

Ron & Cheryl Myers

God's Word For Isan Newsletter

October 2021

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

Establishing Churches on the Mission Field

Jesus Said, "I Will Build My Church"

By Ron Myers

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

"I will build My church, and the powers of death and hell cannot prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18 b). What did Jesus mean by *My Church*? When we see a specifically styled building, we might exclaim, *"Oh, look at that beautiful church."* In doing so, we are misconstruing the biblical term *church* to mean a lifeless material structure instead of the structure's living contents—its actual meaning. And no, Jesus doesn't own a construction company. The Greek term for church (*ekklesia*) means "called out ones." This term reflects our English word *assembly*: persons gathered in a designated location for a common purpose. In this case, to worship God and study His Word.

A while ago, Cheryl and I took a restful 3-day getaway to the little town of Idyllwild, high up in the San Jacinto mountains. On our second day there, we drove down the other side on a scenic but dizzying winding descent to the town of Banning. Arriving at noon, we spotted a Thai restaurant and were pleasantly surprised to learn that the Thai owner and his wife were Christians, so we spoke in Thai. Delighted to learn we were missionaries to Thailand, they asked if I was a pastor. I said I was, but I didn't pastor churches directly, except for my first rural peasant village church plant and the city church we resurrected on an interim teaching basis until it grew strong again. As missionaries, our goal isn't to pastor churches, but to train up local men—essentially from among those we win to Christ—to establish and pastor new churches in areas where none previously existed.

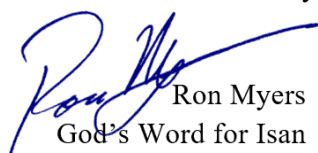
I explained that, as missionaries, our first job is to master the national language and become acclimated to the culture, followed by local-area languages and cultures where we work—tools enabling us to communicate. With them, we preach the Gospel, win souls to Christ by using words understandable to them. We then baptize, teach, and disciple new believers. The goal is to start new self-sustaining, self-propagating local churches in areas where none exist that teach the Gospel. This, while doing mandated rural development and numerous other time-consuming tasks, including maintaining a friendly, learner relationship with the locals whom we came to reach. As people mature in their faith, we appoint pastors and leaders among the ones we teach. It's like holding down multiple full-time jobs simultaneously, so there's no way to have a regular job. Besides, I added, we aren't allowed to seek gainful employment as missionaries due to Thai labor laws and visa restrictions. So, our work is made possible by the undergirding prayers and financial partnership of God's people back home—like Romans 10:14–15 teaches.

I told them that's why Cheryl and I gave our lives to serve God, by taking His Good News message of salvation and forgiveness of sin to those who have never heard before (which describes Thailand's Isan region). By God's grace, many were delivered from spiritual darkness as they received Christ as their Savior and were baptized. Anything we were able to accomplish as God's instruments, we did for His glory and not our own. It's slow and tedious work requiring tenacity and patience. Yet we've seen God do great things when He is at the center.

The men who helped me with the Isan translation—all from different occupations—grew in faith as we studied foundational Bible truths each morning before we worked. They also grew strong ingesting God's Word while working on the translation. Each answered God's call to serve Him. There are now six newly-established churches around Thailand through the work of these men whom I mentored and taught. Also, the failing city church we rescued from closing, which my first translation assistant, Pastor Jarat, and I jointly pastored. Cheryl did her part by working with the local ladies, dissecting languages linguistically, and helping other missionaries with language learning. These are among other ministries that God gave us the privilege of being His vessels. All we did was to remain faithful, looking to Christ's strengthening grace.

The Thai restaurant owners praised us for what we'd done for their county. I told them it's God who deserves all the praise. Our part was to remain obedient and faithful to lead people to Christ, baptize and teach them, as He told his disciples to do. Asked about his accomplishments, Martin Luther said, *"I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word: otherwise, I did nothing. The Word did it all."* The Word of God brings life.

God is Great—Serve Him Today!


Ron Myers
God's Word for Isan

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS: Cheryl and I are grateful for each of you who partner with us in prayer and financial assistance. It's all a part of getting the Gospel to the ends of the earth—Christ's prime decree for His Church. There are untold millions still steeped in hopeless spiritual darkness in unreached areas, waiting to hear the first word about their Creator God and salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul said, some send and some go. *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?"* (Romans 10:14–15)

Interested in Helping Out?

Contact Us At This Address.

www.BWMOM.org

Baptist World Missionary Outreach Min.



PO Box 3303 • Chattanooga, TN 37404

Tel (423) 624-8330