



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

September 2021

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

“Concerning My Return to Minister in Thailand”

“A Covid Update from My Thai Travel Agent”

By Ron Myers

To Ron Myers (09/25/21)

From: Krajai Ketwatanawes

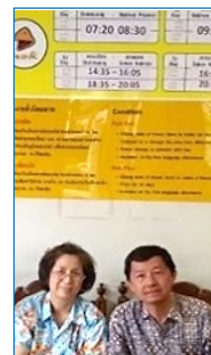
Krajai's NKP Travel Ctr.

Nakhon Phanom City

Thailand, 48000

***Note:** Mr. Krajai—a Thai of Chinese descent—has been a trusted friend since we first moved to Nakhon Phanom Province to begin our church planting ministry back in the early 1970s. Krajai grew up in Bangkok alongside an old established Chinese Baptist church that preaches the Gospel. But, he has not yet trusted in Christ as his Savior. Pray please that Krajai will see his need and believe.*

*This letter is translated from Thai, except for my **notations**. I'm sending it to you so you'll better understand and pray about that which hinders my return.*



Dear Ron,

I'm sorry for the late reply to your query about the Covid travel situation here. Conditions continually change for both Thais and foreigners who want to travel—either from Thailand to foreign countries or foreigners who want to enter Thailand (**Me!**). There are different precautionary requirements in each country and location.

For example, last week there was an Englishman here who wanted to go home. His flight took him from Nakhon Phanom to Don Mueang domestic airport in Bangkok, then across Bangkok to Suvarnabhumi international airport where he proceeded on to London. However, before he could leave, he had to undergo a 72-hour Covid quarantine test to obtain a certificate before boarding his flight. Health certificate in hand, he was able to board the homeward bound plane, but was then required to quarantine again in London for 14 days. Thai 14-day mandatory quarantines in Bangkok cost 120,000 Baht. (\$3,600 USD @ 33.32:1)

Anyone boarding a domestic flight from Bangkok to Nakhon Phanom (**our ministry's headquarters**) must have received the full two injections of vaccination (**which I already have**). So, there's *no need to quarantine*, but all arriving passengers must check in at the Nakhon Phanom airport's health office to report in and register. Or, they can do so with a village health volunteer in the area where they'll be staying.

Note: I need to further investigate the local “no need to quarantine” ruling. It is tentative at best and could affect my return to Thailand since the “must quarantine” requirement might still be in effect in Bangkok. Concerning Nakhon Phanom's recent “no need to quarantine” status; it may return to “must quarantine” if more people become infected, which is likely. I usually stay with my friend and coworker Baaw-Ture, who has now had both vaccinations and is still suffering from long term after-effects—yet he is managing and praising God.

Krajai continues: Joseph, a Christian missionary from Korea, was quarantined at a hotel in Bangkok for 14 days. Afterwards, when he flew to Sakon Nakhon Province—**bordering Nakhon Phanom**—he was quarantined by the village of Kham Toeï (where he worked) for another 14 days—making it 28 days in total that Joseph has been quarantined. Otherwise, he would be free to enter Kham Toeï, but the villagers wouldn't allow it without the extra 14-day quarantine. Every local area appears to have its own rules. Similarly, when flying from Thailand to Korea, passengers must undergo a 48-hour Covid quarantine test before boarding.

Laos: As of today, the end of September, inhabitants in Thakhek City (**directly across the Mekong River from Nakhon Phanom**) are locked down and unable to leave their homes. This includes the three open-air fresh produce markets there, which are completely closed, leaving the local Laotians low on food and other amenities—necessities for their daily lives. This is due to a general transportation slowdown. Usually, there are ten-wheeler trucks transporting goods across the Thai-Laos Bridge from the Thai side. They go to Thakhek every three days, but as of today, it's been more than a week since they went. Also, less than half of the freight forwarding companies are in operation because there are no orders being placed. This is because previous product orders are locked down in still-full warehouses. Everyone, including warehouse owners can't even leave their homes to open their warehouses, or owners of other places of business. Another nearby situation in Vientiane city, Lao's capital. Presently, there are more than a thousand newly infected people and growing.

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