

Our Ministry to the Unreached Is Sustained by the Prayers and Partnership of Generous Friends Like You Who Share Our Vision

New Doors of Ministry Opportunity Have Opened

Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me, and Other Things.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."





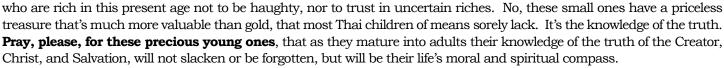


PREACHING AND TEACHING:

I've been given numerous opportunities in the two local-area churches that began under my ministry. Before taking the pulpit speaking on thigs to come, I watched the service proceed. During that time, the Children line up in front to recite Scripture, perform and sing. The *Ban Pone Boke* church (right) is more isolated, located in

a remote village area steeped in the *Dark Arts*. As for the *Goot Khaw Pune* church (left), Buddhist parents from the surrounding area drop their children off to participate in the service with their young friends. Then, they go to Sunday School where older children that grew up there are now their teachers. Quite ideal. It's of all the Lord who said, *I will build my Church*.

What do these children have that many of us lack? A simple, uncomplicated trust in God. What else do these ones have that most other Thai children lack. It's certainly not this world's riches, social prestige, or opportunity. Not that these are bad in themselves. Paul even told Timothy, to instruct those







Meet Joey, a prominent member of the *Ban Pone Boke* congregation. His more recent spiritual growth is promising as he develops as a leader. And, wow, what a strong yet mellow singing voice he has as he praises the Lord in song. More recently, he has responded very positively to my teaching and mentoring efforts, asking questions and writing things down. His well-read, marked up Bible's cover has been missing for a while. I promised him I'd take it with me to get it rebound and a new cover in a Bible repair facility in the states. Meanwhile, I have a more-accurate Thai KJV Bible to give him. We're meeting tomorrow, Thursday, when I hope to be able to spend quality time with Joey, to get to know him better as a person, apart from the church setting. If you're curious, he's crossing his thumb and forefinger to form a heart shape, popular in Thailand, which means *Love*.

BIBLE TRANSLATION:

I've come to realize what God has lead me to do now is most important, i.e., provide the Thai with a new, accurate and understandable, *Spoken Thai New Testament* in everyday colloquial Thai. The Bibles they have now (even Bible Society versions) are textually altered where key passages that teach Salvation by Grace and our eternal position *In Christ* teach salvation by works. This is unbelievable. I give examples in my Aug '24 letter, <u>Every Word of God is Pure</u>. It's the reason many Thai Christians find it difficult to understand Salvation by Grace *alone*, through Faith *alone*, apart from works, which cancels out Grace!



They'll even blame you for teaching heresy if you teach Grace. It's because their Bible versions teach Salvation by behavior in every key passage, except for Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:4-6, which remain accurate, and which the so-called translators somehow missed. The Thai ask me, "Which is it... Salvation by Grace alone, or by Grace with good behavior?" That's Mormon theology.

Note: The Thai King James Version by Philip Pope has addressed these key issues and is available on a limited basis. It's quite good. The only drawback is, it began as a modified version of the Thai Bible Society's 1971 Thai version, which uses a highly-literary bookish writing style with special monarchical terminology to address deity that even educated Thai say they have difficulty understanding. Yet it's the best they have at present, with all due honor and respect to my long-time friend, Philip.

Work on the new Spoken Thai New Testament is progressing well. At this juncture, I'm nearly finished with the search/replace routines, swapping out remaining Lao-Isan words for their Thai counterparts. The easier straightforward ones are done. What's left are those that take different terms, depending on the context. There are hundreds of passages where these occur and which require individual attention.

That's why I'm using my Isan New Testament as the foundation. I've done the important exegetical research on it to assure the Thai grammatical structure aligns with that of the original Greek verbs, and to replicate that as closely as possible in the new spoken Thai translation. I began the project around two years ago, with a couple more years before my part is finished. Keep in mind that the time frame for a new New Testament translation is typicaally 20-25 years. When I'm finished removing all vestiges of the Lao-Isan language, I'll turn it over to my close Thai friend, Tirakorn: pastor, seminary prof, and freelance translator to put on the finishing touches. I work in the accuracy aspect while he and his Thai team make it flow fluently.

CONSIDERING CREATION BOOKLET:



Tirakorn translated my *Considering Creation*, Intelligent Design-evangelism booklet from English into spoken Thai. Amazingly, Thai Buddhists read it, say they really like it, and give it to their friends to read. It starts out discussing Intelligent Design (I.D.), which points to the obvious need for an *Intelligent Designer*, whereupon it poses questions of what He may be like, then introduces the ancient manuscripts (Bible) that tell us these things. This new-found information is always piques their interest, wanting to know if they can see a copy. I say I have a Thai copy they can read.

The story continues: The creation of powerful angelic servant-beings, one of whom rebelled and was cast down to earth, along with a great many other fallen angelic beings. Then the six 24-hour day Creation, Adam and Eve, the Garden, the forbidden tree, the temptation...and finally the promised Messiah and His Name, Jesus. It closes with an invitation to receive Him as Savior. When they read this,



they get the Gospel. I learned many read it twice, then give it to others to read. I've seen Thai Buddhists get saved through this since it opens their minds and points them to Biblical truths they've not known. The greatest revelation being Jesus identity. He's not the Westerner's religious teacher, but in fact the Creator God of all Nature that every Thai adores.

CONSIDERING CREATION BOOKLET:

In my May newsletter I mentioned that I'm working on a Vietnamese version. It's now finished with colored illustrations. These provide colorful visual aids that help introduce key truths or concepts. I've updated both the Thai and English versions as well with the same colorful formatting. View or download here: ENGLISH, THAI, VIETNAMESE for unsaved friends.

<u>A New Opportunity:</u> The Vietnamese restaurant owner where I have breakfast is an aimable man yet resistant to the Gospel, even though his children are believers, as well as his younger brother and sister. His oldest son, Boy (whom I've been mentoring) and I were discussing the Considering Creation booklet in Thai. He said his dad and mom, and his dad's siblings spoke Vietnamese.



Cheryl and I deeply appreciate all of you who support us. Your monthly gifts are the lifeblood of our ministry.

I converted the Chinese and Thai versions into Vietnamese, then gave them to his saved siblings for their input. The Vietnamese version was accurate. I formatted it with the colored visual effects, printed it out and gave it to him. The next morning, he discussed it with me. I realized he also needed to read God's Word in his first language, Vietnamese. Finding a newer more readable version online, I downloaded John's Gospel and had it compiled as a ring-bound book. I gave it to him this morning.

Please pray for his soon enlightenment and Salvation!