



Ron & Cheryl Myers GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER February, 2019

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

The Word Gospel Simply Means Good News!

"God's Word for Isan" Means the Gospel Is for The Isan People as Well

By Ron Myers

Good-News Greetings in Jesus' Name,

Please bear with me as I clarify: "What is the Gospel Message?" In short, it is a Love Letter from God Himself to all humankind, everywhere, in every condition, with a message of hope, help, peace and forgiveness, offered through His gracious love and mercy, providing salvation from sin, judgment and eternal death, fully and freely . . . gained by (1) facing the truth of one's own hopelessly lost condition (i.e., repentance) and (2) placing one's trust wholly and fully in the Name, Person, and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. (Acts 20:21) In doing so, one instantly receives the free gift of Eternal Life and restoration to a right relationship with God Himself—all gained through a heart-felt trust in Christ's redeeming death in payment for our sin, burial and bodily resurrection to life! (John 3:16) NO HUMAN BOASTING, PERSONAL PEITY, OR GOOD WORKS ACCEPTED! (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Dr. Lance B. Latham (AKA "Doc Latham"), Founding Director of the AWANA Youth Program, stated in his treatise, Discovering the Gospel; "The Gospel is the Good News. It is not a new set of religious obligations or duties to be performed—new strivings or more agonizing—but rather an announcement of what has been freely and graciously done for us. Therefore, we do not merely declare the 'claims' of the gospel. We declare a wonderful free offer by God Himself to the lost sinner who believes."

That is the reason both Cheryl and I jointly decided to surrender our lives to serve God as bearers of this Good-News message to the people of Thailand, specifically to the villagers in Thailand's rural Northeastern or Isan Region. Do they practice religion? Yes, very much so. Practically all adherents of Thailand's state-ordained Theravada Buddhism practice idolatry and good works. This includes offering food to Buddhist priests each morning as they walk barefooted along the streets, pausing to allow the faithful to gain merit by their offerings.

This, along with a reliance on protective charms, amulets and incantations. They also practice paying homage to the spirits of their deceased relatives, as well as appealing to supernatural spirit beings (demons) through food offerings, incense, and other paraphernalia, offered to these dark entities in shrines and temples that dot the land, hoping to ask for a favor, cure some sickness, rectify some unforeseen misfortune, or remedy a bad omen or calamity. I've personally observed their spirit doctors in action. After attaining a mild stupor by chewing Betel Nut, they bow three times before a small Buddhist idol in the inquirer's home, they then invent some absurd reason as to why the inquirer's daughter is sick or oxen is lost, or something else. Propitiation is usually achieved by sacrificing a chicken under some tree and giving an offering to the Buddhist temple.

After doing all these things, do the Isan and Thai people enjoy a life of hope, peace and well-being? Rich or poor, city dwellers or rural, they all exist in a realm of daily uncertainty, superstition, fear and hopelessness, usually well-masked by a big smile.

The Good News is, as the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..." Again, in I Corinthians 5:17, Paul writes: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." It's true! This is the essence of the life-changing Gospel, i.e., God's Good News. He saves to the uttermost all those that abide in spiritual darkness, who reach out and trust in Christ. God's indwelling Spirit transforms their lives from darkness to light the moment they receive Christ. I've watched this miraculous change take place; God's indwelling Spirit transforming them from ignorant heathen to righteous Saint, even pastoring churches they themselves have started.

Such is the case with my current co-worker, Baaw Ter. A local Isan radio personality, Baaw Ter had recently received Christ and is on fire for God, yet is in need of a spiritual mentor; my present role. He was introduced to me in the fall of 2017 by Pastor Pitak, my translation assistant who originally came to Christ under my ministry in 1991. Both of these men are faithful brothers in Christ who delight in serving the Lord.



Great News: As you know, we've all been praying for Baaw Ter's lovely Buddhist wife, Joo, who left their marriage in 2016 due to Baaw Ter and their teenage son's Christian faith. Yesterday, in a video call, Baaw Ter said that he had spoken at length with Joo. It seems that she is having a change of mind, is lonely and longs to return and be a family again; also saying she'll try to understand Baaw Ter's faith. As I said, this is great news! Pray for their successful reuniting; particularly for Joo's soon Salvation.

By God's Grace and for His Glory, Ron & Cheryl Myers God's Word for Isan: IsanBible.org

Cheryl and I value your prayers and generosity on behalf of our ministry among the Isan people of Thailand. Please pray for my upcoming bilateral knee procedure in April. I had mentioned that I'd be returning the Thailand previous to my surgery. Now, due to Baaw Ter's scheduling, my return date will be in May, where we will continue to work on recording the Isan New Testament. Thank you for praying for Baaw Ter's family; pray specifically for his wife Joo's soon salvation. Also, Praise God, Faith Bible Fellowship of Santee, CA, graciously provided funds to purchase a much-needed digital mixer.