

"Are You Satisfied in Serving the Lord Jesus Christ?"*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

Greetings in the Name of the One who dwells in unapproachable light, Our Lord Jesus Christ;

Having just returned from Thailand, I would like to give personal testimony that, the greatest privilege, the greatest job, the greatest inner joy, the most satisfying thing one can do with his or her life is to occupy oneself in serving the Lord Jesus Christ, having an active and integral role in taking the eternal, life-giving Word of God to those still living in hopeless spiritual darkness at the uttermost, unreached regions of the earth, until the Lord returns. Nothing—no profession, no career, no personal pursuit—compares to occupying oneself by serving Christ, i.e., helping to fulfill the Great Commission with all of one's heart and soul (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:15), as He taught in the parable of the Nobleman in Luke 19:12.

Continuing, I'd like to share some thoughts concerning teaching and evangelizing, seeking to present a clear Gospel message among the Thai, with the goal of seeing these unresponsive people come to Christ here in the "*Land of Ten-thousand Smiles*" as it is known... the highly-religious, spiritually-barren Kingdom of Thailand, where the Gospel is shunned as being a lesser religion, and Jesus viewed as tantamount to the foreigner's Buddha, who came to teach people to be good.

It's almost uncanny, but a pleasant smile can be found on the face of most all Thai people... if not a beaming smile, at least not too many frowns can be found. Furthermore, if you are driving here—which is mirror image of driving in the US—and happen into a traffic impasse as to who will go first, just dip your head politely and smile. It's magically disarming, and will almost always bring a return smile and a polite nod, signaling an offer for you to proceed first. Works *almost* every time, has been my experience—no struggling or hard feelings on either side—beats *Road Rage* hands down. Yet, as adherents of the state-ordained Buddhist socio-cultural religious system, the Thai smile may conceal a heart filled with of superstitious fear of the great unknown, unsure of their ability to gain salvation from reincarnation through self-effort.

However, the Thai are typically a very congenial people. "*Never mind, it's OK*" is a favorite Thai byword. Directly translated from *Mai Pen Rai*, it means "*It is Nothing.*" Are these people angelic? Far from it. The Thai media overflows daily with accounts of robberies, kidnappings, murders, corruption, and a string of other oddities or inequities. Last week the big buzz was over a Buddhist Priest who was living the "Good Life" despite his higher calling as a Buddhist Monk. His worldly collection included a huge home, a stable of expensive cars, and even a well-appointed personal jet plane by which he travelled much of the time... even a wife in Japan, according to reports. The primary philosophy of Thai Buddhism is to forsake all worldliness and personal desires in the quest for merit, with the ultimate goal of gaining Nirvana by practicing self-denial and good-works over countless reincarnations. Salvation by God's gracious love, apart from works, is incomparably superior, but uninspiring to the misinformed Thai.

Concerning the final review of the Isan New Testament translation, I believe I mentioned that—despite numerous time-consuming roadblocks strewn across our path—Pastor Pitak and I were able to complete the review process on four New Testament books: Matthew and Mark, as well as 1 & 2 Peter. Lord willing, I will be returning this fall to press forward in the review process.

Great, great news! The newly-printed pocket-sized edition of the creation-evangelism icebreaker booklet, *Considering Creation*, is in ever-increasing demand. Numerous Thai pastors have written me personally, giving it very high accolades as a break-through evangelism tool. More exciting than that, numerous Thai Buddhists (typically uninterested in the Gospel) exclaim how they really enjoyed reading it, and how eye-opening it is. I always ask if they read it all, which they say they have—it begins with convincing arguments for Intelligent Design, transitioning to the introduction of the Intelligent Designer (God), followed with the story of creation-to-redemption, segueing into the introduction of the God-Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, ending with a strong Gospel message and invitation to trust Christ. It works amazingly well.

Many Thai told me they even passed the booklet on to their Buddhist family and friends. One man, my barber, having passed out his own copy, asked me for a whole pack to keep in his barbershop, to pass out to those who ask. This is exciting, and undeniable proof that this new approach truly works: 1) in that the Thai enjoy reading it and; 2) it effectively bypasses their typical presumptions and misconceptions about who Jesus Christ truly is, and who He isn't. I pray that it will turn into a groundswell of Thai Buddhist souls who open their hearts to the Gospel and come to a true saving knowledge of their Creator, Savior, and Lord... Jesus Christ.



(New Cover Photo)

Be well and thanks again. Your prayers, special gifts and regular support towards this great job are much-needed and greatly appreciated.

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



Ron Myers

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