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TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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Myanmar Protests & Violence



Mass protests have been taking place across Myanmar since the military seized control on February 1. Myanmar is Thailand's neighbor to the northwest, and we have many Myanmar ABTS students and graduates.

The elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and members of her party are among hundreds of people detained, and at least four anti-coup protesters have been killed. The military government is now threatening more violence should the protests continue. It's heartbreaking to watch the people of Myanmar struggle toward democracy, but having their dreams crushed by the corrupt military. It's difficult for Christian leaders to advise their people as they desire not only peace but also justice. Our ABTS students are additionally concerned because their internet connections are extremely poor due to the coup, and they are worried they won't be able to keep up with their classes.

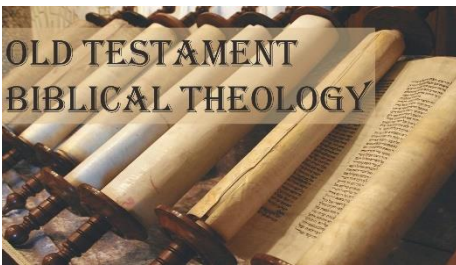
Please join us this week in praying that God will establish His peace and security for the nation of Myanmar. Let's pray specifically that the military authorities will restore power to the properly elected democratic officials. Also, join us in praying that the ABTS students, graduates, and the Christians of Myanmar will have strong testimonies and have opportunities to share the gospel during these difficult days.

Counseling Counselors

This month Greg spoke on the topic of suffering in the Christian life at the weekly prayer meeting at a local Christian counseling center. The director of the counseling center asked Greg to share about this topic because it's so important for counselors to have a Biblical understanding of suffering when counseling others. Greg spoke from Romans 8 and touched on various aspects of suffering from pain being the result of living in a fallen world to the role of the Holy Spirit as counselor. We're grateful Greg was given this special opportunity to share with these wonderful Christian counselors.



ABTS Spring Classes



This month Greg began his 3rd semester teaching Old Testament Biblical Theology online. He has 15 students from throughout Southeast Asia that he'll be guiding into a deeper understand of the Old Testament over the course of 4 months. Please be praying for Greg to have wisdom teaching and for his students to learn and grow this semester.

Youth Ministry



This month we were able to resume meeting as a church and youth group again! Last semester Greg dove deeply into the theology of the various aspects of the gospel (sin, grace, faith, etc.), and this semester he's teaching them different methodologies for sharing the gospel.

We also hosted a pizza and movie night at our home and planned an event at a local trampoline club. These times are wonderful for building relationships with our teens. The foundation of a strong relationship is so important for them being able to share openly with us and for us to be able to pour into their lives. Please continue to pray that God will bless our ministry with the teens of Chiang Mai.



Summer 2021 Furlough Cancelled

This month our family had to make the hard decision not to furlough this coming summer of 2021. Thailand is still not allowing our visa types in and out of the country, so if we leave we won't be allowed back into Thailand. Also, even if the law changes and we are allowed back in we would have a mandatory two-week quarantine in a government hotel costing approximately \$10,000 for our family, which is too expensive for us. Finally, vaccines will not be offered to the general public in Thailand until, at the earliest, mid-summer, and with Rachel being in the more susceptible category we don't feel comfortable traveling to America until she has been vaccinated.



The next time we plan to furlough will be the summer of 2023. We need to wait until then because that is the summer Greg should graduate with his PhD and we would like to attend his graduation. Due to the expense of furloughing, we can't do the summer of 2022 and 2023 back to back, so we just need to wait two years. Also, it puts us back on track for furloughing every other summer which is important since Christian will head to college in the summer of 2025 and Abbie in the summer of 2026.

It's disappointing not to be able to visit America this summer and to know it will be 4 years between giving friends and family hugs in-person, but we also know that the Lord determines our steps and He has a plan and purpose for us being in Thailand this summer. Please pray for us as we work through the details of taking care of things from afar that we normally like to do in-person while in America. These details include things like ordering contacts, renewing driver's licenses, purchasing clothes, and buying home school curriculum. All of these things can happen overseas but the process is more difficult. Please also pray for us emotionally, and our children in particular, as we work through the disappointment of not being able to furlough this summer.

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 our Myanmar students and graduates as they deal with the unrest in their country. Please pray for justice and peace to prevail.
- 2) Praise the Lord Greg was able to share on the topic of suffering with a local counseling center.
- 3) Praise the Lord Greg has 15 students throughout Southeast Asia enrolled in his Old Testament Biblical Theology course. Please pray for Greg as he teaches them online this semester.
- 4) Praise the Lord for opportunities to teach and connect with the teens of Chiang Mai. Please pray for the teens to open up with us and for us to be able to pour into their lives.
- 5) Please pray for us, and our children in particular, as we work through the disappointment of not being able to furlough this summer. Please pray for us to be able to take care of many details from afar that we normally do in-person while in America.

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

Greg + Rachel