



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

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Great Opportunities Present Many Challenges

"A Great Door and Effectual Is Opened... And There Are Many Adversaries." (1 Cor 16:9)

By Ron Myers

Greetings in the Powerful Name of Jesus,

Come take a trip with me. After boarding a Japan Airlines flight out of San Diego on Mon, April 23, with a 2-hour stop in Tokyo, I arrived in Bangkok's International Airport 19 hours later; midnight, Tues, April 24, Thailand time. Catching a taxi ride to the Alliance Mission Home in a new air-conditioned Toyota, I arrived about 2:00 AM. I spent a dreary-eyed Wednesday there. The following afternoon, April 26, I took a 75-minute domestic flight to Nakhon Phanom Province where I was greeted by smiling Pastor Pitak, my faithful friend and Isan translation assistant. Pitak took me to *Baaw Ter's* home in his old Isuzu king-cab pickup (with A/C), where I am staying while here.

Does that short trip sound exhausting? Try comparing it with the typical 30-plus hour plane ride over here with Cheryl and our four young children, followed by a harrowing ride in a cramped old "beater" non-A/C taxi in heavy traffic, narrowly making the bus. Then, a 470-mile all-night ride on a cramped "tour bus" (*so-called*) on dangerous roads with a faulty A/C, arriving at 5:30 AM. Then, rickshaw rides to the local-area bus station (*small Japanese pickups with seats along the rear wheel wells*). Then, a slow, bumpy and dusty ride to our rural village home, 36 kilometers into the hinterlands, arriving by mid-afternoon. All of this used to be the norm, but times have changed.

Things look much more developed here now, both in Nakhon Phanom city and the surrounding countryside. Everyone has a cell phone and WiFi internet access is plenteous. There are now computer stores in the city, three big Walmart- and Costco-style shopping centers, huge building supply and home furnishing stores. There are also many major-brand car/truck dealerships (*including Chevy, Ford and MG*) along with various farm implement dealerships and ag-supply outlets. Added to that are half a dozen large multi-story hotels situated along the Mekong riverfront and countless studio apartments for rent in town. Bottom line, externally, modernization is everywhere and growing exponentially.

Even so, gilded temples and well-attended spirit shrines are omnipresent, denoting that the modernization and change makes nice window dressing; and yet, not much else is different in their hearts and minds. Everyone desires a better life, evidenced in the myriads of lottery mongers who walk the streets, peddling promises to both rich and poor for a windfall bonanza and a leisurely existence, along with inner peace and tranquility, free of doubts and fears. Actually, it is available to all, if only they would turn and seek true peace in the right place, and from the right one, their very own Creator-God, and potential Savior, whom they do not yet know—the very One who created all of nature which they all admire and adore.

That's why Cheryl and I came here, to share with them the unchanging Gospel message in a way that they can identify with. Notice that I said "unchanging." We cannot change the Gospel. The only thing that may need adapting, typically in a cross-cultural setting, is our approach and methodology, not unlike Paul's message and approach to the educated heathen scholars at the Acropolis on Mar's Hill. (Acts 17:22-31) That's the reason I wrote the popular story of nature and its maker, following Paul's methodology, aptly called *Considering Creation*.

Over 100,000 copies have been printed. It is well received, even passed around between steadfast Buddhists. Upon reading, they often comment, "I never thought about it before, but there has to be a creator." They don't hear these essential foundational facts using regular Western evangelism methodology, leaving them clueless as to Christ's Divinity. *Considering Creation* is now available in audio format, narrated by radio DJ Baaw Ter.

Now, to bring you up to date. As you know, the Isan New Testament is translated and being distributed and read throughout Northeast Thailand (*Isan*) and even beyond. Last fall, God brought me in contact with Baaw Ter. He is a local native Isan-speaking radio announcer who had recently received Christ and is now zealous to spread the Gospel message. He even uses his 2-hour daily call-in radio program to do so. We are now in the process of producing a professionally-narrated audio version of the Isan New Testament. It's been slow going because he came down sick with a stubborn cough and hoarse voice shortly after beginning, making it difficult to record. I need to take him in for a chest X-ray, just in case. . .

Baaw Ter's Buddhist wife, Ju', left him and their 15-year-old saved son shortly after their conversion. Please join us as we continue to pray for her salvation, even though she is adamant and seemingly impervious to the Gospel. She needs to get an impression of God and His Love for her before she can truly repent and receive Christ—who is not just another religion—making their family complete and an example of God's Redeeming Grace.

Your prayers for God's wisdom and direction are greatly needed. We now have the opportunity to use a parcel of Baaw Ter's land adjoining his home to set up a Foundation, which can help advance the Gospel here among the little-reached people of the Isan region. A dear brother and his wife, who support our ministry, have given us a substantial gift for the advance of God's Word here. He has now given us the okay to use it for this endeavor.

PRAYER REQUESTS: • Pray that the Thai and Isan people will be open to hear and respond to the clear-cut Gospel message and receive Christ.

By God's Grace and for His Glory,

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

- Pray for the unadulterated Gospel message of Grace. It has become clouded and twisted by false teachers.
- Pray for Baaw Ter's continued good health and stamina 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.
- Pray for God's wisdom and direction concerning using this parcel of land to start a foundation.
- Finally, pray for my health as I take the Good News of God's Love to the Thai/Isan people.