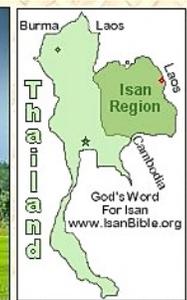
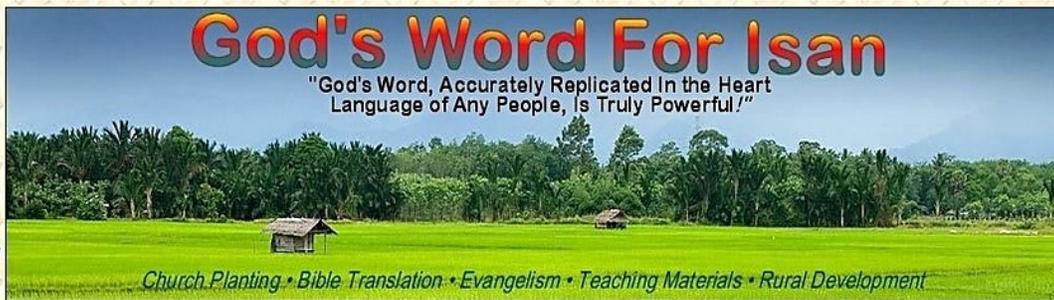


RON & CHERYL MYERS



Going Into All the World
With the Gospel
of Jesus Christ



Ron & Cheryl Myers **GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER** **March, 2020**

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

The Perfect Storm

"Don't worry, this too shall pass."
By Ron Myers

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm thinking you're probably not unlike me concerning this Corona Virus thing, more accurately known as COVID-19. We didn't realize how good we had it until the day it managed to thrust its way into each of our lives quite uninvited – in crisis proportions for many. At first, I selfishly thought; it's not anywhere near, so I'll be fine. The media presented a variety of accounts, from explanatory to frightening. It grew more serious until much of the world has now become affected – and infected. Therefore, I have decided it best to postpone my return flight to Thailand.

The virus has become something akin to a *Perfect Storm* – a critical set of circumstances arising from a series of unpredictable negative factors. The term is derived from a book by author Sebastian Junger – it became a movie of the same name – the true account of a commercial fishing crew whose vessel, the *Andrea Gail*, encountered several severe North Atlantic storms, which converged to form an inescapable *Perfect Storm*.

Different people have different plans of attack against COVID-19. Some dismiss the whole thing as overblown conjecture, a mere conspiracy theory that they were willing to ignore. Many others have gone to the opposite extreme, like a nuclear attack. Store shelves are now bare, depleted of food stuffs and other basic necessities. Ironically, toilet tissue is also depleted. A few days in, breathing masks and hand sanitizers were gone. Fortunately, I had a large container of sanitizers at home, left from a hospital stay for my hip replacement.

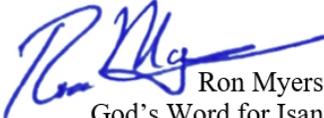
Thinking people have remained coolheaded. Realizing the potential seriousness, they have taken commonsense precautions to protect themselves and others. In actuality, it has become a blessing in disguise or wakeup call that has reduced life to the least common denominator in many ways. It has caused people to reflect on their comfortable lifestyles and realize they have way more than they need, with very little thought of spiritual things, things of true value. Meanwhile, the way of life we have become accustomed to has been put on hold. The whole thing caught us off guard, especially medically and economically. An increasing number of events have been canceled to curtail transference of the virus.

One death is too many, but tragically, countless more have already succumbed. Meanwhile, medical professionals are working feverishly 'round the clock, seeking out new solutions and cures. Fear and uncertainty abound, and for good reason; the possibility of death and dying has become very real for many. (Hebrews 2:15) Yet, as Christians, we have the answer. The message of deliverance from the fear of death is found in only one place; salvation by faith in the Person of Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12) As the chorus by Steve Green goes: *"People Need the Lord."*

Paul instructed us in 2 Timothy 4:5 that we all need to do be evangelists. Peter said in 1 Peter 3:15, that we need to tell folks the reason for the hope that we have. That is, our faith in the living God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting in Christ is not a know-nothing, leap-in-the-dark faith, but a walk-in-the-light faith in provable facts. Second Peter 1:4 reminds us that, as Christians, we have been given many great and precious promises that we can claim personally and share with others with whom we are witnessing. Faith shines best at times like this because, as Christians, we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7) God's Word tells us to call upon Him in times of need and he will deliver. (Psalm 50:15 & 145:18) Jesus said to be of good cheer – although there are trials and tribulations in this world, He has overcome the world for us. (John 16:33)

Psalms 91:1-11 has very reassuring promises (*selected portions*); ⁽¹⁾ *He who dwells in the secret place of the most High One shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty; the LORD is my refuge and my fortress; in him will I trust.* ⁽²⁾ *Surely, He shall deliver from the fearsome pestilence (contagious and cure-resistant plagues).* ⁽³⁾ *He shall cover us with His wings; His truth shall be our shield and rampart.* ⁽⁴⁾ *We shall not be afraid of the terror by night;* ⁽⁵⁾ *Nor the pestilence that walks in darkness; nor the destruction at noonday.* ⁽⁶⁾ *A thousand shall fall at one side, and ten thousand at the other; but it shall not come near us...* ⁽⁷⁾ *Because we have made the LORD our refuge, even the most-High our dwelling place.* ⁽⁸⁾ *No evil shall befall us, nor any plague come near our homes.* ⁽⁹⁾ *For He has His angels watch over us, to keep us [safe]."*

The prophet Isaiah writes in 54:17 – *"No device formed against us shall prosper; This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. And, their righteousness is from Me, says the LORD."* In Ephesians 6:16, Paul writes, *"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the Wicked [One]."* Two of these fiery darts are *fear & doubt*, which Satan uses against us at every turn, but confidence in God quells them. Second Timothy 1:7 reminds us that *"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*


Ron Myers
God's Word for Isan

Is COVID-19 found in Bible prophecy? Revelation speaks of various plagues that will befall the earth during the Tribulation period, but we won't be here then. David Jeremiah, Senior Pastor of our home-church, reminded us that Jesus said He has overcome the world for us. While we are still in the world, we will experience trials and tribulations, which includes things like the Corona virus. But don't worry, this too shall pass.