



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S LIVING WORD FOR ALL PEOPLE

December 2023

A Faith-based Missionary Outreach Sustained Through the Prayers and Financial Partnership of God's People

“Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God” (Part II)

Go Into All The World – Preach The Gospel To Every Creature

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In our [November Newsletter](#), I reported, with photos, the many ways God abundantly blessed during my first two weeks in Nakhon Phanom, Northeast Thailand. As per the goals I had set, God opened many new doors of opportunity to: (a) further evangelize the Buddhist populace, (b) visit old friends who have heard the Gospel, but not yet believed, (c) further ground believers by teaching foundational truths and (d) establish mentoring relationships with new potential leaders. I want to describe to you how the Lord continued to bless me throughout my third week. So many things occurred I'm not sure where to begin.

I had contacted the Pone Boke Village church saying I'd be there on Sunday, November 26. Their lay pastor, retired Thai Army Colonel Sanoh took the day off. (*Sanoh received Christ when he was a Sergeant.*) I taught two subjects, “*How Great a Salvation*” (Heb 3:2), which covers the three main aspects of Salvation: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. I also reviewed an abridged list of the fundamental doctrines of the faith, giving handouts on both subjects for all to follow and take home to study. Many Thai and Isan believers' faith is weak, not knowing these essential truths—leaving them easy prey for false teachers.



Pone Boke Church

I arrived early, bringing a pineapple and a watermelon for lunchtime. Whenever I go I meet new believers. I was greeted by Joey, a very cheerful fellow with obvious leadership potential. A relatively new believer from a



Joey
Lunch, Anyone?

Catholic village, Joey told me how he had grown up under Catholicism but realized its fallacies after reading the Scriptures and attending Pone Boke. Everyone was attentive, eagerly soaking up the Scriptures as we studied God's living Word together.

Like most villages, Pone Boke is steeped in a type of cultural Buddhism, the practice of dark arts, and fear of evil spirits. Although small, the church there is strong and steadfast, despite the surrounding spiritual darkness. The oppression is palpable and foreboding. I sense it every time I go. This is where I was nearly killed by a lightning strike while evangelizing, apart from the power of believer's prayers, which God had prompted. Yet the resultant church is solid, despite living in Satan's domain. It's reminiscent of Christ's message to the Church at Smyrna. He commended them, saying, “*I know your works, your tribulation, and your poverty, but you are [spiritually] rich*” (Revelation 3:9-11). (*This little girl is growing up under the Gospel.*)



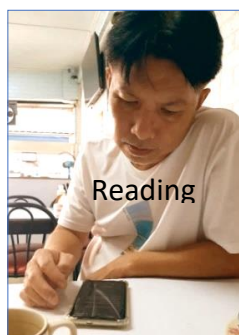
Pone Boke

After Sunday lunch, two ladies (WanDee and Suchitra), hopped on a small motorbike and had me follow them. Traveling down the road approaching the village of NaNai (where we once lived), they entered the driveway of a lovely home. Robert and his Thai wife live there. It's quite an oasis, looking out of sync for the area. This was another ministry opportunity. We got along famously. It became evident that Robert was starved for Christian fellowship which my visit provided—we still keep in touch. Robert helps with the Pone Boke church youth by giving little gifts and access to his large swimming pool. Pray he'll be able to learn Thai.



During my third week in Nakhon Phanom, I continued to evangelize at every opportunity. The Aiyara Riverine Hotel where I stayed was no exception. The theme throughout the lobby is elephants. The name *Aiyara* translates as elephant in Sanskrit. It's small, yet clean and affordable, and the staff members are accommodating and friendly. The lobby has a great hot drink machine: Coffee, Latte, Cappuccino, and Cocoa. I frequented it evenings while writing, often chatting with the night receptionists with the intended purpose of giving them one of my Consideration Creation booklets.

I gave a Creation Evangelism booklet to one of the receptionists. She said her family is Catholic and that she was looking forward to reading it. The following day, her face glowed, saying she read it and believed. I said Salvation is a gift, given by a loving God, and she must simply place her trust in Christ. He died on the Cross to pay her sin debt, rose bodily to conquer death, and justified her in God's sight. If she truly believed, she was now a born-again Christian. I sense her conversion was genuine but time will tell. I referred her to my coworker Baaw Ter to contact her. When I checked out the hotel owner gave me three specially-designed coffee mugs with lids, engraved with the hotel's elephant logo.



Boy (his *nickname*) is the eldest son of a Vietnamese restaurant owner, a favorite breakfast spot. I mentioned him in my November newsletter. Having eaten there for years, when witnessing to Boy I learned he and many of the Vietnamese girls working there are Christians, including his mom. They attend a small church nearby. Boy and I began a casual friendship which developed into a mentoring relationship.

Boy and I often discussed spiritual matters. Realizing Boy was mostly untaught, as I named verses, he looked them up verses, read them, and then looked away as he contemplated their meanings. Boy is growing in both knowledge and understanding. When I left, he stood at the entrance, asking that God bless my trip home as he handed me a container of food to eat on the plane. We stay in touch through the LINE app.



The Thai love birthday parties. When I stay into December, I usually host a birthday party and invite friends and acquaintances. This time, I hosted a small pre-birthday party the night before before I left.

Upon returning to Bangkok and the Christian Guest House, I was greeted warmly by the Chinese believers Pastor Caleb, and his assistant Elaine. I know them from our symposium in Phuket Thailand in June. Caleb had the vision to establish a Chinese Mission where young Chinese missionaries would *go forth* to preach the Gospel. Caleb assigned Elaine as project coordinator, a very brilliant yet unassuming person. She is now finishing her studies at the Chinese Bible School in Singapore. My task as their advisor is to help prepare, guide, and equip them to fulfill their goals.



Left to Right: John, Elaine, Ron, Pastor Caleb

Our Mandarin interpreter was John, a bright young Chinese believer ministering in Thailand. Before beginning, I was presented with a personalized plaque stating my name and advisory position along with a set of Panda-shaped porcelain jars containing Pastor Caleb's favorite Chinese Tea. I spent the next two days working with them in an advisory capacity, discussing the preparatory tools their missionaries needed to complete their plan of world evangelism successfully. A Singaporean-Chinese delegation was meeting there for a conference. So, we all decided to get together for lunch. As you can see, these people love a lot of good clean fun. I'm the outsider until I learn to speak Mandarin—my next goal.



Chinese Brethren Enjoying A Great Lunch Time

A New Goal: Convert My Spoken Isan New Testament into a Colloquial Thai Edition

The Isan New Testament, the Lao version, and the audio narration are completed. They are on various phone apps and posted on three websites. I've asked God what He has for me next. His answer came in the way of Macedonian calls. Last December, I was asked by mission-minded Chinese house church members to work alongside them in an advisory capacity, to help accelerate their goals of world evangelization. Also, some Thai and Isan believers have voiced their wishes that I convert my spoken Isan New Testament into a colloquial Thai edition. This corresponds with my own thoughts. Potential readership? Approaching 80 million and growing.

A genuine need exists because Thai readers in general cannot decipher or understand their own Bible accurately, according to the textual meaning—even highly educated Thai. This is due to the translation principles that were employed by the Thai Bible Society (TBS). They translated using a high literary language style, not everyday spoken Thai. A good example would be the original Greek New Testament manuscripts. The Holy Spirit did not choose Classical Greek to produce the inspired Word, but *Koine* Greek, the common form of Greek spoken by everyday Greek citizens.

The other major problem is that translators *purposefully* mistranslated key passages concerning our eternal inheritance and position in Christ. It causes me to wonder if they understood, or were even believers. For instance, in Paul's prayer for believers in Ephesians 3:16–21. Verses 3:17b–18a read, "That ye, **being rooted and grounded in love**, may be able to comprehend..." Grammatically, these two verbs (rooted and grounded) are stated in perfect tense and passive voice.

The Thai Bible Society does the same unorthodox thing with Colossians 3:7, turning its positional truth into commands. "*Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving*" is turned into four commands: "*1 Root yourself, 2 build yourself up, 3 establish yourself, and 4 be thankful, as ye have been taught.*" No wonder so many Thais are confused. Why do they have a problem understanding Salvation by Grace alone apart from works? Their Thai Bible teaches both simultaneously!

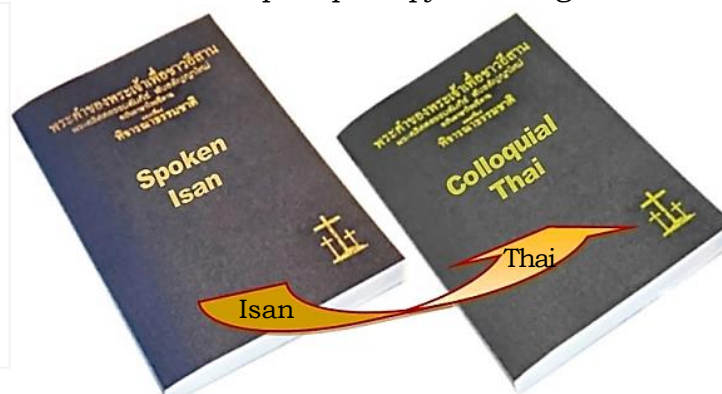
Greek perfect tense means, *having been completed in the past, once and for all time*. Greek passive voice, like English, signifies *the subject is the recipient of the action, not the actor*. Meaning? God *rooted and grounded* believers in Christ by His love, forever. How do most Thai versions read? "*Once you have rooted and grounded yourself, you'll be able to understand...*" That's just one example out of many I could name more outrageous than this. Wow! That's salvation by works, not grace. It's as I said, no wonder the Thai have a problem understanding Salvation by Grace alone, apart from works.

So, you can see this will not be just another Thai translation. The Isan New Testament is different and better since it's based on the more complete and accurate Greek text—the Byzantine or Majority Greek text. Knowledgeable scholars tell us the Textus Receptus Greek manuscripts, from which the 1611 King James New Testament was translated are a subset of extant Byzantine Greek manuscripts, those available at that juncture.

The Thai and Isan languages—like Italian and Spanish—share similarities in vocabulary. However, Isan and Thai have different grammatical and tonal pronunciation patterns, making Isan unintelligible for most Thai. Like my Isan New Testament, I believe I'll be able to get it printed at the Bangkok print shop that does Gideon Bibles, using imported Bible paper and at a reasonable price per copy. Funding is needed for this important endeavor.

I want to say that funding special projects and needed one-time gifts plays a wonderful part.

Yet, it's prayers and monthly support we need most, making it possible to reach hopelessly lost souls in Thailand as we do. Thank you most for that.



Pray for completion of the Colloquial Thai New Testament. I have invited another translator to work with me on this project, to help expedite it along. It's presently in its initial stages. Pray also for Baaw Ter's Buddhist wife Ju, that she'll be saved

Love In Christ, Ron & Cheryl Myers – May You Have a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous 2024!