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TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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## Black Magic



This month a black magic tattoo parlor opened up in the house next door to us. In Thailand there are no zoning laws, so business can freely operate inside neighborhoods hence our new tattoo parlor neighbors. A black magic tattoo parlor is a place where people get tattoos with "magical" properties that they believe will protect them from evil and harm. As Christians we know that demonic practices are heavily involved in the rituals associated with these tattoos. Several of our Thai Christian friends have

expressed concern that we are living 10 feet away from a building where black magic is happening. Our neighborhood is filled with spirit houses where people daily give offerings and pray to the local spirits, but this seems to be a different level of darkness that is literally next door. Please pray for God to protect our family and that we will be lights to these new neighbors. Pray that we will be strong in the Lord and in His might power, putting on the full armor of God so that we can take our stand against the devil's strategies. For we know our struggle is not against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against the powers of this dark world. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

## Christmas Outreaches

This month we were able to bless two very special groups of children. First, we brought new colored pencils and Christmas cookies to children at a very poor local school. We are friends with a single mother whose daughter attends this school and she let us know about the need. The kids learned a special song to thank us (click video link to the right).



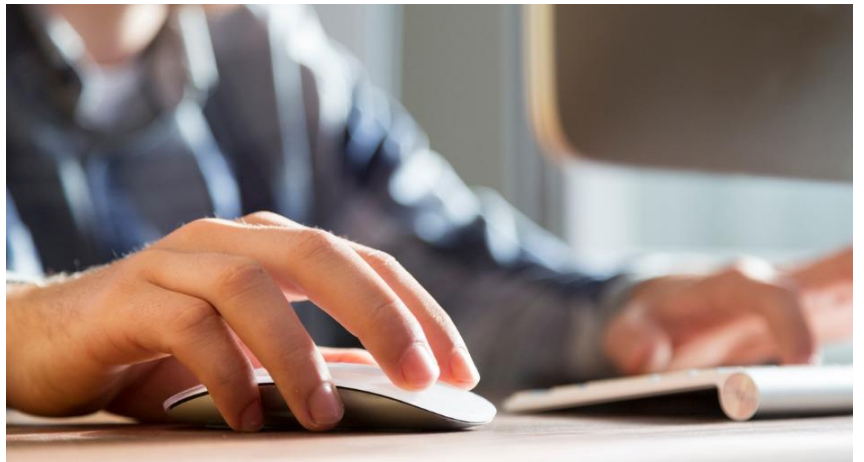
We also brought stockings filled with play-doh, stickers, school supplies, small toys, and snacks to 11 special needs children. It was such a joy to see their smiles as they opened their Christmas stockings filled with gifts.

Thank you to all of our amazing financial supporters who make it possible for us to be in Thailand and for those who gave special gifts to fund these two special outreaches. The children's song of thankfulness is every bit as much for all of you as it was for our family.



## ABTS Old Testament Classes

Greg's second online Old Testament class went smoothly! His students are just about to turn in their final assignments and are to be commended for their hard work and perseverance. Greg will be grading their assignments this month and making preparations for his third online Old Testament class which will begin in February. Due to current limitations in light of pandemic, ABTS is still not able to resume residential classes, so the February-June semester Greg will teach Old Testament Biblical Theology online again. Please pray for ABTS students to have wisdom as they make their class selections for ABTS's online spring semester.



Even in the midst of a global pandemic, ABTS is still working to establish new cohorts at various locations, including NE India and Papua New Guinea. It's exciting that ABTS is working on new locations that Greg will teach at in the future, but please pray for the discussions, logistics, and recruiting process as lockdowns and other restrictions make the process challenging.

## New ABTS Teammates

We are thrilled to announce that our new ABTS teammates, Brandon and Gabe Hirth and their two little girls, have arrived in Thailand! Brandon will be ABTS's new professor of counseling. They are currently doing a mandated quarantine in a government hotel until January 14 and then Greg will "spring them" and we'll begin the process of getting them settled in Chiang Mai. Please pray for us to be a blessing to them as we help them get acclimated to life in Chiang Mai. Also, within the next two months are going to attempt to change from a tourist visa to a permanent visa. Please pray for this transition to go smoothly so they can remain in Thailand.



## Greg's 6-Month Cancer Check Up



Greg will get his 6-month cancer scan on Tuesday, January 5. Please pray for the procedure to go smoothly and that the results will clearly show that he is still cancer free!

## Covid-19 in Thailand

Over the past few months we've had very few local Covid-19 transmissions and have been able to gather in groups in homes or in public as long as we have had our temperatures taken and worn masks, but this month Thailand has had a huge spike in cases and many think we'll be completely locked down again soon. Thailand's total infections for 2020 was 6,884, but 2 weeks ago the total for 2020 was "only" 4,281 people so you can see how things have intensified here quickly. Only time will tell, but everyone is making preparations for another major lock down. We know many of you are in the midst of being homebound yourselves and understand. Thank you for continuing to pray for our situation in Thailand to remain stable so we can continue to serve.



# 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) Please pray for us to be spiritually protected from the demonic practices taking place in the black magic tattoo parlor next door to us.
- 2) Praise God for the opportunities He gave us to bless some sweet children last month!
- 3) Praise God our new ABTS teammates, Brandon and Gabe Hirth, have arrived in Thailand! Please pray for them as they adjust to life in Chiang Mai and that we'll be a blessing in helping them get acclimated.
- 4) Please pray for Greg's 6-month cancer check up to show he is still cancer free.
- 5) Please pray for the Covid-19 situation in Thailand to deescalate so lockdown procedures will not be necessary.

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

*Greg + Rachel*

