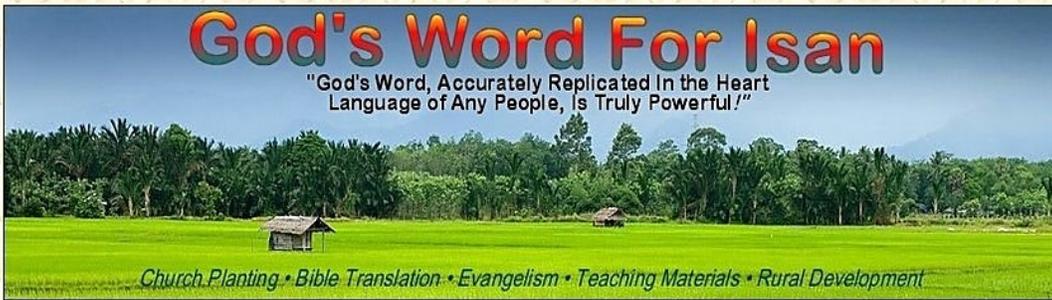


RON & CHERYL MYERS



Going Into All the World
With the Gospel
of Jesus Christ



Ron & Cheryl Myers

GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

June, 2020

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

But My God Will Supply All Your Needs;

According to His Riches in Glory by Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends in Christ,

God answers prayer. We've heard it said that God answers our prayer requests in three ways: "Yes, my child;" "No, my child;" and "Later, my child." I suggest that there's one more to consider: "Better than that, my child." Bear with me here and you'll see what I mean.

During the initial stages of the Isan New Testament translation project, I enlisted the help of two native-born Isan-speaking assistants, Jarat and Uncle Prechaa; both of whom now serve Christ as a church-planting pastor and church elder in their respective locales. Paper and pencil, Bibles, commentaries, dictionaries and other resources spread out before us on a huge table, we began each morning with a short teaching session followed by a time of prayer; asking for God's guidance as we translated His Word into the Isan language of Northeastern Thailand – related to the Laotian language of the bordering country of Laos. (*See map at upper right – red dot is our location.*)

That was during the initial stages of the personal computer era and there were no computers with Thai script capabilities. However, there was one missionary who had designed an insertable card that could put Thai characters on the monitor of an *Apple II*. Keep in mind this was a very primitive prototype setup, but it put Thai on the monitor. "That's what we need!" I exclaimed when I saw it. On that basis, we prayed every morning for months that the Lord would send in enough funds to get an Apple II.

Time passed and nothing occurred in the way of funds being sent to purchase an Apple II. Meanwhile, we really needed a better typewriter than the decrepit old Olympia manual portable we were using to type more Isan Scripture drafts after we had marked the old ones up with lines and circles pointing to revised wording. About that time, newly-designed electronic typewriters were becoming available. One that got the best reviews was an *Olympia Whisper-disk* that could type in both English and Thai using a changeable daisywheel configuration, advertised as being able to serve as a printer with a computer interface as well.

I sensed God's affirmation as I prayed, so I wrote about the desired electronic Olympia typewriter in an airmail prayer letter (pre-email days). The Lord answered and funds for the new Olympia electronic typewriter soon became available as churches and individuals responded, wanting to help. I contacted the Olympia company in Bangkok where I was introduced to the three Thai brothers who owned the company: Olympia Thai, Inc. I returned to the Northeast with a new Olympia Whisper-disk typewriter in tow, having also gained three new friends from the upper-echelon Thai community.

Little did I know that contact would lead to getting a way better computer than what I had prayed for. The Olympia company's owners later invited me to attend a huge office product exhibition that was being held in Bangkok. I almost declined, but decided to go. There were many state-of-the-art products from around the world on display, including desktop personal computers. One in particular took my attention, an American made *Victor 9000*, rebranded as *Sirus* for the European/Asian market. (*IBM's PC offering dulled in comparison.*) The more I pondered the idea the more I became convinced the expensive *Sirus* computer was exactly what we needed. As I was admiring it, the Lord spoke to my heart words I vividly recall: "Do you think I can supply this for you?" Surprised, my heart's reply was, "Uh, yes, I do." In less than a month, God supplied over \$6,000, more than enough to get that computer with software – and more than adequate for Thai script.

God and His Word proved true one more time: "But My God Will Supply All Your Needs According to His Riches in Glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19). He didn't give us what we thought we needed; He gave us "exceeding, abundantly above all that we had asked for or even thought of" (Ephesians 3:20). It began that moment at the office product exhibition in Bangkok when I agreed with God in my heart, believing that He was more than able. In retrospect, we couldn't have accomplished what we did without it. I need to add here that; Yes, God supplies our every need as we serve Him, according to His Word. However, He does so through His people, of whom you are a part. *Thank you!*

What was the outcome of this unexpected gift that God knew we needed? At least six of the Isan men who helped me with the translation now pastor churches around Thailand (*having come to faith and/or mentored under my ministry, along with their families*). The Isan translation is completed and into the hands of the Isan people; potential readership of over 25 million and growing. It has now been professionally recorded in audio format. It has been converted into *Spoken Lao* for use among the Lao people in neighboring Laos and Laotian refugees around the world. Most recently, Cross-Wire Bible Society has asked permission to use both the Thai-Isan NT and the Spoken Lao NT ... and the list continues.

Ron Myers
God's Word for Isan