



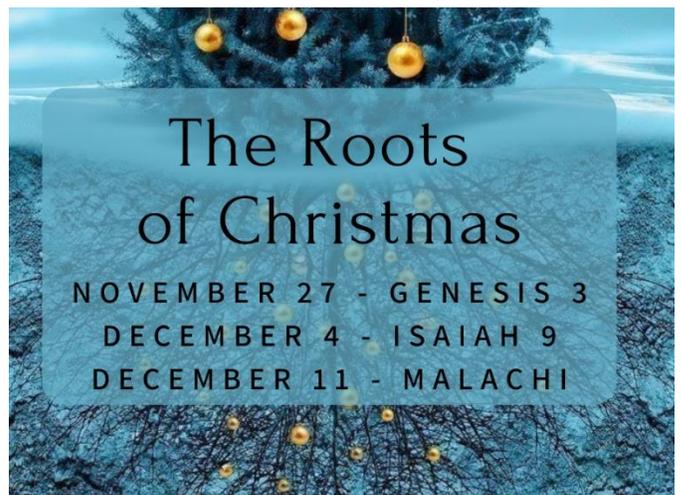
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The Roots of Christmas Sermons

Greg is currently preaching a sermon series at our church on "The Roots of Christmas!" He's taking our international church on our journey through the Old Testament to trace the promised Messiah. Last Sunday he covered Genesis 3 and in the coming Sundays he'll cover Isaiah 9 and Malachi.

To watch Greg's Genesis 3 sermon (and the two future sermons) [click here](#) to go to our church's sermon archive page.



Handicraft Christmas Ministry



This month our sweet Thai friend Yupin is selling Thai elephant Christmas ornaments. Yupin's daughter, Air, is a severely disabled due to her contracting Japanese Encephalitis as a baby. Yupin was shunned in her village for the disgrace of having a disabled child ("Surely the spirits don't approve of her," the villagers would say) and her husband quickly left Yupin alone with two young daughters. Yupin and her girls were living in a shack on the outskirts of the village with nothing, but then Yupin met believers and as we connected her with medical care, a wheelchair for her daughter, help with food and shelter, and eventually setting her up with a career selling

handicrafts, she came to realize that God sees, loves, and cares for her and she accepted Jesus as her Savior. She is now a bright light amidst her people here in Thailand, and sharing with them the roots of her new faith.

Yupin works on her hand stitched items while Air naps each afternoon (see pictures) and it's such a blessing to see this little family thriving. This month we purchased 130 of her Christmas ornaments to support her handicrafts career and our financial supporters will each be receiving one this summer when we come home to furlough!



Baptisms



This month our youngest little one, Hannah, was baptized! Greg's dad was visiting, so she was able to be baptized by Grandpa and Dad - three generations loving Jesus!

Also, this month three of our youth group teens were baptized! It's such a joy to see these teens joyfully proclaiming that they are followers of Jesus and we pray these baptisms will stand out to them as a day when their faith became even more deeply rooted.



Kid Missionary Video



Parents - This 3-minute video is for you to show your kids! Isaac and Hannah explain what it means to not just be missionary kids but kid missionaries. It will give your children a glimpse into the Vrugink kids' lives in Thailand and inspire your little ones to be lights where they are too!

Click the picture to watch it!

Furlough Housing Found

God has provided a beautiful home in Ada, Michigan for us to stay in when we furlough this summer! We were connected with a wonderful organization that helps provide housing for missionaries and they've been so gracious and accommodating. We'll be able to have our own fully furnished, 3-bedroom home for a very reasonable price. It will be so nice to have a place to call "home" during the summer of 2023. Thank you all so much for praying with us for this need, and please join with us in praising God for His incredible provision!



Christmas Outreaches

This month we have several Christmas outreaches planned. We're coordinating a food drive for some poor families in need. We'll be singing Christmas carols with our youth group teens in a local mall. Rachel is coordinating our church's Christmas Day service which is a huge outreach in the international community as many people will come to church and hear the gospel who aren't believers and don't normally come to church. Our kids are all involved in the service: Abbie is playing the piano and singing a solo, Hannah is reciting a Bible passage, Isaac will be in the live nativity, and Christian is running power point. Please pray for these three special Christmas outreaches and that people will come to know Jesus as their Savior and remember Christmas as the time when their faith took root.



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 Greg is able to preach "The Roots of Christmas" sermon series. Please pray for our church's faith to deepen as they see the depth of the promises that came together when Jesus came to earth for us.
- 2) Praise the Lord Yupin is following Jesus and her handicraft business is growing. Please continue to pray for her faith to deepen, her business to thrive, and for Air's health to be stable.
- 3) Praise the Lord Hannah and three of our youth group teens were baptized this month!
- 4) Praise the Lord for meeting our summer furlough housing need!
- 5) Praise the Lord for the outreaches He is allowing us to organize this Christmas season! Please pray for the good news of Jesus to impact hearts and lives this December.

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

Greg + Rachel