



Teaching Old Testament in the Philippines



Praise God Greg's time teaching Old Testament survey in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines went well! The site has been closed for the past few years due to violence in the region, so it's exciting for ABTS that we've been able to have classes there again. There were three earthquakes (the largest being a 6.5) while Greg was teaching, but amidst all the shaking the students remained eager to learn and a joy to teach. One student kindly shared, "Thank you for the thought-provoking, never-before-learned thoughts about OT Biblical theology. This has been a wonderful time of learning and was the best class so far!" Greg was also asked to preach at a local church where some of his students pastor. Please pray for Greg's students to finish well as they submit their final course work over the next few months.



ABTS Filipino Student Testimony



This month we heard the amazing story of one of our ABTS Filipino students. Lourdes Holmes and her husband are Filipino missionaries to Thailand. They are involved in planting churches, teaching at a local seminary, training hill tribe pastors, and ministering to Thai prisoners. Once a month, the Prison Director of the Women's Correctional Institution gives Lourdes and her team official permission to hold a Christian worship service and Bible study for 300 women prisoners which is amazing in our Buddhist culture (picture above).

Lourdes shared: "ABTS changed me personally before transforming my service. The lessons brought me into a deeper relationship with the Lord and His Word. I found myself loving Him more, rejoicing in my calling to Thailand, and loving the Thai people. I enjoy the different ministries we are doing now. We have excellent tools from ABTS to help us teach joyfully and effectively. The fruits of the work encourage us to keep on teaching and sharing the gospel until our Lord Jesus Christ comes."

PhD Studies Update

Greg is in the midst of his busy PhD studies, and the biggest challenge at this point is his Hebrew course. It's been a while since he's taken Hebrew, so between reviewing and new content, the course has been time consuming. Each week Greg has 20 hours of course work in his Hebrew class alone from translating large chunks of the Old Testament, defending his translation choices, reading, and memorizing large numbers of Hebrew vocabulary words. This is no small task amidst his other PhD courses, ABTS teaching and administration responsibilities, Thai lessons, leading youth group, and caring for a wife and four kids. Usually after putting the little ones to bed Greg gets straight to work on his PhD studies. The Hebrew class is 8 weeks fall semester (he's finishing week 2) and 8 weeks spring semester and then he'll just have normal PhD classes (which will seem "easy" after finishing the additional Hebrew courses). Please pray for Greg to have great time management and endurance especially over these 16 weeks as Greg works on increasing his knowledge so he can be a greater blessing to his students!



Thai Language Lessons



The past two months we've tweaked the way we've been learning Thai a bit and it's been going really well! We have been learning Thai at different speeds, so we thought it would be best to do lessons separately. Greg is now working on more advanced reading, writing, and speaking (sentences like, "The bus is not on time because the bus driver arrived late.") while Rachel is able to focus just on basic speaking (sentences like, "I would like one mango smoothie divided into two, smaller cups.") Our Thai tutor comes for 2 1/2 hours three times a week. She teaches each of us for 30 minutes (Hannah and Isaac are

combined). Everyone is making better progress in learning Thai as we are learning individually which means our lessons can be customized to meet each of our needs. Please pray for us to continue to make progress in learning the Thai language!



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 Greg's time teaching Old Testament survey in the Philippines went well! Please pray for his students to finish well as they submit their final course work.
- 2) Praise God for our ABTS students who are accomplishing amazing things for God! We're especially thankful this month for Lourdes' wonderful prison ministry outreach. Please pray for our ABTS students as they serve in their various ministry roles throughout Asia.
- 3) Praise God Greg is doing well in his PhD studies! Please pray for him to continue to do well, especially in Hebrew, and be able to balance his work, school, and family responsibilities well.
- 4) Praise God that He gave us the wisdom to know how to do Thai lessons more effectively! Please pray for us to continue to make progress in learning the Thai language.

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

Greg + Rachel

