



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

July, 2017

Untold Millions Are Still Untold!

"There's Still Much to Be Done"

By Ron Myers

July Greetings in Jesus' Matchless Name,

People ask me if I plan on retiring when I reach retirement age. My answer is, *"I plan on retreading and continuing on."* There's just too much left to do everywhere in the fields of unreached souls that, as Jesus said; *"are white [ripe] unto harvest."* (John 4:35) Concerning those called to the ministry—which I believe all Christians are called to have an integral part in reaching the unreached in some way, be it *go* or *send*—retirement is not really an option when serving the Lord. My heart is stirred when I think of the untold millions of Isan people who have yet to hear and understand the Gospel message for the very first time in their lives. Just writing this reminds me of a chorus we used to sing when Cheryl and I were in training for the ministry (*"Untold Millions"* attributed to writer Franklin F. Ellis):

(Chorus) *Untold millions are still untold, Untold millions are outside the fold.
Who will tell them of Jesus' love, and of heavenly mansions awaiting above!*

(Verse) *Jesus died, on Calvary, to cleanse each one from sin,
Now He calls to you and me, to go and bring them in, for many... (back to the Chorus)*

Now the sobering question arises, *"Are these millions who have yet to hear the Gospel message of God's redeeming grace truly lost? ...just because they haven't yet had a chance to hear?"* I defer to Dr. Ron Blue, Chairman and Associate Professor of World Missions, Dallas Theological Seminary, who affirms this fact. Dr. Blue says the unreached millions could best be stated as unreached Billions. He writes (Circa 1980):

"Of the four and one-half billion beings presently residing on planet earth, about one-third are nominally Christian, one-third are unresponsive to Christ, and the remaining third have not so much as heard the name of Christ. The one-third "nominally Christian" are of course Christian in name only. The number of true Christians in the New Testament sense is probably a minimal part of that total. The Lord alone maintains access to the exclusive record of true Christians: The Lamb's book of life. ...Of an even greater challenge, however, is the vast expanse where there is no viable Christian witness. Attention must be given to that one-third of the world's population who have not so much as heard of Christ."

Dr. Blue also states numbers given by other researchers: McGavran estimates the unevangelized at two billion, whereas Winter indicates as many as two and a half billion. Blue writes, *"sometimes called 'hidden peoples,' these are not only unreached, but are living beyond any Christian contact whatsoever. Just as one side of the globe is always turned from the sun's rays, so one half of the world's peoples remains in spiritual darkness, hidden from God's light of the gospel."* Blue also states that the challenge to the church is immense. The chorus still sung in Mission Conferences, "Untold Millions Are Still Untold" is out of date. There are now untold billions (with thousands added every day), who will never hear of Jesus Christ unless someone crosses the cultural and linguistic barriers and penetrates that dark half of the globe's population with the good news.

Jesus said in John 14:6; *"I am the way the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me."* Acts 4:12 states *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* So, where's the problem? Why haven't they heard? God has certainly done His part and more in providing Salvation, full and free, and now gives the responsibility to the Church to complete the task, and we as individuals in particular. 2 Peter 3:9 states that God is *not willing that any should perish; He is long-suffering towards usward... The Church!*

Romans 10:13-15 is clear: *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? ...And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? ...And how shall they hear without a preacher? ...And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!'"*

Many dedicated missionaries over the years have answered Christ's Great "Go Ye" Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). They have crossed those barriers, penetrating the spiritual darkness of the unreached with the Gospel of God's saving Grace, freely given to all who will receive it. And yet, *There's Still Much to Be Done*, because many remain totally unreached, still beyond the earshot of the Good News. The majority of people in Thailand's Northeastern or Isan Region fit into that category: Unreached! Jesus told us to *"Occupy till I Come"* (Luke 19:13) and *"Surely I come quickly."* (Rev 22:20)

Now, after two surgeries on my left shoulder (*my right shoulder also needs retreading*), I plan to return to Thailand in mid-August to continue the church-planting, teaching, and translation work the Lord has Cheryl and me involved in. As you may recall, we were able to print and distribute the long-awaited Isan New Testament in June, 2016. It has received much acclaim by Isan readers and missionaries alike.

Yet, there remains the need to see it converted into audio format; Isan Christians doing the narration. In this way, it can reach many more than single copies can by being played in homes, at weddings, funerals, and other village events before larger audiences, many elderly listeners being illiterate. I know, because I've witnessed it done in that way. And, they *really* enjoy listening to their own language. *"Faith cometh by hearing the Word of God..."* (Romans 10:17)

By God's Grace and For His Glory,

 Ron & Cheryl Myers
 God's Word for Isan; IsanBible.org

Both Cheryl and I want to thank you for your continued encouragement and prayer; through which, by God's grace, we are able to accomplish great things. Please pray for me that I will experience a *safe* and *uneventful*, yet *successful* upcoming trip. And, that I will be able to record a good quality audio version of the Isan New Testament. Also, please pray in earnest for Thailand; it is presently experiencing a time of political uncertainty. As Paul stated: *"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."* (1 Corinthians 16:9)