

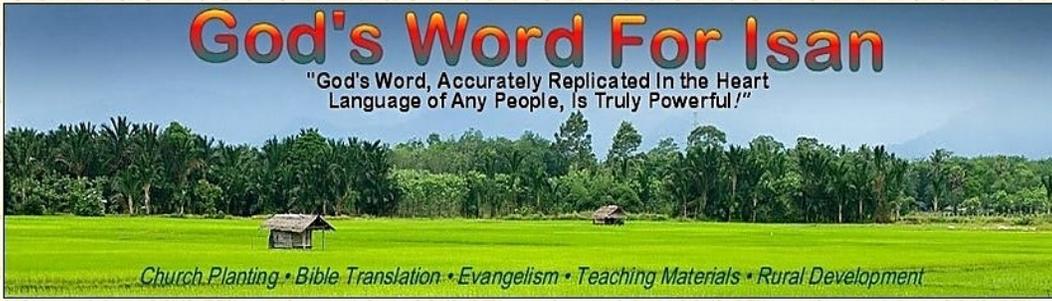
RON & CHERYL MYERS



Going Into All the World  
With the Gospel  
of Jesus Christ

# God's Word For Isan

"God's Word, Accurately Replicated In the Heart  
Language of Any People, Is Truly Powerful!"



Church Planting • Bible Translation • Evangelism • Teaching Materials • Rural Development



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

July, 2020

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

## Trust in the LORD with All Thine Heart

And Lean Not unto Thine Own Understanding" Proverbs 3:5

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends in Christ,

*Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.* (Psalms 124:8) An integral part of God's help involves our unwavering trust. (James 1:5-6) *Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.* (Psalms 37:3) As missionaries serving in foreign lands – and Christians as a whole – it is crucial that we learn to trust the *Living* Jehovah-God. Trust plays a large part in our daily lives as we serve Him. He is our life-giver, sustainer, provider, protector, comforter, and guide. The Lord is pleased when we place our trust in Him implicitly. He is glorified, honored and well-pleased when we do so in every situation – times of gladness when everything seems to be going right, along with during trials and testings when everything seems to be going wrong – God is still there, right alongside.

I'm reminded of how the Israelites were quick to forget God's goodness so soon after He had delivered them from slavery in Egypt with miraculous signs and wonders. He met all their needs in their wilderness journey as He delivered, protected, clothed, and fed them. Because of their forgetfulness, God continually reminds them and us in His Word to "remember" how He heard their prayers and met their needs. Do we find comfort in signposts along the way, reminding us of God's presence and blessing during uncertain times? ...like times when the path we trod stretches on without any comforting signposts to assure us of the way? That's what faith is for: the dark uncertain places. Like the Apostle Paul reminds us, *"we walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7)

In my June newsletter, I mentioned ways God responds to our prayers. Sometimes He says: *"Yes, my child;"* sometimes *"No, my child;"* or *"Later, my child."* Including, *"Better than that, my child"* when we leave things in His Hands, trusting in Him fully for the outcome. Sometimes that's all we can do. It's one way that God uses to deepen our faith when we see Him come through for us, according to His Word. Thus, we exalt God even more as we grow in assurance: *"...from faith experience to faith experience, as it is written, the just shall live by faith."* (Romans 1:17) God is pleased when we place our trust in him, leaving the outcome to His loving watch-care ...as hard as it may seem at times.

God *never* tricks us, toys around with our faith, or pulls the rug out from under us, but He does test our faith, that we might grow thereby. God is not like the demonic spirits that control every aspect of the heathen's lives, like those we went to reach. I vividly recall when we returned home on our first furlough after serving among the Isan people in Thailand's underdeveloped Northeastern Region. Sitting in a prayer meeting one evening, I heard a Christian lady ask for prayer, saying, *"Things haven't been going well lately. I think I've somehow displeased God. Please pray for me that I'll know what I did to annoy the Lord."*

I about fell out of my chair! This person's doubting view of God sounded like she was born in the heathen land I had just returned from, where people live in constant superstitious fear of malevolent spirits. Not cognizant of the compassionate and merciful nature of our Heavenly Father, she had obviously misinterpreted a *trial of her faith* as Divine retribution for some supposed wrongdoing. As Christians, we need to do a reality check as to how we view God. Do we see Him as our loving and trustworthy Heavenly Father? Or, is He like a malevolent spirit, ready to pounce at a moment's notice?

Do we doubt God and try to placate Him like Animists? *...spirit appeasement is called Animism.* Christ satisfied God's righteous wrath on the Cross when He exclaimed *"It Is Finished."* Our sin debt invoice has been paid in full – both canceled and ripped up – and our broken relationship with God has been restored! (1 John 2:2) So, we can therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, and into God very presence that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need, all because of His Grace, revealed in His Son, the Lord Jesus. (Hebrews 4:16) Yes, God may need to correct us, His children, at times, but He does so motivated by *Agape* Love and not in a bewildering fashion. (Hebrews 12:6-11) *"God exhibited His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8)

It takes time to comprehend that we can fully trust God in all things, both large or small. He has promised to meet our every need and He is pleased to do so, not just monetarily either. Like Jesus explained, if we ask Him for bread for sustenance, will He give us a stone instead, or a snake for a fish? No, God is pleased to give us what we need when we ask... many times in marvelous ways. (Matthew 7:9-11) I have learned again and again through the years as a full-time missionary, God has promised to supply our needs,

and He does so consistently, every time, mostly through His people. Last month, I shared how God met our needs for a computer for the Isan translation project, giving us way more than what we had asked for and way beyond our wildest dreams.

Following are samplings of how God has met our needs time and again:

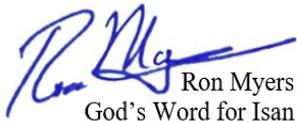
- One year, while on furlough, our income tax was unbelievably high. I had it checked and rechecked, arriving at the same unusually high figure. We delayed payment as long as possible to scrape up the needed amount. Then, we received a final notice due date. We had nowhere near that amount, but we trusted in a faithful God who had promised to take care of us. That month, just before the due date arrived, we received a gift from an unknown source for the exact amount needed to pay the IRS in full. We hadn't shared this need with anyone but God.
- One day, my translation assistant Jarat and family had nothing for an evening meal, but they prayed and trusted God. Soon, they heard their pet dog coming up unto their porch. Looking out, they discovered an unscathed package of fresh pork, laying on their doorstep. Their pet dog had evidently brought it from the nearby open market and she was sitting there guarding the package, wagging her tail. I understand it occurred twice. Was their dog being led of the Lord to help in supplying their need? Think about it.
- While on our mission field assignment in Northeast Thailand, Cheryl had to travel to Bangkok for an important meeting. Tour bus travel was the most practical way to travel the 480-mile distance and relatively economical. There were a few tour bus companies in town by then, all vying for each other's customers. The typical roundtrip ticket at that time was between 500 and 600 Thai Baht. Cheryl needed a ticket, but all we had between us at that juncture was 150 Baht. The day Cheryl needed to travel; the tour bus companies had an all-out price war. The price? You guessed right, 150 Thai Baht, round trip. After that, the prices went back up to normal. Was that just a coincidence? Or, was it arranged by the Lord?
- Some missionaries received handsome support, and we praised the Lord with them. He chose not to do so in our case, yet He always supplied our every need. Sometimes we received just enough monthly support to pay our two Bible translation assistants, which I did in full each time without short-changing them, and with very little left for groceries that month. Often, a fellow missionary would stop by and say they had received an extra generous amount that month and wondered if we could use it. Amazingly, we never went without a meal during those months, and God blessed our ministry tremendously as people came to Christ in a grassroots fashion. Every time we received an extra-low monthly support check, I would recall Abraham's words to his son Isaac when Isaac asked his father, "...where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said: "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb." I would then reassure myself that God would provide for our needs just as He had done so before and proceeded forward in faith.
- While living and ministering in the remote village of Ban NaNai (*Inner Fields Village*) – surrounded by countless villages of Animistic Buddhist peasant farmers – we received word from the locals that a group of ruthless bandits were planning to plunder and kidnap our family and hold us for ransom, thinking we were rich foreigners. This, they had done to many government officials and business men in the general area. If their demands were not met, they would do harm to their captives. Upon hearing this, I simply prayed, "Dear God, we're here serving You so please protect us from this danger."

The next afternoon, I learned that the undercover provincial police had set up a trap that morning, planning to arrest the bandits when they came out from their lair, deep in the area jungles. The undercover police disguised themselves as locals. They then faked having a disabled vehicle and ask the bandits to stop and help. Meanwhile, a large team of heavily armed undercover police officers surrounded the perimeter, hidden in among the trees and bushes. The lead bandit recognized the disguised police officer and exclaimed, "You, die!" and began to riddle him with 45 caliber pistol rounds. No sooner did he get off the first shot than the surrounding heavily-armed police opened a barrage of fire, killing the whole lot of 10-12 bandits. The head officer who was shot survived his wounds. And, God used the undercover provincial police in a very swift and decisive manner, answering my prayer for protection the previous evening.

That's enough for now, but you get the picture. We *can* trust God implicitly – meaning without doubting or questioning. Wait until my book comes out for many more true accounts of God's workings on our behalf: "*From Cornfields to Rice Paddies: The Story of a Farm Boy Who Became a Missionary.*" It'll be a while, but you can read some of the accounts on our website, God's Word for Isan, <[www.IsanBible.org](http://www.IsanBible.org)> under the menu heading "True Stories."

I was hoping to be back in Thailand by now, but the Covert-19 virus pandemic had other plans. Or, should I say that God has other plans, which I'm not privy to yet. I can't return now anyway; a travel agent friend there in Thailand related to me just the other day that Thailand is not accepting inbound international flights. And, if I were able to fly there, I'd be quarantined in a hotel room for at least two weeks, eating into my time there. Meanwhile, Baaw Ter, my Isan Coworker and understudy is putting the final touches on the audio version of the Isan New Testament, using his skills and professional radio announcer voice. He also oversees the small house church that meets at his home each Sunday. Baaw Ter and their son, DJ, received Christ around 4 years ago. At that juncture, his dear Buddhist wife, Joo, walked away from their marriage because of it. Continue to pray for Joo's salvation. She yearns to return, but is conflicted and confused. Buddhism is the state-ordained system of faith throughout Thailand. Any Thai who abandons works-based Buddhism for Christ is considered to have sold their birthright as being a *true* Thai.

In closing, Cheryl and I want to convey our sincere appreciation once again for all of you who pray for and support our ministry. We're now able to receive funds directly through our Mission's online PayPal account, all 501(c)(3) tax deductible. <[BWMOM.org](http://BWMOM.org)> Your partnership is not in vain. God continues to do great things. The Isan New Testament is reaching out and enjoys a potential readership of 27 million Isanians, including many millions of Laotians just across the Mekong River in anti-Christian Communist Laos, as well as countless Laotian refugees scattered throughout the Western world.



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