



the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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Sins Released



This month our family was able to observe the Loy Krathong Festival. The kids enjoyed seeing the krathongs floating in the river, the lanterns being launched into the sky, fireworks, sparklers, cotton candy, and we ended the evening watching "Tangled" snuggled up on the couch. It was a fun and beautiful evening, but also a little somber as we know the Thais are trying to release their sins and appease the spirits as they place their little krathongs (banana/flower boats) into the river and launch lanterns into the sky. Our prayer is that the Thai people will come to know the One who can truly remove their sins as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 130:12).

Restaurant Blunders

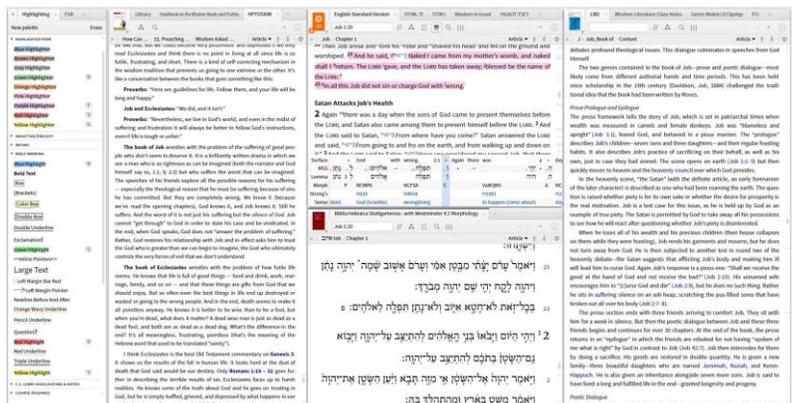
In Thailand little "hole in the wall" restaurants are everywhere, and we can easily feed our whole family for only \$7. Our favorite Thai restaurant is a small place at the front of our neighborhood and this is where we practice our Thai the most. This month at our neighborhood restaurant Rachel tried to order "khao soi" (noodles in a coconut curry sauce) and accidentally ordered "khao suei" (plain rice). We were a little surprised when Rachel was just served a plate of plain rice. We also discovered from our Thai teacher that for weeks we had not been ordering "nom ma nao mai sai gleua" (lemonade with no salt) instead we had been ordering "nom ma nao mai sai glua" (lemonade with no scary), but thankfully the folks at our neighborhood restaurant have been gracious!



We also made an impression at another restaurant in town this month when Isaac fell in their fish pond! The restaurant had gigantic koi fish. The owner gave the kids some fish food and taught them how to feed the fish straight out of your hand. Isaac leaned too far over with his hand full of fish food, and fell head first into the pond! There was a lot of screaming by all, but thankfully Abbie has pulled her little brother out before we even made it over to him and he was totally fine - not even any tears - he was just sopping wet head to toe! The whole restaurant was laughing! We will always be known as "the family whose kid fell in the pond."

Wisdom Literature Class Preparation

Greg has been spending much of the past month preparing for his upcoming class in Philippines on Wisdom Literature. The picture (to the right) of his computer screen is what he's looking at most days. In addition to teaching ABTS's two-week Wisdom Literature class in early February, Greg has also been invited to be the main speaker on the topic of Wisdom Literature at a conference in Manila at the end of January. We are grateful God has provided these opportunities to train Asian leaders in how to study and understand God's word. Please pray for Greg as he diligently prepares for these teaching opportunities and pray that the attendees will learn a lot!



Also, Greg wrote an article for ABTS's newsletter this month. He shared some great thoughts on why the Reformation matters in Asia - check it out!

[Applying the Reformation in Asia Article](#)

Merry Christmas!



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Thailand - inside our house and also at the local malls. This month we have a few family Christmas outreach activities planned including making cookies for a local orphanage's Christmas party and making treats for our neighbors. Please pray for these events to be a blessing to others and for the light of Christ to shine brightly!

Also if you're sending out Christmas cards, it would be such a joy for us to receive pictures and updates from friends and family back home! It's only \$1.15 to send an international letter – just pop on 3 stamps instead of 1 and it's easy peasy.

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Praises and Prayer Requests

Thank you so much for praising God with us and praying for our needs. Please email us with any prayer requests you have so that we can be praying for you as well!

- 1) Praise God we are making progress in learning Thai! Please continue to pray that we will have endurance and learn the Thai language well.
- 2) Praise God Greg received his work permit this month and we were able to renew our Visas for another 90 days.
- 3) Praise God that Greg has the opportunity to be the main speaker at a conference on Wisdom Literature and will teach a two-week class on the same topic in Manila, Philippines this January/February. Please pray for him and students as they prepare to gather together!
- 4) Pray for our lights to shine brightly this month as we reach out to others at Christmastime!

Thank you so much for all of your love and support!

Greg + Rachel

