

STUBENRAUCHS IN THAILAND

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf; Be reconciled to God. -2Corinthians 5:20

April/May 2017



Hello from Northeast Thailand! The past couple of months have been full of lots of changes and the wonderful leading of the Holy Spirit. **The most important change that has happened since our last newsletter is that our family of seven has become a family of eight!** David Jesse came to us at 5:29am on March 9th, nearly two weeks before his due date. I was thrilled to be spared the last (very hot) two weeks of my normally full term pregnancy. I was especially thankful that my prayer (that he would come a bit early if he was going to be the same size as his older brother at birth) was answered, since he already weighed 8 pounds, two weeks early! God is so wise and merciful to give us exactly what we need. **David Jesse means Beloved Gift and that is just what he is to us and to this world.**



OUR NEW HOME AND MINISTRY

We have now officially moved to Khon Kaen province right in the heart of the Isaan region of northeast Thailand. Although, we are still technically working with the same people group, the Isaan people, the language and culture are very different from the Isaan people in Loei province where we had been living for the past 5.5 years. **We are now closer in to a large city and many more modern conveniences (like cheese!) however, our work is still house church planting among the rural villages of this region.** We feel as if we are living in the best of both worlds because our heart and work is still among unreached villages, but now we have fellowship with other missionaries, soccer and music lessons for our children and are able to buy things like clothes for our children and Ivory soap! **We are so blessed and honored to be working with long time missionaries to Thailand, Bill and Julie Hughes, and joining them in ministering among a real work of God in this area.** Almost every time they go out to visit people, they are seeing people healed in body and coming to faith in Jesus. **The band of faithful, praying, zealous Thai disciples that the Hughes have raised up to go out with them cannot stop talking about Jesus, laying hands on the sick and leading people to God.** Every time I call Brian while he is out with this amazing evangelism/ discipleship team, all I can hear is fervent prayer or jubilant worship in the background. Literally. If they are in the truck traveling to visit someone else, sometimes I can't hear him for the prayer and worship that is happening in the truck. While this seems to be the norm in missions in many other countries, it is not the case in Thailand. In the "missions world" Thailand is known to be one of the "hardest" countries in Asia when it comes to the gospel. We've heard stories of missionaries coming from the middle east to visit Thailand and declare they've never seen a mission field so hard to the gospel as Thailand. So while this testimony may seem like a normal missionary story in some countries, it is definitely not the norm in Thailand. **We are greatly rejoicing to see the Holy Spirit moving so powerfully in Thailand. Please keep praying for the people of Thailand.**



ANOTHER TRIP

Next month we are planning a trip back to Loei province where we were living before. We are praying for a response to the Gospel in Dan Sai like we are seeing here. Brian and Clint Garsee will be leading team from the States up into an unreached area further into the mountains than even we lived before. There is one Hmong tribal village in that area that has held out against the Gospel even when all the other Hmong tribes around have gladly received it. Please begin to pray for them. You probably remember Sai and his sweet family who have taken over many other the things we were doing in Dan Sai. He is continuing on with many of the sustainable agriculture projects and starting some of his own. We are also moving the office that we had built in Dan Sai down to a village near us in Khon Kaen. Yes, its portable! Just days ago, we had a three year land rental agreement drawn up and transacted. I was giggling inwardly as I watched the men sitting on the ground under a mango tree signing a paper and counting out money. Business, village style. Every once in a while, I have these moments in my life when I think. "This definitely doesn't happen in America. I'm not sure they'd believe me if I told them!" I'm so thankful for all the new things God is doing. I'm thankful my children have other Christian kids to play with now. Such a simple statement, but think of living in a community for over 5 years where every child that is a possible friendship for your children comes from a family that bows to idols daily and practices witchcraft. I'm also thankful for music lessons and a twice weekly soccer outreach that three of my children can be a part of with their other missionary kid friends. I'm thankful that 8 of us are sharing 3 bathrooms instead of one!



Doing business in the village is always interesting. They sat on a rice mat under a tree as they signed the contracts and exchanged the money. The end result is that we have a nice piece of land to use for the next three years, thank you Jesus!



A REAL NEED

We need a bigger vehicle. **We really need a van.** With the birth of our newest baby, our truck just will not fit us all comfortable or safely. We no longer have seatbelts for everyone and have to choose between a carseat for the baby or a carseat for Creed. There are no seatbelt or carseat laws here in Thailand. Most Thai families have never heard of a child's carseat before. However, we travel a lot and really want proper seatbelt and carseats for our little ones. If you would like to help with this we would really appreciate it! Vehicles in Thailand are very expensive. To purchase a 5-7 year old van is going to cost between \$15,000-\$20,000. If you would like to help with the purchase of a van for our family please specify that it is for the Stubenrauch Van Fund when you give your (tax-deductible) donation. You can always donate online at <http://worldoutreachcommunity.org/stubenrauchs.html>.



Thank you all who continue to faithfully support us each month! The Gospel is being received with gladness in Thailand because you help keep the message and the missionaries here.

Please continue to pray for our health and protection as you remember the Thai people and work also. Just since January we have had several trips to the emergency room for stitches, burns and for postpartum complications with the mama just 11 days after David Jesse was born.



With love from Thailand,

Brian, Mary Beth, Asia, Mercy, Micah, Tyndale, Creed and David Jesse