

A Wonderful Opportunity – Please Pray With Us for This Young Couple!!

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

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

Pastor Pitak and I finished translating Matthew chapter 18 today, and began chapter 19. That means only nine more chapters left. It's going slower than expected, but otherwise very well. Pray that we will be able to finish the Book of Matthew before I am scheduled to leave for the States on December 17. This will mean the completion of the translation of the New Testament in the Isan language!! FYI: Isan is the largest known people group without God's Word in their own heart language, apart from our work—a huge 23-million speakers at present.

Yesterday (Monday, December 3), Pastor Pitak and I had opportunity to meet with a young lady who is a member of the church where he pastors. Her name is Mei (27). As a young believer, she had made a serious mistake at the onset of her adult life—she had gotten pregnant and ended up marrying her suitor, a sincere young man, but an unbeliever (Buddhist).

Their relationship has been mostly floundering ever since they first got married, for various reasons. He finally moved out, to which we encouraged Mei a couple years ago not to give up and do something she would regret. She listened. Pastor Pitak has been counseling both of them on a semi-regular basis. They have twin boys and a cute little daughter.

Pitak and I had lunch with Mei yesterday where we encouraged her in the ways of the Lord as to what she needed to do, starting with getting honest with herself and with the Lord in an attitude of repentance. Also, that she really needed to work towards moving her family out of her parent's home to a place of their own. Mei's parents, although Christians, have not been much encouragement in helping Mei to save her marriage—they obviously don't care much for her husband, nor he them. Mei's mother has been especially unhelpful.

Mei's wayward husband, nicknamed "Toad" (34), admits to having made some very serious mistakes in their relationship, but that he loves Mei and their three young children. Pitak has had various opportunities to spend time with Toad over the years, pointing out what he should do to save their marriage, starting with opening his life to receive Christ, to which he appears willing.



A Providential Development – God is Working:

After finishing lunch with Mei yesterday, we sat at the table and prayed for her and her husband's situation. As Mei prayed, she confessed her sin of rebellion and disobedience towards the Lord and her parents. Pitak and I had no sooner left the restaurant to head back to work on the translation than Mei's husband Toad called, saying that he wanted to talk with Pitak and me as soon as possible.

We met with Toad at a local coffee shop, where I noticed that he was carrying a copy of my "Considering Creation" evangelism booklet, and had already started to read it. Pitak and I chatted and counseled with Toad for at least half an hour, explaining and urging him to turn his life over to Christ. He listened intently, occasionally adding a comment or question.

Toad was open and honest with us, admitting that he was truly unhappy and searching; but, in that he was Buddhist and his young wife was a Christian, he felt caught between two worlds. It soon became evident that, being a works-oriented Buddhist, Toad was still unsure as to what Biblical Christianity and receiving Christ entailed, which was much of what was holding him back. Like all Thai, he had been taught from youth that Christ is the "foreigner's Buddha" and not the Living Creator God, of whom the average Thai does not yet know about.

We continued to talk. Not being sure where to go next, I felt constrained to "break the ice" and invite Toad to open his heart and life and receive Christ right then and there. He listened, and seemed eager, but was still somewhat hesitant. I sensed that he still didn't really understand, so suggested that he should finish reading the "Considering Creation" booklet, and would then understand much better. And, that we could talk more afterwards. I also gave him my cell phone number.

Before we parted, I told Toad that I would be praying for him, and said that I was placing him in God's Hands, which seemed to make an impact on him. He is ever so close to receiving Christ. We left him with many thoughts, and finally that "Today Is the Day of Salvation," in that no one has any assurance of what tomorrow might bring. Before leaving, Toad promised to finish reading the booklet.

Do pray for this young couple. Pastor Pitak and I both have a sense that they will be greatly used of God when they get things straightened out, starting with her moving out of her parents place, and his salvation. Toad has plans to sell some property he owns and buy a house for them, which lines up with what Pitak and I prayed for and suggested that they needed to do.



Today, Tuesday, December 3, Toad called and wanted to meet again with both Pitak and me, which we did. He came to my translation office (hotel room), where we talked even more seriously for well over an hour. We also opened the hotel room's Gideon Thai Bible, and had Toad read many pertinent verses. Finally, Toad assented that he now understood even better, whereupon he added hungrily that he needed a Bible so he could read more on his own. This was a very positive sign. As we prayed in closing, I noticed that Toad was praying along with us.

I was able to locate a new Thai Bible that another local missionary had on hand, so went and got it. After two days of personal counseling, witnessing, and Bible passage reading, Toad now has his own Thai Bible. He mentioned wanting an Isan Bible, but they are not available yet. Your prayerful partnership has helped make this reality very close at hand. Thank you. Please pray for Toad, Mei, and their young family. Again, I sense that God has *great* plans in store for their lives in the not-too-distant future, including serving Him!!

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PS: The Sciatica problem in my left hip area, although not cured, seems to be lessening after another San Diego neurosurgeon arranged a special spinal injection.

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