



the
VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

vrugginks.com

In this newsletter:

- Leaving Thailand
- Smoky Season
- PhD Defense Passed
- Youth Ministry
- Homeschool Ministry
- Financial Needs

Leaving Thailand



flights to go smoothly and for our kids' hearts as they enter the American world for the summer.

On April 18 our family will board an airplane headed towards the western world! We haven't been "home" for 4 years, so we're excited about seeing friends and family but at the same time our kids are grieving leaving behind their house, puppy, friends, and their familiar life for 4 months. Please pray for our

Upcoming Visits

April 23

Arrive in MI

May 6

PhD Graduation
Columbia, SC

May 19

Dayton Chinese
Christian Church
Dayton, OH

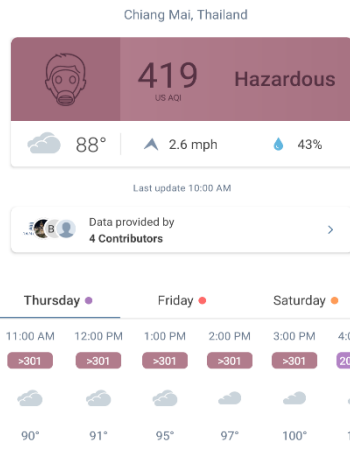
May 20

Thailand Experience
Cedarville, OH

May 21

Agape Chinese
Church
Dayton, OH

Smoky Season



It's smoky season in Thailand meaning the air is unhealthy to breathe while the farmers are burning their fields in order to clear them for the next planting season. In order for air to be healthy to breathe the AQI (Air Quality Index) should be under 50 and some days we're about 400. Many days when we go outside we can smell the "campfire" smell. We wear pollution filtering masks when outside, but really we should all have on full face gas masks to filter this level of pollution.

Abbie is just getting over bronchitis. Isaac is on antibiotics for a cough, and Hannah is on antibiotics for a double ear infection brought on by nasal congestion. All of this is a result of this smoggy air. We spend most of our time indoors with air purifiers on because it's hazardous to go outside right now. It's truly heart breaking to see the many Thai families that can't afford air purifiers and pollution filtering masks. They experience health issues even more severe than us and at the same time don't have access to good medical care. Please be praying for our family's health and for the AQI to improve.

PhD Defense Passed



This month Greg passed his PhD dissertation defense! He's now Dr. Greg Vrugink, which is a huge accomplishment as he's now completed all the requirements needed to be a long term professor with Asia Biblical Theological Seminary! We're so grateful to God for helping Greg persevere over the past 4 years, amidst Covid and cancer, to finish this degree!

Upcoming Visits

May 28

Grace Community Church
Hudsonville, MI

June 10-18

Indiana Visits

June 11

Aboite Baptist Church
Fort Wayne, IN

June 18

Indianapolis Chinese Church
Carmel, IN

July 16-20

Missionary Enrichment Conference
Baltimore, MD

July 20-22

New Jersey & New York Visits

July 23

Long Island Abundant Life Church
Hicksville, NY

August 9

Flying to Thailand

Youth Ministry



April 10-12 we're leading a High School Youth Retreat! We have 50 teenagers who will be joining us to learn about Hannah, Gideon, Abraham, and Matthew – broken people who God used in amazing ways. Please join us in praying for this to be a life changing time for our international teens.

Youth ER Run

Earlier this month Greg had to rush one of our Bible study teenagers to the ER when he went into anaphylactic shock after eating cicadas at our home! Fried cicadas are a common snack here, and one our teenage girls brought homemade fried cicadas to Teen Bible Study. About 1 hour later we were rushing one of our guys to the hospital when we couldn't reach his parents and he was experiencing a rash, vomiting, and difficulty breathing. We're rejoicing that after antihistamines, adrenaline, and steroids he fully recovered!



Homeschool Ministry



This month Rachel has been busy putting together the final pieces for the fall 2023 semester of the Chiang Mai Homeschool Co-op which serves 140 children and 50 families who are living internationally and homeschooling their children. Each Monday there are 3 extracurricular classes (academic, artistic, and athletic) for each age group. It's a lot of work putting together the schedule, emails, class details, and teachers needed to make this happen, but Rachel loves being part of this ministry that is truly life giving to so many families on the mission field and is also a huge opportunity to share the gospel with non-believing homeschool families.

Rachel's also been finishing up the 4 Vrugink kids' homeschool year. Their final day is April 7. We'll then have two high school students with Christian being in 11th grade and Abbie in 9th grade. This fall Isaac will be entering 5th grade and Hannah 3rd grade.

Financial Needs

Can you help us reach
100% support?

Monthly
Partners Needed



Over the next few months we need to raise \$1,000 in monthly support. Over the past 4 years the costs of our health insurance, housing, plane tickets, and our high school students' educational needs has increased, meanwhile costs have risen worldwide so we've lost some of our financial supporters. We would like to ask you 1) to pray with us that God would raise up some new families and churches to partner with us in our ministry in Southeast Asia and 2) if you are already a financial supporter we would like to ask you to consider increasing your financial support, perhaps giving us a 10-20% raise which will help us meet our financial needs. Thank you for partnering with us in praying for our family's financial needs to be met! Our great God is an

amazing Provider and we're excited to see His incredible provision this summer!

If you are a current supporter and would like to increase your monthly giving amount, please email donorhelp@abwe.org. If you would like to become a new financial partner, [please click here](#).

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 we're able to visit our wonderful friends and family in America! Please pray for safe international travel for us from April 18-23, and for our kids as they adjust to life in America.
- 2) Praise the Lord our family has access to air filters and pollution masks! Please pray for our kids throat and nose issues to improve and for us to remain healthy during smoky season.
- 3) Praise the Lord Greg passed his PhD defense and has now completed all the requirements needed to be a long-term professor with Asia Biblical Theological Seminary!

- 4) Praise the Lord we have 50 teenagers signed up for the High School Youth Retreat! Please pray for it to be a life changing time for many of them.

- 5) Praise the Lord that our student who had a severe allergic reaction to cicadas fully recovered!

- 6) Praise the Lord for Rachel's homeschool ministries to the families living in Chiang Mai and for the opportunity to homeschool our children! Please pray for Rachel as she finalizes the details of the fall co-op semester and deals with any issues while in America.

- 7) Praise the Lord for our faithful financial supporters that enable us to serve in Southeast Asia! Please pray for God to raise up individuals and churches to partner with us for the remaining \$1,000 we need in monthly financial support.

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

Dreg + Rachel