



# Lauren Becker

MISSIONARY TO THAILAND



May 11, 2021

# CULTURE OR RELIGION?

...Yes. Thai culture is so intertwined with Buddhist and animist beliefs and practices that it can be hard to define a custom or value as *only* culture or *only* religion. Suppose you asked, "Why do you go to the temple on your birthday?" One Thai person would answer about making merit to earn better karma and asking for favor for the next year. Another Thai would answer, "Because that's what Thai people do on their birthday." This worldview poses challenges for witness and discipleship, but it also opens doors to

ask questions and help people consider why they do what they do.

Speaking of culture and religion...Easter eggs anyone? My friends like the cultural aspect of holidays like Easter, and it was a great way to tell them about Jesus!

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**PRAISE GOD FOR:** Easter opportunity to share about Jesus; health; connection with friends in town even with covid restrictions; my teammate Jenelle who was allowed to submit her Thai visa application for long-term stay!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** the third outbreak of covid to slow quickly, for businesses that are hurting, and for schools to open without much delay; opportunities to study the Bible with local friends; Jenelle as she raises her monthly support, and for her visa application to be processed smoothly.



Above:  
Aunt Jat, Ing

Right:  
Chamai, Ing,  
View



Professor Goong (right pic) is building a house, and she invited me to the ceremony for pouring the first two pillars. (Culture or religion? Yes.) The man who does this ceremony (left pic, in white) prayed over the pillar spots with offerings, after praying over the whole building project (below).



## SPARE SIXTY

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

The deep connection of culture and religion is a challenge for sharing the gospel. Thai people believe that to be Thai is to be Buddhist, and they don't consider changing religions as a possibility. To do so would be to reject family, community, and nation. Please pray this spiritual stronghold will be broken and Thais will find freedom to be Thai and Christian!

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