



the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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Refugee Camp Visit

This month Greg and his good friend and co-worker Jim Blumenstock, the dean of ABTS, traveled to the Mae La refugee camp where ABTS has a group of students. The camp is populated by about 46,000 refugees from Myanmar, mostly from the Karen ethnic group.



One of the reasons for Greg's trip was to deliver supplies. Conditions in the camp have been getting worse and rations were recently reduced. Each person now receives one bowl of rice with a small amount of fish paste to eat each day. A generous donor in Chiang Mai heard about this and graciously gave to help provide more food. Greg and Jim purchased and delivered the food donation.



Our food delivery was accepted by Alwin, the head of the Bible School ABTS partners with in the refugee camp.

The second reason for Greg's trip was to interview several ABTS student leaders to find out their history, what life is like in the camp so we can meet their needs, and what ministries they are doing so we know how to help them in regards to their theological education.

We have 12 students at the Mae La refugee camp who view their time in Thailand as a blessing because they are learning how to lead their people during an unimaginably hard time of discouragement and persecution. Their stories

were inspiring to us, and about every two months we plan to post a short video highlighting a different student so you hear their stories and hearts for ministry.



[The Vrugginks Ministry Facebook Page](#)

Please click the link above to make sure your status is "Liked" and "Following," so you won't miss out on hearing their incredible testimonies.

Thai Language Learning

Thank you all for your prayers for our family as we persevere in learning the Thai language! It's a challenging language with 44 consonants, 28 vowel forms, and 4 tones, but by God's grace we are seeing progress little by little. Our Thai teacher comes to our home 3 times a week to give lessons to everyone in our family, and it's especially been a joy to see our children picking up the Thai language. Isaac knows all of his animals in Thai, and the tones of Thai come completely naturally to Hannah. Christian helped us tell a delivery man, who had called us and was waiting at our gate, that we would arrive home in 5 minutes. It's certainly humbling when your 10-year-old has to help you communicate! We're so grateful for the progress our family is making in the Thai language!



Chiang Mai Homeschoolers Summer Coordinator



Rachel and the kids have one week left in the 2017-2018 school year through Jenison International Academy! Christian is completing 5th grade, Abbie is finishing 3rd grade, and Isaac is wrapping up Pre-K. They have worked really hard this year and are looking forward to the 3 month break.

Rachel will be taking on the new role of coordinating "Summer Fun Activities" for the home school families in Chiang Mai! She currently has over twenty families signed up. Rachel has planned a weekly outing on Mondays

(petting zoo, bowling, mini-golf, etc.), a Swim Club on Wednesdays (which already has 10 families and dozens of kids coming regularly), and a weekly Roller Skating afternoon. The home school families of Chiang Mai have never had this before and are super grateful, especially because the summer months can be a really lonely time for international kids who can't easily play with their neighbors due to the language gap.

Rachel has also been meeting with youth group girls for cool drinks at a local coffee shop! She's been enjoying mentoring the girls one-on-one! Many of these girls are missionary kids attending a local Christian school and living in a boarding house away from their families, so having an older woman they can talk with in person is invaluable to them!

Please pray for Rachel as she coordinates the summer fun activities for the home school community, and that she'll continue to have opportunities to mentor and encourage the teenage girls in our church youth group.



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 we were able to bring some much-needed supplies to our refugee camp students! Please pray for our ABTS students in the Mae La refugee camp as they face many challenges in their daily lives.
- 2) Praise God we are making progress in learning Thai! Please pray that God will continue to help our minds retain our difficult new language.
- 3) Praise God Rachel is able to bless the home school families of Chiang Mai by coordinating fun summer activities! Please pray that the activities will go smoothly and that Rachel will have the opportunity to build relationships with some of the homeschool moms who are not believers.

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

Dreg + Rachel