

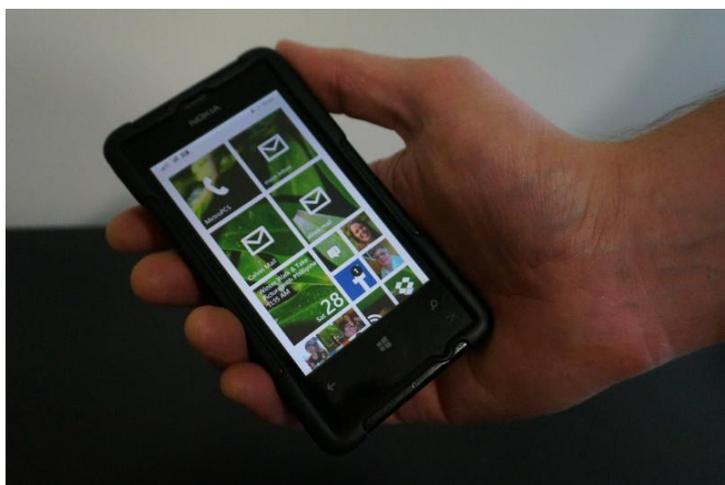


the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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“It Just So Happened”



One Sunday morning this month we got a very unexpected phone call. It was around 8:30 AM while we were in Ohio visiting some friends. I answered my phone and it was a friend who had heard about our ministry at a gathering the previous night. She asked if it might be possible for us to come share our ministry with her church for 10 minutes after the morning sermon. A few hours later we found ourselves unexpectedly at a wonderful little church. The message "just so happened" to be on Ephesians 4:11-15 where Paul talks about the importance of building up the body of Christ so the church will be mature and not tossed back and forth by false teaching. I sat amazed because this is the exact passage I usually teach if I'm asked to preach before sharing about our ministry! It was a beautiful transition to say, "What he just preached about - that's what we do!"

After the sermon a kind lady from the missions committee let us know that they "just so happened" to be meeting that afternoon, and she was adding to the agenda for them to discuss taking us on for monthly support.

Upcoming Visits

Singapore

January 22-23

Bangkok, Thailand

January 23-26

Chiang Mai, Thailand

January 26-29

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Partner with Us
Financially

If you want to hear right away when we have a new monthly supporter, learn more about the ministry of ABTS, and see pictures of our pre-field ministry, please click the link below to "Like" our ministry Facebook page.



As the time neared for us to leave the church I lost the minivan keys. I was frustrated. Rachel was frustrated. Finally the keys were found and we were leaving the building. As we headed down the sidewalk Rachel heard someone calling her name. She turned to see some precious friends of ours who had served with us during our years teaching English in China. We excitedly ran to greet them, and discovered that they are now living in Ohio and the husband is the missions pastor at a local church. They "just so happened" to be picking up the wife's parents at the exact minute we were walking out the door. One minute later or one minute earlier we would have missed them. We are now tentatively scheduled to share with their church at the beginning of March.

If you want to get more personal updates about our family's adventures and growing kiddos, please follow our blog. You can subscribe via RSS feed or have the blog updates emailed you.



It amazes us to see God working out details in ways that we could never ask our imagine. In Ruth 2:3 it says "So Ruth set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and *she just so happened* to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech." As Christians we know that these things don't "just so happen" rather they are divinely orchestrated by our amazing God! God is completely in control of getting our family to Asia. It's not about us saying or doing just the right things, rather it's about God divinely prompting individuals' hearts and working out circumstances for us to share in His perfect timing and way.

Ministry Parties & Home Visits



We had another busy and exciting ministry month! We shared with 3 small groups of friends in Ohio and had 9 individual meetings with friends in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan! We also shared with the missions committee at a church in Indiana. It is such a joy to share our passion with others!

This month we gained 6 new monthly financial partners totaling \$650 in new committed support! These new partners make November the month we've gained not only the most ministry partners but also the most financial support! We also received \$550 in one time gifts toward our Outfit and Passage costs!

Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship



One of our training requirements is for each of us to lead an unbeliever through *The Story of Hope* - a wonderful chronological study of God's redemptive plan throughout the Scriptures. This month Rachel started going through this Bible study with 2 young ladies via Skype on Monday nights. These young women live in New York, so we are grateful for technology that makes this study possible long distance. They have gone through 2 of the 8 parts of the study. Please pray for these young ladies to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and for the one who is not a believer to come to see her need for Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit works in her life through this Bible study.

Financial Update

Click the link above the chart on the left to see a more detailed chart of our monthly ministry partner needs.

Monthly Ministry Partners:
14% Supported



Outfit and Passage: 4% Funded



As ABWE missionaries we have two different funds we need to raise as we are supported in our ministry completely by giving.

1) Monthly Ministry Partners

Regular committed support (either monthly, quarterly, or annually) covers our family's housing, insurance, school costs, and flights that are necessary for Greg to get to each training site. Greg will not receive a salary from ABTS - rather our monthly financial partnerships ensure that we can fulfill our ministry goals on the field. Monthly financial partnership is our greatest need as we must be at 100% committed monthly support to be cleared to leave for Asia!

2) One Time Outfit and Passage Gifts

One time outfit and passage gifts cover the costs of our move, passport and customs fees, and initial home setup overseas.

Would you pray about becoming a monthly ministry partner (our greatest need) or making a one time donation toward our Outfit and Passage costs?

Praises and Prayer Requests

- 1) Praise God for 6 new monthly financial partners who committed to \$650 total in monthly support and \$550 toward our Outfit and Passage costs! Praise God for 14 new prayer partners! Please pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to work in the hearts of many churches and individuals to partner with us in prayer and financially.
- 2) Please pray for God to provide us with opportunities to share with churches and individuals in the Grand Rapids area over the winter months.
- 3) Praise God Rachel has started leading a non-believer through *The Story of Hope*! Please pray for this young lady to continue through the remaining 8 weeks of the study, and for God to bring a non-believer into Greg's life who will be willing to go through *The Story of Hope* with him.

Greg + Rachel

