

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

Celebrating the Coming of the King of Kings!!

By Ron Myers (God's Word for Isan: www.IsanBible.org)

Greetings Again In the Matchless Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

"BUT WHEN THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME WAS COME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON..." (Galatians 4:4) As we who enjoy a Judeo-Christian heritage all realize, we will soon celebrate the earthly advent of a very special Person—known, among other Biblical identities as the "Son of God" 46 times, as well as the "Son of Man" 84 times, in the New Testament alone. We also realize that much of the to-do and frontal attacks surrounding this special holiday is because of *that Name, that Person, and His Work* on our behalf. That *Special One* of whom I speak is Jesus Christ, the *everlasting God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords*.

The Name of Jesus Christ has arguably become a despised watershed of Light over darkness, Righteousness over unrighteousness, as well as Conservatism over liberal political correctness... even more-so as we see "That Day" approaching. Meaning the advent of the trumpet blast, announcing His return in the clouds for His Saints, as the whole world sinks into a seven-year period of dearth and despair. Won't they all be surprised, even terrified, when He returns the second time, touching down on the Mount of Olives—from whence He departed—to deal with His enemies and set up His prophesied Earthly Kingdom.

One of my favorite verses, among the many of Paul's sayings, is "... *in all these things we are more than conquerors through him [who] loved us.*" (Romans 8:37) With that fresh in our thoughts, let us keep our minds focused on that "One Who loved us, and gave His life for us" during this Christmas season and beyond into the New Year, no matter what it might bring forth.

It's not: have a Joyous Kwanzaa, or a Festive Winter Solstice, or anything else... not even Happy Hanukkah (*the Jewish Festival of Lights*). Although we enjoy our culture, the central theme is *not* about Santa Claus, Christmas trees, giving and receiving gifts, etc. So, what I am saying is, whether the world likes it or not, **"MERRY CHRISTMAS" – JESUS IS THE ONLY REASON FOR THE SEASON!**

— o o o —

Continuing on, as I had mentioned in my most-recent newsletter, "Milestone," this last Friday (December 14th), Pastor Pitak and I finished the last remaining book—the Gospel of Matthew—meaning the completion of the New Testament translation into Isan, the spoken language of Northeast Thailand. That's 23-million speakers to date—one-third of Thailand's total population!

My original return date was rapidly approaching before the translation of Matthew was completed, so I was able to move my return flight forward one week, to December 24th... a miracle in itself. Now, with extra time, I am able to concentrate on some things that got tabled. Of these is the professional audio recording of the "Considering Creation" booklet. Locally, we have a radio announcer here in Nakhon Panom whom I know quite well: Mr. Prome Pahn. A committed Buddhist, he offered to do the voice for me at no charge, saying he would be glad to do so. That means he too will get to read it! I plan to produce audio CDs, to further expand the potential listening audience of the "Considering Creation" evangelism story.

On December 18th, Pastor Pitak and I enjoyed a day of visiting believers and evangelizing areas in two district townships, 50 miles south of Nakhon Panom, i.e., Na Kae and Renu Nakhon. (*My former assistant Jarat and I had evangelized throughout that area in the past.*) One growing house church that Pastor Pitak and I visited was in the village of *Dong Ma-Ake*, (*photo at right*). They gladly received the packets of "Considering Creation" booklets, saying they plan to use them to evangelize the whole neighborhood. They had heard about the booklets, but were unsure of how to get any. That day, I brought a supply to their doorstep!



Village House Church, Renu Nakhon, Nakhon Panom, Thailand



Ron Myers

Ron (& Cheryl) Myers
"God's Word for Isan"
www.IsanBible.org

Update on the young couple, Mei and Toad:

It's been a real struggle from start to finish. However, Toad has now become a born-again Christian and has been attending Pastor Pitak's church with his wife Mei. Do pray for them.

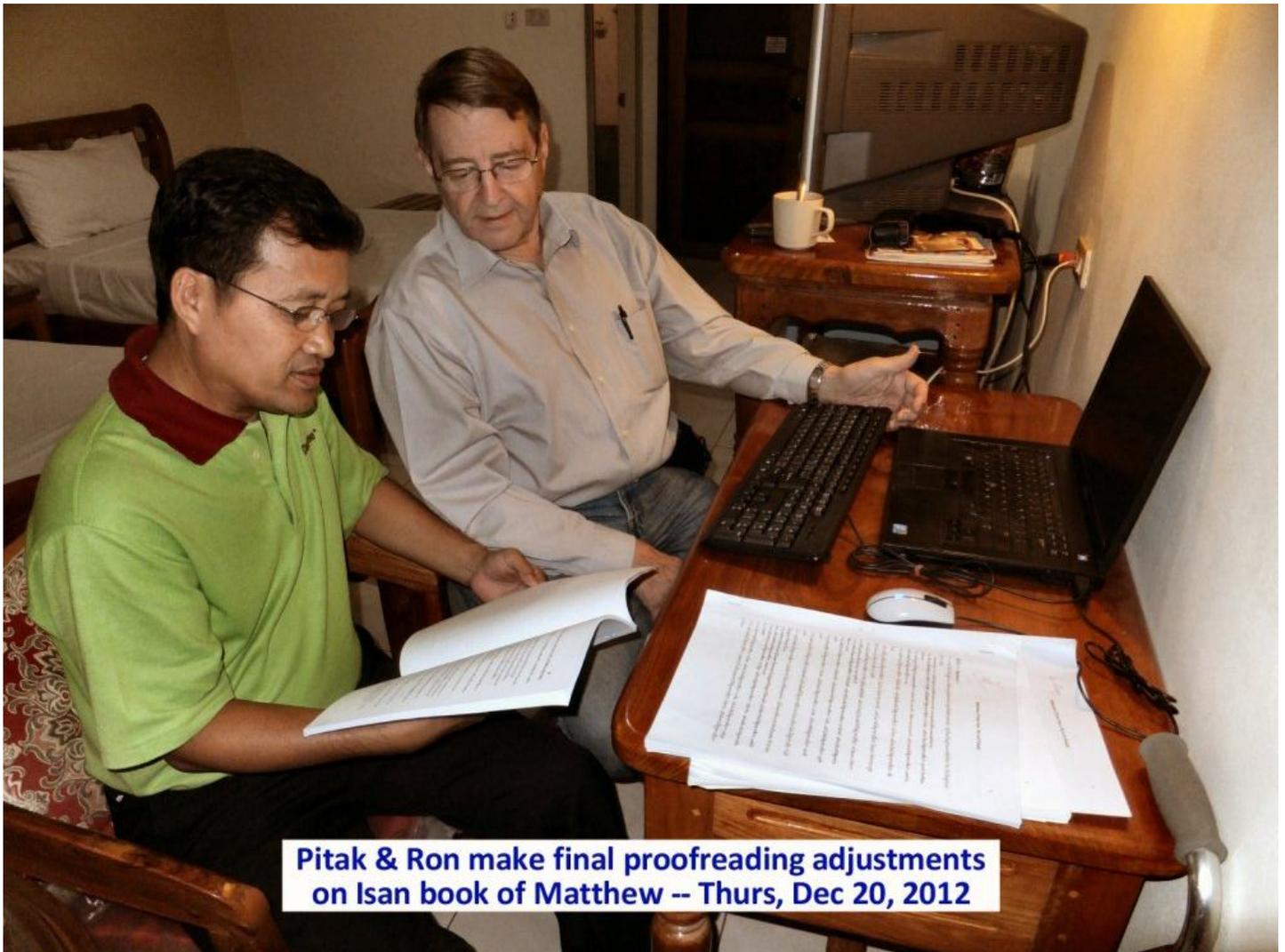
PS: See attached photo of Pastor Pitak and Ron finalizing the submitted proofreader typo corrections or suggestions. (Taken Thursday noon, December 20, 2012)

(Appendix)

PHOTO: Today, Thursday, December 20, Pastor Pitak brought in four of the 60-page proofreader's copies of the book of Matthew in the Isan language—seen stacked on the table next to my laptop computer. We reviewed each of the suggestions offered by each member of our capable and thorough native Isan-speaker proofreading committee, whereupon we discussed and made all appropriate corrections or changes. These are all born-again, committed Christians. There really weren't all that many comments, making it possible to be finished by noontime. That means, for all practical purposes, we have now wrapped up the Isan book of Matthew, finalizing the translation of the Isan New Testament.

Believe it or not, after all these years, I finished pretty-much on schedule, according to the time-line laid out by Wycliffe Bible Translators for difficult languages—even after various delays and setbacks. God is faithful, as we remain focused and diligent!

(Note my walking cane, hanging from the edge of the table, where it has remained for a few days. The Sciatica problem in my left hip area is slowly improving—slowly being the operative term—since the spinal injection I received at Sharp Grossmont Hospital, a few days before I flew to Thailand (November 10th). It was uncertain for a while after receiving the injection, but I now have less pain, more range of motion, and haven't had to use a cane for over a week... PTL! Note also that I have been able to be more mobile, with the positive result of being able to get my weight back down to near-normal, for which I am extremely thankful—hopefully nearing the end of a 6-year-long ordeal.)



Pitak & Ron make final proofreading adjustments on Isan book of Matthew -- Thurs, Dec 20, 2012