

## Events In Toad's Life Over The Days Following Our Most-Recent Newsletter (In Ascending Order)

### Tuesday, December 4

Our December Newsletter was sent to you during the early morning hours here (while still December 3 in the States). Toad came to pick up the Bible I got for him, left at the hotel front desk as per his request. God has been blessing our efforts over the last 2-3 days counseling with Mei and her husband Toad. Despite a few setbacks, and some trying moments, solid spiritual victories are being gained.

### Wednesday, December 5

Toad (Mei's husband) called me this morning, thanking me profusely for giving him the new Thai Bible yesterday—the one he was asking for—mentioned towards the bottom of our December newsletter. I told him it was my privilege, and instructed him that he needed to start by reading Genesis 1-12, and then the Gospel of John.

Please continue to pray for Toad, that his heart will be warmed as he reads, and that the Holy Spirit will continue to woo and convict him to open his heart and life to Christ. I sense that he is very close to receiving Christ, yet there are struggles going on. Pray that the enemy's attempts to dissuade and distract him would be confounded.

### Thursday, December 6

Toad called again early this morning while we were getting started on the translation. We arranged to have late lunch together at a nearby spot that afternoon. When we met for lunch, Toad was very upset and discouraged, saying he had gone to the village where his wife lives to make reconciliation during the evening of Dec 5. While there, Toad discovered some very disquieting things. It seems that his wife Mei had been in phone contact with a young man in her village that she knew, and who had just been released from jail on drug trafficking charges. Toad told us he had become very angry, as well as so discouraged that he felt like returning the Bible that I had given him. I encouraged him not jump to conclusions or do anything he would regret; and, that we would get to the truth of what actually happened or didn't happen. Also that forgiveness had to be given on both sides, since both had been wrong, and both were wronged.

I too was becoming quite burdened by that time—realizing that the enemy was working overtime, trying to destroy the progress that was being made. It often seems like touch and go at times in situations where souls hang in the balance, yet we endeavor to remain faithful, knowing fully that God is not willing that any should perish, and remains in ultimate control!!

In the interim, Pastor Pitak had called Mei, asking what was going on. She was very sad and contrite, confessing that things were not going well at all. Pitak asked her to explain, whereupon she mentioned the situation Toad had inadvertently discovered, saying she had only made a phone call (*for some reason*), and had done nothing wrong. We were left with a sense of disappointment in Mei, wondering just how truthful she was being—we still aren't too sure at this juncture. However, Pitak was encouraged in spite of it all, saying that the Lord was bringing dark things into the light so they could be faced, forgiven and forsaken—for a fresh start as a couple.

### Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> (Today Is My Birthday)

Toad called again today, wanting to come over to my hotel room. He was much more settled and back in focus. Both Pastor Pitak and I reminded and encouraged him in various ways and with various illustrations that it was time to receive Christ. I finally told Toad that both Pitak and I sensed a deep-seated hesitancy in his heart, for whatever reason. I said, if you are worried Toad that your old friends and companions will ridicule and shun you, don't worry, because they probably will; however, God will give you new and even better friends, friends that will truly love and respect you.

Pitak and I continued to remind Toad that God needed his repentance and obedience in response to the call of the Gospel message... to open his heart and life in humble faith, to receive the free gift of total forgiveness and eternal life. I gave Toad Luke 18:9-14 to read, about not trusting in one's own self effort, repentance and acceptance through God's mercy. I followed up by reminding Toad that we worship our Lord Jesus, not as a pile of dusty bones laying in a memorial somewhere, but as the Living One who triumphed over sin, death, Satan, and hell on all of our behalf. I ended by saying there was an intense battle between the powers of light and darkness going on in the heavens right now over his eternal soul, and that his decision for Christ would be his only salvation.

Toad thought it over little. Pitak invited him again, and this time he said he was ready to turn his life over to Christ. He smiled, breathed a sigh of relief, and appeared visibly relieved as he acquiesced, a sign of the great struggle going on within. Pitak and I gathered around Toad, one on each side. I encouraged him to talk to God in his own plain and simple words, which he did, asking for mercy and forgiveness, along with help in his marriage. It was not a great impressive prayer on this end, but certainly very beautiful in God's presence. Pitak and I both followed up by praying for him.

**Bottom line: today, around 4:00 PM Thailand-time, Toad walked out the door of my hotel room, a spiritual babe with peace in his heart and a new creation in Christ!! (Pitak also pointed out that Toad was Born-again on my birthday.)**

Rejoicing, both Pastor Pitak and I then got back to work on the translation of Matthew in Isan. Pitak left for home at around 5:30 PM. We were able to translate up to chapter 23, verse 20 today. PTL! The light at the end of the translation tunnel is shining brighter each day. It seems incredible that after all these years of diligence; toil, and spiritual battles, completion of the Isan New Testament is at hand—with your help as supporters.

Concerning Toad and Mei, things aren't over with yet. Toad plans on attending Pastor Pitak's church this Sunday where I will be speaking. Afterwards, he plans on talking with Mei's family, seeking to arrive at a mutually-acceptable solution. His new-found faith in Christ should make the difference. Pray also for solid spiritual growth on the part of everyone involved—and that the enemy's attempts to dissuade, distract, and destroy would be totally and fully confounded. (*Indication: Apply prayer after meals three times a day, and before bedtime.*)

By God's Enabling Grace and For His Eternal Glory,

Ron (& Cheryl) Myers

God's Word For Isan

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