

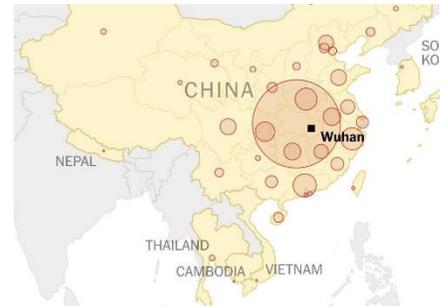


the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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Coronavirus, Mass Shooting, & Pollution



This month some of our precious friends from China had to be evacuated due to the coronavirus outbreak and this sweet family of four stayed with us the entire month of February while their city was quarantined. Most of Southeast Asia has also been affected by the coronavirus, but thankfully Chiang Mai has become a haven for many missionaries during this stressful time and it doesn't seem likely that we will need to be evacuated ourselves. In Thailand many stores require that your temperature be taken before you can enter the building. There are signs on many businesses asking people to wear masks and bottles of hair sanitizer are out for people to use. Pharmacies are sold out of virus protection masks. Thankfully as of now there's only been one person in our city known to have contracted the coronavirus (42 in our country as a whole), but worldwide there's been almost 87,000 people known to have contracted it and nearly 3,000 have died. We don't feel anxious about coronavirus ourselves, but we're certainly surrounded by a country filled with very fearful people and our desire is to shine the hope and courage that comes from knowing the One in charge of the situation.

Adding to this fearful environment, February 9 there was a mass shooting at a mall in Thailand. One Thai friend shared with us that the whole country now seems afraid of soldiers and is feeling apprehensive because shootings like this never happen in this peaceful country.

On top of all this it's smoky season here in Thailand. During this time of year we don't get rain and the rice-fields throughout this region (including in our neighboring countries) are burned in preparation for future planting. Our AQI (Air Quality Index) shows that we are experiencing very unhealthy levels of pollution. Several days this month we've topped the chart for the city with the highest AQI in the world which is not rare for us this time of year. The kids can't play outside without masks on which is uncomfortable when our temperatures are in the 90s-100s F.

Please pray for God to keep us physically healthy in the coming months and that we'll also be able to be a blessing to people emotionally and spiritually as many are battling anxious hearts.

ABTS Vision Casting



This month was a busy time at ABTS! We had Systematic Theology and Spiritual Formation classes wrap up, board meetings, and accreditation visits. Greg was able to take part in a meeting with the ABTS faculty and board about the vision and goals of ABTS moving forward. The meeting was attended by people of multiple nationalities with some joining from other countries via webcam. It was encouraging to be a part of this strategic meeting and see many perspectives as we consider the future of ABTS!

Youth Group

This month we've had a great time connecting with the teens in our youth group through an "Aladdin" movie night (top right picture) and bowling afternoon (left picture). We're getting together with our graduating seniors (bottom right picture) a little more frequently this semester as they're about to enter a new phase of life soon. Greg's been teaching a "Doctrine Nutshells" series to the high school students. In February he explained the doctrines of sin and salvation, and in March he'll be covering the doctrines of the Trinity and Jesus. The high school students have been asking some great questions and it's exciting to see them grow in their understanding of Biblical truth.



Also, since we now have an average of 60 youth and 5 adult workers, we realized the importance of the church developing a Youth Safety Policy which includes a vetting process for volunteers and regulations for working with the youth to keep our teens safe. Rachel has been consulting with various local churches and safety experts to put together a policy and our church's leadership board

will hopefully review and approve it this month. Please pray for the church leadership and us to have wisdom as we seek to implement a policy that is not overly burdensome but also does what is needed to keep our teenagers safe.



Isaac's Broken Arm



In early February Isaac fractured his left radius from falling when getting off the trampoline. He had to be in a cast for 4 weeks, but it was removed today. He still has to have a splint and wrap during the day for the next two weeks, but his arm can breathe at night and it's healed well! Please pray for him to make a complete recovery from his broken arm and for no more ER runs for our active little guy!

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 be a blessing by hosting a family of four from China when they were evacuated due to the coronavirus! Please pray for God to keep us physically healthy in the coming months and that we'll also be able to be a blessing to people emotionally and spiritually as many are battling anxious hearts due to the coronavirus, a recent mass shooting, and unhealthy pollution levels.
- 2) Praise God for a full month at ABTS! Please pray for wisdom as we review our current programs and cast a vision for the future of ABTS.
- 3) Praise God that youth group is going well and the teens are engaged in deepening their understanding of God's Word! Please pray for the church leadership and us to have wisdom as we seek to implement a Youth Safety Policy.
- 4) Praise God that Isaac's broken arm is healing well! Please pray for him to make a full recovery and for him not to have any more ER visits.

Dreg + Rachel

