

***“The Good News, a Ministry Recap, and Some Very Sad News”***

Greetings Once Again (*for the second time in a few short days*) In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

***The Good News:*** What a joy and privilege it is to be directly involved in the greatest job on earth. That of having an integral part in taking the Word of God, and the message of eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, to those who are still sitting in abject spiritual poverty at the uttermost unreached ends of the earth... as they trust in worthless trinkets, fashioned by men's hands.

It's especially great when we are privileged to witness the Good News in action, as we watch lives being changed from blindness to sight, darkness to light, before our very eyes. In short, this is something really worth living for, and investing one's life in, more than anything else in the whole wide world, be it fortune or fame, and everything in between.

***A Ministry Recap:*** Cheryl and I initially came here a few decades ago, along with our then-small but growing family. We first served as pioneer church-planting missionaries, fully investing our lives to establish new works among primitive village dwellers (and all that it entailed) among a sizable tribal group known as the Nyaw people, situated in the far reaches of northeastern Thailand, bordering Laos.

This was during the closing months of the Vietnam War era. And, we were living in a potentially-dangerous area, due to rampant communist infiltration at the time. And yet, God protected and blessed us. Although not an easy-going task, we witnessed the Lord blessing our hard work in primitive circumstances as we became deeply involved in language and culture studies, as well as in the lives of the people we came to reach.

As time progressed, we also saw God open greater doors of service. These new opportunities included a move into the area's provincial capital to begin the greatly-needed Isan Bible translation project. This is now in its final stages as I am presently translating and checking the last two remaining New Testament books. This ministry expansion also included an increase in our territory of evangelistic influence, into another little-reached tribal area, the Phu-Thai people, centered 35 miles south of town.

This ministry was mainly on weekends, as I led my translation assistants there in evangelism and discipleship outreach endeavors. We saw souls saved and baptized, and cell groups started as God again blessed the work. Weekends also saw me pastoring the fledgling city church, which was withering on the vine due to a lack of leadership and solid Biblical teaching. As our second extended term drew to a close, we were blessed to see my then-translation assistant take over the pastoral ministry there, keeping the church growing in grace, as well as numerically.

As the Isan translation progressed, I found myself faced with a very *“uniquely positive”* problem. It seemed that every time I incorporated the help of a new translation assistant (*and spent much time together discipling him*), it wasn't too long before my new assistant got a solid handle on Grace—a distinct problem amongst the Thai Christian community. As a result, these men would then enter the ministry themselves—at least six families—typically as pastors or evangelist, and one is a church-planting national missionary.

***Some Very Sad News:*** This leads me to the reason for this “short” epistle. One of my very best translation assistants is a young man by the name of Paetong. When Paetong first began helping me, I noticed right away that he was very intelligent, not to mention soft-spoken, helpful, and humble (many Thai are). It takes a special sort to be a really good translation assistant, and Paetong filled the bill very nicely. This is not something everyone can do, since long hard hours can be very arduous and taxing, not to mention confusing to lesser types.



**So, what's the sad news?** More recently, Paetong became involved as an evangelist with a group from Korea. (*After a long period of discipling Paetong to the full realization of Salvation by Grace alone, apart from works, I was glad that he too was now actively serving His Savior.*) I was a bit skeptical at first, but came to accept the group as being *bonafide* after spending some with them (*my mistake*). It was about this time that I learned of a certain Korean group bringing Christians into their fold, then requiring them to cut all ties with former Christian acquaintances. They even convinced one Thai woman to **divorce** her missionary husband, because he disagreed with the group.

As time progressed, I found that Paetong was not answering or returning my calls. I began to wonder what was happening between us. Two days ago, I contacted Paetong's older brother, Taweechai, a pastor in a nearby province. Taweechai, was beside himself, saying that the group Paetong was with was this same cultish bunch. He went on to say that their father, a solid believer, had also been “sucked in.”

**In closing, I ask that you seriously commit to holding Paetong and his father, Sompong, up before the Throne of Grace.** Pray *specifically* that they will see through this group for what it really is—a full-fledged cult dressed in sheep's clothing—and withdraw themselves. This group, known as “IYF Mission Camp” and “Good News Mission” has expanded into a global threat to unsuspecting believers.

Thank you once again for your support. Please remember to pray for Paetong and his dad!

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

Ron (and Cheryl) Myers  
www.IsanBible.com

