

MEKONG BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECT
(GOD'S WORD FOR E'SAN)
Bringing God's Precious Word to the 20-plus Million E'san People of Northeast Thailand

Prayer-News Letter
Summer 1996

Dear Friend in Christ,

Time passes so quickly and I see that it's past time to communicate with you again. I am presently working on translating the Gospel of John. First drafts of Colossians and Philippians have recently been completed in the E'san language and are presently awaiting finishing... which will complete Paul's Minor Epistles.

Thank you for your financial support and prayer as faithful partners with us in one of the greatest, most important jobs on earth, i.e., bringing the Word of God to those still wanting. It is reassuring to know that you are solidly standing alongside us in this crucial task.

Just think, twenty-plus million people—one-third of the total population of Thailand—who speak the E'san language as their heart language, yet without the printed Word in their own language. Together, we are beginning to make a life-changing impact in these lives through the entrance of God's precious Word into their own language.

In my recent 1-o-n-g four-page letter, I gave you a detailed account of what transpired on my trip to Northeast Thailand to check, print, and distribute I&II Thessalonians, I&II Timothy, and Titus in the E'san translation (what I call "T5" for short).

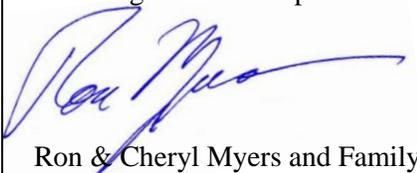
Towards the end of my recent trip, time began drawing to a close and it became unworkable for me to stay through the printing and distribution phases. Thus, I left the distribution in the hands of a very capable E'san believer, Mr. Banpote Wetchkamma (wait-gum-mah). SEE PICTURES ON ATTACHED PAGE

Banpote is an energetic stalwart preacher and teacher of the Gospel who is committed to preaching and teaching in the E'san language. He is well known and has been contacted many times lately by fellow E'san people asking where they can get copies of Ephesians and Galatians in E'san. (This shows that the E'san translation is gaining greater acceptance as time passes.)

I am also indebted to Brian Migliazza, missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators, for helping with arrangements in my absence and in the distribution process. I understand the 2,000 copies went quickly. There is even an E'san church in Bangkok that received copies of the five Pastoral Epistles ("T5"). In the next printing I hope to be able to include all the minor epistles, along with Luke, John, and Genesis. I am delighted and encouraged with our progress.

Lord willing, I hope to be able to return to Thailand again in a few months (possibly next summer) to oversee the final checking of these new books, as well as update and revise other books previously printed, with the goal of printing a larger volume than ever before. Pray for God to provide more individuals and churches to partner with us to see this vital task accomplished in a timely and effective manner.

Reaching the Isan People of Northeast Thailand,



Ron & Cheryl Myers and Family

MYERS FAMILY UPDATE - SUMMER 1996

RON: Besides working full time on the E'san Bible translation project, Ron teaches a group of Cambodian-Chinese Christians on Sunday afternoons. Working with the Cambodian-Chinese is a joy as they seem so straight forward and easy to please. Ron is trying to learn Cambodian. He can understand a good share already as many words correspond to Thai, although pronounced differently. Ron has served on the Deacon board at Shadow Mountain Community Church for two years. To update and enhance his Asian ministerial and professional skills, Ron is pursuing a Master's degree in Asian Studies at San Diego State University.

CHERYL: Cheryl is presently coordinating the new ESL program for international students here at Shadow Mountain Church and working on her ESL Linguistics Masters at USIU (United States International University, San Diego Campus). She started teaching Asians last semester and was blessed with a few Japanese students. One student, who was not a Christian, accepted the Lord while here. This semester it looks as if she will have some Chinese and Korean students, along with more Japanese. Cheryl might be going to Thailand for the Pan-Asian TESOL conference at the Ambassador Hotel there in Bangkok, January 5-7, 1997. She is very excited about the opportunity to visit Thailand again.

DAVID (25): David, our eldest, is now living in Hamilton, Montana (sixty miles south of Missoula), where he works for Federal Express. Dave has been with FedEx for two years, but recently moved from San Diego to Montana, where he took a lesser position with the company to be near nature, wildlife and the wilderness, which he loves. Dave is well appreciated by his superiors as a conscientious individual and hard worker. He is a faithful witness and is presently attending a good church there. Dave is also learning the cabinet building trade. He works part-time with a cabinet maker who is a fellow church member there.

David is very meticulous and highly skilled with his hands. He can do just about anything to which he puts his heart and mind. David has always had a tender heart for the things of the Lord and had been pursuing a career in missionary aviation but has put that on hold at present as he did not find all the scholastic busy-work to his taste. One could say Dave is presently seeking the Lord's direction for his life. He is considering mission service but would like to see "Miss Right" enter stage-center into his life first. Please pray for God's blessings and that David will be encouraged.

ANGELA (22): Angela is married to Jeff Birney. December 17, they will celebrate their second anniversary. So far, their family consists of themselves and two large male cats (Fred and Sam), each with their respective cat attitudes. Angie recently graduated Valedictorian from Christian Heritage College. She received her Bachelor's degree in English and Education. She is now working on her California teaching credential. Angie made the Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities listings last year.

Jeff and Angie's present plans are to return to Thailand or other Asian location to serve in the ministry in some capacity. Jeff is formerly from Denver, Colorado, with roots in the Kansas farming community. He is a technical whiz at fixing computers and about anything else. Jeff presently oversees maintenance and repair of new Canon color laser printer-copiers for the local Canon distributor. Former a decorated Marine, Jeff is well liked at work. He has received a number of commendations and raises. Jeff attends San Diego Bible College and Seminary on a part-time basis. Pray for Jeff and Angie as they seek God's direction.

MICHELLE (20): Michelle will be entering her Junior year at BIOLA University this fall, where she is working towards her Bachelor's degree in nursing. Michelle is growing up to become a very attractive and level-headed young lady who loves the Lord. She is presently maintaining a somewhat steady friendship -- by phone and by mail at present -- with a recent BIOLA grad, Rick Wager. Rick is a spiritually mature and keen young fellow. He is also an enthusiastic athlete and is presently pitching on the Canadian Prairie Minor Baseball League for the Brandon Manitoba Grey Owls.

DANNY (17): Danny will be entering his senior year this fall at Christian High here on the Shadow Mountain Church campus. He made the Who's Who in American High Schools listings last year. Danny now has his first car, a "mint condition" 1978 Volvo 240, which he purchased from an elderly couple for \$900. Danny works part-time as a cook at a local Italian Pizza and Delicatessen called Leggio's. He is growing up to be a very conscientious young man. Danny is becoming interested in people oriented skills, public speaking and business management. Dan is a thinker and a good observer, and can often comprehend and size up situations easily. He has always had a wide vocabulary, even from a young age.

SUMMARY: We appreciate your friendship and covet your prayers for God's continued provision and blessing on our ministry and our family. God has seen fit to relocate us here in Southern California temporarily for the benefit of our growing children, yet our hearts are fixed on the task He has given us in Thailand. We remain involved full-time in the translation and other interrelated ministries. It's great to be involved in the greatest job on earth. When one is in front-line spiritual warfare – Satan, our Enemy, is not pleased with Bible Translation Projects such as this – and works overtime in his attempt to frustrate and destroy God's work and workers if he can. Yet, he is a defeated foe. I remain confident and immovable in the Lord and committed to the task at hand. By God's grace, the 20 million E'san people of Northeast Thailand WILL receive God's Word in their language. Please remain with us in this great job. One day it WILL be worth it all, if we remain faithful. *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

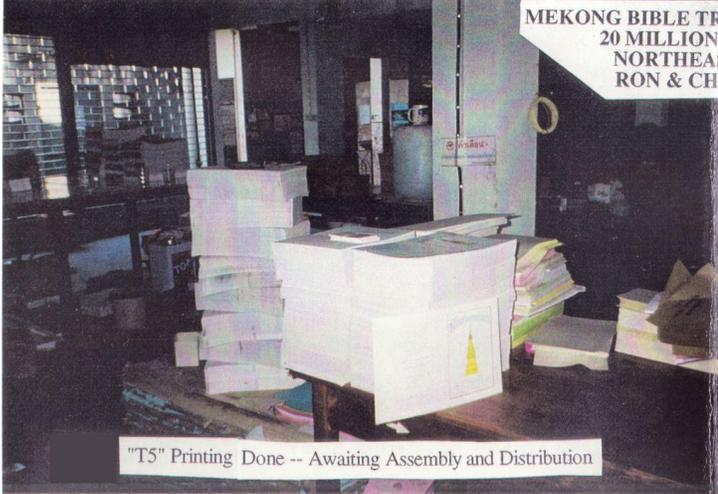
-- Ron Myers



Ron & Pitak Celebrating Christmas; Sitting at Dinner with Friends -- E'san Style

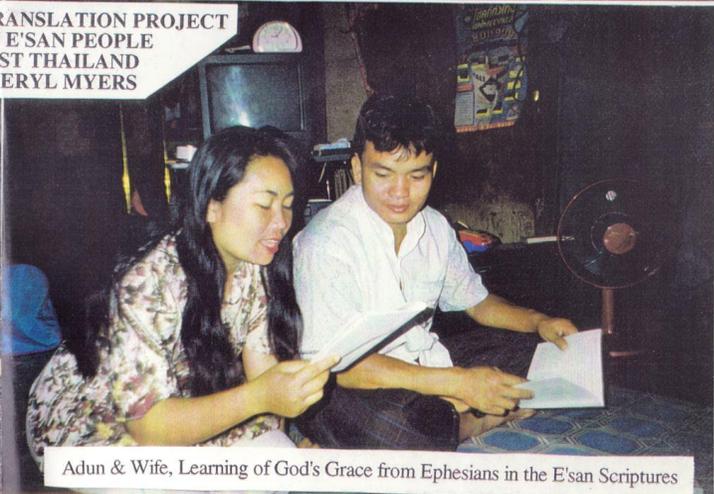


Pitak (Ron's Translation Co-worker) with Banpote (Recovering from Accident)



"T5" Printing Done -- Awaiting Assembly and Distribution

**MEKONG BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECT
20 MILLION E'SAN PEOPLE
NORTHEAST THAILAND
RON & CHERYL MYERS**



Adun & Wife, Learning of God's Grace from Ephesians in the E'san Scriptures