



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S LIVING WORD FOR ALL PEOPLE

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

Snakes, Bugs, and Other Things *What You'll Find on the Mission Field*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I now have my Japan Airlines ticket for Thailand. I fly directly out of San Diego with a stopover in Tokyo one day later. From there, I fly to Bangkok, where I land at midnight—twenty hours after departing from San Diego. The return flight is only 17 hours due to flying with the upper atmosphere's Jetstream. Please pray that all will go well and that my time with the Thai people will see spiritual fruit for the advancement of Christ and His Kingdom.

Concerning this newsletter's title, I'm *not* trying to frighten anyone or dissuade you from pursuing a missionary career. These are just some things that missionaries sometimes face. We experienced many of these during our ongoing ministry in Thailand, both pleasant (like Thai cuisine) and not-so-pleasant. Yet we were under God's protective watch care despite the snakes, bugs, and other things. Things like parasites, mosquitos, flies, ants, termites, hornets, [scorpions](#), [centipedes](#), [spiders](#), [snakes](#), rats, rabid bats, and rabid dogs. Although we were cautious, all these posed a potential threat to our well-being. Yet when we went on furlough, our medical tests showed a clean bill of health.

Flies, Centipedes, and Rabid Dogs: Our home in the Nyaw village where we ministered was raised 8 feet on integral vertical beams. We had shutters on the windows but no screens. All was fine until Cheryl started making lunch. The aroma attracted the flies in our neighbor's animal pen. They immediately came swarming in uninvited to share our meal. No good! I measured the windows and doors, went to a shop in town, and had nice aluminum screens and doors the next day. Being high off the ground, we were almost safe from the creatures I mentioned previously, almost. Early one morning, Cheryl got up to use the bathroom. On her way there, she exclaimed that she stepped on something squishy. I got up and looked. It was a dead centipede—the poisonous kind. Not sure how it got there, but she had squashed it dead under her bare foot. We had a grassy yard where kids played. It had a sturdy bamboo fence, so rabid dogs running in from the fields couldn't enter.

Communist Soldiers: We lived there towards the end of the Vietnam War. During that time, signs of Communist infiltrators surrounded us. Reports of them burying rice stockpiles in the forests behind our village. In 1975, our young family crossed into Laos to renew our Thai visas, a regular occurrence every two months during the hectic Vietnam War years. We had done so before, but this time was different. A regiment of Pathet Lao regulars (*Lao People's Liberation Army*) had leapfrogged from their former location in southern Laos to take over the Laotian border town the night before we went there. There we sat, surrounded by teenage soldiers armed with AK-47 rifles pointed in our general direction. Meanwhile, I was "interviewed" by their commander, who asked why we were there. It could have gotten dangerous. Some missionaries to Laos had been killed. Others were marched to the Hanoi POW camp. Yet, by God's grace, they let us go.

Other Things—Lost People! We made many friends while living in the villages. Yet we were often saddened as children and adults died needlessly from various maladies: tetanus, pneumonia, diabetes, tuberculosis, cholera, dysentery, malaria, cancer, infection, and suicide. This was mainly due to ignorance and their unfortunate plight. Parents or relatives of an ailing loved one turned to various dark arts, seeking help from witch doctors, spirit mediums, and dubious folk remedies as they held tightly to the beliefs of their ancestors, including taboos and superstitions. Modern medicine was available in the provincial hospital 20 miles away. This was a barrier to them receiving Christ, although many have.

Cheryl and I love and appreciate all of you, especially those who stand with us in prayer and undergird our work financially. We minister to poor rice farmers like the rest of Isan's millions of unreached peasant farmers. According to Joshua Project's data, there are around 34,000 villages in Thailand's Isan Region, yet only 2% have any Gospel witness, leaving 33,000 unreached.

We Serve the Lord Jesus Christ
Because He Alone Is Worthy,

Ron and Cheryl Myers

- *Pray* that lost hearts will be attentive to the Gospel.
- *Pray* that I will be sensitive to God's leading at every step.
- *Pray* that my trip will bear much fruit for Christ's Kingdom.
- *Pray* for my coworker Baaw Ter's wife, Ju, that she will be saved.
- *Pray* for the Chinese house church leaders I will meet with, in an advisory capacity.
- *Pray* that God would send me spiritually hungry men to ground in the fundamentals of the faith and impart a vision for evangelism and church planting among Thailand's religious masses.