



the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

vrugginks.com

Greg is Cancer Free



We celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary this month!

We are celebrating that Greg's lymph nodes look great and he is cancer free! Greg will get a CT scan every 3 months this year to make sure the cancer has not returned (his next scan is October 2) and then regularly for an additional 4 years. It's a long journey full of constant uncertainty, but we are rejoicing in God's healing and trusting Him with all of the tomorrows. Please join us in praising God for the blessing of Greg's early diagnosis and successful treatment, and please ask that the cancer will not return and that our hearts will be at peace as we walk through the upcoming years of regular testing.

Old Testament Online

Greg's online Old Testament Biblical Theology course is entering its final phase this week. Students begin to bring together all they've learned to consider the theology of the Old Testament as a whole and what the main message of the entire Old Testament is. They'll continue with weekly activities and videos, but will also begin working on their final paper on the message of the Old Testament. It's an exciting time and cause for celebration as they students consider all they've learned and the course begins to wrap up!

Week 8: Psalms and the Wisdom Books
Available from July 6, 2020

- The Bible Project: Psalms
- Bible Project: Wisdom Books
- Read EOT, Chapters 19-23 and answer study questions
- Wisdom Lit and the Center of the Old Testament

Note: This is REQUIRED READING and takes the place of your usual weekly assignment. Please complete it.

This reading explores the idea of the OT's main theme and how wisdom literature might fit into it. This is important because this article gives a good background on the idea of "theme" in the OT and also tries to fit wisdom lit into it. Wisdom lit is usually where most theories of OT theme have difficulty because these books are so different than the other books in the OT.

Psalms

PSALMS

6:47 / 6:00

In light of travel restrictions due to COVID-19, ABTS has had to cancel all its person-to-person classes through the end of this year. In light of these restrictions, ABTS rolled out four online courses in May and a total of 80 students enrolled in them. Those 80 will be finishing their classes in September, at which time ABTS will launch six more classes online. Greg will be teaching in this round of courses as well, so this fall will be a busy and exciting time!

ABTS Graduate Testimony

Such an encouraging words to celebrate from a recent ABTS graduate:

“God is forever faithful. It was God's will for me to be a part of this program. I was very naive before I started and I trusted and believed everything I saw on the God TV channel, and read in the books I purchased or borrowed. ABTS gave me the necessary skills and tools to test everything in relation to what God says in the Scriptures...I was challenged to test everything by reading Scriptures, praying and depending on the leading of the Holy Spirit.



Also, I was so limited to my thinking that only working in the church is doing God's work and I refrained from taking up secular jobs. Because I wanted to do everything for the Lord and for me to do something for the Lord was to be a pastor, elder, worship leader or a preacher. But over the years I learnt how I can be a witness of Christ anywhere God has placed me by doing my works with honesty, integrity and in the fear of the Lord and using my gifts and talents to the best of my abilities. In the last 2 years, God has used me more in the outside world than in the formal church setting. I feel so much freedom in the Lord by submitting to the Head and being part of His body engaging with other parts to fulfill His will and purposes for His creation.”

Youth Ministry



Rachel completed her Youth Girls Summer Bible Study this past week. The girls were such a joy to have in our home every Tuesday night, and we know lives were changed through her time teaching them. Thank you for praying for Rachel and these girls!

August 16 we plan to kick-off a new year of youth group at our church! We haven't gathered for youth group since mid-March due to Covid, so we're celebrating that we'll be able to gather together again with the teens. Please pray for a smooth youth group start and that the students will grow greatly this year!

School Year Beginning



On August 13 the Vruginks' 2020-2021 home school year begins! Christian will be in 8th grade, Abbie in 6th grade, Isaac in 2nd grade, and Hannah will be our new little kindergartner. We celebrated this month when our 7 boxes of home school books all successfully made the postal journey to our home in Thailand and Rachel was able to make the needed preparations for the upcoming school year. Please pray for Christian as he's beginning to take more advanced classes including Algebra and Biology. Also, pray for Rachel to have

wisdom and patience as she teaches and for our children to grow in knowledge and wisdom this year!

This fall Greg will be continuing his 2nd of (hopefully) 4 years of PhD studies. Last week Greg submitted his initial dissertation proposal and next week he will need to defend it to his dissertation mentor and PhD professor. After this he will make any needed revisions, and then begin the task of the next three years which will be massive amounts of research and writing. Please, pray for Greg's dissertation proposal defense this August 5.

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 is cancer free! Please pray that the cancer will not return and that our hearts will stay at peace as we walk through the upcoming years of tests.
- 2) Please pray for Greg's online class as it wraps up soon. Please also pray for the upcoming round of ABTS online classes starting in September.
- 3) Praise God Rachel's youth girls summer Bible study went well! Please pray for us as we kick off a new year of youth group on August 16.
- 4) Praise God all of the children's home school materials made it to our home this month! Please pray for Rachel and the kids to have a great school year as they start back on August 13. Also, please pray for Greg's PhD dissertation proposal defense on August 5.

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

Greg + Rachel