



Lauren Becker

MISSIONARY TO THAILAND



March 4, 2020

Starting From Zero



Last month I attended a church district leaders meeting (photo above) and camped in a tent for the first time in awhile!

My friends View and Ing and I went out for Valentine's dinner (right). I read them Max Lucado's book *You Are Special* (or in Thai, *คุณเป็นคนพิเศษ*).



Dear Church People, Pastors, Members, Attenders, Christians,

I grew up in a Christian home. I was raised on Sunday School flannelgraphs and youth camps, and I graduated from a Christian university. I was familiar with the Bible, and my culture and surroundings were too.

When I came to Thailand, I quickly experienced that I could not assume people had any prior knowledge about Christianity—and what they did “know” was severely misconstrued through a cultural lens of Buddhism centuries old. I had to start from zero, telling God's Story to people who had never heard it before, or never heard it in a clear way, or never heard it from a Christian.

I also learned that God speaks by His Word directly to people's hearts. I am amazed and humbled by the insight nonbelievers have when they encounter God's Story.

As America becomes increasingly unchurched, I think what I have learned in Thailand can also be helpful for you. Let me encourage you with a “Don't” and a “Do.”

Don't assume people know Christian things. Be willing and ready to explain what you consider common Bible knowledge. Whether you preach from a stage or participate in a small group, consider avoiding phrases like “you know the story”, “we've all heard about”, and “I know you are familiar with”. We don't want to risk shaming, isolating, or offending people who in fact *don't* know—it only takes a few more moments to summarize the story and it won't hurt anyone to hear it again. Which brings us to ...

Do tell God's Story! By the Holy Spirit, be alert to opportunities to share Bible stories. Deeply listen to the people you know and tell them a story that relates to their situation. God can speak to them (and through them to you as well!) and use His Word to draw them to know Him.

God's Word is not only effective in Thailand—it is living and active wherever you are!

In Christ,

Lauren

Prayer and Praise

PRAISE GOD FOR: His Word at work in my friends' hearts and minds; Ing's growing knowledge about God and His work in her life and the world.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: health; protection throughout Asia from the coronavirus; friends to know Jesus.

Spare Sixty *Will you please spend the next sixty seconds praying for this specific need in Thailand?*

Pray for the economy. Many friends and others I talk to say they don't have as many customers, and prices have increased dramatically. Pray they will experience God's provision in a powerful way.

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