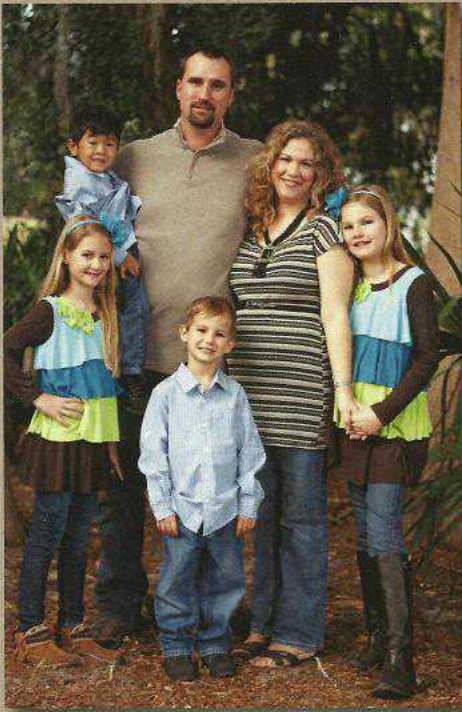


Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! January 2014

Whew, its been a while since we wrote a newsletter. Since we arrived back in Thailand it seems our life has been a constant battle to get back to the 'ordinary.' That may sound humorous to you since we live in a village on the other side of the world and that seems anything but 'ordinary' to you. For us, ordinary means sleeping in our own beds, cooking in our own kitchen, washing clothes in our own washing machine, talking with our neighbors, homeschooling from a room with bookshelves (not out of a suitcase), eating eggs from our own chickens, cooking with herbs and veggies from our aquaponics system, buying more veggies and fruit from the market, switching languages whenever we are talking to anyone else besides each other, trying to get a baby to sleep 'ordinary' hours, sharing the Gospel with our friends and neighbors and beginning to disciple the ones who believe, and the list goes on. Some of these things probably sound completely normal to you, while some sound strange. We always love the 'ordinary' things about America when we come back too, such as no one stopping what they are doing and staring at our family while we walk, talk, eat or generally just step out of our house to do anything, washing clothes and dishes inside the house, being able to fit a week's worth of groceries in your shopping cart/car/fridge/pantry, central air and heat, worshiping in English, and, most of all, getting to be with family and friends.

One of the most exciting things we have done this past month is have a Christmas/ New Year party for our friends and neighbors here. Since Thai people don't celebrate Christmas (but the children and teens are very keen on the idea), we told the children it was a Christmas party and the adults it was a New Year party. We had the kids and teenagers come first, and we played games, did crafts and talked about the birth of Jesus and who the real St. Nicholas was. We even described how to make a snow man, which they all thought sounded like great fun and truly amazing since they've never even seen snow! We had lots of food for the adults including about 300 homemade Christmas cookies! We sat and talked to our neighbors and Brian prayed a New Year's blessing over each one as they left to return home. We wanted this party to be a time to re-connect with our neighbors after we had been gone so long. We wanted them to know they are loved by us and by the God who sent His Son to make ALL things new.



The Stubenrauch Family

Serving the people of 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. -1 Cor. 5:20*

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Making Christmas cookies



Teenagers in the living room.



Neighborhood children
drawing pictures

One morning, a couple of weeks before Christmas, one of our neighbors came over first thing and said that another neighbor's mother (who lives in another village) is suffering with demons and would we please come and pray for her? She went on to say that the old mother had gone to the temple and come home very different, very oppressed. Since she came home she paced the floor speaking gibberish, grinding her teeth, wringing her hands and crying out. She had not slept for a week. A week. Can you even imagine? No one in the house could sleep with her pacing and crying all night and they were desperate to find help for their mother. Brian, along with a visiting missionary friend, and our neighbor who has also been born again went to pray for her. Before they left it seemed as if her suffering had eased a bit and she even asked if she could hug our neighbor. We were glad she was better, but disappointed that she was not completely free. The next morning we got a call that she had slept through the night and she was very much better! We were ecstatic! Apparently, our unbelieving neighbor said that "Brian is a better healer than the witch doctor!" Our neighbor who is a Christian was quick to correct her and say, "It was JESUS who healed your mom, not Brian. And don't take her back to the witch doctor or do anymore Buddhist/witchcraft ceremonies for her!" A few days later we learned that she was worse again. Our neighbor thinks that they probably took her back to the witch doctor as is their custom. There are even ceremonies here that are a kind of "thank offering" ceremony to the spirits for giving them what they asked for. We have been back to pray for her and to pray for a baby in that same village. We are praying for open hearts in this village. Would you pray with us?

Brian has also been visiting another couple who lives in town. They run a shop that Brian frequents and have shown interest in knowing more about Jesus. Around the beginning of the New Year Brian took him a new Bible as a New Year's gift. He loved it so much that he stopped talking to Brian altogether because he was so engrossed in reading it! Brian sat and chatted with the man's wife who went to church in a big city during her time of study at university many years ago. The man's legs are paralyzed and he sits in a wheel chair. We would love to see him healed by Jesus and both of them loving God.

We have also been on a quest for land! We have over \$40,000 that many of you have donated toward a piece of property for a sustainable living-Gospel seed sowing-disciple making-ministry training farm in this area. You all know that we have so many dreams in our heart for this piece of land. We are hoping to see indigenous workers trained, missionaries (local or foreign) learn sustainable living, home churches burst forth in the surrounding areas where the gospel is non-existent, mothers and children loved and cared for, and so many other things. Please pray for the leading of the Lord to the place He has prepared for us and for this work. We are actively looking for land now. Land prices in Thailand are as much as land prices in America and sometimes more. This has been so surprising to us, even in this rural area. We are looking into very long term leasing of land also. This may be a better option and much more cost effective. In any case, we are going to have to build some buildings on our land also. We ask for your prayers as we go forward in this endeavor. We are also still raising funds for this project. We have a good start, but not enough for land, buildings and possibly even making access to a road, water and electricity. If you would like to give toward this project just make a note that your donation is for Project SPEED. (SPEED stands for Sustainable Projects for Evangelism, Empowerment and Discipleship)

We loved spending time with you all in the States this past year. You all were so kind and so welcoming. We thank God for such amazing friends and family. There are some days and some hours when we can literally feel your prayers. Some days as we feel almost the literally weight of an atmosphere of idolatry, suddenly there comes a burst of joy or of perfect peace and we are certain that there is someone, somewhere praying for us. We want to thank you and tell you that we are proud to partner with you this very Great Commission.

May Jesus bless your home,

Brian, Mary Beth, and the little blessings



Christmas party games



Neighbors helping make food for the party



Morning coffee on the Mekong River



Daddy and his littlest boy