A Faith-based Ministry Sustained Through the Prayers, Gifts, and Partnership of God's People

October-November Recap of My Thai Ministry "Things Started Slow but Quickly Accelerated"

by Ron Myers

My time here and my 60-day visa will soon be ending. As Paul experienced both hindrances and changes in direction (Romans 1:13, etc.), so have I. I'll explain. My Thanksgiving newsletter concentrated on being thankful. God has graciously provided for the ministry thrust I was planning, to begin the process of reaching out with the Gospel to the thousands of yet unreached villages and people scattered throughout this vast Northeastern Thai hinterland, called the Isan region. First, I had thousands of Isan New Testaments and my Considering Creation booklets freighted up from Nonthaburi Province (near Bangkok), where they are graciously being stored by a pastor friend at their church facility.

Armed with these printed secret weapons, I realized we needed a reliable means of transportation, for which God supplied abundantly by gifts through you, His people. I am humbled and appreciative of how everything meshed. I sensed the Lord was in it since He led me to a near-perfect condition 2015 Nissan pickup truck with only 25,000 miles

in a private party sale. Baaw Ter's friend who works for a large vehicle dealership assisted in finalizing everything. It still has that new-car smell. I got it for a very reasonable price; less than most that model year sell for. I'm amazed and praise God for His goodness each time I drive it.

I had an appropriate sign made for it. The lower part is an enlargement of the Considering Creation-Do You Like Nature booklet cover. The top word in red reads "Nature" followed by "Is It Possible That There's a Creator?" This, combined with "Consider Creation" beckoning them at the bottom. It's a powerful thought provoker for the Thai who prefer to draw their own conclusions which the booklet is designed to do. We began the initial stages locating remote villages here in Nakhon Phanom Province.



Pastor Pitak asked me to speak twice at his church. The first Sunday I taught on How Great a Salvation (Hebrews 2:3), the three aspects of Salvation God freely provided for us: Justification (past, completed), Sanctification (present active), and Glorification (when we see Jesus). The second Sunday I spoke on a very pressing issue for Thailand in general — false teachers, and the negative effects of their false teaching on the overall health of believers and growth of the Church, their deceitful ways, and warnings of their final doom.

Little did I realize that things were about to change. God was about to open a new door and exciting direction for me, to which I alluded briefly in my Thanksgiving newsletter email. I can't go into detail but there is a thriving underground church movement in a neighboring country just across the river. I met the three men and their wives overusing the movement, former refugee nationals who visited Pastor Pitak's church that Sunday. Persecution is rampant there, so there is no safe way to have a Bible training school. That's where I come in. After dinner, we met and talked a while, sizing me up qualification-wise I suppose, in some respects. It turns out they were familiar with my work, the Isan New Testament, with audio narration and a Laotian script version — one man using it as his personal New Testament, having printed from <www.LaoBible.net>.

As we conversed, the leader asked me enthusiastically to consider joining them, helping with English, giving input in decision making and in training new pastors in a facility located here on the Thai side. Originally, there were supposed to be ten men coming over for this first training session. Recently, I was told I'd be training their wives instead—or should I say their widows. You may have read or heard the news over the last few weeks. Underground pastors were found out, tortured, and murdered for their testimony and refusing to stop leading others to Christ. That's right, the men I was about to train had been tortured and murdered by the authorities for their new outspoken faith.



These men and their wives and children are blurred out for their safety

I will have begun the two 3-hour training sessions soon after you read this. I covet your prayers, as you can well imagine. Given their confusion and sorrowful state of mind what I've decided to do is concentrate on consoling and encouraging these newly widowed ladies. I wish Cheryl, my better half, had come with me as this is perfect for her. We didn't know, of course, this great opportunity would be happening. Cheryl gave me some valuable input, though, and is praying for wisdom and direction. We'll be breaking up the 3-hour morning and 3-hour afternoon sessions into different segments. Some of the time I'll be playing the narrated Isan version of Genesis 1-12, and various Isan New Testament portions. Also, two Psalms that Cheryl suggested, Psalm 23 and 46, Baaw Ter is now narrating into MP3 audio for me. We don't know at this juncture how well they can read, if at all.

On top of all that, I learned that the narrated audio version of the Isan New Testament, never did get fully implimented online for anyone to access. Especially the Isan speakers on the Thai side of the border and the Lao speakers across the Mekong. Interestingly, Isan being a close derivitive of Lao, the two are so close Lao listeners think it was recorded in Laos. That's a real plus.

Realizing it was not yet fully done, I set about creating a new online website post-haste, written in the HTML programming language to intergrate both the digital text and the narrated audio of each New Testament chapter on separate HTML pages as integral parts of the set — from Matthew chapter one to Revelation chapter twenty-two. That's 27 books, 260 chapters, and 7,958 verses in all. Along with 260 MP3 audio files, I was afraid I wouldn't be able to finish it before returning to the US December 11, in time for Christmas, so I burned the midnight oil for quite a few days and nights in a row. As it turned out, I finished the project a few days before this writing. A few things need to be rearranged, but it's done and ready to be installed on our Good News Isan website. I'll also be making copyable USB drives containing all the MP3 audio files for distribution here in Isan and in Laos. These are usable for Thai-Isan people and former Lao refugees living around the world.

Here's what each page looks like: Note the MP3 player as well as the text for each chapter on each page.



Where do we go from here? I'll need to return to Thailand as soon as possible because my new team is waiting on my return to pick up where I will have left off.

It goes without saying Cheryl and I covet your prayers in all this. We appreciate the generosity of all you who believe in the vital ministry God has placed in our care.

Oh yes, an urgent prayer request. We need to pray for Lang, the man who helped me get the Nissan Pickup truck, is dying of kidney failure. He gets dialysis 2-3 times weekly. I witnessed to him when he came over to Baaw Ter's place to deliver the papers. He listened caefully and received my Considering Creation booklet. Both Baaw Ter and I prayed openly for him out loud, asking his permission first. Due to the buildup of toxins in his blood, he has become very darkly complected. Pray for Joy, as well, Lang's wife, who read the Considering Creation booklet to him since his eyes are getting bad. I learned that last week when I visited him. He hasn't placed His trust in the Savior yet. So, pray he'll get convicted and do so soon. Before it's too late.



By God's Grace and For His Glory,

Ron and Cheryl Myers - Your Missionaries to NE Thailand,

