



**Ron & Cheryl Myers**



**GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER**



**July 2022 (2)**

*A Faith-based Ministry Sustained Through the Prayers and Partnership of God's People*  
**You Have Blessed Us – Now, We Want to Bless You**  
*“The Best but Last Part of My Trip”*

by Ron Myers

I need to say this has been the most blessed part of my time here. My coworker Baaw Ter and I attended Pone Boke's last Sunday morning service, hearing joyous singing as we approached. They welcomed us with open arms, referring to me as their dad in the faith. I was blessed to see they were as strong as ever and growing, seeing many new faces even in Elder Samer's absence – who is now with the Lord. His wife, Tiap, gave me a hug as she greeted me.

My relationship with Pone Boke goes back to 1977 when Samer's mom and dad showed up at my doorstep where I lived in the neighboring Nyaw village of Ban Nah-Nai early one morning, asking for medicine while I finally had a chance to study the Nyaw language. *“Foreign Doctor, foreign doctor, come out and give us some of your foreign medicine.”* I distinctly recall my attitude for the interruption; *“Why can't these people leave me alone just once.”* I sensed the Lord's mild chastening as I went out to see what they needed.

Mom Samer had stomach problems due to their typical unhealthy diet. I had some Tums on hand, so gave her a supply. I then said I had some medicine that would give them new hearts fit for Heaven. *“Bring it out for us to see,”* Dad Samer responded. They listened intently as I taught about The Creator and Creation; Angels; Satan and his fallen angels (evil spirits); the Temptation; Fall, Curse; and coming of the promised Messiah. I then said, *“I've told you everything you need to know. Now, you must call out to God for deliverance yourselves.”* They clasped their hands prayerfully and pleaded for mercy. I would soon become the spiritual father of a new church plant in Pone Boke, consisting mainly of Dad and Mom Samer, along with friends and family who also believed. Mom Samer was a famous spirit doctor, but wanted nothing to do with the spirits which had refused to leave no matter what they tried – I was told later by their son, Samer. The spirits fled the moment she believed!

That's where we were that Sunday, albeit decades later, amongst a gathering of believers eager to hear me speak. I'd been absent for over two years due to the global Covid pandemic. Lay-pastor retired Army Colonel Sanoh spoke first from Matthew. We had arrived just before his Sunday School lesson. I was pleased to hear Sanoh speak, a new experience for me. He did quite well. I then asked Baaw Ter to speak. As a radio announcer, he had a rousing delivery as usual. I followed, introducing myself to new members, then taught on my favorite often-misunderstood subject – Salvation by Grace, through faith, apart from works, followed by a life of service, lived for the Glory of God (Ephesians 2:8-9 and 10). I say often-misunderstood because Thailand's minute Christian populace is riddled with a pandemic of false teaching, which includes Salvation by Grace, through faith – assisted by good works, which cancels out Grace! Thankfully, none of this spiritual virus had infiltrated the Pone Boke church. Yet I thought a little review was in order, especially for the newcomers.

After a light Northeastern-style lunch, Elder Samer's youngest daughter, Wan-Dee, came up behind and pushed me towards a nearby gathering of lady church members. Wan-Dee then announced they wanted to pray for me. *“You have blessed us, so now we want to bless you,”* she said as she led in prayer that God would watch over me and heal my injured back, which has caused debilitating pain and partial disablement for over ten years. I had prayed for Wan-Dee for healing from a life-threatening illness and now she was asking God to heal me. I choke up a bit as I recall how Wan-Dee, a healthy little three-year-old toddler, had contracted some illness that refused to respond to medication, whom her dad, Samer, asked me to pray for. When I saw her, she was unable to lift her head from her gaunt weakened frame. I knew in my heart there was no chance and I certainly didn't feel up to the task. My prayer was feeble, but God was not. The next time I saw little Wan-Dee she was a robust, healthy little girl again within that same week. My daughter in the faith now wanted to return the favor by praying for me.



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 God's Word for Isan  
 Missionaries to Thailand

I learned they hadn't received the Isan New Testaments I sent, so promised to get the few we had left in Nakhon Phanom and return – a 75-kilometer trip. Upon our arrival, they were waiting alongside the road at one of the believer's homes. After delivering the New Testaments, someone said one of the visiting ladies (Ms. Sah) had accepted Christ that morning and that we needed to go visit her. She lived on a narrow paved road back in the hinterlands, far off the beaten path. It was raining by then as we scampered from Baaw Ter's car into the new believer's spacious home – a far cry from what homes used to look like when we lived and ministered in the area. We had a great time there as she affirmed her new-found faith. See photos below.





*Baaw Ter and Ron enjoying Breakfast*



*Delivering Isan New Testaments to Deht and wife (Wan-Dee in Pink Blouse)*



*Being Prayed For by Wan-Dee and others as she massaged my back.*



*Me teaching Ephesians 2:8-9 and 10, Covid mask in my hand.*



*Guiding Ms. Sah, a new believer, through key Salvation passages using the Isan New Testament*





*Some Pone Boke Believers – Ron, Baaw Ter and Deht, an upcoming leader (Ctr) – Retired Army Colonel and lay-Pastor Sanoh (Right)*



*Nice Meeting Hall Erected by Elder Samer a Few Years Ago*