

Friday, December 23, 2011

It's been one week now since I returned from my second ministry trip to Thailand during 2011 – November 15 through December 15. (*My first trip was from May 29 through July 6.*) My recent trip home, a non-stop direct flight, seemed to go fast and was a pleasant three hours shorter than the seventeen hour flight over there. This huge time difference was due to directional atmospheric winds – headwinds vs. tailwinds. My time going through Immigration and customs at the LAX airport was smooth and short – a definite answer to prayer. My commuter flight into San Diego also went well.

**The following are some highlights concerning my two ministry trips to Thailand during 2011:**

- January 2011 saw the beginning of preparation for a major undertaking: the formatting, mass printing and distribution of 34,000 copies of the books of John and Romans in dual language format (Central Thai, and Isan). Unfortunately, during the formatting of the 226 page undertaking, my computer hard drive suffered a major crash. The crash also took a separate back-up disk. It was only by God's grace and the assistance of a commercial disk recovery program that I was able to piece together the two books, and continue the tedious formatting process. After recovering most of the lost data, I immediately signed up for *Carbonite*, an online backup and recovery system.
- June 2011: An organization called *Bearing Precious Seed Global* sponsored the printing. We made all the necessary arrangements and flew to Thailand in May and June respectfully. We had the 34,000 copies printed in two batches at a local Christian-owned print shop, who gave us an extra-special price. We then shipped the John-Romans books in 100-count boxes to various locations around Northeast Thailand. While that was underway, we traveled to Nakon Panom province where we had arranged for two on-site distribution and dedication ceremonies, passing out boxes of John-Romans to at least 4-to-5 churches that were in attendance. The newly-printed 20-page icebreaker Creation-evangelism booklet, called "Considering Creation," was included in the front of the John-Romans – a perfect introduction to the scriptures for Thai Buddhists, who love "nature," but have no knowledge of Creation, God, or His Word. All went very satisfactory.
- When I returned to Thailand in November, it was for the purpose of continuing the Isan translation, which is nearing completion. My assistant, Pastor Pitak, and I were able to finish the six remaining smaller books to our satisfaction, leaving only three more books to complete the translation of the Isan New Testament. I hope to complete the three remaining books in 2012, with God's enablement and provision. I was quite pleased to see how Pastor Pitak was doing ministry-wise.
- During this last trip, I also visited Pastor Pratuan in Payao province, Northern Thailand, who is involved in beginning a new work there. I was asked to take a few teaching sessions in a local-area Bible school there. The class I taught was on evangelism techniques. I covered the things I had learned concerning effective evangelism methods among the Thai populace who admire "nature," but know nothing of the Creator. Namely Creation-evangelism. One of the professors read the whole "Considering Creation" booklet to the class during the next session, which made a really deep impact on everyone. I trust they will now adapt their witnessing techniques to start with Creation and the Creator.
- In closing, I want to share a blessing that occurred on my most-recent trip home. As people were boarding the plane before takeoff, it appeared that no one was going to be sitting in the window seat beside me, meaning I could stretch out a bit. About then, a young lady walked down the aisle and looked at the empty window seat beside me. I knew this meant it was her assigned seat. Her appearance was quite striking in that she was decked out with various forms of "body art" – piercings and tattoos – say nothing about her less-than-adequate attire. Being a traditionalist, I found God had to deal with my attitude.

Realizing I needed to witness to her, at that moment the Lord reminded me I could relax and He would open the door. I committed the situation to Him and relaxed. Amazingly, within a few short minutes, I was freely sharing the Gospel and she was listening intently. As it turned out, she was a professing believer (Baptist background), but readily admitted that she was away from the Lord, and a bit discouraged. What a great opportunity I had to ground her in various aspects of the believer's unchangeable position "In Christ." This was a real encouragement to her. Before the plane landed, we prayed and I asked the Lord to guide and strengthen her walk. I sensed that God really used our "chance" meeting to help direct her back into fellowship with her Savior. Please pray for Morgan G.

These are a few highlights out of the many things that occurred. Born December 7, I also celebrated my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday while there. I invited a few Thai friends, as well as a few missionary acquaintances. Over twenty were in attendance, which helped make the occasion memorable. We had cake and ice cream, etc. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Many heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped make this a profitable year, ministry-wise, through your faithful prayers and generous gifts. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Ron and Cheryl Myers

God's Word for Isan [www.IsanBible.org](http://www.IsanBible.org)

