

# Turning Over a New Leaf

Hello สวัสดีค่ะ Greetings to you!

If you are receiving this newsletter, my hope is that it will be the first of many which will highlight the major happenings and adventures that are ahead in the next chapter of my journey. It's turning into quite a story!

It's hard to believe that just about four years ago I obeyed the call to move overseas to Thailand and teach at Grace International School (majority whom are missionary kids) in Northern Thailand. I had gone with the intentions of only staying two years at most. Obviously, it extended to four. I can tell you none of this was in my plan, as we know, much of life goes as unplanned. This year as I prepared to leave GIS, I had the intentions of leaving Thailand and life overseas altogether for the time being.



A few months after I returned to Thailand for my "final" year, I began to experience some unsettling in my life. I have wanted to earn a MA in Intercultural Studies for a while. I discerned early on that I would apply for Fuller Theological Seminary and start the program at one of their campuses or online. Then I was challenged to think about what I really have a heart for and the kingdom work I really long to do. I had known about an organization, Partners Relief & Development, who is on the frontline of the refugee crisis around the world, namely in Iraq, Syria, and in Myanmar. It was made clear to me a few months later that this area of ministry is my next step and calling--to support their mission and vision, working alongside them in their efforts. The decision to follow the Lord's leading in this way was not an easy one. I had been so sure that I was going to be finished with Thailand. The possibility of staying had seemed crazy. But I have devoted my life to recklessly pursuing the Lord, so it is the right thing for me to trust and obey.

So I am committing to two more years in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Although I will be in the same city, I will be turning over a completely new leaf. My life is flipped. The world I knew for the past four years, teaching in English, grade-level content in the classroom to elementary students will now be me teaching English and using Thai to connect to my adult students, as I teach evening classes at the language (SEED) center. My days will look very different. After six years straight of classroom teaching and all that includes, I will have office hours during the day as I work on various refugee teacher education projects, grad work, Thai language study, and teaching. Additionally, there will be trips to visit the refugee camps on the border of Thailand and Myanmar, encouraging and equipping the people there.

There will be new challenges that will come with all the new and exciting experiences. One of the main challenges is raising additional support. So many of you have been faithful over the past four years, monthly giving to keep me on the field doing the work God has called me to. I recognize some of you only expected to give once or only for a year or two...not four years let alone an additional two.



## Financial Need:

I would like to raise \$800 of monthly support to cover the increased cost of living, vehicle, and work travel, through my sending organization, TeachBeyond.

Additionally, I would like to raise \$5,000 more to cover the following one-time costs:

-I moved into a house recently that is lacking furniture that I will need to purchase

-The new visa and work permit I must acquire is very expensive

-I have decided it is time for me to buy a good, used car for when I need to travel further distances for ministry in monsoon season (which is most of the year)

-I will be traveling to the border and into Myanmar and Bangladesh on occasion. Funds will go directly to help with those costs as the Partners team delivers desperate relief, trainings and encouragement to refugees in those areas.

**Giving site (easiest, safest, way to give):**

Visit [give.teachbeyond.org/support/sara-gurule](http://give.teachbeyond.org/support/sara-gurule)

**Or by check:** Please make gift out to TeachBeyond \*Include a separate note that your gift is for

I know I am asking a lot, yet I so strongly believe this is what I am called to for this time. I am unable to do this next step without your support. Most importantly prayer. Nothing good can be accomplished without asking the Lord and committing it to Him. Secondly, financially. My hope is to maintain the level of support that I've previously had and to raise additional. I ask that you would please prayerfully consider supporting me on a monthly basis or increasing your current amount, if you are led. I am in need of additional donors who are willing to pledge monthly support for the next two years. I am also in need of donors, willing to give a one-time gift that goes directly to one of the needs listed on the left. I am grateful for every bit that you can help me with OR referrals, if you know of someone who might be interested in my story and giving.

May the Lord bless you in return for your generosity in however you decide to give. I am eternally grateful for your partnership whether through prayer or financially.

Faithfully serving,

Sara Gurule

## Prayer Requests:

- Visa paperwork in Los Angeles would successfully be processed in time for my departure on July 30
- Financial provision
- The transition from classroom teaching to a new routine and work
- A trip on August 6 to a camp on the the border. Pray as I observe current projects and begin collaborating with Shan refugee teachers there

**Thank you so much for your continued love and support!**

**Learn More about my ministry organizations at:**  
[partners.ngo](http://partners.ngo) and [teachbeyond.org](http://teachbeyond.org)

## Contact Info:

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions. Let me know if you or someone you know would like to be added to the email list to receive regular updates. **Email:** [sgurule@teachbeyond.org](mailto:sgurule@teachbeyond.org) : **Blog:** [saragurule.weebly.com](http://saragurule.weebly.com)

