He sent me photos showing they are having a great time, relaxing, and growing closer together again. A dedicated Buddhist, Joo now seems to be softening a bit towards the Gospel. She had walked away from their marriage in 2016 when Baaw Ter and their sixteen-year-old son, DJ, received Christ. Conflicted, she now stays in an apartment furnished by the local hospital where she is one of the head nurses, yet she wants to reunite again as a family.



On vacation in Northern Laos

God is Great – Serve Him!



Ron & Cheryl Myers

Wanted: Dedicated Prayer Warriors!

Join us in prayer for Baaw Ter's unsaved wife, Joo, that God's redeeming Love would touch her heart.

"God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9).



"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed"

Hudson Taylor

Founder: China Inland Mission/OMF

"God's Word, Accurately Translated Into the Heart Language of Any People, Is Truly Powerful" RM