

Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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

## More Opportunities and Blessings – Hindrances and Challenges

### A BURDEN FOR THE HOPELESSLY LOST IS *STILL* OUR CALLING!

by Ron Myers

**Opportunities—Part One:** A door of opportunity to work with underground churches in Asian Communist countries has opened—the privilege to teach foundational truths to Laotian House Church members. It began to unfold during my recent Thailand ministry trip. Two weeks before my return to the States, I met three Laotian believers—Vietnam war refugees now residing in Canada and the US. Their burden for their fellow countrymen became a unique ministry—assist and undergird the phenomenal underground church movement in their former homeland. These men asked if I'd be willing to teach to new pastors if they'd bring them across the Mekong River to Nakhon Phanom, the location of our ministry headquarters. Of course, I said—looking forward for the opportunity. This grassroots underground movement has been met with intense persecution by local officials in the Lao Communist regime. Many families have been evicted from their village homes—forced to exist in the surrounding jungles. Worse yet, many new pastors have been tortured and martyred. Those I would have been working with were counted among them for their bold witness—their now-widowed wives came instead.

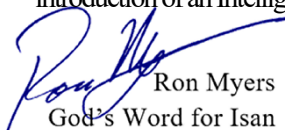
**Part Two:** While in Bangkok preparing for my flight home, I met Chinese Christians from an underground house church staying in the same guest house as I. They were attending a Chinese Bible School in Singapore and were visiting Thailand during a school break. One just recently contacted me saying they would like Cheryl and me to teach twenty house-church members in an upcoming seminar in a Chinese Church on PhuKet Island, Southern Thailand—a famous tourist hotspot. It seems there is a Chinese church there, established by a Christian who had fled China with his small flock. PhuKet and the nearby mainland coastal Pa-Nga Province is where the huge Tsunami hit a few years ago, killing countless thousands of Thai people and tourists alike.

I hope we can visit Pastor Prakop and his dear wife Nawarat while in PhuKet. Prakop (an Isan man I had led to Christ) and Nawarat established a thriving church near Pa-Nga city. They also played a key role in overseeing the huge Tsunami's aftermath cleanup. For their part, they received a monetary gift and a commendation plaque from the Thai government in recognition of their selfless service. I visited them after the Tsunami and saw the demolished skeletal remains of beach hotels and shops. Any remnants still standing were missing walls and windows—blown away by the watery impact. I also saw a Thai Shore Police launch (converted from a PT Boat), that was carried inland a couple kilometers by the giant wave. There it sat, incongruently, having gotten lodged behind a large electric pole as the huge wave receded.

**Blessings:** I continue to see spiritual fruit in San Diego. People are being saved and growing in grace. Alienated marriages are rescued as estranged husbands and wives receive Christ and reestablish relationships. I witnessed a friend I've been mentoring get victory over weaknesses and failures—finding deliverance as he grows in grace and the knowledge of God (2 Peter 3:18). He excitedly announced to me that his estranged wife had come to Christ and is now on fire for the Lord; which, in return, encouraged him in the faith to no end. They recently got baptized and are planning to remarry. Please pray for them, Ray and Joanna, that they will continue to walk in the truth as they seek God's direction for their lives and their financial challenges. He is able. Ray also related how their daughter and her husband are growing in Christ—receiving counseling for their shaky marriage. What a great and powerful miracle-working God we serve.

**Hindrances:** It's been said that religion is the opiate of society. Thailand's pleasantly passive Buddhism is a huge impediment to the Gospel. This is because confrontational evangelistic methodology fails to penetrate the highly tolerant Thai Buddhist mindset. This, combined with their non-confrontational culture, fails to communicate since the Thai don't share our Judeo-Christian worldview. Nor do they believe in a Supreme Being or Creator, yet they all adore Creation. That's how I approach them, dialoging about examples of Intelligent Design, which leads to the introduction of an Intelligent Designer and the true identity of Christ as their Creator and Savior, not the foreigner's religious guru as they presume.

**Challenges:** Develop new ways to communicate the Gospel to Thai Buddhists in an effective, cross-cultural manner that speaks clearly and impellingly to the Thai heart. If I say, "God loves you and Jesus died for your sins," it's understandable to those with a Judeo-Christian worldview, but fails to convey the same to a Thai Buddhist. Why so? Buddhists conclude Jesus was crucified for his own sins (not theirs), sins He committed in a former life. What's the solution? Please pray with us for the Thai. You're invited to join us in this exciting ministry. We welcome your participation.

  
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