

Exhausting yet Encouraging, even Exciting

By Ron Myers

Greetings Once Again In the Name Of the Lord Jesus Christ,

First and foremost, Cheryl and I want to tell you that we cherish your continued partnership through holding us up in prayer and through helping to take God's life-giving Message to the 24-million people of Thailand's Isan region, as well as the Thai and Lao.

I arrived back at San Diego's International Airport in July, following another exhausting yet encouraging two-month stint in Thailand. The 17-hour return flight was uneventful, except that I only got a few catnaps along the way—never could sleep well on these long flights. Jetlag on long-duration flights like this is a drag as one's "body clock" readjusts to another time-zone. Meanwhile, it's drowsiness during the day and wide-awake at night until jetlag subsides and life returns to normal.

I've combined our July and August communiqués to take extra time to reflect on the various aspects of my recent time in Thailand. Remarkably, even though I found myself becoming mentally drained and exhausted, Pastor Pitak and I were able to finish the final review process on more books than we had anticipated—John, Romans, and Acts—which was not only encouraging, but amazing, even exciting. Friends told me later that the Lord had urged them to pray for us to that end, that we would accomplish much. Praise God for answered prayer! I'll return in October through December to do more review. We plan to go to print next year.

On another encouraging note; as I had mentioned in previous communiqués, we have plans to record the "Considering Creation" booklet professionally in easy-to-read Thai, then, mass produce it in CD format in Bangkok. However, the Nakhon Panom radio station announcer who had promised to do the narration moved on to a different location, leaving the job undone. Then, along came Dr. Attasit—the new radio announcer—an honest man with whom I have been friends for many years.

Dr. Attasit has held a variety of professional careers: practicing attorney; high-school English teacher, five-term member of the Thai House of Representatives (*without bribing voters*); and now, radio announcer as he nears retirement. We had dinner one evening after I had given him a copy of the *Considering Creation* booklet. While discussing the project, he told me that, as a life-long Buddhist, he had read the material and found it very thought-provoking, adding that he wanted to reread it before doing any recording. When I broached the subject of remuneration, he insisted on doing it as a courtesy, adding that this was very important for the Thai people to know and understand. At that juncture I explained just why the Thai needed to understand, since it told of their Creator who came to be their Savior. Dr. Attasit listened quietly. Pray that he will be convinced of these timeless truths and receive Christ personally.



Ron & Pastor Kiatisak

While in town, I was invited to attend a gala wedding reception by the bride's parents. Also in attendance was the bride's uncle, Pastor Kiatisak, founding pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Bangkok. We hadn't seen each other for many years, so this afforded an opportunity to catch up. Brother Kiatisak told me he has been utilizing our *Considering Creation* booklet, and praised its effectiveness.

My Sundays were taken up with visiting or speaking at some of the local-area churches. I was encouraged to find that the first church we had established was growing and doing well spiritually, despite its remote village location, surrounded by a stronghold of Buddhism. I was also invited to teach numerous times at the second church we had established, a more-vibrant, growing church that Brother Pitak pastors.

Continuing on, a favorite encouraging verse is *Acts 20:24*, where Paul responded to the news of troubles that awaited him in Jerusalem, saying: "...none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

While translating, and more-recently reviewing the Book of Acts, I found it personally exhausting just trying to imagine how much long-suffering the Apostle Paul exhibited for the Gospel and the cause of Christ in the face of frustratingly negative and demoralizing circumstances. Yet, he attributed his endurance to Christ, stating: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong," and, "I can do all things through Christ [Who] strengtheneth me." (2 Corinthians 12:10, Philippians 4:13)

Despite all the threats, opposition, dangers and near-death beatings Paul encountered; yet, he kept pressing forward with unwavering tenacity—the Spirit of the Living Christ guiding, comforting, and strengthening him at every turn. In the light of Paul's life, I consider any inconveniences, hardships, dangers or health issues we might have experienced over the years of pioneer church-planting ministry as less than miniscule in comparison. Notwithstanding, in spite of these comparatively-minor inconveniences, our overall ministry goals remain unchanged. That is, to get the powerful and living Word of God into the spoken language of the difficult-to-reach 24-million Buddhist Isan people. And, more than that, to see lives transformed and new churches spring forth as they personally receive the Living Christ, and as faith takes root and blossoms in their hearts and lives.

I'm so glad that the Apostle Paul didn't flounder or quit, but kept "fighting the good fight of faith" as he strove for excellency in the arena of faith—a viable alternative rendering of 1 Timothy 6:12. It was, and still is, worth it all, just to anticipate hearing the King of Kings and Lord of Lords proclaim on that day: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." (Matthew 25:21)

In closing, we want to reiterate our appreciation to those of you who have stood with us over the years. Serving the Lord in foreign missions service is not a simple matter. First, there must be unwavering commitment and follow-through. After years of intense preparation and training to gain the necessary skills and qualifications, one must bid farewell to home, friends and family, then travel to strange new lands to face the unknown. Then, after difficult foreign languages are mastered and unfamiliar cultures are adapted to, the real work begins. From there, one must learn to communicate the Gospel effectively in that foreign setting. Yet, it's worth it all just to see hopelessly-lost souls turn from the depths of heathen darkness, abandon their idolatry, and receive the Living Christ. Paul said: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)



By God's Grace and for His Glory,

Ron Myers
Ron and Cheryl Myers