

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

## **Reaching Lost Souls for Christ in Thailand**

"Come Unto Me; All Ye Who Are Heavy Laden"

By Ron Myers

Greetings Again in the Name of Our Savior, Jesus Christ,

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28-30). It's been said that everyone has a unique God-shaped space in their hearts and lives that God alone can fill. It's interesting how God leads us to people who are searching for the truth. That is Jesus Christ, who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). "Therefore, He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Thanksgiving Day is near—a day we set aside to thank God for His blessings and watch-care. For what are you most grateful? I thank God daily for good health and wellbeing. I thank Him especially for His indescribable gift of Salvation. He delivered me from the dominion of darkness by His love and transferred me into the kingdom of light in His Son (Colossians 1:13). God forgave me of all my sins and gave me a new life.

I now have a loving Christian wife and four wonderful children (two sons and two daughters). I also thank God for leading me to Thailand. That's where I serve Him by taking the Good News of Salvation to people who have never heard about their Creator and His gift of eternal life. He freely saves everyone anywhere who places their trust in Christ alone (John 3:16; Titus 3:5). I thank God as well for His Word, the Bible, of which I had the honor of translating the New Testament into the Isan language of N. E. Thailand—a two-plus decade task, finished in June 2016.

I'm also very thankful for you. You who faithfully undergird our ministry by prayer and financial support—without which we would *not* be able to do what we do. I'm also thankful for the God-given privilege of sharing the Gospel with lost souls in Thailand, including Mr. Decha, who found rest for his troubled soul in Jesus. He is an Immigration Officer, a division of the Royal Thai Police. I first met Decha while taking a noontime break from translating the Isan New Testament. My Thai Visa was about to expire, so I took the opportunity to inquire at the local immigration office. Finding the office vacated with a *Be Back* sign posted in the window, I decided to wait in the alcove out behind the office, which overlooked the Mekong River. Its waters provided a cool breeze that helped dispel the sweltering noonday heat.

One immigration officer was taking his noonday break there. We struck up a light conversation during which he commented on my Thai speaking ability. I thanked him, explaining I'd been there many years involved in rural development and missionary work in outlying villages. I explained that the villagers are very resistant to change and new ideas even though they help ease their indigent lifestyle—due to long-held traditions, superstitions, fear of and evil spirits. So, as a missionary, I tell them about Jesus Christ and the new life of freedom he gives them.

Realizing I was a missionary and teach people about Jesus, the immigration officer blurted out, "You are? You do?" It was Decha, saying he wanted to learn more about Jesus. He said "I've read about Jesus and need someone to explain more, but I haven't found anyone who can help me." I assured him I could. This positive response almost never comes from Thai Buddhists, except if they have a heart-felt conviction of personal sin. Buddhism's only solution is to do good. Yes, I said, I can help you. Let's meet at the restaurant near here for lunch tomorrow."

I asked Pastor Pitak to join us. When Decha arrived and sat down, he began to pour out his heart, acknowledging all the sinful things he had done as a corrupt policeman: cheating, stealing. lying, taking bribes, drunkenness, fornication, illicit children, even wrongful deaths. "What can I do?" he pleaded. I explained there was nothing that he could do, but the Good News is that Jesus had done it all for him by paying for his sin so he could be forgiven and go free. And that Jesus will accept Decha just as he is, change him and give him a new life when he receives Christ as his Savior. "But how do I do that," Decha asked. Tell God just what you told me and ask Him for mercy, I said. He'll forgive you, come into your life as your Lord and Savior, and give you the gift of Eternal life. Decha is now a Christian who is living for Christ. He's also a member of the Thai Christian Police Association. I hope to see him again soon, when I return.

God is Good – Thank Him Today!

God's Word for Isan

Ron Myers

I just texted *Immigration Officer* Decha about returning to Thailand. He said Thailand is opening soon and will be letting people in. I also learned from another source the two-week quarantine period in Bangkok has been reduced to one day (for Covid testing) before being released to travel in Thailand. My Isan coworker *Baaw Ter* is awaiting my return. We plan to serve Christ together again in that spiritually parched land. Click here to view the Isan New Testament audio version on our *Good News* YouTube channel.