

“A Huge Milestone Is Reached”

Greetings Once Again In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

The closer Pastor Pitak and I got to the end, the more anticipation and excitement I sensed welling up in my being as we approached our goal. It was surreal. We steadily pressed on, being careful to maintain standards; verse, after verse, after verse. Then, there it was! The very last verse, Matthew 28:20... “*Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end...*” After all the years of plodding forward, at precisely 12:10 PM, Friday afternoon, December 14, 2012, in Nakon Panom, Thailand, we came to the end of the translation of the New Testament into the Isan language.

Spoken by over 23-million people throughout Thailand’s vast northeastern region, Isan was once notably the largest remaining people group without the Word of God in their own heart language. That is now changed. There are various things that still need doing before printing, yet after many years, the translation itself is now done!

The last remaining book, which we just finished, was the Gospel of Matthew. I feel that the translation of Matthew went quite well, despite the numerous and varied interruptions we experienced. Meaning, I feel that we have reached the level of accuracy, completeness, and readability that we have always strived to maintain—as a reflection of both the original text, as well as the everyday Isan vernacular. These goals can be quite illusive at times, what with the various challenges faced on both ends of the afore-mentioned translation spectrum.

Upon wrapping up the translation, Pitak and I enjoyed a relaxing celebratory lunch at a favorite restaurant. We then returned to my hotel room (office) to reevaluate a few spots that I had noted, which needed finalizing. From there, I formatted the newly completed document for printing a proofing draft, all sixty pages worth. I then took the precious draft on a flash drive to a preferable copy shop here in town. *(A triple-backup system has been maintained at every juncture.)*

After a short while, the copy shop owner presented me with ten crisp stapled copies of Isan-Matthew, on A4-sized paper—similar to letter-sized. These will soon be in the hands of our very-capable native-speaker Isan evaluation committee. After their proofreading and “red penning” any potential problems they note, Pitak and I will then review the marked up proofs, and make all appropriate corrections or adjustments. This same procedural standard has been done with each and every completed book. *(I fly home on December 24th, arriving at 6:00PM on Christmas Eve.)*



The next intermediate steps are not small ones. All terminology will need to be reviewed, reevaluated, and correlated for concordance and congruity throughout. Difficult-to-translate passages will need to be reevaluated and fine-tuned, or retranslated. It’s always easier to get a clearer picture when things have been set aside to cool for a while, a process that requires time and patience. Without a high degree of accuracy, any translation is useless. Then, there’s compiling and printing—we have access to a high-quality Christian-owned print shop in Bangkok. These things all take time, effort, diligence, and of course funding.

A brief update on Mei and Toad, the young couple that Pastor Pitak and I have been working with (*above photo*). As previously mentioned, their marriage got started out on bad footing, but things are improving, albeit not without struggles and challenges. Overcoming various inner struggles, Toad received Christ on December 7th... Toad’s spiritual birthday and my physical birthday—a great birthday present. His new-found faith has shown many signs of being the real thing; yet, every milestone of spiritual growth has been hard-fought, as they have much to overcome in their relationship. Pray for them regularly, please! We know that God is able!

Thank you again for your prayers and partnership in this extremely vital ministry, focused on this little-reached and over-populated land of Isan. We need your help. Please remember to pray for the Isan people and their Thai cousins, that their hearts would be warmed 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,

Ron Myers

Ron (and Cheryl) Myers

God’s Word For Isan

www.IsanBible.org

