

Pastor Boonta (*pronounced Boon-dah*) and his sweet wife Pawn are an amazingly dedicated Isan couple. They have put their lives on the line to serve the Lord Jesus Christ for years, even decades... ever since they first trusted in Christ. Boonta's life has been openly threatened many times, even by his jaded relatives who didn't want to hear the Gospel.

A few years ago, Boonta was arrested and jailed in nearby Communist Laos. His sentence? ...twelve years in solitary; not for murder, robbery, kidnapping, or other horrendous acts, but for having a Bible in his possession. Boonta always carried his Bible when he crossed the Mekong River into Laos, going there regularly to teach and encourage believers. His sentence was reduced to a few months (*time served*) after an international outcry finally influenced the anti-Christian Lao government to release him.

Pastor Boonta and wife Pawn also work with young churches on the Thai side. I understand that he still crosses into Communist Laos from-time-to-time to continue his important ministry there, despite the danger to his person. They have a teenage daughter, Bow, who was born with many physical ailments. Her condition takes much of their time, yet they love and adore her as they care for her and serve the Lord.

Recently, Pawn was stricken with something that started as an ear infection. From there, it spread until her whole body is now wracked with pain and some sort of unknown infection. Things don't look good at all. We are afraid we are going to lose her to this undiagnosed illness. Presently, Pawn has been moved from Nakhon Panom Province to Udorn's larger provincial hospital, where Boonta and daughter Bow can stay with her in a private VIP room. It's a 1,200 Baht per-day room that meets their needs, but costs more than they can afford. (*1,200 Baht = about \$40 US a day*)

Following are excerpts from emails I received from John M. a missionary friend there in Northeast Thailand:

(September 21) "Pawn has a team of 4-5 physicians working on her case now. As a result of the latest battery of tests, the diagnosis is a blood infection that has migrated to the brain and is affecting the nervous system. Some of her other symptoms appear to have been caused by an adverse reaction to some of the drugs she was being given. Those medications have been stopped and she is being encouraged to sleep and relax as much as she can. She is still on IV and I have no idea what medications she may be getting through there."

"Thank God, the doctors have decided to allow them to stay in the VIP room for the time being. The good being that their family can stay together, so that Boonta and daughter Bow do not have to be running back and forth from a rented place."

"With a more or less positive diagnosis, doctors have indicated a possible hospital stay of 40 or so days with no estimate as to the percentage of recovery at this point. Please continue to pray for Boonta, Pawn and Bow that their witness continues to be strong for Christ. Boonta has been going through major psychological trauma during the last couple of weeks but his faith has not been shaken and remains strong." John M.

(September 25) "Today has been discouraging for me, and I know it is worse for Boonta and Pawn. Pawn did not have a good night or morning. My understanding is that she received three morphine shots between 1 am and noon. She did not eat again today, and my understanding is that they are considering a feeding tube. Boonta has not contacted us for the last 7 or 8 hours, so I don't know her current condition. The possibility of moving her to an open ward has come up again... Pawn has become adamant that she does not want to leave the room she is in because daughter Bow can stay there with her. Boonta doesn't know what to do. Some of Pawn's family from Bangkok has been up to visit her, but none of her family from this has been to see her and they are depressed about that too..."

"We are praying that God will continue to take care of these two... intervene in the healing process and give both of them strength and peace to get through it."

"Praying for funding provision and thank God for those who have already helped to pay the costs of staying in the hospital. So far funds are ahead of the bills, but not by much. We are again operating on faith."

"Again, thanks for your prayers and support..." John M.



I told my friend John that you, our friends and supporters, would certainly realize the seriousness of Pawn's condition and the need for urgent prayer for her soon recovery, and for her worried family. Incidentally, both Pastor Boonta and wife Pawn are my grandchildren in the Lord, having come to faith through the witness of Pastor Jarat (*my former translation assistant*) and his wife Tiw, Pawn's older sister. If anyone would like to help them, you may send gifts to "Boonta and Pawn" through my mission address below; they will receive 100%.

By God's Enabling Grace and for His Eternal Glory,

Ron Myers

Ron & Cheryl Myers (*I plan to return to Thailand in mid-October*)

God's Word For Isan – www.IsanBible.org

Missionaries to the Isan People of Northeast Thailand

