



# the VRUGGINKS

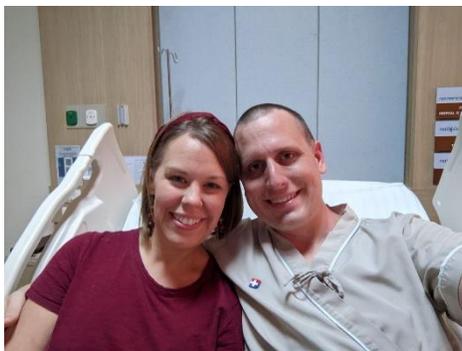
TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

[vrugginks.com](http://vrugginks.com)

## In this newsletter:

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## Greg's Cancer Complications



This month was rough - probably our hardest month ever in our 15 years of being married! Our first big challenge was that Greg had complications with his chemotherapy treatments. His body didn't respond well to the strong chemotherapy drugs, and a few days after his intensive 5-day treatment his white blood cell count dropped dangerously low and he had to be hospitalized for 10 days. The first week of this he was in an isolation room in the ICU because his white blood cells were so low it would have been life threatening for him to contract any illness. Thankfully, eventually his white blood cells went back to normal and Greg was able to return home.

Please pray for Greg as he goes back into the hospital this Wednesday-Sunday, November 3-7 for his 2nd (of 4) 5-day intensive chemotherapy treatments. The doctor plans to lessen the intensity of his chemotherapy drugs by 20% to hopefully avoid repeating the complications he initially experienced. Please pray for Greg's body to respond better to the chemotherapy treatments as we enter this 2nd round and that he will not have to be hospitalized over the next 3 weeks besides the initial 5 days as planned.

# Isaac's Hospitalization



Our second big challenge was that amidst Greg's cancer complications, Isaac got extremely sick and spiked a dangerously high temperature of 103.5 F (39.7 C). He had to be hospitalized for 4 days while his pediatrician had him on IV fluids, antibiotics, and fever reducing medications. His fever spiked dangerously high several times, but eventually the antibiotics did the trick and cleared up his problem (most likely a bacterial infection).

Rachel stayed in the hospital with Isaac 24/7 over those 4 days while Daddy was in the isolation ICU just a few floors down. Thankfully our wonderful friends in Chiang Mai surrounded us. Our kids were never alone with parents taking turns spending the night with them and our church making sure they had meals. We felt very loved and cared for amidst this crisis.

# Youth Slumber Parties & Outreach



Before and after our family's medical emergencies we were blessed to have some special times with our youth group teens. Early in the month Rachel hosted two sleepovers, one for high school girls and one for middle school girls. She taught the girls about finding their identity in Christ and discussed the various words God calls them as his daughter (words like chosen, beautiful, overcomer, brave, etc.). The study truly impacted many of the girls' lives and several sent pictures to Rachel showing her that they had put up signs in their bedrooms (which Rachel had given them) listing all the words God uses to describe them.



At the end of the month the youth also prepared supplies for a local foster home for special needs children in order to enable the foster home to throw an apple harvest party. Usually our teens would go to the foster home to run the cookie decorating, crafts, and games, but due to another spike of Covid in our city the foster home asked us to prepare the supplies and their staff ran the party themselves. It's always a blessing to see our teens giving up their time to serve others.

## 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 his home and recovered from his difficult 1st chemotherapy treatment! Please pray for Greg's body to respond better to the chemotherapy treatments as we enter this 2nd round and that he will not have to be hospitalized over the next 3 weeks besides the initial 5 days as planned.
- 2) Praise God Isaac's body healed, and that he is home and completely back to normal!
- 3) Praise God Rachel was able to have two youth girls' slumber parties and that the youth were able to prepare apple party supplies for a local foster home for special needs children.

*Greg + Rachel*

