



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S LIVING WORD FOR ALL PEOPLE

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

A Man Makes Plans but the Lord Directs His Steps – Part II “My Present Time in Thailand”

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A quick note to catch you up on how well things went here in Thailand. I had three very productive weeks while at our Isan area headquarters in Northeast Thailand's Nakhon Phanom Province. I am now back at the Bangkok Christian Guest House for two days before returning to our stateside headquarters in San Diego. My flight leaves here at 8:05 AM Friday, June 21. After a 17-hour flight, it touches down in San Diego the same morning at 11:15 AM, 3 hours later. How is that possible? I regain the lost day when my flight crosses back over the *International Date Line*.



Bangkok Christian Guest House

Before I left San Diego for my trip here, Paetong, one of my former Bible translation



Patong & Ron, 17 yrs. later

assistants contacted me. He's a very dear Isan brother in Christ who had diligently assisted me with the Isan New Testament translation for a period until God opened other doors of service. Paetong said he missed me since we had not seen each other in years. So, he traveled down to Bangkok from distant Chiang Rai province in the far reaches of Northern Thailand where he is now serving the Lord. We had an enjoyable day together before he had to hurry to catch his domestic flight back to Northern Thailand.

After breakfast, I called Pastor Ek (pronounced *ache*), a dear brother, close friend, and a former teaching prof at Bangkok Bible Seminary who now pastors a Thai church in Bangkok. Ek also has a YouTube Bible teaching channel, well-known among the Thai Christian community. I'm afraid I will have gained weight eating all this great *authentic* Thai food.



Ron and Ek enjoying lunch together.

I also contacted another friend, Thai Pastor Tirakorn, who stores my Isan New Testaments at his church storage facility to see if we needed to print any more *Considering Creation* Intelligent Design evangelism booklets. These are designed towards Thai Buddhists needs. They all love nature but have no understanding of origins or of a Creator God to whom they must one day answer. While in Bangkok I will also seek to get a one-year multiple entry visa. More about the visa later.



Mr. Leo, a former Lao refugee

While waiting at the Thai domestic airport for my flight to Nakhon Phanom, I noticed a gentleman sitting nearby glancing at me occasionally. He then arose and came over to introduce himself as Leo. I was surprised that he spoke fairly good American English. As it turned out, Leo, now a Christian, had been a Laotian war refugee and was now a US citizen, returning to visit friends and family back home. We had a great time of fellowship around the Lord while waiting for our flight.

Concerning my meeting with a Chinese House Church delegation as their missionary advisor, unfortunately scheduling did not work out so our meeting was postponed. These dear folks desire to obey God's call to "Go Ye Into All the World and Preach the Gospel..." (Mark 16:15). So, they are preparing to send many young missionaries to unreached people groups in China and around the world. I first met them "by chance" two years ago here at the Bangkok Christian Guest House where two of them were on Christmas break from their studies at the Chinese speaking Singapore Bible College. The following year, they invited Cheryl and me to participate in a 10-day missions-oriented teaching symposium held at a Mandarin-speaking Chinese Church on PhuKet Island, Southern Thailand. We met many more Chinese brothers and sisters in Christ there.

They will need the right tools to send out their young people as church planting missionaries to unreached ethnic people groups successfully, both in China's mountainous hinterlands and around the world. These tools are specialized training in linguistics, phonetics, unwritten language, and culture acquisition principles, working with native language assistants, putting unwritten languages into written form, teaching people to read and write their own language, Bible translation principles, etc. Cheryl and I received this type of training when we were with New Tribes Mission. I've been advising them about this need for training and where to receive it.

When my domestic flight landed at the Nakhon Phanom airport—nearly 500 miles northeast of Bangkok on the banks of the Mekong River, bordering Laos—I was greeted by my coworker Pastor Pitak and by Ms. Ju, my other coworker Baaw Ter's spouse. She explained she came in Baaw Ter's stead since he was out of town then; a very thoughtful gesture on her part. We have been praying for Ju's salvation for many years. **Pray** with us that God's redeeming Love will melt that hard shell surrounding Ju, and that she will be gloriously saved. And, the Lord has encouraged me not to cease but to continue praying for her soul since Buddhism has a strong hold on her.



The Aiyara Riverine Hotel

Note: The Nakhon Phanom Int'l Airport was once a USAF forward bombing base during the Vietnam War. The whole facility was turned over to Thailand when the war ended and has now been remodeled into a fully modern airport with daily flights.

When Baaw Ter returned, he met Pitak and me at the Aiyara Riverine Hotel, where I stayed during my time there. He had reserved a first-floor room for me weeks earlier. There are so many new hotels in Nakhon Phanom now that prices are being slashed. My 3-week stay totaled 12,990 Baht (\$354 USD). That includes a *King-size* bed and a free coffee and snack bar!



Baaw Ter, Ron, & Pastor Pitak

While staying there, I spread the Gospel among the staff as I usually do. One, Ms. Nan, told me she was Catholic. I gave her one of my *Considering Creation, Do You Like Nature* booklets. The next day, she remarked that she really liked the booklet and believed it all. It contains a clear *Heaven or Hell* Gospel message at the end, with an opportunity to receive Christ, so it was easy to assume she meant she had received Christ, yet I was not sure.

Working with Thai Catholics is much easier than with Buddhists since they have a semi-biblical world view. Nan told me she would not be working the next morning, when I left. So, I called her aside that afternoon as she was leaving and asked a very important question. This question reveals one's depth of understanding relationship with God. I said to her, *"If God were to ask you right now, 'WHY SHOULD I ALLOW YOU TO ENTER HEAVEN,' what reason would you offer God?"*

She eagerly said, "I've always tried to be good to everyone, and I believe in God." Bingo! This simple question is always quite revealing. I didn't say anything negative about her response but simply added that there are many reasons people might offer God but there is only one right answer. Do you know that answer? I then loosely quoted Ephesians 2:8-9 in Thai, saying, *"We are saved by God's grace through our faith; and not because of our own good deeds, because salvation is a gift of God, not gained by our good deeds."* I also quoted Romans 6:23—our just wages *vs.* God's gift.



Nan, a new person in Christ

I watched as God's Word enlightened her heart. Nan had realized her reason was wrong. I then asked if she'd like to know the right answer, the one that God needs to hear. *"It's that you are trusting in His Son, Jesus, because He died and paid the price for your sins,"* adding that He then rose again, conquering the power of Satan, sin, and death itself. Now, one more time, *"If God were to ask you right now, 'WHY SHOULD I ALLOW YOU TO ENTER HEAVEN,' what reason would you offer Him?"* *"Because I'm trusting in Jesus,"* flowed straightway from her lips. *"Is that true,"* I asked. *"Yes!"* Nan replied, with a brand-new smile lighting up her face.

I then quoted John 3:16 in Thai, saying this was God's promise. And that Salvation is His gift to all who believe on His Son. And, that God cannot lie. That on the strength of that Divine promise she now had eternal life. She asked me to send her all these verses and that she had to rush over to the school where her two daughters were waiting for her to pick them up. I promised I would send her many Bible verses (which I did) and asked here one more time what she was trusting in for Salvation... *"JESUS!"* came flowing out through her smile. *"Really?"* I queried. Yes, really! was her reply.

If enduring the 100+ degree weather with daily drenching by heavy thunder storms, along with all the trouble and expense to travel to Thailand was the price paid to witness Nan's newly found Salvation, and see her joyous smile, then it was worth every penny and drop of sweat many times over! Amen. Thank you, Lord, for allowing this redeemed sinner to serve you, helping expand your Kingdom among the utterly lost people in Thailand. Jesus offered up His precious Blood and died on Calvary's Cross for all them too. Effectual for whosoever will come and drink of the Water of Life freely (Revelation 22:17).

All this would be impossible without your financial partnership and undergirding prayer support for us. God's plan for world evangelism is clear, recorded in Romans 10:14-15: *"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, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*



Boy & Ron at Paun Thep Restaurant

Mornings, I have breakfast at *Paun Thep*, a popular spot in Nakhon Phanom. There, the owner's eldest son *Boy* and I continue our fellowship around the Word. One day, I told him I had visited the little church he attends occasionally and heard the pastor say people are Saved first and receive the Holy Spirit later, and that this is contrary to Scripture. We had studied that truth during my previous trip—that we receive the indwelling Holy Spirit the moment we are saved (Ephesians 1:13; Romans 8:11), not afterward, and that He abides within us forever. And that without God's indwelling Holy Spirit we are not Christians (Rom 8:9). My statement took him a while to digest, which he did. He gave me a going away gift. **Pray** that Boy will grow in the truth and confront error.

I spoke two Sundays in two of the churches started under our ministry. The first Sunday in the rural Pone Boke church, 30 kilos (19 mi.) out of Nakhon Phanom in a yet very-primitive village. They always welcome me warmly, their spiritual dad, and listen intently as God's word is taught. There, I spoke on the person of God and His eternal attributes, Angels (both good and bad), the fall and depravity of all mankind, utterly unable to help ourselves or contribute to our unwarranted Salvation apart from God's Love. It's not a huge group but the believers are steadfast and strong. The area is steeped in the dark arts and Buddhism, as is much of the country but one can sense the oppressive darkness there.

The next Sunday I spoke at Pastor Pitak's church, 11 kilometers (6½ mi.) south of Nakhon Phanom on the outskirts of a more prosperous village. The surrounding atmosphere there is noticeably different, lively and growing. I also spoke there on the person of God, His eternal attributes, etc., the same as in the Pone Boke church.

This brings me to what is probably the most significant aspect of my ministry. That is, Bible translation. I mentioned in my last newsletter that I have been asked to translate an accurate version of the New Testament into the common Thai vernacular. An accurate translation with no classical or high literary language, no difficult vocabulary, and most importantly, no mis-translated or missing key passages. I had already done all the arduous but necessary research exegesis when I translated the Isan New Testament. Therefore, that doesn't need to be repeated for my new spoken Thai vernacular version.

I'm presently exchanging all unique Isan New Testament words and phrases for their Thai equivalent. I thought I was further along in the process but recently discovered numerous Isan words and phrases that remain interspersed within the Thai text. It's a setback, but I will correct it. The Greek New Testament was written in everyday spoken Greek called *Koine* Greek. The 80-million Thai need a New Testament translation of the same caliber. One that accurately reflects the wording of the best Greek text, the Byzantine/TR text. Present Thai translations confuse believers as to whether Salvation is by Grace or by works. This is due to grossly mistranslated key passages describing our standing and inheritance "In Christ." The newer Thai translations read well but retain most all the problem passages. **Pray** for me as I seek to correct this huge problem.

More Great News and Opened Doors. I went into a large electronic and appliance store in Nakhon Phanom one day. The facility belonged to Mr. Piak—one of his two stores. I had known Piak from times past but hadn't seen him in ages. As our eyes met, he smiled and greeted me warmly. Piak noticed the *Considering Creation* Intelligent Design evangelism booklet protruding from my shirt pocket and asked to see it. "I've seen these before. They are very good. May I have your permission to print more of them?" he asked, adding that "There are a lot of students in different grade levels that need to know this message."



Piak and Ron

No need to do that, I told Piak, because we've already printed them. I said I'd send him a 100-count pack today from my storage facility near Bangkok and also send a 40-count box of Isan New Testaments. "You can have as many as you can use," I added, "and they're free." I've never seen Piak happier. He explained how business had slowed due to Covid so he consolidated everything into his main store and is turning his other property into a public lounge and library for all to enjoy. He could have these materials on display there and free for the taking. It became evident that Piak was not a Christian, but had a good heart and desire to serve the community, having also been a teacher. I encouraged him to read my *Considering Creation* booklet and the Isan New Testament for himself so he would have a better understand of what it's about. **Pray** for Piak's salvation!

A One Year Visa: As you might recall, I have been asking you to **pray** with me for a 1-year multiple entry Thai visa for quite a while. It now looks like I can get a one-year renewable retirement visa and cut through red tape requirements through an immigration office acquaintance of my good friend Mr. Sutee. That's how things function here. Sutee's friend was out of town so we met with the officer's wife at her restaurant. She was amazing as she knew all the *ropes*. She called another officer friend in a place of authority and pled my situation. That means I'll be able to register my Nissan ministry pickup in my name as well as get a year-long Thai driver's license. I'll pursue this on my following trip. I'll just have to fulfill some minor details.

May God Bless & Prosper You,



Ron and Cheryl Myers
Your Missionaries to Thailand

Lastly, I had an excellent opportunity over lunch to speak with Sutee again about his need the receive Christ. He listened closer than ever before, and even said maybe soon, a huge step from a blank stare. I went on to warn him none of us are guaranteed our next breath and that Today is the Day of Salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). **Pray** for Sutee.

In closing, Cheryl and I want to express our gratitude to all of you who support our ministry. The Thai church can *never* be truly strong—though it may appear that way externally—until the Thai have an accurate New Testament in their own spoken tongue.