

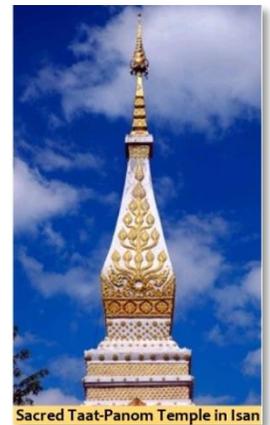
"Sensing The Heart Of God"

By Ron Myers

Greetings From Northeastern Thailand In the Name Of The Lord Jesus Christ,

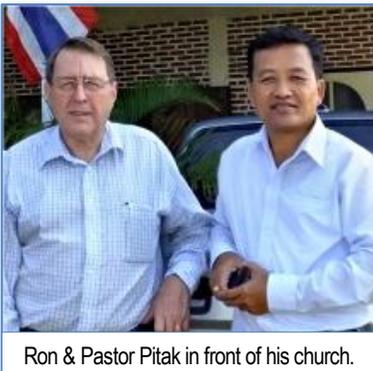
Don Muang, once Thailand's mainstay airport, has now become Thailand's secondary facility, handling mainly domestic flights now that Bangkok's huge Suwanapume Airport has been built and is now in full operation... which handles most all inbound and outbound international flights into and out of Thailand. As I sat in the waiting area of Don Muang's gate number 78, I busied myself watching a cross-section of middle- and upper-class Thai citizenry coming and going—families and individuals waiting to board outbound flights.

To pass the time, I struck up a conversation with an obviously well-to-do young family sitting nearby. They were taking the same flight as I, an hour and 15-minute long flight on a Boeing 737 to Nakhon Panom. Nearly 800 kilometers (500 miles) distance, Nakhon Panom is the furthest province away from Bangkok in Northeast Thailand. It sits nestled on the banks of the Mighty Mekong, facing Laos, which provides a stunning panoramic view of the jagged Laotian mountains, 15 kilometers inland. As the family and I conversed, they made the typical polite gestures interspersed with questions; complimenting me on how well I spoke the Thai language, whether I had a Thai wife, etc., etc.



After satisfying them with all the various appropriate answers, including a brief rundown on my family and our long-standing relationship to Thailand, I asked them where they were headed, and if they had relatives in Nakhon Panom. The husband, sitting across from me, responded warmly as he informed me they were going to go *Worship Taat*. The translation being, they were headed to Taat Panom, a district town 50-plus kilometers south of Nakhon Panom City, along the Mekong, where a famous sacred shrine stands on the grounds of an equally-famous Buddhist Temple. There, they would likely stroll around admiring the sights and sounds of the holy place, converse with wise old priests, make various offerings and bow before sacred idols—according to their firmly held beliefs—all in hopes of gaining more merit to help buy them a better afterlife and a higher reincarnation into the next. I assumed it was for an aging grandmother who was traveling with them.

As boarding time approached, the surrounding hubbub seemed to fade as I sensed the Spirit of God prompting me of His deep abiding love for these people, intelligent but clueless ones, for whom Christ gave Himself on the Cross and rose again, conquering sin and death on their behalf. I found myself uplifted in spirit, exalting the Lord and praying that He would empower and use me even more while here in Thailand; where we had toiled and ministered for the better part of our adult lives. After boarding the flight, I sensed the Holy Spirit further stirring my heart as the plane flew towards its destination. I don't mean an emotional feeling, but a profound impression of God's own yearning for these wandering souls—hopelessly lost apart from Christ—Who would have all men come unto the knowledge of the truth, repent and be saved. (I Timothy 2:4 and II Peter 3:9) I suppose one could call that a mountaintop high point. It was a moment of sensing God's own Heart and His passion for lost souls that I won't soon forget.



Ron & Pastor Pitak in front of his church.

Touching down on the runway of the former USAF Air Base, now a Thai Airways facility, I retrieved my single piece of check-in baggage. Baggage in hand, I turned to head out into the lobby when I looked up to see Pastor Pitak's smiling face. He greeted me and took my luggage as we headed towards his waiting pickup truck. The time was 11:30 AM. I was now back in the familiar surroundings of Nakhon Panom once again, our *home away from home*. Pitak and I then stopped for lunch at a local spot, and to converse a bit. Today, a couple days later, we resumed the final review process by completing most of Colossians 3, a good start on the remaining 18% of the Isan New Testament we will be reviewing.

Please pray that the Lord will grant us safety and Godspeed. Our goal is to complete the final review process of the Isan New Testament before I return home in December. We can then concentrate on printing and distribution, marking the end of a long, albeit richly rewarding process... finally realizing God's Word into the hands of the Isan masses—translated into their own heart language for the very first time!! Printing will require a sizable amount of funding; anyone desiring to invest in this worthy project may do so, designated to the *Isan NT Printing Fund*.

In closing, on behalf of the Isan millions, Cheryl and I want to reaffirm our sincere appreciation for you who stand with us—often sacrificially—to reach these people with the Word of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ. It's worth every menial trial and challenge faced; because, *Faith comes by hearing, that is, hearing by the Word of God... in the spoken language of the heart!!* (Romans 10:17 and Acts 2:11)

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

Ron Myers
Ron and Cheryl Myers