

A SYNOPSIS OF RON & CHERYL MYERS' MINISTRY AND FUTURE GOALS:

Greetings Again in Jesus Matchless Name,

I felt it appropriate to reintroduce ourselves to you, and reacquaint you with the ministry that we are involved in: past, present and future, with photos.

INITIAL TRAINING:

- ✓ Entering New Tribes Mission's rigorous training program in 1969, Ron & Cheryl successfully fulfilled all requirements of the multi-faceted curriculum in 1972. This included intense Bible training; language; linguistics; literacy; cultural acquisition; translation techniques, field medicine, jungle living, etc. *(Ron was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Board of Elders of New Tribes Mission on August 14, 1972.)*
- ✓ The Myers began formal Thai studies at the Union Language School in Bangkok, Thailand, on September 1973. After one year of intense study, they mastered the school's spoken Central Thai language courses (5 tones), enough to begin ministering the Gospel to the Thai people. Ron continually monitors his language skills to sharpen and enhance his abilities in the Thai and Isan languages.
(The course included learning the complicated Thai writing system: 44 consonants, 26 Vowels, 5 Tone Markers, and 15 other misc. symbols.)

MINISTRY:

- ✓ Moving to Sakon Nakhon province in Northeastern Thailand, the Myers were able to rent a very livable home in the city outskirts. Cheryl stayed in town caring for their children. Meanwhile, Ron took motorcycle trips deep into the hinterlands, conducting weeks of extensive surveys. He finally located an ethnic "Nyaw" village that invited them to come and live. After building their home, they moved in on Christmas Eve, 1974. They then set about bonding with the people as they learned the unwritten Nyaw language (7 tones). The people were resistant, yet some eventually received Christ, the first being Mr. Gert in 1975. In 1977, a church was established in the nearby village of Pone Bok, which, although small, meets regularly.
- ✓ Cheryl befriended the Village ladies while doing linguistic analysis on the language. The Myers' children had fun interacting with the local kids. They grew up speaking the local language and eating the local foods. Cheryl schooled them initially, until they were ready to attend our mission school.
- ✓ Relieved by a newly-arrived missionary family (1981), the Myers were able to move into the provincial capital of Nakhon Phanom (NKP). There, Ron initialized work on the now-completed Isan Bible translation project. They both learned the unwritten Isan language to the point of fluency (6 tones). Ron, also expanding their ministry into the ethnic Pu-Thai region, began to learn the unwritten Pu-Thai language—which he still understands, but speaks only haltingly. *(These are all separate and distinct, yet interrelated tonal languages.)*
- ✓ Those were both perilous and uncertain times. The Vietnam War was ending, yet the whole area was still being infiltrated by Communists. While renewing their Thai entry visas, the Myers were detained and interrogated by Laotian Communist soldiers, who had just taken the Lao border town across from NKP. Things looked bad, but they were finally released. Other missionaries they knew had been captured or killed.
- ✓ The Myers time in NKP city was initially taken up with strengthening the city church, which was weak and floundering, and lacking any real leadership. Ron set about to teach and ground the believers there, to the point of turning things around. His translation assistant (Jarat), whom Ron had discipled, later became their pastor. Jarat now pastors in another province, as well as trains leaders as he ministers as a national church-planting missionary. While Ron taught at the NKP city church, another notable young man came to Christ, Thai Army Sergeant Sanoh.
- ✓ After much prayer and preparation, the Isan translation was finally begun in 1982. The first book translated was Genesis. Other Old Testament portions were translated, so readers could follow the story of God's holiness, His dealing with sin, with Israel, and the progression of the promised Redemption story.
- ✓ Ron's secondary goal was to disciple and ground all of his translation assistants in an on-the-job basis. As they became more solid in their faith, each one eventually resigned to enter the ministry as full-time pastors, evangelists, or church-planters. This meant Ron had to train another assistant each time. It was a bit taxing, but actually a good problem to have, because God's Kingdom was being advanced in a spiritually parched land.
 - One man who came to Christ in 1991 was Pitak, who responded while Ron was teaching from Ephesians in the NKP city church, using the newly-translated Isan version. He later baptized Pitak in the nearby Mekong River, along with eight other new believers. He soon proved himself to be a faithful man. Always there when Ron needed him, willingly assisting in finishing the Isan translation.
 - Pitak often shared with Ron how he had a deep desire to serve the Lord full time. He is presently finishing the last semester of a ministerial degree at Bangkok Bible College and Seminary. Cheryl and Ron are privileged to be able to sponsor both Pitak's and his faithful wife Sri's tuition fees.
 - Pitak also became the default pastor of the church in his village—which is vibrant and growing. The church was initially established through the ministry of Prakop, a former hoodlum with a price on his head, whom Ron led to Christ in 1981. Since those he had wronged were out for blood, Ron felt it best to enroll Prakop in a faraway Bible School, located in a distant province of Northern Thailand.
 - When Prakop finished Bible school, he returned to his village, humbled himself, and received their forgiveness. Prakop now pastors his second church-plant, which he and his wife, Nawwarat, established in the provincial city of Pang-nga, located in Southern Thailand. Pang-nga borders Phu-Ket Island, the well-known tourist destination where a huge Tsunami killed thousands of people a few years ago. Prakop and wife Nawwarat later received a plaque of recognition, acknowledging their leadership in coordinating Thai volunteers in the cleanup process.
- ✓ As a further outreach into unreached areas of Isan, Jarat—one of Ron's first translation assistants—took Saturday trips with Ron into the vast Pu-Thai region, 60 kilometers south of Nakhon Phanom city. There, they saw many respond to the Gospel and be baptized. Through their efforts two cell groups were started among the Pu-Thai people. Later on, men in another Pu-Thai village invited Ron to come teach them, saying they were unclear as to the Gospel message. Ron used the creation-evangelism story-telling approach. Some mocked and walked out, but others stayed and listened. Those that listened came to an understanding of the Creation and Redemption story. Later, one Pu-Thai man, pointing to the beautiful springtime landscape, personally shared how he now understood that God was real, and was his loving Creator.
- ✓ As the Isan translation progressed, so did opportunities to disciple, preach, and teach. Also, as believers in the NKP city church began to grow in their faith, grass-roots movements soon arose and spread through their outreach efforts. This was nearly unheard of in spiritually-blind, Gospel-resistant Northeast Thailand, where the present amount of truly born-again believers is scarcer than 0.01%, or 1 in 10,000—much less than the rest of Thailand.

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PRESENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS; FURTHER NEEDS AND GOALS:

- ✓ More recently, Ron had opportunity to work with a Bible printing organization, Bearing Precious Seed Global. All told, they printed and distributed 34,000 books containing the Gospel of John and the Epistle of Romans. These were 226-page scripture books, containing both the Isan and Thai languages in dual column format. The books of John and Romans were prefaced by Ron's new creation-evangelism booklet, "Considering Creation," which makes a great introductory lead-in for the scriptures that follow, namely John 1:1-12.
- ✓ Ron presently teaches a much-needed foundational series that he developed. This meets both Thai and Isan believers' needs for solid grounding in the Gospel, and understanding of their position in Christ. He has been invited on numerous occasions to present these in workshop format to the class bodies at Bangkok Bible College and Seminary, and the Northern Thailand Bible Institute, along with various churches—where he is well received.
- ✓ Over the years, Ron noticed how the Thai people outrightly rejected Western-based evangelism approaches, which sounded befuddling and confusing to their ears. Seeing this occur on a regular basis, he realized that a more culturally-appropriate and foundationally-accurate approach was needed. Through prolonged research, Ron developed an almost foolproof technique for piquing the interest of otherwise disinterested Buddhists. Called "Considering Creation," it uses an intelligent design dialogue, which speaks to the hearts of Buddhists who all love nature, yet don't know their Creator. This small booklet is now in ever-increasing demand among Thai churches, requiring more printings.

Goal #1: Ron realizes the need to translate and distribute this amazing booklet in other Asian Buddhist countries; people that also love nature, yet have no knowledge of their Creator. Chinese and Japanese are underway. Next in line are: Korean, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Burmese, Laotian, Sri Lankan, etc. This new creation-evangelism resource is also in the initial stages of being produced in audio CD format. The *master copy* was recorded last year by a popular radio announcer and personal friend of Ron's, a devout Buddhist who volunteered his services.

Goal #2: Seeing that the Isan New Testament is now translated (as of December 2012), and the reviewing process is underway, many new and exciting ministry opportunities have presented themselves. There is a pressing need to translate and compile key Old Testament passages that speak of God's power and majesty in Creation (*like Psalms 104*) into a single booklet. These Creation truths correspond with the unfelt spiritual needs of Buddhist people, i.e., to know of their Creator before they can truly understand the Gospel—the Lord Jesus Christ being both their Creator and Savior.

Goal #3: Another extraordinary opportunity, and potential benefit, is to convert the Isan New Testament into both spoken Thai and Laotian. This would not be too difficult, since these languages are closely related. The present Literary-styled Thai and Lao Bibles are difficult to understand. This problem is further worsened by the highly-educated Thai Buddhist translators, who mistranslated various key passages, turning verses that describe God's Grace into a call for human works. Incredibly, they did this by changing the grammatical sense of verbs to suit their own liking. This actually promotes "another Gospel," impeding believers' growth, hindering them from being able to understand how wonderful and how free a Salvation the Thai believers have been given.

Goal #4: I am really excited about the potential of this next project. There has been a long-standing need for a conservative Bible training school in Isan, which has been on my heart, and that of many Thai. A school that truly grounds believers in Grace, and emphasizes the fundamentals of the faith. A recently-built industrial facility has become available. I am asking the Lord for this very-ample and modern facility, which is located on a private and quiet location, on non-flooding land a kilometer out of Nakhon Phanom city. Please pray with us specifically about this need, and about God's will concerning being able to acquire this facility. Everything is there and ready: electricity, new air conditioning units, phones, water and sewage, all situated on a sizable plot of land with a great view. Let's believe God together for this.

CONCLUSION -- THE HEAVENS CERTAINLY DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD, AND SO SHOULD WE:

- ✓ The future of the Myers' work looks brighter than ever. They are on the threshold of even greater things. Opportunities are opening up, not only in Thailand, but also in surrounding Asian Buddhist countries, as the "Considering Creation" evangelism booklet is translated and goes forth. This, along with the other visionary, but very attainable goals mentioned here.
- ✓ The need for God's people to get a vision and to sacrificially stand alongside Ron and Cheryl in these exciting times has never been greater. With your help, these opportunities will be made possible, i.e., to see these countless myriads of resistant Buddhists effectively reached through the creation evangelism booklet. Time is of the essence. As an old friend once said, "One must strike while the iron is hot."
- ✓ Ron will soon be returning to Thailand for two months, to continue reviewing and editing the completed Isan translation, readying it for printing. He will also be working towards coordinating the new "Considering Creation" audio CD, seeing it start production at an advertising company in Bangkok that he has used in the past to produce an audio CD of Genesis 1-12, which was very popular, and needs redoing. *We value your help!*

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



Ron (and Cheryl) Myers
Missionaries to Thailand
www.IsanBible.org

*Our Grown Children
Who all love "HOT" Thai food
David - Angela - Michelle - Danny*



"God's Word For Isan"

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PHOTOS OF OUR VILLAGE WORK:



Sitting at lunch, note Nyaw house in background



Our comfy, hand-built home in the Village



Celebrating a birthday in our Village Home

Mr. Gert believed in 1975, became an Evangelist and Elder



Gert, enjoying our daughters / Explaining his teaching charts



Ron and the Pone Boke church group – Elder Samer on far right

PHOTOS OF OUR EXPANDED WORK:



Pastor Jarat & wife Tiw at a church function



1982: Jarat	Prakop	Ron	Sanoh
Then: Construction	Hoodlum	Missionary	Patrol sergeant
Now: Missionary	Church Planter	Missionary	Army Colonel



Pastor Pitak & wife Sri



Pastor Prakop Tinno, former hoodlum & thief, teaching Sunday school at the church he started in Southern Thailand, (circa 2005)

Pastor Prakop, Teaching at Pang-nga Church

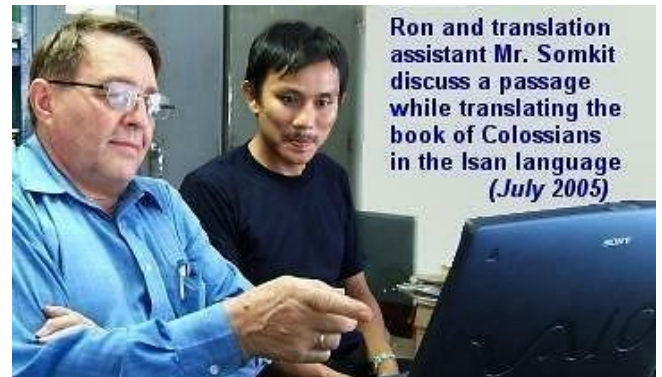
All these men, who began as converts, disciples, or Bible translation assistants under Ron's ministry, are now pastors, evangelists, or faithful leaders.



Precha, Evangelist and faithful man



Paetong – one of my best assistants – became an Isan Evangelist



Ron and translation assistant Mr. Somkit discuss a passage while translating the book of Colossians in the Isan language (July 2005)

SomKit, an early convert, now pastors a church near Bangkok