



the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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In this newsletter:

- Run for Relief
- ABTS in India
- Greg's Health & PhD Progress
- Youth Ministry

Run for Relief



For thousands of villagers throughout Burma, running from gunfire is part of their everyday lives. They've been forced from their homes and flee with the fear of being shot by the Burma army or maimed by landmines. They take refuge in the woods, but sometimes their makeshift homes are discovered and the fleeing continues. Our family is partnering with our friends with the Free Burma Rangers to do a 5K (3 mile) run in order to raise funds and awareness to help the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Burma. Let's join together to show that those who have the freedom to run have not forgotten those who have no choice but to run.

"Hell is the correct word to describe the life of the people in Burma," shares one of our ABTS students, "The war never stops in Burma. We've never experienced this kind of problem in the history of our country. Since the day that the military took control over our country everything has been declining. Schools are not open. The military terrorists continued to pursue those who are involved in CDM (the Civil Disobedience Movement), and once they arrest them; they persecute them severely until they die. They burn villages without any reason. These villagers are stuck in the forest because they need to hide. They have no food, so we pray and as much as we can and try to find a way to send them some food. Ordinary people like us are in danger every day. We need God's intervention. Please pray for us."

If you would like to make a donation to help IDPs in Burma, please do two things:

1) [Click here](#) to give directly to the Free Burma Rangers. When you follow the link you'll also be able to read more about this special organization.

2) Please [email Rachel](#) and let her know you chose to make a donation and the amount you gave. This will encourage our family's hearts, especially our four kids (ages 14, 13, 8, and 7) who are all participating in the 5K to raise funds for the IDPs in Burma.



ABTS in India

In February Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS) held its first face-to-face class in Delhi since the start of the pandemic. Students have been sharing how the Hermeneutics course helped them understand the importance of investing time in observing the Word of God before jumping to interpretation and application. In addition ABTS is discussing starting two more teaching sites in other regions of India. Our hope is that we will be able to schedule several more face-to-face classes before the end of the year, and perhaps ABTS as a whole will be able to return to a somewhat "normal" class schedule by 2023.



Greg's Heath & PhD Progress



Greg's health continues to remain stable. He's getting better slowly but surely. He's still experiencing swelling from the blood clot in his right leg and some extreme sensitivity in his hands and feet, so those are some ways you can be specifically praying for his recovery this month.

Over the month of February Greg worked on the exegesis of the 38 passages in Ecclesiastes that use "hevel" to better understand specifically how the word is used and the context surrounding it. The title of Greg's PhD dissertation will be *Breath Metaphors in Ecclesiastes* and by the time he's done the book will be 90,000-110,000 words (basically the size of a 400 page novel). It's a huge undertaking and we so appreciate your prayers for him as he catches up on his PhD work this semester.

Youth Ministry

This month Greg was able to lead worship and teach youth group again! It was wonderful to have him with us, and of course the joy of being able to see our teens fellowship and worship together is a really special blessing after so many months apart due to Covid regulations. You can click the video link on the right below to see a 30 second clip of our teens worshipping our good God together!



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 for the opportunity our family has to partner with the Free Burma Rangers to raise funds and awareness for the IDPs of Burma. Please prayerfully consider if God would have you donate to help these hurting people.
- 2) Praise God ABTS was able to resume face-to-face classes in India! Please pray that ABTS will be able to resume a normal class schedule soon.
- 3) Praise God Greg is slowly but surely recovering from his chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for him to continue to heal, specifically the blood clot in his right leg and the extreme sensitivity in his hands and feet. Also, please pray for him as he catches up on his PhD work this semester.
- 4) Praise God Greg was able to lead worship and teach the youth group again! Please pray for the teens to continue to grow in their faith and that our relationships with them will deepen.

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

Greg + Rachel