



# the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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## Disability Ministry



This month God gave us the opportunity to participate in two new ministries to people affected by disability. First, we took some of our youth group teens to throw a harvest party for some special needs children at a local foster home (click the play button above to see a short video). Each teen helped their buddy do a craft, frost a cookie, and play games. Abbie formed a special connection with one of the little girls and plans to go back to visit her every month. Greg had his little buddy giggling amidst balloons, bubbles, and tag. The staff thanked us for days afterwards for giving these sweet children such a special afternoon.

Second, we were both asked to be the adult speakers at the first ever [Joni & Friends International Family Retreat](#) for overseas workers affected by disabilities. For many years Joni & Friends has done retreats throughout the world for families who have a family member with a disability, but this was the first retreat for missionary families serving overseas who have a family member with a disability. Greg shared encouraging words from Ecclesiastes about dealing with disability in our broken world, and Rachel shared her testimony and explained how disability can be an asset in ministry. It was such a joy to be able to connect with these special families who are serving overseas with the additional challenge of having children with disabilities.

## Youth Group Retreat



This month we led our first international youth group retreat! We had 40 teens attend and it was amazing to spend several days connecting with them through the preaching of God's Word, worship, and just being together swimming and playing games. Greg led worship, and we both had the opportunity to share our testimonies. The teens grew in their relationships with God and we were blessed to connect with them on a deeper level too. They are already asking us when the next retreat will be and if it can be longer next time!

## Visa Update

Thank you for praying for our visas! Greg had his visa interview on October 15, but we are still waiting to hear back if we've been approved to stay in Thailand another year. We should find out this month, so please continue to pray that we will be granted permission to remain in Thailand for another year of ministry.



## Greg's Teaching Ministries



This has been the month of public speaking engagements for Greg! First, he spoke at the Disability Family Retreat. Second, he led worship and shared his testimony at the Youth Retreat. And third, he led worship and spoke at a retreat for Christian counselors in Chiang Mai. October was a busy month of preparing for and speaking at these various retreats.

Greg's also been continuing to teach his online Old Testament class. It's always challenging not to be with students in-person, but God is working even when learning is happening in a new way. One student sent

ABTS a very encouraging review this month which blessed our hearts immensely:

*"I do miss the face-to-face interactions that I had with my ABTS professors, but even virtually, Professor Greg has been a real encouragement to us. In spite of ill health, he carried on teaching. Not only is his teaching methodology excellent, but he also understands his students."*

– Victor Selvakumar

## 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 the Lord for the opportunities God gave us this month to bless children and missionary families affected by disability!
- 2) Praise the Lord that the Youth Retreat went well! Please pray for us to continue to build strong relationships with our international youth group teens and that we will point them to Jesus Christ.
- 3) Please pray for our one year visas to be granted this month so we can continue to serve in Thailand.
- 4) Praise the Lord for the multiple speaking engagements Greg was able to lead this month and that his online Old Testament class is going well! Please pray for Greg to continue to be able to connect well with his students as he teaches online due to Covid.

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

*Greg + Rachel*

