

## "My Personal July 4th – Why the Celebration?"

Greetings Once Again (*for the third time during this trip*) In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

As I sit down to write this short note, it's presently approaching 6:15 PM, Wednesday evening, July 4, 2012.

About 15 minutes ago, Pastor Pitak and I celebrated as we finished the last verse of the last chapter of the Book of Mark, painstakingly translating it into the Isan tongue. I feel we have done good job, but there is more checking that must be done. I also feel much lighter, with that weight off my shoulders. It was touch and go for quite a while—too many unscheduled interruptions, one right after the other—but Pastor Pitak kept assuring me we would finish up today. And, he was right.

Previous to doing the Book of Mark, we were able to complete the Book of Revelation in the Isan tongue, wrapping it up on Saturday, June 16. For whatever reason, Revelation progressed much easier than the Book of Mark, but they are now both "in the fold," so to speak. Revelation is now being proofread by my able-bodied proofreading team, overseen by Pastor Pitak. Proofreading the Book of Mark will follow shortly. Then, after reviewing the proofreaders' findings, we will scan the finished books again for potentially needed corrections—shouldn't be too many problems.

I return to Bangkok this coming Saturday AM, July 7. I'll be there one week, finishing up business, before boarding a Thai Airways flight for a long trip back to Los Angeles, and then a short commuter hop down to San Diego, and home. I really need a rest, as I've been pushing myself every day for two months now, early morning to late night. I'll be glad to be home again--although Northeast (or "Isan") Thailand had been our home for many years. Our children all grew up here.

Now, the last remaining New Testament book yet to be completed is Matthew. I plan to return to Thailand towards the end of this year to work on checking it... hopefully to finish it at that time.

This, of course, must of necessity be followed by more checking and comparing before even thinking of doing any major printing—which won't be too far off. Not that I haven't done a great deal of studying and exegetical analysis already, both previous to translating each book, as well as "on the fly" spot-checks during the actual translation process... and even afterwards as things come to mind, to reassure myself that we handled things right, or maybe adjust a few spots, or upgrade some terms.

Looking back over the years, the original table I used for translation was quite large. It used to look like a library table, what with all the dictionaries and commentaries lying open on it. These many books took up all available table space, save for a spot in the front where we worked. Initially, we wrote everything out by hand, using up reams of paper, as well as various colored pencils and pens. Crossing out lines, or even whole portions, we then rewrote them. We would then type the final draft out on an old manual typewriter, a portable Olympia with Thai type. Considering all the corrections my typists made, the little typewriter began to look akin to a well-used bird roost, what with all the white-out correction fluid that got spilled on it.

The resultant manuscripts weren't very impressive to the eye, but they contained the precious, powerful, and eternal Word of God, that can save men's and ladies' eternal souls. Later on, as God blessed, I was able to get a new electronic typewriter, which later doubled as a printer after getting our very first computer. At first, I had to do a lot of my own programming, even design my own Thai fonts. As time progressed, so did technology, as well as Thai word processing programs and fonts.

Now, things are much easier. I am writing this letter on my modern laptop computer, perched atop a small 18"x36" desk, which doubled as a translation table that Pastor Pitak and I used—nothing cluttering its smallish top but my portable computer, a mouse, a Thai script keyboard, and the occasional cup of coffee. All my translation notes and documents are now kept inside the laptop—backed up, of course—along with even more resources than I used in the past. All at my fingertips!

Well, I thought you might enjoy a small rundown on things. Since we began our ministry here, we also saw God bless as people came to saving faith in Christ—many of who are now in full-time ministry, like Pastor Pitak. God is certainly good!

Thank you again for your partnership, in this extremely vital ministry, in this little-reached and over-populated area of the world, which are certainly white unto harvest. Please remember to pray for the Isan people and their Thai cousins, that their hearts would be softened towards the Gospel of God's Amazing Grace—found only in the Person, Name, and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ! By God's Enabling Grace and For His Eternal Glory,

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