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

For Time and Eternity

God's Gift of Eternal Life

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends and Supporters,

During the Sunday school class last week at Dr. David Jeremiah's church where we are members, the subject came up of when Elon Musk's rescue capsule would be splashing down. One lady spoke up saying it was purported to be at 1:00 PM, East Coast time. The thought came to mind that there are no time zones up in space while circling the Earth. If fact, there are no time zones in eternity, no *schedules* to meet, no *dates* to remember, and no *clocks* to reset!

These things will all be left behind as we enjoy the Lord's continual presence and that of our saved loved ones. Like the lyrics of former slave ship captain John Newton's personal testimony set to music, Amazing Grace (1779), "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun." Then there's that timeless classic by James Black, When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder (1893), "When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more, And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair; When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore, And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there."

Concerning God's gift of eternal life, I believe Scripture teaches that we become Christians—reborn spiritually into the forever family of God—the moment we place our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on our behalf (John 1:12-13, 3:15-16, 36; Romans 6:23b). An empty Cross and an empty Tomb means Salvation full and free. We possess eternal life from that moment forward since that's when the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts and lives (Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:4-7). Not afterwards at some point, as some misinformed people believe, or when we go to be with the Lord. We cannot be born-again believers or possess eternal life without the indwelling Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9).

It's been said that we can't choose our place of birth, or what cultural strata we are born into. Fortunately, we've been born in a country where the Judeo-Christian worldview is prevalent and the Gospel is freely preached. What about those unfortunate souls who do not enjoy that God-given privilege? Does God love them as well? The Psalmist David wrote in anguish while being hunted down by King Saul's army, "No man careth for my soul" (Psalms 142:4). This cry later became the title of a great missionary hymn describing the soul's cry of the unreached heathen: *No Man Careth for My Soul*:

Far away on distant shores Many souls are in despair,
For their hearts are sad and weighted down with sin;
And their tear-stained faces plead For relief from all their care
Persecution from without and fear within.

Poor lost souls with blinded eyes Grope about in sin's dark night, Kneeling down before their gods of wood and stone. Can we see them dying there, Still denied the gospel light, Let them go into eternity alone? Lord, I've heard the millions cry And my life to Thee I give; Winning souls for Thee, dear Lord, will be my goal. Send me out to distant shores, Let me labor there and live, Let me tell each one, "Christ careth for your soul!"

Chorus:

"No man careth for my soul," Thus cry the millions!
"No man careth for my soul," O hear their plea!
Won't you give your life today To spread the gospel,
So that Christ can save their souls and set them free?

Man might not care about the millions of heathen spoken of in this song, but God does. Those unreached souls who remain in abject spiritual darkness. The Apostle Peter records "That the Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Peter prefaces that saying God "is longsuffering toward us." Why doesn't he say God is longsuffering towards the heathen, hoping that they would repent and be saved? It's because they're still waiting to hear the first word of the Gospel of their Salvation, or even know that there's a God in Heaven who created them.

No, it's His Church (you and me) that God is longsuffering towards, that we would get a vision for the lost, respond in obedience and go, or sponsor missionaries to go tell them. The instructions in Romans 10:14-15 are quite clear. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?"

God the Father considered it extremely important that all have a chance to hear, believe, and receive His Gift of Eternal Life. He says *He does not desire that anyone should perish but that all would be saved* (2 Peter 3:9). *So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.* (Romans 10:17). Or not believe, since He created mankind with a free will and not as

mindless robots. Note that "Faith comes by hearing the Word of God," which refers to Scripture; the printed page. I'm now translating the New Testament into the spoken Thai vernacular. An accurate alternate for their poorly translated versions that persistently rewrite passages about God's Grace into works. See my August 2024 newsletter for the facts. "Every Word of God is Pure"

Jesus, God the Son, stated that "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth. <u>Go</u> ye therefore, and <u>teach</u> all nations, <u>baptize</u> them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. <u>Teach</u> (disciple) them to <u>observe</u> all things I have commanded you: and, lo, <u>I am with you always</u>, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20). This is reflected in Mark 16:15 where Christ commanded us to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned."





The amazing testimony of an ethnic Phu-Thai man. He said this after teaching him and a group of Phu-Thai villagers.

"Ron, thank you so much for telling me about the Creator. I didn't know before. Thank you so much.

See those fields of new rice out there? The Creator made them for us to have food to eat. Isn't the Creator wonderful? He did that for us. Isn't He wonderful? Thank you so much for telling me. I didn't know before.

See that water out there in the fields? There are fish in that water. The Creator made them for us to have food to eat. Isn't the Creator wonderful? He did that for us. Isn't He wonderful? I didn't know before. Thank you so much for telling me."

His testimony followed their saying, meaning plenteous, like the Biblical saying of "Lands Flowing with Milk and Honey."

"There is Rice in the Fields and Fish in the Waters"

You might be asking, "Why don't I just tell them, 'God loves you and Jesus died for your sins?'" It would only confuse them further, that's why—tantamount to expounding on Einstein's theory of relativity. First, their culture is the product of their Buddhistic metaphysical Asian worldview, which has no concept of Biblical origins, or of Creation, a Supreme Being, or Creator God like we do. Our Western culture is the product of our Judeo-Christian Biblical worldview. So, teaching about Creation, the Creator, and the origins of Nature, that they all adore, is mandatory. Second, trying to introduce Jesus before they understand about the Biblical origins of everything would be like getting the cart before the horse. Or, pulling a train with the caboose.

Any good Thai Buddhist knows that Jesus did not die for your sins or mine, but for His own dark, evil deeds, done in one of His past lives. That's why he was beaten, tortured, and nailed to Calvary's Cross—Karma in action. These potentially serious misunderstandings are why I'm convinced the true identity of the Lord Jesus Christ can never be fully understood without first understanding His eternal presence and his participation in Creation as *Elohim* ("*Let us make...*"). Also, the six 24-hour day Creation, including the spirit world (Angels), Satan's fall and casting out of heaven, the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, the dire warning, the temptation, the disobedience and fall, the curse and promised Messiah. Throughout the New Testament, Scripture speaks of Jesus as the Creator. For instance: John 1:3,1:10; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2, 1:10, 11:3; Revelation 4:11, 10:6, 14:7.

By God's Grace and for His Glory Alone,



Ron and Cheryl Myers Your Missionaries to Thailand

In closing. *Please Pray* for my soon return to Thailand to translate the Spoken Thai New Testament. *Pray* as I meet with my Chinese brethren as their mission's outreach advisor.

Pray for my coworker Baaw Ter and Buddhist wife Ju's Salvation. She left him again.

Pray for Pastor Pitak's son Jen, who's in hospital with an enlarged heart. Pray that open doors as I do more foundational, corrective teaching. Pray as we continue to serve God in needy Thailand. "To God be the glory and majesty, Dominion and power, both now and forever" (Jude 1:25).

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