

## Thailand, Land of Enchantment

Greetings From Enchanted Thailand in Jesus Matchless Name,

Thailand is most certainly a land filled with enchanting-looking, gilded storybook architecture... most of which is Buddhist temple structures, and the ornate King's Palace grounds. These are the pride and joy of the Thai people, and considered to be main stop-off locations for any tourist excursion—given the fact that their brochures are often filled with temple locations. And yet, after having served the Lord Christ among the Thai peoples for four decades, I find that it's not the external trappings that are enchanting, *per se*, but the dark, enslaving, even demonic attractions represented within, which have enchanted the hearts and lives of the Thai people for untold centuries. *Pray earnestly with us for a great spiritual breakthrough for these otherwise-lovely people for whom the Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again to set free from sin and death.*

I arrived here one month ago after almost 30-hours worth of flights, from boarding a short commuter hop from San Diego to Los Angeles, to a two-leg flight to Taipei, and then on to Bangkok's gigantic new Suwanapume International Airport. After spending a few short days in Bangkok where I picked up a few Christmas gifts—arrive back home on December 18<sup>th</sup>—I then flew to the far-away province of Nakhon Panom on October 26<sup>th</sup> (*called NKP for short*).

Flying domestically in Thailand is the way to go these days... beats long overnight redeye rides on busses that may or may not arrive on time, (or worse). We used to use them exclusively for travel to and from Nakhon Panom to Bangkok, a 500 mile-long ride in an overly-packed glorified tin box on wheels—and lucky if the air conditioner decided to function properly.

Now, it's a short one-hour hop to almost anywhere in Thailand, often in a well-maintained Boeing 737. Prices have risen slightly, but they're still miles cheaper than US domestic promotional flights—and you even receive a nice boxed lunch. This saves a lot of wear and tear on missionaries, who have enough on their plates already.

On a side-note, I found the Lord bringing at least one person into my life to witness to on each flight. It was exciting to see how He was going to do it on the next flight... which He always did. On my final flight, from Bangkok to Nakhon Panom, a Buddhist priest sat directly across the aisle from me. A few minutes before landing, I wrote a short introductory note in Thai on a napkin, inserted it into a "Considering Creation" booklet (last one I had), and handed it to him. This obviously broke the ice as we had a pleasant conversation before parting. *Pray that he'll read it and be convicted of his need for the Savior through its pages.*

Back to the reason for my trip. As you might remember, I finished the translation of the Isan New Testament in December of last year, 2012. Pastor Pitak and I are now halfway through reviewing the Gospel of Luke. My goal is to complete the review of the four Gospels before I fly home—which equals a sizable portion of the final review process before printing. We got a late start, due to his having to bone up and take his semester exam, but we are making up for the delay.

Cheryl and I have been privileged to sponsor Pastor Pitak and his dear wife, Sri, to extension courses from Bangkok Bible College and Seminary. Both having maintained a high grade average throughout, they are nearing their last semester and will soon receive their BA degree in Bible.

Continuing on, I promised I would report on Pastor Boonta and his ailing wife Pawn. I was able to transfer the gifts you sent into their account soon after my arrival. (Below is a translated thank you note from Pastor Boonta.) I was also able to visit them at their home. I'm sorry to report that Pawn has experienced a slight stroke due to the parasite activity in her brain, leaving her with the typical drooping facial symptoms on her right side, as well as the need to use a walker and wheelchair. This should clear up, and has already begun to do so. Their spirits remain high, despite all they have been through over the last few months.

*"A special thank you in the Name of Jesus Christ to all who prayed for and helped support us financially in our time of need. What a blessing it was for our family to receive your gifts, knowing that you cared enough to extend a helping hand; given to us through Pastor Ron. We want to extend our thanks to each and every one who helped our family, be it through prayer or financially. We hope and trust that God will bless you and make you fruitful in all your labors for Him. Love and Respect in the Name of Jesus Christ: Boonta, Pawn, and Daughter Bow"*

Tomorrow morning I will be teaching at Pastor Pitak's church, finishing up a two-part series: "*Widespread Doctrinal Problems Prevalent in Thai Churches and Their Scriptural Solutions.*" *Please pray that all goes well, and that God's truth prevails.*

GOOD NEWS: Concerning the possibility of a viable Bible training facility coming to fruition here in Nakhon Panom, the owner of the assembly plant facility we've been praying about has graciously given us permission to use what amounts to the entire east wing of the second floor. Two of our Thai committee members were here at the time of the decision. This includes a huge semi-furnished conference room—tables, chairs, and white boards, and possibly an adjoining studio-type apartment. *Pray please as we plan for an area leadership conference this coming spring.*



Thank you for your faithful support.

*Ron Myers*

Ron (and Cheryl) Myers

