



# the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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## Cancer Treatments



Praise the Lord this month Greg completed his 2nd and 3rd intense chemotherapy treatments! His 4th (and final!) 5 day intense chemotherapy round will be December 15-19 followed by two injections on December 22 and 29. These past 2 rounds have gone better than the 1st time because Greg had white cell booster shots in the days following his treatments which helped him avoid the extremely low white blood cell complications he had in October. His white blood cells are still not consistently remaining at a healthy level, so please continue to be praying for the chemotherapy to do its job of destroying the cancer cells but

that it won't harm Greg's white blood cells and that Greg won't get sick. Greg's also developed some blisters on his hands as a result of the chemotherapy treatments so please pray for those to heal.

Each time Greg went into the hospital to stay for 5 days, we covered his walls with pictures from the kids and Bible verses. The Thai nurses and doctors loved it - often taking pictures and expressing how wonderful and cheery it was. We're praying they see our hope amidst this hardship and that maybe even through these verses they will seek out the God of all Comfort. Please pray for gospel seeds to be planted among the hospital workers we are interacting with as we go through this cancer treatment process so that they might receiving the most special gift of all - a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Computer and Sewing Maching Gifts

This month we were able to give two very special gifts. First, we gave a little girl a computer for school. We are friends with a single mom named Yupin who has two daughters, Praewa, who is 10 years old, and Air, who is 8 years old and severely disabled due to having contracted Japanese Encephalitis as a baby. Yupin works so hard to provide for her two girls, but money is always tight. As schools are still online due to Covid in Thailand, it was really hard for her oldest daughter, Praewa, to do her homework using only her mom's phone so we refurbished and gave her one of our kid's old chromebooks. The joy she experienced was overwhelming. Yupin said,



**"I never thought my child would have her own computer! It's amazing! Thank you so much for your love!"**



Second, a Burmese refugee named Mary was looking for a way to support herself during these difficult Covid times, but in order to do this she needed a sewing machine. Abbie found out about this need and decided to give Mary her lightly used sewing machine. Mary said,

**"The sewing machine is a great joy to me and to my husband. We are both worried for our financial situation because we do not have any work for income but only expenses. By the grace of God and by the loving kindness of two sisters I will be able to make some clothes now. Though I will not be making big amount of money by sewing, I hope God will bless the work of my hands."**

## Youth Ministry



We had a great time at our annual Youth Group Campfire Cookout - 43 of us gathered for grilling hotdogs, making s'mores, worshiping our great God, and playing fun in-the-dark games! This was a very special event because it was the first time in over 7 months that our entire youth group (6th-12th) was able to gather together as one. We were so grateful for the special gift of this amazing time together.

We also hosted Middle School Youth Group and High School Youth Group at our home. Our wonderful middle school leaders took care of everything for Middle School Youth Group and Rachel led High School Youth Group. Greg's staying tucked away during youth group events since he has to be cautious not to get sick due to his chemotherapy treatments, so please pray for his heart as he misses being with the teens and they all miss having him with them too!

## Learning Pod



September - November every Monday we hosted 4 other missionary homeschool families in our home for a Learning Pod. Due to Covid restrictions our normal Co-Op (which is normally around 140 people) couldn't meet, so this was a fun alternative. The little ones had a drama class, which they concluded with a Thanksgiving play in our living room, and Rachel taught the little ones a Messy Art class which included papier mache, finger painting, oil pastels, play-doh, and more. The big kids learned how to use 3D Pens, made "Thailand Life" journals using Canva, and learned some creative evangelism tools. We are so grateful for the special gift of time with these sweet friends every Monday this past semester!

## Christmas Outreaches

This month we have several Christmas outreaches planned. We'll be making homemade Christmas cards and sugar cookies with our youth group teens for 60 residents at a local nursing home which will include a note sharing the hope of Jesus Christ. We'll be purchasing and wrapping gifts for 35 children from a poor neighborhood which will include a card sharing the gospel. We'll also be hosting a Christmas party for some of our kids' friends to bless these third culture kids during the holidays. Please pray for each special Christmas gift we hand out this year to plant gospel seeds as people hear about Jesus Christ who loved them so much that He came to earth as a baby and ultimately died on the cross so they can have eternal life.





## 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's cancer treatments are going alright and that the nurses and doctors are seeing the joy and hope we have in Christ! Please pray for Greg's white blood cells to remain high and for endurance as he begins his final intense round of chemotherapy on December 15-19 followed by two injections on December 22 and 29.
- 2) Praise God we were able to bless Praewa with a computer and Mary with a sewing machine! Please pray for these gifts to be a blessing in their lives.
- 3) Praise God our entire international youth group was able to meet after being apart for 7 months! Please pray for the youth ministry to continue to thrive and for the teens to grow in their relationship with God.
- 4) Praise God we were able to host Learning Pod for 4 other missionary homeschool families each Monday! Please pray that Covid regulations will remain at their current level (or even ease up) so we'll be able to have our normal Co-op with around 140 other families for the January-March semester.
- 5) Praise God for the Christmas outreaches we have planned this month! Please pray for the gifts and cards given to the nursing home residents and poor children to point them to the good news of Jesus Christ.

*Greg + Rachel*