



the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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Christmas Outreach



A few days before Christmas we delivered Christmas gifts to 11 Thai special needs children being cared for through the ministry of Hope Home! It was amazing to see these precious children light up over their wonderful gifts. We were also able to bless them with a special catered New Year's Eve dinner. An extra special thank you to those who made these gifts possible! Matthew 25:40 rings true, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." If you would like to see more pictures, please go to ["The Vrugginks - Training Leaders in Asia" Facebook page](#).



ABTS Students' Christmas Outreaches



This month we heard three wonderful stories of how our ABTS students brought the gospel to their countries by sharing the truth of Jesus creatively within their cultural contexts, which is something they are taught to do in their classes. From carnivals in India to pig feasts in Myanmar to dancing in the streets of Nepal, many creative methods were used by our students to share the light of Jesus this month!

Saran, from Nepal, explained that Christmastime is viewed as another reason to drink and dance, so Christmas parties take place in bars, hotels, and restaurants. An effective tool for evangelism is organizing street Christmas programs to sing and dance while sharing the truth of Jesus. (Believers in Nepal joyfully dancing and singing carols as part of the street programs pictured above.)

Preeti, from North India (pictured right), shared that Indian unbelievers think of Christmas as the birth of Jesus who was merely the guru (teacher/expert) of Christians, so to share the truth of Jesus this year her church put on a Christmas carnival which included gospel songs and performances of Jesus' life.



Charity, serving in Myanmar, shared that Myanmar unbelievers have the misconception that Christmas marks the birth of the Christian's God, so to share the truth her church prepared a gospel focused church service which culminated with a huge feast, including an entire pig, which was a draw for their community.

We rejoice with our ABTS students that the truth of Jesus was shared this month through the blessing of Christmas celebrations!

Rice Harvest

Our family helped a widow friend harvest her little rice field this month. We all learned a lot and it was a blessing to help her in this way. We told our kids this was the equivalent of helping an elderly neighbor shovel their snow or rake their leaves in America. She asked if we would come back to help her plant in July so we're looking forward to helping her in the future as well.



Hebrew & PhD Blessings



In December Greg finished his Hebrew 3 class and first semester of PhD studies! Praise the Lord he did well in both! We're also extremely grateful that our sending church took up a special offering and raised \$10,000 towards the cost of Greg's PhD which paid for a significant portion of this required degree! We're so thankful for these amazing blessings!

January 13 Greg begins Hebrew 4 which will be an 8-week class that takes about 20 hours per week. In addition to this he'll be resuming his PhD courses and have his ABTS work as well. These 8 weeks will be the hardest semester of his PhD studies in the entire 4-5 year process. Please pray for Greg to have great time management and endurance especially over these 8 weeks as he works on increasing his Hebrew skills so he can be a greater blessing to his students when teaching them the Old Testament.

Isaac's Toe Injury



Isaac had to keep the 5 stitches between his toes in for 2 full weeks (longer than normal for stitches), but thankfully it eventually healed and he's on the move as normal again. We're grateful for the blessing of a healthy, active boy. Thank you so much for praying for him!

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 were able to bless 11 Thai special needs foster children with Christmas gifts and a special New Year's Eve dinner! Also, praise God we were able to bless our Thai friend, Noi, by helping harvest her rice field.
- 2) Praise God that our ABTS students had many opportunities to share the gospel creatively this month!
- 3) Praise God that Greg did well in his first semester of PhD studies and that our sending church gave so generously to help cover the costs of his required degree! Please pray for Greg to have great time management and endurance as he takes Hebrew 4 and continues his PhD studies and ABTS work this month.
- 4) Praise God that Isaac's toe injury healed well!

Greg + Rachel