



the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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Christmas Outreaches



December is wonderful time to be a blessing to those around us! Rachel is planning 4 Christmas parties to bless different groups and we have some special outreaches planned, including purchasing gifts for 11 Thai special needs foster children.

We have some friends that serve at a special foster home for Thai children with disabilities called Hope Home ([click the video link to see a glimpse of their amazing ministry](#)). Our family will be purchasing Christmas gifts for Hope Home's 11 special needs children and we would appreciate your help! We've budgeted to purchase each child a gift, but we could purchase each child 2-3 gifts and perhaps even provide the foster home with funds for a special Christmas dinner with some special financial gifts. We would love for you to partner with us in pointing these sweet children to the love of Jesus Christ this Christmas. [Click here](#) to email Greg if you're interested in helping bless these Thai special needs children this Christmas, and Greg will send you instructions on how to give. We would like to have the funds collected by December 7.



Loy Krathong: Glowing Lanterns



In November Keys for Kids published a 4-minute devotional Rachel wrote to help children (and parents) understand the Loy Krathong festival in Thailand and how as Christians we should be lights glowing in the darkness. As we experience this annual festival in mid-November it makes us feel not only sad as we know many Thai people feel they're releasing their sins as they launch their lanterns into the sky but also hopeful as we are reminded that we are just plain paper but Jesus lights us up from the inside so we can shine for Him.

Click [here](#) to listen to the audio or read the print version of the devotional.

One Year Visas

This month we were blessed to receive our 1-year visas, so we have official permission to live and work in Thailand for another year! As governments in Asia crack down more and more on missionaries, and families we know being forced to leave Thailand due to not being able to obtain visas, we do not take this blessing for granted. Praise God for allowing us to shine for Him in Southeast Asia!



Isaac's Stitches



Isaac got 5 stitches yesterday evening! Our adventurous boy was climbing on the outside of the trampoline netting, fell, and landed on part of our sliding gate. It was a long evening at the ER as we had to wait for a special surgeon due to the depth and odd placement (between two toes) of his injury, but our brave little trooper made it through. Please pray him to heal well this week and for his pain to be manageable.

International Church Ministry

Our ministry with our church's youth group continues to go well! We have around 50 teens coming regularly and this month we had a campfire cookout evening with them. Over the past semester we've worked through a lot of different questions with several of them including, "What do I do when I have a crush on a boy who's not a believer? How do I ask a boy to the Sadie Hawkins dance? Do I have to get re-baptized if I was baptized as a baby?" We definitely feel like the teens are starting to open up with us more and really share about their questions and struggles. Please continue to pray for us to shine brightly as we pour into these amazing teenagers!





Also, Greg was asked to join our church's leadership team (our "elder board") which is a 4-year commitment and this month he began attending the monthly meetings. Our church is looking to possibly purchase our own building and recently hired a new pastor, so this is a very strategic time in the life of our church. Please pray for Greg to have wisdom as he serves in this leadership role.

Merry Christmas!



elle
Sending you tropical
Christmas cheer with our
warmest wishes for a
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!



With love from Thailand,
The Vrugink Family



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 received our 1-year visas this month, so we can continue to shine for Him in Southeast Asia!
- 2) Praise God for the wonderful medical care we have in Thailand! Please pray for Isaac's stitches to heal well this week and for his pain to remain manageable.
- 3) Praise God our youth group ministry is going well! Please pray for us to continue to connect well with our teens and for Greg to have wisdom as he serves on our church's leadership team.
- 4) Praise God we have been given multiple opportunities to be a blessing this Christmas season! Please pray for the various parties and outreaches to go smoothly, and point others to our Savior.

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

Greg + Rachel

