



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

July 2022

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

## God's Blessings Override All Else

*"Therefore, We Do Not Lose Heart"*

by Ron Myers

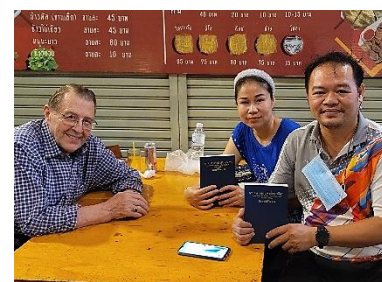
"Since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart," (2 Corinthians 4:1). Far be it from me to even remotely identify with the Apostle Paul, or what he went through for the sake of getting the Gospel to the then-known ends of the earth. Yet I have a love for this passage; especially 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 *"For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone into our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us."* I could even say it's my personal testimony in many ways, as I'm sure many of you can as well – transformed from a lost, hell bound sinner to a bondservant of Jesus Christ.

A bondservant is not a common slave as some have portrayed it, but one who was set free by our Savior from the Satanic bondage of sin and fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15). We are set free to live a life of freedom within the generous bounds of God's Grace. Those freed, return to serve the one who freed them in a spirit of love and gratitude. We love Christ because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). Serving God is the greatest privilege there is, especially taking the Good News to those still trapped in bondage, never having heard a clearcut Gospel presentation, or not even the first word. Reaching them is what turns my crank, floats my boat, or whatever expression may come to mind. It's what brings me lasting joy and satisfaction – speaking as one who was never satisfied with much for long.

Paul, a self-identified bondservant of Jesus Christ, was cast down countless times, but never conquered. I love Galatians 6:17, where he says of his detractors, *"From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."* No, Paul didn't have a large Cross tattooed across his back, but deep scars of the numerous whippings, stonings and beatings he had received within an inch of his life. That didn't stop him. Paul remained productive while chained to Roman soldiers in a dank dungeon, who got saved and spread the Gospel around the Roman empire in their following assignments. I'm sure it brought Paul joy when he learned that his efforts continued to bear fruit.

I've seen new fruit here in Northeast Thailand, which brings me joy as well. I had mentioned some in my June newsletter. Yet there's more and I still have a week left here before heading to Bangkok on July 14, preparing for my return flight to San Diego on the 16th. Besides taking every opportunity to witness, I've had the pleasure of meeting those who are second and third-generation fruit from my ministry. I'd visited a restaurant in town owned by Pastor Pitak's wife Sri's younger sister. They recognized me immediately and invited me in to sit and chat. One even went and got some Diet Coke for me, pouring it over a glass of ice to help quell the sweltering evening heat. As I talked with *Miw*, another of the nieces, it became evident she was a Christian as well, having occasionally attended Pitak's church, located south of town.

*Miw* is now married with children. Her husband, *Yah*, came over and introduced himself. I asked if they had Bibles of their own, to which the answer was negative. The following evening, I took two Isan New Testaments to them and had a great opportunity to know them better as we opened the Word in their own language and I taught foundational truths on the surety of their Salvation as believers *In Christ*. They were eager and responded to the truths in God's Word. *Yah* readily grasped the truths in the various passages we covered. It became evident he was potential leadership material, a mature adult in his forties, as is his wife, *Miw*. Pray for this couple, as they grow from fledgling believers into strong Christians as they put God's Word to work in their lives. I plan on seeing them again this evening. Pray that our Bible session will go well and be profitable.



Ron, Miw, and Yah w/their Isan NTs



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I also had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Daeng, a Nyaw Christian from the area where we had begun our village ministry. Daeng is a solid believer and knows Christians from the Pone Boke church, also started under our ministry. Daeng also knew people we knew in the neighboring village where we lived and ministered for eight years. Small world!

Pray for Baaw Ter. He contracted a mild case of Covid last week and is still in quarantine. We were going to do some future planning and still have a couple days before my return. Just one more thing to delay and interrupt my time here. Yet, God knows!