



# the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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## Are You a Christian?



This month Greg had an important interview at Chiang Mai City Hall as part of the application for our 1-year Thai visa. The interview ended up being a little more intense than expected and at one point the official directly asked, "Are you a Christian?" Greg of course answered, "Yes, I am," as the interviewer wrote down notes in response. Although the interview was intense, Greg was able to keep cool and answer all the questions honestly but carefully. He shared how ABTS seeks to provide ethical and moral education and training for the betterment of Thai society. We head to immigration on Thursday, August 2 and should get the official answer that day. **Please be praying for our 1-year visa to be approved this month so we can continue serving in Thailand.**

## Preaching Opportunities



This month Greg had the privilege to preach twice at our international church. He taught a two-part series on the book of Ecclesiastes. He received a lot of positive comments from people who had never really understood the book before, so we're grateful God used these preaching opportunities!

Also, most of the international teens in our youth group arrive back from their home countries in August as it's the start of a new school year, **so please be praying for us as we kick-off a new year of working with these awesome teenagers from all over the world!**

## ABTS Classes



Greg coordinated two ABTS classes this month: "Historical Theology Survey" taught by Dr. Mike Wittmer and "Issues in Asian Ministry" taught by Dr. Daniel Kim. Greg coordinated all the technology for the classes, made sure all the online students were seeing and hearing everything clearly so they could learn and interact with the class, and also made sure Dr. Wittmer, our professor visiting from Michigan, was taken care of during his time with us. The classes went really well, and we're grateful that these men sacrificed two weeks of their summer to teach for us and that the online aspects Greg coordinated went smoothly!

## Summer Break Wrapping Up



The past few months Rachel has been coordinating summer fun activities for the Chiang Mai families in the home school community! She had 28 families who asked to be on her email list and the kids went bowling, swimming, roller skating, visited the zoo, an art museum, petting zoos, and more! Rachel continues to receive many "Thank You!"s from grateful parents for planning and coordinating so many fun events. In the past there has been nothing organized for home school families in Chiang Mai from March-August, so this group has made that 6-month window more enjoyable for these international kids. **Please pray for Rachel as she coordinates the final events this month, and starts home schooling our four kiddos again on August 27!**

## Financial Update

As we approach being in Thailand for almost 1 year, our organization asked that we review our financial giving and we are grateful to still be 99% funded! Over this year we lost a few supporters due to various reasons including job losses and deaths, but we also gained support as God laid it on individuals' hearts to begin giving or increase their giving. At the same time our health insurance went up, we had an increase in the children's school expenses, and the US dollar to Thai baht exchange rate changed (not in our favor). **As it stands now we just need \$40 a month to be fully funded again!**



We are so grateful for the 8 churches and 103 individuals who currently partner with us financially in order for us to serve in Asia. Would you please prayerfully consider becoming a new financial partner or increasing your monthly support a bit so we can enter our second year of ministry fully funded? We are so grateful for your faithful prayers and financial giving so we can serve in Thailand!

## 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) Please be praying for our 1-year visa to be approved on Thursday, August 2 so we can continue serving in Thailand.
- 2) Praise God Greg was able to preach on the book of Ecclesiastes at our international church and that the ABTS classes he coordinated went smoothly! Please pray for us as our youth group teens arrive back to Chiang Mai this month and we kick-off a new year of pouring into them.
- 3) Praise God Rachel was able to use her organizational skills to coordinate fun summer events for the Chiang Mai home school community. Please pray for her and the kids as they begin another year of home school on August 27.
- 4) Praise God after 1 year we are still 99% funded! Please pray for God to raise up individuals to partner with us for the remaining \$40/month we need to be fully funded again!

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

*Greg + Rachel*

