



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

Opportunities and Blessings – Hindrances and Challenges

A BURDEN FOR THE HOPELESSLY LOST IS OUR CALLING!

by Ron Myers

Challenge: I recently learned that my coworker Baaw Ter wasn't able to compile the website pages for the Isan Bible as promised. I told him I'd share the blame, having assigned him the task. I didn't fault him since he had tried unsuccessfully to do a project beyond his skill level. Consequently, he was not able to complete the task. As Thai culture would have it, he didn't want to disappoint me so avoided telling me, which cost much time. When it finally came to light, it was evident I would have to do it during the short time left before returning to the states—two weeks. I planted myself down at my laptop to construct a full set of webpages to provide access to the Isan Bible for all Isan people to both read and listen to in their heart language. It would need to include both text 📖 and audio 🎵 versions.

Writing in HTML code late into each night, it took much of my remaining two weeks to complete the 360 webpages (one per chapter), linked to a main *Table of Contents* page for easy maneuverability between chapters. There were three major players involved in the completion of this long-term project. They were: me, Ron (director–translator), Pastor Pitak (my faithful translation assistant 1996–2016), and Baaw Ter (our professional radio-voice narrator 2017–present). Others were involved at different levels: other translation assistants, proofreaders, advisors, supporters, and computer techs—all for whom credit is due for their time. Click here for the online Isan Bible: <<https://isanbible.org/IsanBible.html>> <<https://laobible.net/bible/John3.html>>

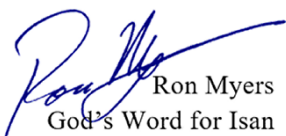


Baaw Ter Ron Pitak

Blessings: I was very happy the Isan Bible project was now finished and working. Satisfied that all was well, I'm waiting on God for direction. I had finally been able to post the Isan Bible on my ministry website in an easy-access format for all to read or listen. *All* in this case means upwards of 28 million Thailand's Isan Region inhabitants, as well as the myriads of Isan people working in Bangkok. That totals approximately one-third of Thailand's total population! We also produced a Lao script version of the Isan Bible—my next project being to create a similar website for Lao, like the online Isan Bible website. There are Lao believers just across the Mekong that can benefit from the Isan Bible in their own script and listen to it as well. The Isan language is practically the same as Laotian, the Isan region having been part of Laos a few centuries ago, until Thailand annexed it during a skirmish. There are also the expat Isan laborers working in other countries as well as Laotian refugees resettled across the globe. These also have access to the Scriptures, correctly and accurately translated into their own heart language.

Hindrances: When I thought all was well, I was faced with a new challenge. I recently learned my Isan Bible ministry website *might* have been banned by the Thai government. Meaning no one in Thailand could access the Isan Bible or my newsletters. It was only accessible using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) which hides one's location, cutting through barriers. That's fine for a few people, but out of the question for the whole Isan population. The Bangkok Post printed an article titled *Thousands of Offensive Websites Blocked*, telling of a concerted effort to ban websites considered bad for public viewing or illegal, or defaming the Monarchy. Was my website blocked within Thailand? Or, did my Stateside internet web hosting service possibly have incorrect settings? That's what we needed to discern and resolve.

Blessings: I alerted my internet web host (gracenet.org) about the problem. They went to work seeking a solution. I got a variety of suggestions but no solutions—they were stumped. Meanwhile, I knew two missionaries who were formerly IT techs and programmers by profession. One, Peter, serves in Thailand. The other brother who prefers *anonymity* also assisted. We discussed where the problem might lie. Peter delved into it, looking for potential blockages in my internet connection but found none. I presented his findings to Sam, GraceNet's IT tech assigned to my case. Sam later contacted me, instructing me to change my Domain name's DNS servers to new ones he provided. At first, my coworker, Baaw Ter, tried but couldn't access it. I waited a while and sent a request to all the missionaries and Thai folks I knew, asking them to try accessing my website and report their results. Soon, their reports came in. Each one reported they had no problems reaching it! It now works!


Ron Myers
God's Word for Isan

Praise God with us! All Isan and Lao people now have unhindered access to read and listen to God's Word in their heart language. I'll return to Thailand after submitting my taxes, continuing to minister to the unreached Isan people. Also, the privilege of teaching new Lao pastors and their wives from the burgeoning underground church there. My prayer is you will join Cheryl and me in this exciting ministry. Be a part! We need your help.