

A CVT Mission Worker's Story – Lou Peters

I absolutely love adventure. Adventure books, adventure movies, making my own adventures, you name it, if it is adventurous, count me in. So, when I was given the opportunity to live in Thailand, I didn't even hesitate.

The only catch.... I'd be working as a teacher. I've taught before, but to be completely honest, I'm not sure if it is my strong suit. I mean having 30 to 40 little kids in one room at once sounds like a terrible nightmare for anyone, but on top of that you have the responsibility of educating these young minds. To put even more pressure and stress on English teachers, Thai schools are now desperate for native English speaker teachers because they understand the importance of it, and they expect the foreign teachers to "be the change."



This burden is nothing compared to the expectations from your students that every day is going to be a "fun" lesson and that you, as the teacher, should be a smiling, joyful, indestructible superhero every single day. My creativity has been stretched to the limits in trying to invent, or re-invent, intriguing and meaningful lessons for my students. Sometimes it is a great success and other times it is a complete disaster. A while ago I tried a new game in which students came up to the front and competed to see who could spell a certain vocabulary word the quickest, with their teammates helping by screaming the correct order of letters. This turned into a brawl between the two teams, complete with upturned chairs and half-full milk boxes flying across the room. It turns out that this is now my class's favorite game. We still have an occasional scuffle, but usually they just resort to calling each other English words that they think are offensive, like "skinny whinny" or "hippo."



Every day is like playing roulette; you never know what your classroom is going to be like that day. Sometimes they all look and act like little gremlins. Other days I see 30-40 different faces of our Father. These are the days that completely humble me. These 7-year-olds can make me laugh so hard that I have to step outside. Or they run up to me, wrap their arms around my waist, squeeze me, don't say a word, and then just run off. Then there are the days that I have a conversation with one or more of my students, in English, and then later realize that these kids knew very little English at the beginning of the year and they have come a very long way.



Teaching English in Thailand has been a pretty wild time. It's an unusual, exciting, oftentimes hazardous experience. It is the very definition of "adventure."

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but one of power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

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