

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. -II Cor. 5:20

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This month I thought I would share something with you all that is a little different and may help you to understand our everyday lives a little better. We have compiled our very own "You know you're a missionary when..." list for your reading pleasure. If for some reason you don't understand some of these feel free to email and ask what they mean. Brian has been working long hours on his agriculture projects this month and on the Permaculture course he is studying. This course will help us to make the most of the land we are hoping to purchase this year in more ways that one! I'm having fun walking around talking to the ladies in our village with a new baby in my arms. No matter where you are in the world, women LOVE to hold and talk about babies.

You know you're a missionary when:

- 1. You have to wash the bugs out of your dish soap container before you can start washing dishes.
- 2. You have no idea what your friend is talking about on Facebook (but everyone else seems to) so you ask your husband if he knows. He doesn't know either, so you have to google it.
- 3. When Skype starts ringing, everyone RUNS to the computer.
- 4. Your children beg you to let them Skype someone...anyone.
- 5. You find out later that your 6 year old practices his phonics lessons by secretly writing messages to several people on Skype, for days.
- 6. You have to say things like "Get the dogs away from the clean dishes!" or "Move the laundry if your going to bathe the dogs!" or "Hurry and bring in the laundry before it smells like smoke! Daddy's burning stuff again!"
- 7. You have to wash your feet after you wash dishes.
- 8. If you happen to have fish for supper, you can expect 50% of the dinner conversation to rotate around everyone daring each other to eat the fish eyeballs. Seriously, it never gets old.
- 9. Dirty handprints on your white walls are the least of your concerns. It's the gecko poo and bug poo that really drives you nuts.
- 10. You have a love hate relationship with geckos since they do eat bugs after all.
- 11. You randomly pick bugs off each other during the day (and night) at home, in your house, in your kitchen, in your bathroom, in your bed. Help.
- 12. You also have a love hate relationship with tile since everything that falls shatters into a million pieces, but potty training and other childhood and pet messes are cleaned up in a jiffy. No carpet scrubbing.
- 13. You find yourself telling your children, "Do NOT tell Nana or Mammy that we let you do this!" or "Do NOT tell your grandparents that this happened. It would just make them worry."



This was killed on our porch a few days before we left to come back to America.



Shiloh Pruett, how could we have gotten through the month of May without you. Thank you for so sacrificially giving of your time and love to us.

- 14. You are friends with women and children who have been bought and sold across borders. You have held their hands and looked into their eyes and prayed for healing and justice.
- 15. You keep hoping that someone you met on furlough will be serious about what they said when they told you they were coming to visit you on the field or that they were feeling the call to missions.
- 16. Pinterest can make you feel the need to "give it all to God" again.
- 17. You hoard Yankee candles for rainy days, holidays, cool season or any day that the temperature happens to fall below 80 degrees.
- 18. You travel to Bangkok and text all your missionary friends to let them know you are drinking a latte at Starbucks or eating a Krispy Kreme doughnut.
- 19. Your go back to the States on furlough and your kids put the peanut butter in the fridge to keep the bugs out of it.
- 20. You go home on furlough and then go back home to Thailand.
- 21. You have to have your husband watch the toddlers while you bake because your oven is a metal box with a flame inside. Your son has the burn scars on his hand to help remind you to be diligent and stay alert.



Nan and Noon helping our neighbors plant rice. Nan and Noon are living in our house for us while we are gone.

- 22. Your missionary and native friends all give you lots of sympathy when they find out your baby is due in hot season.
- 23. Your friends want to know how long a white woman has to "lay over the fire" after she has a baby. (lay in a wooden bed with a pot of coals underneath)
- 24. You're pretty sure you were the first one on your road to cook over a gas burner instead of over an open fire. You are also pretty sure that most of them have newer cell phones than you do.
- 25. You watch your husband come home with his face all lit up because someone wanted to hear about Jesus today.
- 26. You wipe mold off your furniture, wardrobes, baskets, cupboard, doors, etc. during rainy season.
- 27. You wonder if you can time your homeschool book order with the arrival of someone (anyone!) coming to Thailand from the States.
- 28. You think the old iPhone 3 that was given to you is AWESOME. Internet on the road, really?!?
- 29. You feel the need to brag about your children's chicken catching skills.
- 30. Your neighbors think that anyone who wakes up after 5am is sleeping in.

After writing this newsletter we received news that Brian's Dad was very sick, and we needed to rush back to America in order to be with him. We arrived in Florida at midnight June 28th and went straight to the hospital where Brian was able to say goodbye for the last time to his beloved dad. Gary woke just enough to tell Brian he loved him and also to recognize baby Creed and lay his hand on Creed's head. At about 9 am he graduated into the Lord's presence never to be seen by us again on this side of eternity. It has been a challenging few weeks with many emotional ups and downs, but God is faithfully bringing us through every challenge. We have been so blessed to watch God love us through His people. We have been so comforted, loved, provided for and blessed by our Winter Haven brothers and sisters. Thank you all so much for the food, prayers, hugs, visits and words of comfort. We are so overwhelmed by the goodness of God that is pouring through so many of you all. May Jesus bless you. We hope that someday at sometime we may be able to bring each of you the joy that you have brought to us during this difficult time.

Grace and peace,

Brian, Mary Beth, Asia, Mercy, Micah, Tyndale and baby Creed

