



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S LIVING WORD FOR ALL PEOPLE

December 2024

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

My Present Time in Thailand

"An October-to-December Pictorial Wrap-up"

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends and Supporters,

After two months in Thailand I'm now back in San Diego. Jetlag and body-clock adjustments aren't usually a problem. This time, though, the 15-hour time zone difference between Thailand and San Diego really affected me. I slept and nodded off the first three-four days home and am still bleary-eyed at times. Yet, the ministry time I spent there was blessed by God in many ways, both in Bangkok and during my time at our ministry headquarters in Northeast Thailand. The following is a pictorial summary.

Arriving in Thailand at midnight after a 25-hour flight from San Diego, I checked into the Bangkok Christian Guest House at 1:45 AM. That afternoon I had an appointment with Philip and Elaine as their missionary advisor, a newly-married Chinese couple beginning their missionary service in Thailand.

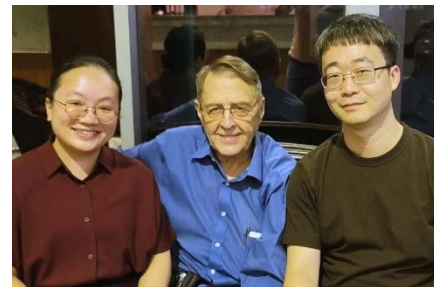


Bangkok Christian Guest House



Traditional Wedding Attire

I spent a few days in Bangkok with Philip and Elaine going over basic missions methodologies. These newlyweds were given a pioneer role by their Chinese House Churches, whose vision is to send many young missionary teams to unreached people groups worldwide. Philip and Elaine, a very sweet dedicated couple, are now studying Thai in Bangkok and doing quite well. Their goal is to start a ministry among the many Chinese students studying there. God has given me the privilege of working with a group of Chinese house churches in an advisory capacity, spelling out what is needed to win totally unreached people groups.



Missionaries Elaine - Ron - Philip

Then, on November 1st, I took an hour and twenty-minute flight to our ministry headquarters in Nakhon Phanom Province, Northeast Thailand, nestled on the western banks of the mighty Mekong River. I was greeted at the airport by my two co-workers and their wives, Pastor Pitak and wife Sri, as well as Baaw Ter and wife Ju.

The first item on my agenda in Nakhon Phanom was a scheduled meeting with Jacky, an Isan man whom I did not know, but he knew of me. How it occurred was, Pastor Jarat (then my first Bible translation assistant) and I had responded to a plea by Jacky's family, the first Christians in the area at the time. The father became sick and passed into God's presence. His last wishes were to have his earthly remains buried alongside his house.



Jacky's Sisters, Ron, Jacky & Chet-Missionaries to Hong Kong

Yet none of the Buddhist villagers would help. So, Jarat and I rode my Honda 125 cc trail bike the 80 kilometers (50 mi.) on dusty single lane dirt roads to the district town of Nah-Wah where they lived.

It was during the cold season so the soil was hard and dry. We dug using old shovels and picks until we had a 1.5 meter deep, coffin-size grave. Jacky was born around that time. A few years later we were called on to dig an adjacent grave for their mother, also during cold season with its sunbaked hardened soil. Jacky is now grown and married to Chet. They serve as missionaries in a successful ministry among Expat Thais working in Hong Kong. Now home on furlough, Jacky and Chet wanted to meet me since their family holds me in high regard. We had a great time of fellowship over breakfast.



Ron at Pone Boke

The following Sunday, I spoke at the first village church started under my ministry—a small but vibrant remote peasant-farmer village congregation. I was blessed by their lively singing and their many personal testimonies. Although small, they are growing in spite of being in the center of Satan’s dark domain. Like the church at Pergamos, they are to be commended as they “Hold fast in Jesus’ Name” (Rev 2:13). They even gave me a sizable gift in their poverty. Retired Thai Army Colonel Sanoh is their pastor, a faithful brother in Christ whom I led to faith in the 1980s as a tough Sergeant Sanoh (see inset).



Ron and Sanoh with Pone Boke Believers



Between evangelizing, teaching and mentoring believers, I’ve been working on a more-accurate Thai New Testament, translating it into a faithful yet colloquial Thai version. Many people aren’t aware that the original Greek New Testament was penned in every-day spoken Greek, not Classical Greek. As such, this new “Spoken Thai” New Testament version will be both accurate as well as in the everyday Thai vernacular.

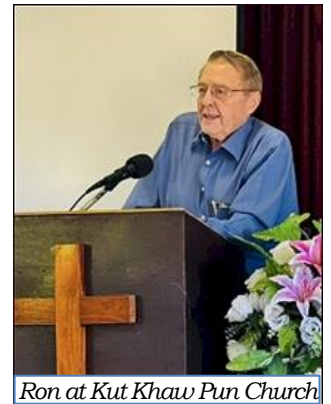


The following Sunday, I spoke at another congregation started under my ministry. Not by me actually, but by Prakop, a former small-time thief. Prakop made an illicit living by robbing cattle and water buffalo from neighboring villages and selling them secretly. I led Prakop to Christ while sitting on the bamboo floor of a rickety grass hut in the middle of a rice field one sunny day. Prakop then explained how he feared for his life because a vigilante posse of villagers had set out to kill him. So, I contacted a notable Thai Bible school in Northern Thailand, a 1,200-kilometer distance away, and explained the situation.



Newly saved Prakop and Ron

They agreed to take Prakop (whom I took there) in under certain behavioral conditions. Four years later, Prakop graduated with a Bible degree. He returned to his village and asked forgiveness of those he had wronged, which they gave. He then started the thriving church where I taught (photo), now pastored by Pastor Pitak. It was small then, yet some of those he led to Christ still remain, including Pitak’s wife Sri.



Ron at Kut Khaw Pun Church

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Pastor Prakop & Nawara

Prakop later married Nawara, a school classmate. They then went to Southern Thailand and started a new church in Pang-Nga Province where they now serve. Pang-Nga’s coastline is where the devastating Tsunami hit, which I visited later. What unbelievable carnage. Prakop and Nawara had a significant role in overseeing the huge cleanup, for which the Thai government awarded them a nice plaque of appreciation.

I’m very proud of my former outlaw convert. He and his congregation have now started three more new church groups, as well as a work with the Sea Gypsy People who inhabit the Andaman Islands off Thailand’s western coast. My transformed “Criminal for Christ” and wife Nawarat have served the Lord faithfully these many years. I was able to contact him recently and hope to visit them in Southern Thailand during my next trip.

I celebrated my December 7th birthday in Nakhon Phanom among friends and their families. My old friend, Krajai gave me a special locally-woven shirt. When the moment arrived, the lights were dimmed as my co-worker Baaw Ter came forward with one of three birthday cakes as he pronounced a blessing. Blowing out the candles brought on loud applause.



Ron and Krajai w/ shirt



With guests at December 7th Birthday Party



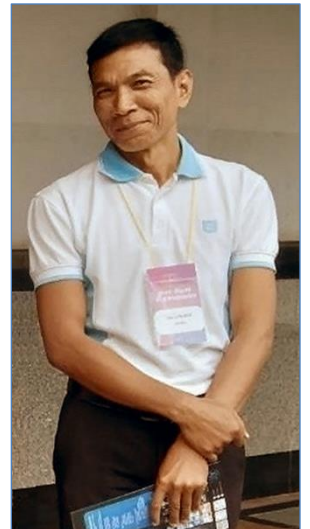
Baaw Ter and Cake



Teaching new believer at Kut Khaw Pun

This young lady (left) trusted Christ as I was teaching at Pastor Pitaks church. My subject was the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, as well as unbelievers. Having passed out notes before the service, we're reviewing the Scriptures in her copy. I'm explaining how eternal life is God's gift and that God's Holy Spirit takes up residence in the hearts and lives of believers the moment they trust in Christ.

Mr. Raywat (right) attends Pitak's church along with his wife. He had been studying for the ministry at the Bangkok Bible Seminary. Unfortunately, his funds ran out half way through his studies. He needs the equivalent of about \$4,000 USD to finish. If you know anyone who would like to help him, funds can be earmarked for Raywat and sent through my Mission organization. The sending address and phone number is on the blue strip at the bottom of each page.



Raywat-BBS Bible Student

A couple days before returning to Bangkok, Elaine and Philip informed me that two Chinese lady missionaries ministering among the Isan people in Udon-tani province wanted to come interview me as to how best to present the Gospel to the Thai and Isan people. They brought along three Bible school students from the Chinese Bible School in Singapore. I told them that without the benefit of a Judeo-Christian or Biblical world view, it's nearly impossible for the Thais to grasp the true identity of Jesus Christ. Otherwise, they wrongly assume Christ is the religious Guru who teaches Westerners how to be good. I said they needed to start by discussing Origins and Intelligent Design, leading to the understanding that the Creation they all love came from must have a Creator. I gave them a boxful of Isan New Testaments and a 100 ct. package of my Considering Creation booklets to take back. These booklets are now in Thai, English, and Chinese. This photo (below) shows the mile-wide Mekong River and Communist Laos on the opposite shore. It was a bright, balmy day.



Visiting Chinese Missionary Delegation from Udon-tani Province with Singapore Bible School Students



Pastors Ek and Terng w/ Wives, Ron, Philip and Elaine

Upon returning to Bangkok, and before flying home, I invited my two close Thai friends, Pastor Ek, Pastor Terng, and their wives to have lunch with me at the American-expat owned *Roadhouse BBQ Restaurant*. Both Ek and Terng are teaching professors at Bangkok Bible Seminary (where Raywat attended). Philip and Elaine joined us. I flew home the next morning, just in time for Christmas.

May God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ give you a safe and Blessed New Year



Ron and Cheryl Myers
Your Missionaries to Thailand

That evening, I was invited to dinner with other close friends, Barry and Mink Williams. F.Y.I., Mink's aunt owns the Gideon print shop where the Isan New Testament was printed in 2016.



Barry, Mink, and Daughters