



the VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

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Be Patient in Trouble

"Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble. And keep on praying."
Romans 12:12



This month our family has definitely been learning to be patient in trouble. Last week it was discovered that our youngest son, Isaac, who will be three-years-old later this month, has something wrong with his right kidney. Isaac had been complaining of lower back pain, so we brought him in to see our pediatrician. After an x-ray, ultrasound, urine test, and blood tests, all we really know right now is that his right kidney is smaller than it should be and has scar tissue on it. Praise God that Isaac's kidney problem was discovered and that his left kidney seems to be making up for his right kidney, so his situation does not appear to be life threatening!

Upcoming Visits

**Libertas Christian School
Elementary Chapel**
Hudsonville, MI
March 3, 2016

Grace Baptist Church
Mason, OH
April 10, 2016

Individual Appointments
Indianapolis, IN
April 15-17, 2016

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If you want to hear right away when we have a new monthly supporter, learn more about the ministry of ABTS, and see pictures of our pre-field ministry, please click the link below to "Like" our ministry Facebook page.



Our next step is a test called a VCUG on Friday, March 18th which will tell us if his bladder is refluxing urine into his kidneys as this may be the cause of the scarring in his small right kidney. He has to be mildly sedated for this procedure. We then meet with a pediatric nephrologist (children's kidney doctor) on Monday, March 21st to discuss the results. One of our nursing friends who works at the children's hospital told us our nephrologist is "excellent, smart, amazing, and exactly who I would want" so we're feeling grateful to have a great doctor.

Prayer warriors – please lift March 18th and 21st up to our Father! Please be asking the Lord to give the doctor wisdom in diagnosing Isaac's condition and skill in treating it. Please be praying for Isaac to not be in too much pain over the next three weeks as we await this appointment. At this point all we can do is give him children's Tylenol for the pain. Also, please pray for us to have trust, peace, faith, and patience during this hard time.

PhD Application



Another area in our life that requires patient waiting is the results of Greg's PhD application! Sometime this month we should find out if Greg has been accepted into Calvin Seminary's fully funded PhD program! As we mentioned last month, we would love for Greg to get into this PhD program as it would save our family a great deal of money and he would be able to finish his PhD quickly as Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS) will eventually require him to do, but we also know that it may be God's will for our family to move to Asia sooner so we can begin serving with ABTS and our children can begin adapting to living in a new country at younger ages. God has truly given us incredible peace that whatever happens will be a great blessing. Would you please pray for Greg to get into Calvin Seminary's PhD program if that is God's perfect plan for us?

The Way to Joy



This month Rachel was able to begin *The Way to Joy* Bible study with one of our former youth group girls from Long Island Abundant Life Church! Kaitlyn and Rachel have been reading the same passages from the Bible each day, memorizing verses, and talking about how a new Christian can grow in their spiritual walk. Please pray for these two ladies as this discipleship takes place via Skype each Monday night at 8pm.

As part of our ABWE requirements, Greg needs to find an unbeliever to lead through *The Story of Hope* Bible study and a new believer to lead through *The Way to Joy* Bible study. He must start these studies before April 18, or he won't be able to complete this requirement in time for us to attend the summer training we hope to attend. Please pray for God to bring two men into Greg's life over the next few weeks who would be willing to go through these studies with him.

Financial Update

Click the link above the chart on the left to see a more detailed chart of our monthly ministry partner needs.

Monthly Ministry Partners:
29% Supported

Outfit and Passage: 10% Funded



This month we have been incredibly blessed with 2 new church partners and 3 more individual partners! This month we gained \$395 in committed monthly support, so we are now 29% funded! It thrills our hearts to see God bringing us closer to Asia each month!

We also confirmed this month that we'll need to raise our Outfit & Passage financial goal to also include the cost of purchasing a car once we move to Bangkok, Thailand, so you'll notice that this number has gone up and our one-time costs are currently 10% funded.

As we continue on our pre-field journey and prepare for ministry in Asia, our desire is to bring many of you with us! There is a team behind us that prays for us, shares our ministry with others, and supports us financially. Would you prayerfully consider either becoming one of our monthly financial partners or making a one-time gift towards our Outfit & Passage costs? You can be an essential part of what God is doing on the other side of the world! Please visit our website for more details on giving: vruigginks.com/giving

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 that Isaac's kidney problem was discovered and that his left kidney seems to be making up for his right kidney! Please pray that Isaac's VCUG test on Friday, March 18th will go smoothly and that our pediatric nephrologist will have wisdom in diagnosing Isaac's condition and skill in treating it as we discuss Isaac's kidney problems with him on Monday, March 21st. Please be praying for Isaac to not be in too much pain as we await this appointment. Please pray for us to have trust, peace, faith, and patience during this hard time.
- 2) Please pray for Greg to get into Calvin Seminary's PhD program if that is the plan God has for us.
- 3) Praise God Rachel is going through *The Way to Joy* with Kaitlyn! Please pray for Kaitlyn to grow greatly in her spiritual walk through this study. Also, please pray for God to provide two men who will be willing to go through *The Story of Hope* and *The Way to Joy* Bible studies with Greg.
- 4) Praise God for 2 new church partners and 3 more individual partners bringing us to 29% of our committed monthly support! Please continue to pray for God to work in the hearts of churches and individuals to partner with our ministry in prayer and financially.

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

Greg + Rachel

