



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

November 2019

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

Reflecting and Saying 'Thank You' To Our Senders

"How shall they hear without a preacher? ...and how shall they preach unless they are sent?"

By Ron Myers

Dear Praying and Sending Friends,

A glimpse into our ministry, which many of you support: Even before Cheryl and I met, the Lord had laid His Hand on both of us to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth as missionaries to unreached people groups. That would mean leaving our chosen livelihoods behind – Cheryl an elementary school teacher and I in professional sales. Neither of us were immediately obedient; however, God worked in our hearts to both desire and to carry out His purposes in accordance with Philippians 2:13. The conclusion? We would marry and serve the Lord together. One week after our honeymoon we entered ministerial training focused on foreign missions.

Following four years of schooling—Bible, linguistics, language and culture learning principles, and my ordination—we raised what support we could and left for Thailand, half way around the world. After enduring a grueling, smoking-allowed flight with our toddler David, our plane touched down at Don Muang Int'l Airport, Bangkok Thailand. We had studied Thai, so were able to converse a little upon landing. Our first year was spent living in Bangkok, attending Thai language school, which included reading and writing. Cheryl took a short leave at Bangkok Christian Hospital, where our first daughter, Angela, was born. Two years later, our second daughter, Michelle, was also born there.

Thai studies complete, we packed our meager belongings and moved some 500 miles into Thailand's Northeastern or Isan Region. There, we began our ministry among the rural-dwelling Nyaw people—one of many unreached ethnic minorities with their own language. After extensive surveys, we located a friendly Nyaw village that invited us in. At that time, there was no electricity outside of major cities. So, using my carpentry skills, I built our home on a leased plot of land using only hand tools. Our own little cottage was quite nice and we soon got used to evenings by candlelight. Besides evangelism, we took opportunity to befriend the villagers, doing various rural development projects and teaching them about medicine. Our land owner was the first to receive Christ and became an avid witness. We saw many more come to faith, some even trusting Christ on their death bed in this spiritually dark primitive surrounding. A small church was later established in the neighboring village of Pone Boke.

We later relocated to the provincial capital to expand our outreach, including initializing the Isan Bible translation. The city church was failing with only a few remaining members due to the pastor having left. I assumed the role of interim pastor, teaching foundational truths. A genuine grassroots movement began as people were saved and grew in grace and knowledge, reaching out to friends and relatives. Soon, the once-dying church was full. Jarat, my first translation assistant, whom I mentored in understanding the *Gospel of Grace*, later became their full-time pastor.

Through it all, we have experienced God's blessings, His protection over our family from the many dangers, His provision in many miraculous ways, and ultimately His using us for His glory. This is where you enter the picture. None of this would have been possible without your partnership, both in undergirding prayer, strengthening encouragement and essential financial endorsement. One who invests their earthly resources, does so in hopes of gaining a return on their investment. The same is true for investing in spiritual things. As partners, we are serving the Lord together for a common cause: the one party taking the light of the Gospel message to those still lost in the depths of spiritual darkness, the other party sending and undergirding the ones taking the light to the hopelessly lost.

Why is this joint endeavor so vital? Primarily, because it's God's design and of great importance to Him – that all may hear and have a chance to believe and be saved – the very reason Christ came (John 3:16; Romans 10:17; II Peter 3:9). I believe in the *Whosoever Will Gospel of God's Amazing Grace*. Scriptures state that "*Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely*" (Revelation 22:17). Christ, is that true *Water of Life* that springs up into a fountain of eternal life (John 4:13–14). Concerning those who have yet to hear, that's where being obedient to Christ's Great Commission comes into play. He didn't choose for angels to deliver the message, but chose frail humans to do the job – to be obedient in going (which we are), and obedient in sending (which you are).

Many moons have passed since we began our ministry in Thailand. Sometimes it seems that, because of the slowness of response in this predominantly Buddhist nation, that very little is happening or being accomplished. Yet, I have learned that God is always working, both openly as well as in hearts and minds behind the scenes as the Gospel message goes forth. Allow me to recall for you some of the ways God has chosen to work through our lives as His vessels, to bring glory to Himself. May you, as our supporters, rejoice and magnify the Lord with us:



NaNai Village Life

<=Left: Uncle Gert. Our landlord sitting on the floor of our village home with our two girls. Gert was the first one to receive Christ. Michelle is sitting in Gert's lap and Angela is studying a picture book.

Right=> Gert's elderly mother holding Angela on her lap. Gert was able to lead his mom to Christ just a few days before she passed.



Pone Boke Village Church



<=Left: Samer, Lone Elder of the Pone Boke Church

Right=> Samer's elderly mom and dad, former spirit mediums and founding believers at Pone Boke Church



<= Center: Some Pone Boke Members. Note Ret. Colonel & Lay Pastor Sanoh, who received Christ during my city church min.

Expanded Ministry into Town



1982: **Jarat** Then: Construction Now: Church Planter
Prakop Hoodlum Church Planter
Ron Missionary
Sanoh Patrol Sergeant Missionary Colonel (Ret.), Lay Pastor



Uncle Pre-cha - Understood Grace thru our ministry. A new church meets in his home. Jarat & Pre-cha were my first Isan Bible translation assistants, doing Genesis & Luke.



<=Left: Pastor Som-Kit – saved under my city church ministry. He assisted in the Isan translation project. Now, Som-Kit pastors the *New Vision Church* near Bangkok. His wife, Naam, is the granddaughter of Samer, the Pone Boke Church Elder. *(Naam is a 4th generation believer from our village ministry, their son is a 5th generation Christian.)*

Right=> Pae-Tong. One of my best Bible translation assistants. He was confused by the Thai Bible but understood Grace by my mentoring as we worked. Pae-Tong is now married, an Evangelist and a Bible distributor.



<=Left: Pastor Pitak and wife Sri. Pitak was saved and baptized under my ministry. He was also instrumental in helping me finish the Isan New Testament. Pitak now pastors the church that Prakop began in their home village after getting his Bible degree. Sri was saved under Pastor Prakop's ministry—a local hoodlum whom I led to Christ and sponsored to Bible school. Cheryl and I also sponsored Pitak & Sri to Bangkok Bible Seminary for their Bible degrees.

Right=> Pastor Prakop at his church in Pha-Nga Province, Southern Thailand. He and wife Nao helped lead in the Tsunami rescue and cleanup for which they received much acclaim and an honorary plaque from the authorities.





<=>Left: Pastor Pitak and Ron share the podium at the Isan New Testament dedication and presentation on June 2, 2016. Isan pastors, missionaries and visitors from Thailand and around the world were present. We distributed 1,600 Isan New Testaments and 1,000 "Consideration Creation" Intelligent Design evangelism booklets at the event.

Right=> "Considering Creation" a pocket-size evangelistic booklet about Intelligent Design. It is a byproduct of my continuing to seek a way to speak with Thai Buddhists (who all love nature) about the Creator God and Christ.



Called *Pondering Nature* in Thai; it works amazingly well and is written in spoken Thai (not Isan) so it's usable throughout Thailand. We've printed over 100,000 copies so far. The Thai Buddhists even pass it around between themselves, telling their spouses or friends to read it. We're talking committed Buddhists evangelizing fellow Buddhists! It addresses origins, creation, and the Gospel at the end, with an invitation to trust Christ, their Creator, Savior and Lord whom they do not yet know.



<=>Left: Lest I forget. Cheryl has had an important role in the Isan Ministry, balancing caring for our children; doing linguistic work; helping other missionaries with language learning; assisting with the Bible translation; and spending time with the ladies. Here, Cheryl is leading a Bible study with Pastor Pitak's wife Sri (right) and two other Christian ladies.

Right=> Cheryl, reading bedtime stories to our children when we lived in Na-Nai village. Our youngest son Dan wasn't born yet.



<=>Left: The Isan New Testament, First Edition, written in Thai script and printed by the same Christian owned print shop in Bangkok that prints all the Gideon Bibles. 10,000 Isan NTs have been printed so far. It is now also available in a Lao script edition, that can be seen online at www.LaoBible.com

Right=> Bao-Ter: Isan radio announcer, new Christian, and budding house-church pastor whom I am presently grounding and mentoring. Over the last few months, he led quite a few Isan people to Christ, baptizing them in the Mekong River. Last Sunday, he led Gigi, an Isan young lady to Christ at their house church meeting. Gigi brought her suicidal friend Lynn along, who Bao-Ter was able to encourage. **Pray that Lynn will receive Christ.**

Bao-Ter is presently narrating the audio version of the Isan New Testament. It's a God-given privilege to work with him as he remains encouraged despite heavy trials. Sadly, his Buddhist wife, Joo, left him permanently due to his faith. I will be seeing him in a few days on my trip to Thailand.



Thank you again for your support. Your prayers for all are greatly Appreciated.

Serving the Lord among the Isan People of NE Thailand,
Ron and Cheryl Myers
God's Word for Isan
www.IsanBible.org