



# the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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## First Weeks in Thailand!



Praise God we've made it through our first 3 weeks in Chiang Mai, Thailand! To see our top 20 pictures - just click the below link to head to our blog to see a quick slide show.

### [First 3 Weeks Picture Highlights](#)

Praise God our flights went smoothly and all of our luggage arrived! Greg's dad was so kind to fly with us to Thailand to help us with our luggage, kids, and initial adjustments which was a huge blessing! The 3 other ABTS professors were there waiting for us with cars/trucks, and they got us to our temporary apartment at ABTS. Over the past few weeks Rachel has been going up and down the many flights of stairs to our temporary 4th floor apartment like a pro! You can watch a quick video of her doing it on [our blog](#).



We also got 7 big "To Do" things accomplished this month:

1. We found a home to rent! Praise God this month we signed a two year rental agreement! We'll just be in the ABTS apartment 9 more days. (See details in the "We found a home!" section below.)
2. All 6 of us went to Bangkok Hospital Chiang Mai and received our final 2 immunization shots (Japanese Encephalitis and Typhoid) and the children are now setup with a new pediatrician. We also received instructions in how to get Isaac a kidney ultrasound and get him into a pediatric urologists in January.
3. Christian is all setup with a new orthodontist. We lost Christian's retainer after being here just a few days so an emergency trip was needed. Thankfully the new orthodontist was very kind and accommodating to us.
4. We have hired a Thai tutor to come to our home 3 times a week for 2 hours starting tomorrow! Our Thai tutor is a believer so we're glad she'll be able to help us learn not only the Thai language but also Christian terms and Bible verses, so we can learn how to share our faith. Please pray for all six of us to learn the language well.
5. We have visited 3 international churches we could potentially attend in Chiang Mai. Please pray for us to have wisdom in deciding which to make our church home.
6. We are in the process of buying a car. Although we found a car that works for our family weeks ago, it's been taking a long time and there have been numerous complications with getting the money transferred. Please pray that the money will make it from our account to the car dealer's account soon. Also, we would like to get the car equipped with hand controls so Rachel can drive too, so please pray we will be able to get this done.
7. We experienced our first giant cockroach! (Picture in the slideshow.) Christian made us release it outside because he didn't want us to kill it. Eeek!

## We Found a Home!



Praise God we have found a home to rent that we think will work well for our family! We will move in on Saturday, September 9. The current renters of this home are a Christian, American family returning to the USA and they have been a huge blessing to our family by allowing us to purchase many of their household items such as their water filtration system, washer/dryer, air conditioners, freezer, etc., so we will not have to find, purchase, and install these items on our own. They also helped us hire someone to build two ramps for the front door entrance and main floor bathroom. We will be moving into a home "ready to go" for a Western family. Please pray for all the transitions of moving, setting up electricity, water, internet, and purchasing the items we need for our home

such as beds, mattresses, and kitchen items to go smoothly this month.

Also, one of our landlady's requirements is that we have a house helper that will come clean for us. Almost everyone who lives in a home has a house helper in Thailand. Our Thai tutor has hired a house helper for us, and she will be coming every morning Tuesday-Saturday from 9am-1pm, so that will be an adjustment for us of getting used to someone being in the home to help with the kids and cleaning. We feel simultaneously excited and nervous about it. Please pray that we will all get along well, and that eventually we'll be able to share Christ with her.

# New Beginnings

## Greg's New Ministry With ABTS

Greg is just beginning to transition into his ministry with ABTS. He's getting his office setup, participating in seminary meetings, getting to know the other professors and office staff, choosing the text books his students will need for classes, and sitting in on lots of phone calls with site administrators in various countries.

Greg and Jim Blumenstock (the dean of ABTS) have a trip to Cambodia planned for later this month to look into the possibility of opening up a new teaching site. They will be gone September 26-29, so please pray for safe travels and for Rachel and the kids to do well while Greg is gone for 4 days.



## Rachel and the Kids' New Home School Year



Rachel and the kids have been preparing to begin a new home school year this week! Christian will be entering 5th grade, Abbie 3rd grade, and Isaac Pre-K. Because the costs of international schools in Chiang Mai is very expensive, we will be homeschooling. Christian and Abbie will be doing online public school through Jenison International Academy, so they'll log onto their laptops each day, see their assignments in math, history, reading, etc., watch their instructional videos, and then submit their assignments to their teachers online. We're really excited about the kids "attending" Jenison Public School even though we'll be living in Thailand!

Although we have been home schooling for three years, we've never done online home school before so please pray for Rachel, Christian, and Abbie to get in the swing of the new technology and schooling system easily and for the kids to grow in knowledge and character greatly this year! Also, Rachel and all 4 kids will be joining a home school co-op for English speakers on Monday mornings, so please pray that this will be a blessing and they will form some wonderful new friendships.

# Praises and Prayer Requests

We have much to praise God for this month and several details that need your prayer.

- 1) Praise God our family and luggage all arrived safely in Thailand!
- 2) Praise God we found a home to rent that we think will work well for our family! Please pray for all the transitions of moving to go smoothly and that we will form a good relationship with our house helper.
- 3) Please pray that the money for our car will make it from our account to the car dealer's account soon. Also, please pray that we'll be able to get the car equipped with hand controls.
- 4) Praise God we hired a Thai language tutor! Please pray for all 6 of us to learn the language well.
- 5) Please pray for us to have wisdom in deciding which church to attend in Chiang Mai.
- 6) Please pray for our new beginnings as Greg transitions into his new role at ABTS, and Rachel and the kids transition into a new home school year.

*Greg + Rachel*

