

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



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GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

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

## Thailand Is in Upheaval; God Remains on His Throne!

"When, Where and How Will It End? Pray!"

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may have heard on the news, Bangkok is in full riot mode with no holds barred. There are serious changes on the horizon in one way or another. Thailand has been a democratic monarchy since 1932, comparable to England yet with a high reverence for their monarchy. Now, there is upheaval in both arenas—their democracy and the monarchy. Any changes that occur are usually with their parliamentary legislative assembly, constitution, along with parties and locally elected representatives. Change often happens through an occasional military takeover, ousting whatever party is in power, including the prime minister. A Thai army commander may perceive things aren't going well, so conducts a *coup d'état* to collapse the government, along with troops under his command. The commander usually retreats as a new parliament is formed. Some, however, may assume an interim prime minister position until a new parliament is formed. Others are well-liked and stay on.

This time was different. When General Pra-yute Chan-o-chai conducted a *coup* in 2014 he enforced strict military rule. This followed a longstanding animus between the conservative *red-shirt* and liberal *yellow-shirt* factions—*claiming to be pro-monarchy*. It ended in an unknown number of red-shirts being killed by the military and carted away to an undisclosed location. No one *knows* who ordered it, although all know but don't dare say that it came from pro-yellow-shirt higher ups. The redshirts were defending the duly elected government of a successful businessman, Thaksin, whom the liberals schemed against and brought down by dubious charges against the monarchy which caused him to flee for his life, now living outside of Thailand.



General Chan-o-chai stationed soldiers in every city in each province; anywhere people gathered, even popular restaurants. Curfews and other restrictions are in place, with solemn-faced armed soldiers observing. I smile and am friendly (some responding in kind) and often witness to them. The latest word is that chemical warfare has been used by Chan-o-chai's government against demonstrators, causing much injury to the reinvigorated conservative red-shirts. Also, the word is that Chan-o-chai *may* be Muslim, which would not bode well for Thai Christians. Now there is even an emergence of zealous political parties that promote keeping Thailand Buddhist. While having a sizable following, Thailand doesn't show signs of abandoning its beloved state-ordained religion anytime soon.

Chapter two: When the 70-year reign of Thailand's beloved King, Bhumibol Adulyadej (*puu-me-pon ah-dune-yah-date*) ended at age 88 (1927-2016), his son, Prince Wachiralongkon, assumed the throne. The prince, not being the great man his father was, had a lifestyle of general misbehavior. Now that he is king, he has become what many would see as autocratic towards his subjects. He also spends months reigning from Bavaria for which Germany has even voiced concern. The Thais dislike this as well, exhibiting unprecedented boldness in showing their displeasure. Though the government has vowed to protect the monarchy, demonstrations continue against the new king, which would have meant a death sentence not too long ago. Yet Thai citizens are ready to sacrifice their lives to see justice done on both counts—against the autocratic government and the failing monarchy.



**These developments are a matter of serious concern and prayer—for Thailand and our election.** We know this pandemic will pass though we don't know when. However, we *do* know God is in ultimate control, never having vacated His throne. He loves the Thai Buddhist people who don't yet know Him or His Son, Jesus, who died to atone for their sins and rose bodily for their justification. My Isan coworker, Bao-Ter, continues to minister God's grace to the Isan people as I continue to mentor and encourage him through internet communication (emails, texting, phone calls, and videoconferencing). Meanwhile, I am taking advantage of my time away, taking biblical studies classes at Southern California Seminary to increase my effectiveness. In closing, Cheryl and I praise God for each of you, your friendship, your prayers, and your partnership.

Ron Myers  
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