



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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He was lost. I was sure of it. I was sitting in my living room when I saw something inching its way up the far wall. When I got closer I realized what I was seeing. A leech. A leech was scooting up my dry, white living room wall with some interesting looking dust, fuzz and hair dangling from its little bottom. He, of course, had to go the watery way of so many uninvited critters before him...death by flushing. But then later, this seemingly undramatic event caused me to hear the whisperings of God in my heart. "That's what it looks like when people worship idols. Ridiculous." A leech belongs in or very near water. This leech was crawling up a dry wall inside a house and dragging dry debris along behind. Its like a bird digging an underground tunnel or a house cat building a river dam. Its not what they were created to do. It looks crazy. Ridiculous. People bowing, lighting incense and offering food to man-made idols or asking evil spirits for protection. Even recently, we saw a "golden poo" in a dentist's office beseeching good luck from the heavens. Ridiculous. If ever it was possible for the creation to embarrass the Creator... Thank goodness that is not possible for the Lord of all glory. Thank goodness He does NOT say, "Come follow Me, you sorry excuse for a person." He says, "Come follow Me, you who are weary and I will give you rest." Is that not the most beautiful thing you have ever heard?



The golden "good luck" poo



With my mom at the national park.



Bobbing for apples on 4th of July with Leah and Hannah.

These past couple of months God has rained down answered prayer. As most of you know, we have been laboring in our little corner of the world with almost no fellowship and no other missionary help. We have had, at times, a few Thai people come and go but no other English speakers with whom we could fellowship. Within about 6 weeks God has sent us 2 short term American/Thai evangelism teams come to help us, a wonderful new young woman, named Leah, to join with our family for a year to teach English at the local high school, a young couple from Louisiana to minister with us for 2 months, and a visit from my mom and a sweet teenage girl who wants to be a missionary! And one of the most wonderful blessings God has sent is a local Christian man (from a village about 40 minutes away) with a very sweet spirit to be Brian's ministry partner. This is truly an answer to prayer. He works with Brian two days per week visiting people, praying for people, sharing Bible stories in the local dialect and will begin helping with our agricultural projects this week. He is helping us set up a local branch of the Thai foundation we work with so that we won't have to make our yearly visa trip to south Thailand anymore. He and Brian also share worship songs in the local dialect with the people they visit. As a result of God's goodness and His good news, we are seeing people grow hungry for the Word of Life and several have been healed in body as well as spirit.

Brian and Si (his ministry partner) have groups of ladies who wait on their visit every week. Of course, I don't mind these ladies waiting to visit with my husband since they have grandchildren and possibly great-grand children! They are now praying for their children to know Jesus and are telling their friends about Him.

We just returned from a visit to the city of Chiang Mai where we visited an organization called ECHO which helps missionaries as well as locals all over the world provide sustainable and nutritional farming alternatives. We had a great meeting and Brian got lots of new information, encouragement and ideas. The couple I mentioned briefly above is also here to help us put into practice many of the sustainable farming ideas we are working on and also to give us new ideas. Paul has worked for many years on permaculture and sustainable farming projects. He's a wealth of knowledge and information and I'm pretty sure he knows more about the flora of Thailand than we do after living here for 12 years.

Kelly, Paul's wife, is a nurse and it was so nice to have her go along with me to the local hospital when Mercy fractured her arm. YES, Mercy is in a cast now! Mercy, who is an expert on the RipStick (like a skateboard with only one wheel on each end) got to the bottom of a hill and realized they had put a pipe in "under" the ground and covered it with concrete. It looked like a funny speed bump and when she hit it, she went tumbling. Now think about taking your child with a broken arm to a local government hospital in a developing nation and having every person you talk to only speak to you in your second language. God definitely gives grace and peace but, I'm not going to lie, its just plain hard sometimes. Between comforting your frightened child, trying to fully understand and ask questions to fill in the enormous information gaps (doctors give only small bits of information here), then trying to explain everything back to your child in English to fill in her gaps and consulting with Kelly in English, we were all worn out afterward.



This is Paul and Kelly



*Mercy and her orthodontist
in Chiang Mai*



Mammy and sleeping Creed.



Thank you all for praying for us and encouraging us. We love to hear from you all! We are encouraged as we see what Jesus is doing. Please continue to pray for us. We know that your prayers are moving Heaven and earth for us and for the Thai people. May Jesus bless you and draw you ever nearer.

Love from the rice fields,

Brian, Mary Beth and the five little saplings

If you would like to partner with us, please send in your tax-deductible donations to World Outreach Center, PO Box 3478, Fort Mill, SC 29708. Checks should be made out to World Outreach Center with Stubenrauch in the memo. Online donations can be made at worldoutreachcommunity.org, access our page under Missionaries and then click on Donate.