



# "God Loosed the Chains from Around Their Chests"

*"He Brought Them out of Darkness and the Shadow of Death" (Ps. 107)*

By Ron Myers

Greetings in Jesus' Powerful Name,

*"Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death and broke their bonds asunder. Oh, that men would praise the LORD for his goodness..." (Psalms 107:13-15)*

One morning, while I was studying the complicated language of the people group with whom we were living and working, I heard someone calling from the front yard of our village home. *"Foreign Doctor, Foreign Doctor, please come out and give us some of your good medicine."*

It's interesting what Isan villagers believe due to their lack of knowledge or exposure to the outside world. Cheryl and I had undergone field medicine training in preparation for missionary service, but we were not doctors. Also, even though we kept a small amount of commonly needed medications and related over the counter items, they were purchased at a pharmacy in the capital city of the province where we lived and ministered. However, to villagers, we were still *foreign doctors*, and the meds we had were brought directly from our home country.

I sighed as I complained silently; *"Don't these people realize I need some time to myself to study this crazy language?"* The Lord then reminded me of something one of my mentors had said: *"People are our ultimate business."* *"Okay Lord,"* I whispered as I got up and went out to greet whoever it was who had come to see the "Foreign Doctor" and get some of his "foreign" meds to cure their ills. Inviting them up on our porch, I asked what the problem was. I learned they were from an adjoining village. According to cultural norms they were known as "Mom and Dad Samer," the name of their eldest son. *(Likewise, Cheryl and I were called David's Mom and Dad.)*



Mom Samer began to describe the symptoms she was experiencing; *"My head hurts across the top. My stomach feels achy, and my feet are cold, but I pass urine okay. Also, my arms and legs are numb."* Dad Samer had similar complaints. I had heard these types of explanations many times before, which describe the ailments most all Isan peasant farmers experience due to living conditions. The stomach ailments were symptomatic of a poor diet, and the numbness in extremities was due to a lack of Vitamin B-12.

Upon supplying them with some mild pain pills, multivitamins and anti-acid lozenges, I then said, *"I have some more medicine that will purify your hearts so that you can go to heaven."* Dad Samer responded with, *"Bring it out so we can look at it."* I went back inside and returned with some evangelistic materials. These included a cassette player and tapes of the Genesis creation story in Laotian, various Gospel storytelling aids in the form of colorful posters, a Thai Gideon New Testament, and other materials. The time was 8:30 AM. They sat spellbound for the next three hours, taking in every word as I taught. We broke for a light lunch, inviting Mom and Dad Samer to join us in a bowl of packaged noodle soup.

After lunch, I continued teaching. About 2:00 PM I said, *"I've told you everything you need to know; now you need to cry out to God and ask for mercy."* Immediately, they both called out to God, clasping their hands in prayer. I instructed them on a few basics and gave them some Gospel materials before they headed home. The time was 4:00 PM. They told me later that, while leaving my home to catch a ride back to their village, they felt as if God had removed the chains that had been wound tightly from around their chests for years—adding that they now felt clean and free. Samer, their eldest son, visited me the following day. He and his siblings had all received Christ, following their parents. Samer told me his mom had been a noted Spirit Medium, and his dad had also been involved in the dark arts, but they had now destroyed all their idols, charms and other materials.

They had sought for years to escape from the evil spirits that enslaved them, but to no avail. Villagers had advised them to sell a cow or water buffalo and give the proceeds to the village temple to make merit. They did so, until their herds were depleted, yet the spirits remained. They even tried powerful charms and amulets. All hope gone, they resigned themselves to living out their remaining days under the bondage of evil spirits.

They then learned of a monk in Laos who was teaching about the legendary Messiah who was coming to bestow mercy. They traveled there at once, seeking, having cried out daily for years for the Merciful One to help them, whoever and wherever He was. Little did I realize their true plight that day they came for meds, telling them that Jesus Christ was that One, their Merciful Messiah of legend; and, that He had already come! That day on my porch, Messiah Jesus broke the chains of sin and death for Mom and Dad Samer and their family. The demonic spirits that had long plagued them fled the moment the Spirit of God came to abide in their hearts and lives. In fact, the couple became the seed of a small yet growing church that now exists in their village.

By God's Grace and For His Glory,  
*Ron Myers*  
Ron & Cheryl Myers  
God's Word for Isan: IsanBible.org

- PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray that the Thai and Isan people will realize their legendary Messiah has come.
- Pray that they will respond to Christ's invitation to receive Mercy, Forgiveness, and Eternal Life.
  - Pray for radio DJ Baaw Ter's continued good health and strength as he narrates the Isan New Testament.
  - Pray that his wife Ju' will receive Christ. • Pray that doors of opportunity will remain open in Thailand.
  - Finally, pray for my good health as I take the Good News of God's Love to the Thai and Isan people.