



Update on the Isan Translation

From Ron Myers

Greetings in The Matchless Name of The Lord Jesus Christ, As of last week (May 20th), after many time-consuming hinderances and setbacks, the narrated version of the Isan New Testament is now completely finished in audio format. A huge and grueling task, my Isan coworker Bao-Tur did a great job with his trained radio voice. It's divided into books and chapters for easy selective listening. Also, to make it more culturally-appropriate-sounding for the listeners, we included native Lao-Isan instrumental music playing softly on a background track. That way, we have two versions in one—with or without the instrumental background music. It will be featured on Bao-Tur's YouTube and Facebook Good News pages. It will also be featured on our Good News website and my God's Word for Isan ministry website: for listening or downloading. There will also be computer, tablet, and smartphone apps. Who all can take advantage of this? Obviously, it must be those who both read and speak the language. That would be the 27 million-plus Isan language speakers of Thailand's Northeastern Region. Also, the Laotian people in Communist Laos, along with Laotian refugees residing in countries around the world. How important is this work? When Christ's Apostles and disciples spoke the "Wonderful Works of God" (Acts 2:7–11), each visiting Jewish person heard the message in their own native-born language—even individual dialects of the local towns from where they hailed. So that you get a more complete picture, the Isan New Testament isn't just in audio format, but also in both printed and digital format for easy reading access (from which the audio version came). These formats—the Thai script version for Thailand and Lao script version for Laotians—will make the Word of God easily accessible worldwide for reading, listening, and downloading for both Thai-Isan people and Laotian people. Faith comes by hearing, that is, hearing the living Word of God (Romans 10:17)! As for me (Ron), I'm stuck in the States until Thailand reopens. Although vaccinated, I'm unable to return yet because the country is closed again due to a recent increase in Covid-19 cases. That doesn't mean I'm sitting still. I've been reviewing the Isan New Testament for a second edition printing, and retranslating some passages for a better, more precise wording for clear fidelity. I use a formal equivalency (literal) translation technique

following the Majority/TR Greek text. The Isan New Testament has proven quite good, yet there are places I feel could use a second look. It's been challenging to attain a high level of satisfaction in the rendering of some passages. An accurate reflection of the original meaning and complete fluency in the Isan language are of prime importance, so both must be attained. I often communicate with my co-worker, Bao-Tur through Internet video calls, both to encourage, motivate and instruct him. This work is vital for the furtherance of the Gospel message among the unreached and the advancement of the Kingdom of God until the trumpet sounds and we go to meet Christ in the air. In His parable of the Nobleman who traveled to a far country, He said to "Occupy Until I Come" (Luke 19:13). That is, occupy doing God's business until Christ returns for His Church. Meaning, to preach the Word, win souls, and encourage believers—especially those dwelling at the unreached uttermost ends of the Earth. God is Great—Serve Him!