

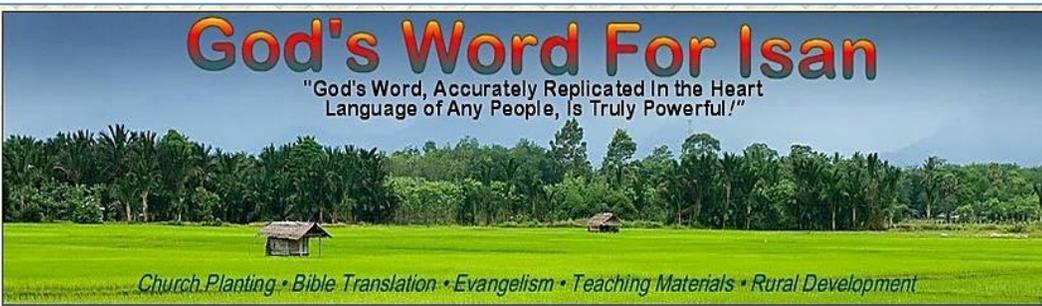
RON & CHERYL MYERS



Going Into All the World  
With the Gospel  
of Jesus Christ

# God's Word For Isan

"God's Word, Accurately Replicated in the Heart  
Language of Any People, Is Truly Powerful!"



Church Planting • Bible Translation • Evangelism • Teaching Materials • Rural Development



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

December, 2016



## Christmas Greetings, 2016

Some Christmastime Thoughts

By Ron Myers

Christmas Greetings In The Name Of The Lord Jesus Christ,

Christmas is my favorite season of the year; with its time-honored songs and hymns, its spirit of giving and goodwill, colorfully decorated homes and streets; as well as family gatherings, including Christmas-oriented church and community activities. . . then there's Christmas cards and the magic of Thomas Kinkadee's or Courier & Ives' idyllic Christmassy settings of days past. However, the incessant marketing and commercialization gets very wearying; it preoccupies the multitudes and devalues its true meaning. Yet, despite all this, each year I seem to sense a certain palpable holy reverence in the air during this season.

Id like to think it's the Spirit of God, trying to get our attention and warm our hearts again towards the timeless message of His great Love in sending His own Son as our sin-bearing Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. There He lay, born of a young virgin girl in a cold stable in Bethlehem; a helpless babe, placed in a manger. Meanwhile, a myriad of angels from heavenly realms praised Him as poor shepherds from the surrounding hillsides beheld His glory. He came to us in that lowly setting because there was no room for Him in the inn. What a picture! No room for a heavenly King—shunned by our society of humanistic secularism; where sinfulness is held in high esteem and righteousness is despised; where the Name of Jesus, the Ten Commandments and prayer are now deemed intolerable!

Surprisingly, some Christians bow to Political Correctness, wishing only, "Happy Holidays." Others go to the opposite extreme, foregoing Christmas altogether. They cite that the only birthday celebration in scripture culminated in the murder of John the Baptist. (Matt 14:6-11) True, but in reality the two events are in no way connected. The one, the birth of Herod, a treacherous ruler; and, the other, the birth of Christ, the Son of God come in the flesh, bringing Salvation for all mankind. Nonetheless, they go as far as to do no gift-giving, enjoy no Christmas dinners, no celebrations, etc. I agree; however, that a lot has nothing to do with the core meaning of Christmas. For instance, the *Santa Claus* thing—as integrated as it has become—has gotten totally out of proportion, to the point of promoting deification in the eyes of our children. Personally, I see no conflict in finding a happy medium as we enjoy our Christmas traditions, keeping things in proper perspective—teaching our children the true meaning of Christmas by always keeping the advent of Christ at the forefront.

Truly, Jesus is the **only reason for the season**... not Santa Claus or Christmas trees—as much as they are a part of our Western culture—not *Hanukkah*; not *Winter Solstice*; not *Kwanzaa*; nor any other diversion being applauded by those who call for diversity or multiculturalism, drawing attention away from the season's true meaning. These seek to turn the celebration of the earthly advent of the Eternal virgin-born God-man into a mere secular holiday; whose sole purpose was as the sacrificial Lamb, bearing the sins of the whole world; which John the Baptist declared as he watched Jesus approaching. (John 1:29)

As a Church-planting missionary and Bible translator, I strive to deliver the unadulterated Gospel to the unreached souls in Thailand. I need to say at this juncture that the things described above that are a part of our culture—as dear as they may be to us—are *not* a part of the Gospel that Paul preached. Consequently, I'm alarmed when I see well-meaning missionaries integrate these as part of Christmas celebrations. In doing so, I fear they have become accepted by some Thai as being part of the Gospel, which they are *not*! Call me an unfashionable prude, but I clearly recall Paul's admonition and warning to *not* pervert the Gospel that he had received by direct revelation from Christ Himself. (Galatians 1:11-12) When, I wonder, did that Scriptural truth get nullified?

Returning to the main topic; of the myriad of Bible verses that speak to the prophesied coming of Christ, I believe these two sum it up well. First, in the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah's statement in chapter 9, verse 6—although penned over seven centuries beforehand, it was written in present-perfect tense!

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

And second, in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul succinctly summarizes Christ's coming when he writes to the Christians in Galatia, in chapter 4, verses 6-7:

*"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Note: or, "be adopted by God as His full-fledged sons and daughters.")*

In closing, Cheryl and I want to extend our sincere appreciation for your prayers and partnership. You are certainly an integral part of this endeavor, to see the true meaning of Christmas spread into the hearts of the yet unreached Thai masses, i.e., the story of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray for good success as we continue to deliver the Word of God and the Gospel message in Thailand. These are exciting days as we see the Lord open up new vistas of opportunity; namely, the conversion of the Isan New Testament into Laotian script in cooperation with a fellow missionary, soon to be delivered into neighboring Communist Laos.

May You Enjoy a Blessed Christmas This Year, and May God Richly Bless You and Yours Throughout 2017!

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[www.IsanBible.org](http://www.IsanBible.org)

