

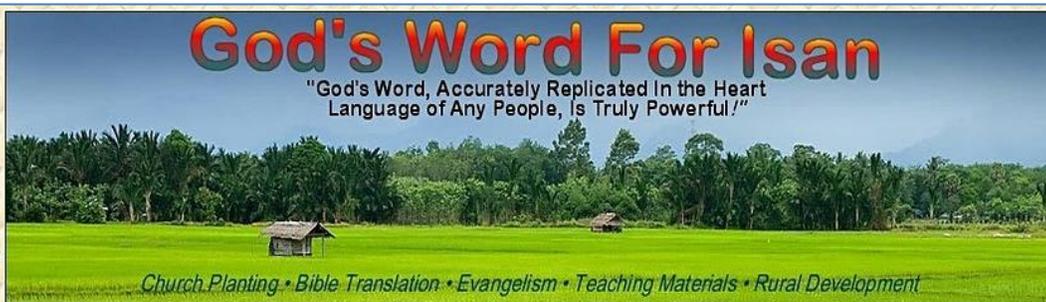
RON & CHERYL MYERS



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GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

January, 2016

"IN WHAT OR WHOM DO YOU PLACE YOUR TRUST?"

Misplaced Faith – Part I

By Ron Myers

Greetings for the First Time This New Year of 2016,

As I mentioned in my last newsletter; one thing that the Lord impressed on my heart during my recent time in Thailand is the various things the Thai people (including Isan) place their confidence in ...things that provide them with a false sense of hope and security, instead of placing their trust in the One who is our True and Steadfast Hope, the Lord Jesus.

The whole populated world is made up of various people groups. By and large, these all have different languages, cultures, world views, belief systems, lifestyles, philosophies, likes and dislikes, explanations for the seen and unseen, causes of misfortune, life after death, *et al.* And yet, although these may take different forms, we all share the same general hopes and desires, wants and needs, worries and fears. The strongest of these include a sense of acceptance, safety, wellbeing, health, happiness, and prosperity.



Typical Lottery Ticket Vendor

Regarding the people of Thailand, they too share in these things. In my observations over the years, some themes appear to be more prominent in their minds. These come under the general heading of wellbeing; defined as health, wealth and happiness. A large part of this takes the form of hoping to *strike it rich*. Whether we participate or not (*which I don't*) we are all familiar with the Lottery. The Lottery is extremely popular throughout Thailand, typically among the lower- and middle-class strata.

If you are in Thailand for very long, you'll soon notice certain people carrying flat, panel-sided cases around, usually suspended from their shoulders on a sling. The cases are typically 2 by 3 feet in size and about 1 inch thick. The people are lottery ticket vendors, carrying around their lottery tickets for sale.

When the vendors open their cases, they reveal rows of appealing lottery tickets of varying values and prices; each promising a potential bonanza. You can spot vendors practically anywhere; intersections, restaurants, open markets, even strolling up and down bus and train aisles while stopped at stations.



Bangkok Thailand: Woman Buying Lottery Ticket

And on it goes; clear evidence of misplaced faith... Thai people, yearning and hoping for a chance to secure the sense of wellbeing they have longed for all of their lives, which is certainly not wrong. And yet, the greater majority of them *do not* know the One who can freely provide the hope and wellbeing they all long for. These, along with the inner peace and freedom from fear that they seek. And, most importantly, forgiveness of sin and eternal life, something only the Lord Jesus Christ can provide, not the fleeting hope of a Lottery ticket.



Thai-Isan diners musing over a Lottery Vendor's selection

This is the Good-News message of hope we have been offering the people of Thailand for many years now, to which some have accepted, leaders have been developed, and churches have been established. This, along with translating the New Testament into the Isan language, which is now done, presently being proofread and soon to be printed when I return in March. This could not happen without your friendship, prayers, and sacrificial partnership. Thank you!

By God's Grace and for His Glory,

Ron and Cheryl Myers
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