



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

Pondering the Overwhelming Love of God “But the Greatest of These is Love”

By Ron Myers

Dear Friends and Supporters,

First, Cheryland I want to express our love and sincere thanks for your partnering with us in prayer and financial support through the years. Thank You! We continue to take the Gospel message to the 80 million people in Thailand, a country in the 10-40 window of unreached peoples. Please let folks know we now have new sponsorship opportunities. We'd be honored to have you stand beside us, helping make an eternal difference in the greatest, most important and satisfying job on earth until Jesus comes—*reaching the unreached for Christ!* I'm currently translating a needed, more accurate Thai New Testament.

Little-Known Facts: Less than one percent of all Thai people are born-again Christians. A fraction of that percentage reside in Thailand's Isan Region where our ministry is headquartered—comprising a third of the country's population (see map above). Isanians are 98% unreached, never having had an opportunity to respond to the Gospel message. Nor receive God's free gift of *Eternal Life*, given to whosoever will come by a loving God, through His Son, the Lord Jesus (John 3:16; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 22:17).

Question: Have you ever set everything aside and taken a moment to quietly reflected on God's ever-present all-encompassing Love for you? Not just generally, but for you, personally? I've begun to apply the fact that God really *likes* me. It brightens my day if His presence seems distant—times of uncertainty during trials and testings. I reassure myself of God's loving presence by reading the Promises in His Word, like His unfathomable love (Ephesians 3:17-19). God's ever-present eternal love permeates everything that He is and does, because *God is Love*, revealed and embodied in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God the Father: In response to Philip's request to “*Show us the Father,*” Jesus replied, “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father... I am in the Father, and the Father in Me*” (John 14:9-10). Jesus is a physical representation of God the Father—100% God and 100% human, yet without sin. Jesus is truly God in the flesh (Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:6-7).

The Apostle John recorded Jesus' interchange with the Jewish leader Nicodemus in John chapter three. Nicodemus had come to Jesus at night fearing the scorn of his peers. Referring to Himself in the third person, Jesus told Nicodemus, “*For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). We know Nicodemus believed since we see him openly and unashamedly helping the wealthy Joseph of Arimathea, himself a member of the Sanhedrin High Council (Mark 15:43). Together, they lovingly removed Jesus' lifeless body from the Cross and placed it in Joseph's newly hewn tomb (John 19:39).

God's Love is reiterated in John's first letter to young believers, “*My little children... In this, the love of God was manifested toward us, in that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son be the propitiation for our sins.*” (1 John 4:9-10).

Note: The Biblical term *propitiation* refers to Christ's sacrifice that satisfied God's righteous anger towards unrighteous sinners for breaking His Law. Furthermore, whoever rejects God's loving *propitiatory* offer of Salvation in Christ will stand before the righteous judge and account for every sin, enumerated and paid for in full by each unsaved sinner throughout eternity in the Lake of Fire, reserved for the Devil and his angels. What a wonderful, loving Savior we have.

God's Love Realized: While translating the Isan New Testament I experienced heavy spiritual opposition by the *Accuser of the Brethren*, who tried to keep me from completing the translation by removing me altogether. Twice, slanderous empty accusations were leveled against me by disgruntled people, followed by unjust decisions by incompetent field leaders, who declared me *persona not grata*, delaying my completing the Isan translation by years. The tipping point came when they failed to recognize the demonic nature of it all. I told God, “*That's it, Lord, I am done trying to work with these people, D-O-N-E done!*” The words barely left my lips when my gaze fell on a Bible verse on a paper sitting before me. Its words popped out at me, “*Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it. If a man would offer all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned and despised*” (Song of Sol. 8:7).

God spoke to me by His Word that very moment, that nothing could quench His Love for me—divine Love that cannot be bought or earned. Whether I served God as a missionary or not, He reminded me His Love for me did not lessen. Reinvigorated by that unique encounter, the following Sunday I recommitted my life to serve Him and haven't slowed since. I finished the Isan New Testament unencumbered. It's now bearing much fruit in printed, digital, and audio format for millions of Isan and Lao to read and listen to.

God's Attributes and Virtues are many: Eternal, Spirit, Creator, Righteous, All-mighty, All-knowing, All-present, All-patient, All-loving, Faithful, Kind, Forgiving, Gracious, Holy, and Just. *"But the greatest of these is Love"* (1 Corinthians 13:13). We often refer to 1 Corinthians 13, the Love chapter. Yet Paul wrote this in his first letter to the highly gifted but immature Corinthian believers who were quarreling amongst themselves; practicing one-upmanship instead of considering others over themselves. The core theme of this love chapter is found in verses 4 through 8. There, Paul explains how God's agape love responds when put to the test. It's my favorite go-to passage to calm my spirit and put things into perspective if I'm wrestling in my spirit with some *slight*. Try prefacing each clause with *"God's kind of love..."* and you'll see what I mean.

"Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself about, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a). In actuality, these are the *Fruit of the Holy Spirit* in the believer's life put into action (Galatians 5:22-26).

How Big is God: *How Big and wide His Vast Domain? He's Big Enough to Rule His Mighty Universe Yet Small Enough to Live Within My Heart* (song lyrics by Stuart Hamblen). We've seen the breathtakingly beautiful colored photos of outer space, like the *Eye of God*, captured by NASA's famous Hubble Space Telescope. NASA now has a much greater reach into outer space with the Webb Space Telescope. Designed by NASA's James Webb, it has produced the furthest and sharpest infrared images of the distant universe to date. Click on this thumbnail image to see the full-size photo. It will stretch beyond your computer screen. *(Click back to return.)*

Interstellar Space: The full-size image is huge. Yet it's only a micro dot of outer space equal the size of a grain of sand held at arm's length. When inspecting the full-size image, you'll see decreasingly smaller specks between the bright stars and orange oval slices that represent far-distant solar systems. Some specs are so small you have to imagine they're really there. These tiny specs are even further solar systems, suspended in the endless realm of creation by Jesus Christ Himself. *"He is before all things, and in Him all things consist"* (Colossians 1:17).



The Love of God: How vast and limitless. When I was a child, I used to ponder what the end of the universe might be like. I envisioned it as boarded off with nothing beyond. Yet the universe is immeasurably boundless, infinitely immense beyond what our finite human minds ever begin to comprehend.

The Endless Universe is a prime example of the fathomless scope of God's love for us. Paul describes its dimensions in his prayer for the Ephesian believers under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. *"That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all the Saints, what is the width and length and depth and height...and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge"* (Ephesians 3:17-19). Paul phrases the dimensions in a way that places us in the center, surrounded by God's Love. He adds that God's Love *passes knowledge*. It's so great we'll never be able to comprehend it all, so ponder it and enjoy both God's presence and His Love for us, revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ.

♪ **The Love of God Lyrics:** To further ponder the fathomless grandeur of God's Love, consider the last stanza of this great hymn. What tremendous imagery! I find myself mouthing the words as I write:

"Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky."

Demographics: The Kingdom of Thailand presently has 80-million inhabitants. Atheistic Theravada Buddhism, their state-ordained good-works oriented faith, is held by 94% of the total populace. The other 5.99% is: Islam, held by Muslims in Thailand's southern-most provinces bordering Malaysia, polytheistic Hinduism, held by Indians, monotheistic Sikhism held by Sikhs, and pantheistic Animism (spirit appeasement) practiced by the multi-ethnic Hill Tribes of Thailand's mountainous northern provinces. Totaling 99.9%. What happened to Christianity? True Christians make up as little as 0.1%. Therefore, Thailand remains an unreached nation, located *smack dab* in the center of the *10-40 Window* of unreached people groups.

Why Don't Thais flock to Christ en masse, as Koreans did? The Thais state-ordained religion lulls them into a sense of complacency. Called the *Opiate of the masses* by Marx, Buddhism is their security blanket. It numbs their sense of sin and the need for a Savior. Next, their notions that Jesus is as the foreigner's *buddha*. Jesus initiated a good religion, teaching Westerners to do good, like their Buddha did for them. Lastly and most importantly, although they all love nature, their worldview has no concept of origins, or a Supreme Being who created the nature surrounding them that they all adore.

Sadly, many missionaries still use the Western *Romans Road* approach to present the Gospel in Thailand. That works to reach Westerners, but it doesn't communicate to those who grew up in an Eastern metaphysical wonderland society where every peculiar concept is feasible. Using either the Romans Road approach, or telling the average Thai Buddhist that, *"God loves you and Jesus died for your sins"* elicits a wide smile as they recite, *"All Religions are good, they all teach us to do good. Buddha teaches people to do good, as does Jesus, etc."* They do this since they lack any knowledge of origins or of God, their Creator.

What's the Answer? The true identity of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior can never truly be understood by the Thai without first establishing some basic tenets and fundamental facts, i.e., origins, Creation, the Creator, and Jesus Christ's true identity as God the Son, and not a religious Guru. Without these facts, every Gospel presentation will be interpreted by the Thai Buddhist hearer as an attempt to convert them to a strange foreign religion of whom Jesus was the founder.

Also, since Christianity began 500 years after Buddhism, it's lesser in stature since age denotes greater status. Again, without the facts, that's all the Thai have to go by since they have no clue as to Jesus' true identity as eternal God, Creator, Lord, King, and living Savior, not the Westerners religious Guru as is presupposed and pre-programmed into the hearts and minds of the general Thai populace.

Where to Begin? A revealing survey was done where Thai Christians were queried as to the circumstances or reasons they were drawn to Christ and Christianity. The overall consensus was, the warmth of God's Lovingkindness towards them was a deciding factor. In contrast, the impersonal *do-it-yourself* coldness of Buddhism offers no help or hope, relying solely on what the adherent must accomplish in the way of good works over the course of untold reincarnated lifetimes. Knowing that, it stands to reason that one must introduce God, not only as an all-knowing Creator and Savior, but also as the loving and compassionate Father of all.

Christ's Great Commission applies today just as much as ever. John the Apostle, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote of Jesus in Revelation 5:9 that, "They sang a new song, saying: 'Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy Blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.'" Note the word here is "every." It doesn't say "some" or "many," but "every" people group, small or great. The Greek word here is *pas*, meaning each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything.

The Light of the World: Jesus Said, **I Am** the Light of the World. There are still many unreached people groups today, waiting to hear the Gospel of God's Lovingkindness for the very first time. (I know firsthand, and have preached to them.) No nation or people group should be re-evangelized over and over while there remain those who are left behind, still waiting in spiritual darkness for the first glimmer of hope—the *Gospel of Light*. The Apostle Paul was clearly burdened for the yet unreached. He told the Corinthians his goal was to preach the gospel in the regions beyond them, not re-evangelize over and over as if unreached in places where the Gospel had already been established, but go to new *regions beyond* (2 Corinthians 10:16).

Farmer Analogy: My dad was a conscientious farmer. During harvesttime, when our fields of wheat were ripe for harvest, we'd take out our grain combine, harvest each field and store the grain in our granaries. We didn't go back again and re-harvest the fields later since the job had already been done and the first-fruits were gathered. See the analogy? True; there are many unsaved in America, yet the Gospel is available for them to believe since it was brought here centuries ago and is readily available to all. Paul emphasizes this "Go Ye" focus in Romans 10:14-15.

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 hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent?
As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

The Context: Paul is speaking of Israel hearing and believing the Gospel, yet the same principle applies to all people groups. It's especially so in the light of Revelation 5:9, where members of every people group are present in the soon-to-come Marriage Feast of the Lamb, held in Heaven's Great Banquet Hall, and attended by the Saints.

Every Christian with a burden for the unreached masses, with no access to the Gospel, should be ready to say with Isaiah "Here I am Lord, send me" in response to God's call, of: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8). Otherwise, how will they ever hear and know? Sadly, they won't. They didn't pick their place of birth, nor did we! *Selah*.

The Holy Spirit, who dwells in our hearts, aches with Divine Love for these precious, utterly lost for whom the Lord Jesus shed His Blood on Calvary's Cross in full payment for not only their sin, but yours, mine, and the entire world of humanity, as planned from the foundation of the world (Isaiah 53:6, Ephesians 1:4, Romans 10:13-17, 1 Timothy 4:10, 1 John 2:2).

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:38,39).

May God Bless & Prosper You,



Ron and Cheryl Myers
Your Missionaries to Thailand

- ✓ **Pray** that the Gospel of God's Love will have free reign among the unreached souls with whom I'll be speaking, using proven tools, methods, and materials that speak to their hearts.
- ✓ **Pray** for a one-year multiple-entry Thai visa. If I can get a one-year renewable retirement visa, I'll then be able to register my ministry pickup in my name and get a Thai driver's license.
- ✓ **Pray** for airfare as prices continue to rise. Thailand is halfway around the world from San Diego, a 20-hr., 12,500 mi. flight. You may designate funds at our Baptist mission org., below.
- ✓ **Pray** for our financial support, which has dropped drastically since COVID. As I noted above, we now have openings for new supporters to stand alongside us in a hands-on positive way in this, the greatest, most satisfying and important job on earth, until Jesus comes.