

Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

Oct-Nov, 2017

Whether Reading or Listening to God's Word...

"The Entrance of Thy Word Giveth Light" (Psalms 119:130)

By Ron Myers

Greetings Again In Jesus' Name,

OVERVIEW, GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN: After decades of hard work (*interspersed with time-consuming delays*), I—along with the help of my faithful translation assistant, *Pastor Pitak*—finished translating the entire Isan New Testament on December 14, 2012.

This was followed by a two-year, in-depth, edit-review during which I double-checked for grammatical accuracy and faithfulness to the original text, fluency and understandability. Upon completion, it was handed over to our proofreading team, consisting of four Isan Christian ladies. When the tedious process of checking and proofreading was done, we made all needed, *mostly minor*, textual adjustments. I then arranged the 500-page document into medium-sized book format, defining table of contents, verse and page numbers, and book headers.

IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD? Finding a good, yet affordable printer was the next step. I had been advised by well-meaning missionaries to look outside of Thailand, to printers in India, Korea or China, suggesting I could get higher quality work done at a much better price. Yet, I didn't sense that was the Lord's leading. Two main issues loomed in my mind: potential miscommunication problems and sizable import tariffs. I believed I could get the job done in Thailand, yet most Thai printers had never worked with the thinner Bible-quality paper. Miraculously, the Lord opened the door through a Thai Christian acquaintance in Bangkok. She introduced me to her Aunt, Ms. Kai. Ms. Kai is the Christian owner of a little-known print shop, solely dedicated to producing Asian-area Bibles. She works in conjunction with Gideons International and also Thomas Nelson Publishers of Nashville, Tennessee.



Ron Reads 1st Copy, Hot Off The Press! "A Surreal Experience"

FINISHED PRODUCT: Ms. Kai's shop did a superb job at a very reasonable price, initially printing 10,000 copies using high-quality imported materials. The first 1,600 copies were delivered overnight by an Isan Christian friend who owns a trucking firm. He personally overnighted them the 500 miles to our headquarters in Nakhon Phanom province, Northeast Thailand, arriving one day before our catered *Dedication and Presentation Event*, held on June 2, 2016. Between 40-50 Isan Christians, pastors, missionaries, and donors were in attendance.

The celebratory event was a very memorable occasion—albeit surreal for me after having toiled for decades to see the task through to completion. Each attendee took packages of Isan New Testaments home, as needed, for further local distribution. A Thai pastor-friend in the Bangkok area volunteered to help oversee the distribution of the remaining Isan New Testaments throughout Thailand's Isan Region. More copies are continually being requested and sent out to various Isan-area locations.

AUDIO VERSION, GOD'S FURTHER PROVISION: I have received numerous requests, from both missionaries and Isan Christians alike, to produce an audio version of the Isan New Testament. I have taken these requests seriously, because I know the enormity of the need. This, given the fact that there's a potential readership (or listenership) of over twenty-five million Isan speakers, not to mention another seven-million in neighboring Communist Laos—languages being similar. As you know by my recent newsletters, I am in contact with a local-area radio DJ. His radio "handle" is *Baaw Ter*. Baaw Ter received Christ a year ago. He is both solid and zealous for the Lord, including being excited about narrating the Isan New Testament. Assuredly, *"Faith Cometh by Hearing, ...hearing the Word of God"* (Romans 10:17)

One major hurdle is, Baaw Ter's small, personally-owned radio station was struck by lightning a while back. The strike followed electric wires and transmission cables into his broadcasting studio where it "fried" all of his equipment. He didn't have the funds to make needed repairs, so abandoned it until now. Funds have been graciously provided by God's people, for which both Baaw Ter and I are most appreciative. We are presently in the process of repairing and restoring the sound room in preparation for recording the Isan New Testament. Baaw Ter recently told me the restoration is nearly complete and that the Isan New Testament narration should begin shortly. Our first goal is to complete the recording of the Isan New Testament. After that, we will set about to reestablish the radio station, from which we plan to broadcast solid Christian content in that spiritually parched land. The broadcast will also be going out online, over the Internet.

BEST SOLUTION: Given the alternative, Baaw Ter and I both concluded that restoring his recording studio was the best solution, as opposed to him making repeated 140 mile round trips to his friend's sound studio in a neighboring province until the job is done. Preparation for the recording process at his own residence is nearly finished. Cleanup is done. The roof repair is done. New soundproofing in the

By God's Grace and For His Glory,

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Ron & Cheryl Myers
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recording studio is done. New equipment has been installed. A new electric transformer has been installed and service has been reestablished. The air conditioner has been repaired—quite a needed item for the hot and humid weather. I am convinced that this is the correct direction, for which we covet your prayers for safety, success, and grace in the eyes of officials. In closing, both Cheryl and I want to express our gratitude for your prayers and financial partnership in this very important endeavor.

URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS, UPDATE:

- ✓ Pray for me and my soon return to Thailand—mid-November through mid-December—that I will experience a safe and successful trip.
- ✓ Pray for Baaw Ter's family. Both he and his 14 year-old son received Christ, but his wife, "Joo" (a nurse), hasn't. She moved back in with her parents because of it and desires that her son (DJ) enter the Buddhist priesthood to make merit for her—a tradition that every eldest son must do to honor his mother.
- ✓ Pray too for Baaw Ter and son DJ (*photo at right*), that their lives will be a godly testimony before Joo (*their wife and mom*); that she will soften towards the Gospel, receive Christ and be saved.
- ✓ Pray that this family will become a living testimony of God's redeeming grace before the people around them.
- ✓ Pray that God will protect this family from the onslaughts of the enemy and keep them safe from all harm.
- ✓ Pray especially for Baaw Ter's wellbeing, since he is a key factor in seeing the audio version of the Isan New Testament come to fruition.
- ✓ Pray also for Baaw Ter's financial predicament, that he won't have to sell his home, including the recording studio. He had cosigned a check to help out a trusted *friend*. It bounced and the friend left town, leaving a sizable debt that Baaw Ter feels responsible for.
- ✓ Pray for the completion of the recording studio, that Baaw Ter can soon begin recording the Isan New Testament.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord will give Baaw Ter the stamina and perseverance needed to see the task through to completion.
- ✓ Pray for the funding needed to complete the restoration of both the recording studio, followed by the small radio station. The goal being, that the Isan New Testament (*including other Christian-oriented programming materials*) can go out over the airwaves to the Isan region and adjacent Laos. If anyone would like to participate, project funds can be designated for "Good News Isan" and sent through:

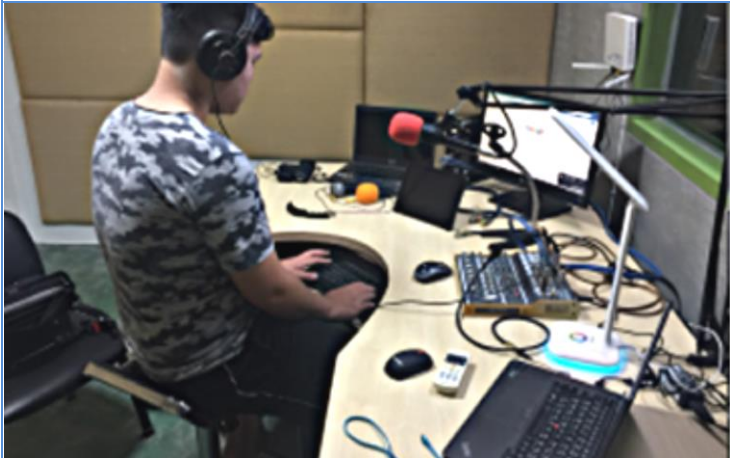
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Recent Photo of Baaw Ter and Wife, "Joo." (Pray for Her Salvation)



Electrician Installing New Service for Recording Studio



Recording Studio Restoration: Son DJ Testing New Equipment



Air Conditioner Tech Checking Out A/C Controller Board



Clearing Brush From Around Baaw Ter's Radio Tower Base



Baaw Ter's Unsaved Mom Reading Isan New Testament