



# Lauren Becker

MISSIONARY TO THAILAND



# UNEXPECTED

January 7, 2021

We could all make a long, long, long list of the ways 2020 was not what we hoped or expected. Here are a few things from my list:

A year ago, I didn't expect...

- to get so much closer to my coffee friends and join them for special events.
- to connect with old and new friends on (so many!) video calls.
- to learn so much about myself.
- to welcome a 70-year-old auntie to church, who is now coming faithfully.
- that as I tried to bless my local friends, they would bless me so much in the process.

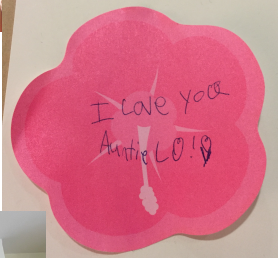
As I write, Thailand is experiencing a virus outbreak and parts of the country are starting to lock down. I didn't expect 2021 to start this way, especially after more than six months of zero community spread in Thailand. I didn't expect Thailand would still be closed for people trying to enter the country on volunteer and missionary visas. I didn't expect to be without team members for a year and a half.

BUT I know God is faithful! I know He is in control. I know His timing, provision, guidance, care, peace, kindness, and goodness are perfect, and all I need. I know that even in hard times, God has lessons for us to learn and ways for us to grow closer to Him. If you haven't already, I hope you take time to recount God's faithfulness and goodness to you in 2020—not to ignore the hard things, but to remind yourself that as we enter 2021 in the midst of difficult and unexpected circumstances, God will always remain faithful and good. I'm praying for you!

Still hanging out with the running club!



I don't often talk about another hat I wear, "Auntie Lauren" to precious missionary kids in



Thailand. In December I spent time helping a family in southern Thailand who had just welcomed their third child. The note above is from their oldest: "I love you Auntie L!"



### PRAISE GOD FOR:

God's faithfulness in 2020; the opportunity to deliver a Christmas gift and card explaining Jesus' birth to most of my local friends; health. **PLEASE PRAY FOR:** decrease in Covid cases in Thailand; changes in visa restrictions so missionaries and volunteers can enter Thailand; spiritual conversations with friends; health; wisdom.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

## SPARE SIXTY

### Would you please take one minute to pray for this need in Thailand?

Please pray for thousands of people across Thailand who heard the Christmas story last month, some for the very first time. Pray for churches to follow up effectively with people who attended outreaches. Please pray those who heard will desire to know and follow Jesus—along with their whole family.

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