



The VRUGGINKS

Training Leaders in Asia

our story

Greg



I grew up in Hudsonville, Michigan in a Christian home, but I didn't come to Christ until I was in high school. Once I became a Christian I was still floundering in my faith until my youth pastor, Jim, began discipling me. For over three years Jim regularly met with me. He taught me how to study the Bible and shared the importance of devoting my whole life to serve God, and it is because of that discipleship and education that I am serving in full-time ministry today. I went to college at Cedarville University where I majored in Bible with a minor in Missions. Rachel and I then served for three years in China as English teachers and then for six years in pastoral ministry in Chinese-American churches. Our family has been living in Thailand since 2017 where I've been serving as an administrator and Old Testament professor at Asia Biblical Theological Seminary. I completed my PhD in Old Testament studies in 2023. I'm grateful for the discipleship and education God has blessed me with, so I can fulfill God's calling on my life to train leaders in Asia.

Rachel

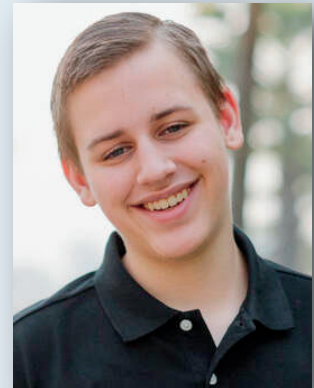


I grew up in Brownsburg, Indiana and became a Christian at a young age. Throughout my middle school and high school years I had some amazing Christian teachers and youth group leaders who spent time pouring into me on a weekly basis, strengthening my faith, and developing my leadership abilities. This discipleship proved to be extremely important because when I was sixteen my family was in a car accident in which I received a spinal cord injury and my younger sister died. Just a few years later my mom passed away from cancer. Through these trials I didn't turn away from God because I had been given a firm foundation. I went to college at Cedarville University where I majored in Communications and Bible with a minor in Women's Ministries. It has been a privilege to serve alongside Greg in full-time ministry. I enjoy mentoring the girls in the high school youth group. I'm also blessed to be able to lead the Chiang Mai Homeschool Co-op which provides supplemental classes, events, and community for homeschool families.

our children

Christian

Christian was born in July of 2007. He is talkative, smart, and funny. He enjoys reading, games, coding, airsoft, and spending time with friends. He is a strong leader, generous, and thoughtful. He is an amazing big brother and we are proud of the young man he is becoming!



Abbie

Abbie was born in February 2009. She is spirited, hard working, and creative. She enjoys playing piano, painting, baking, jiu-jitsu martial arts, and spending time with friends. Abbie is a caring big sister to her younger siblings. She loves Jesus and enjoys telling others about how much He loves them. We are so proud of our sweet girl!

Isaac

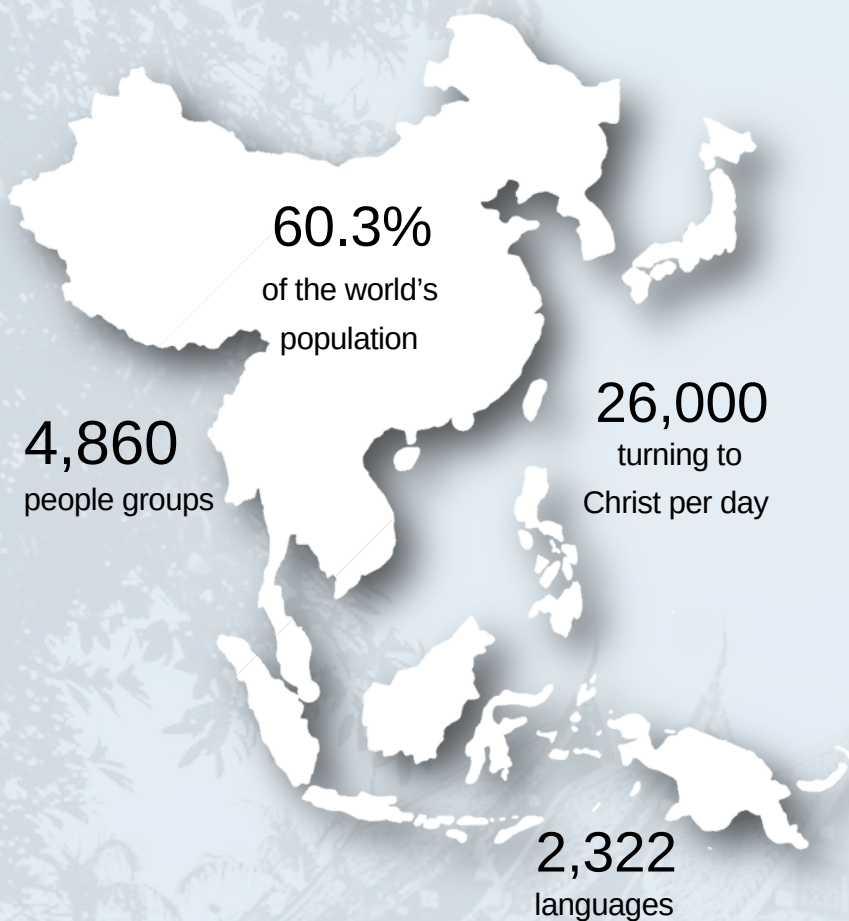
Isaac was born in March of 2013. He is determined, joyful, protective, and adventurous. He loves to ride his bike, read, and play with Legos and action figures. We are so blessed to have Isaac in our family!



Hannah

Hannah was born in January of 2015. She is happy, smart, and affectionate. She loves reading, coloring, dancing, and playing outside - especially if she discovers snails. We are so glad God blessed us with Hannah!

the need



Asia is a continent in great need. The sheer size of the population is staggering! Who can possibly reach 60% of the world's population? The logistics of reaching 4,860 people groups with 2,300 languages seems nearly impossible, yet Christianity has grown exponentially there because the Asian people have taken up the charge to reach their own people. The rapid growth of Christianity in Asia has been a great blessing, but is not without its challenges. The growth of God's kingdom in Asia has created a Christian movement that is great in number but lacks a strong foundation. Because of the difficulty of obtaining Biblical training, many pastors and churches have been deceived by heresies and cults, "carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14). Who will train these new Christian leaders to be grounded in the Word of God?

The recent growth of the Church has largely been through the work of national workers, local evangelists, and ordinary believers. These churches are, more than ever, Asian in structure, style and leadership – taking forms relevant for those they are trying to reach. Beyond the continent itself, Asian Christian leadership is assuming a much greater role in the global body of Christ.

- Operation World



All statistics on this page are quoted or extrapolated from *Operation World*, Seventh Edition.

our vision

Equipping

Leaders to reach Asia.

Our vision is to equip leaders in Asia for ministry, giving them the tools they need to create strong, Biblically-rooted, reproducing churches. They can then go to their people and “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). We want church leaders to understand how to read, teach, and apply God’s Word.



Empowering

Asian churches to reproduce.

By equipping Asian leaders, we give their churches the tools they need to reproduce. Mission work has historically struggled in Asia when Christian movements were dependent upon Westerners. When Asians have reached their own people, however, growth has been much greater. By equipping Asian leaders and by extension their churches, we empower them to reach their own culture. Because there is no need for them to learn a new language and culture, church planting and reproduction happens more quickly (Ephesians 4:13).



Expanding

God's kingdom in Asia.

As Biblically-rooted Asian churches take up the mantle of reaching their own people in obedience to Christ’s commission, the expansion of God’s kingdom in Asia will not only be exponential, but this growth will also be built upon a solid foundation that isn’t “tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:14). Through empowering Asian leaders and their churches, we play a role in making a “body that builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:16).



our agency

Purpose

Fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying leaders, churches, and mission movements among every people.

Core Values

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Compassion
- Accountability

End Vision

- Make Biblical Disciples
- Train National Leaders
- Initiate Church Multiplying Movements
- Launch Mission Sending Movements



Equipping and training Asian leaders is an essential component to our ABWE vision for church multiplying and mission sending movements. We are thrilled to have Greg and Rachel serving for that purpose. Their story will inspire you. Their ministry through Asia Biblical Theological Seminary will provide you with an opportunity to invest in Great Commission work in Asia.

**- Kent Craig, ABWE Executive Director
for Asia Pacific and East Asia**

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our organization



Asia Biblical
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Cornerstone University

I have known Greg and Rachel for over two decades, and have been able to watch them serve the Lord in full-time ministry. As a couple, they are not only gifted in scholarship, teaching, service, and hospitality, but they are also passionate about spreading the Good News of Christ's salvation throughout the vast continent of Asia. We are excited to have Greg and Rachel working with Asia Biblical Theological Seminary.

- **James Blumenstock, Dean of ABTS**

What does ABTS offer?

- Quality
- Accessibility
- Context
- Affordability
- Global Perspective
- Practical Training

Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS) specializes in US-accredited masters level theological education for pastors, lay leaders, Christian educators, and missionaries in Asia. Courses are offered on-site in modular format or through distance learning, allowing students to pursue their degree while remaining in their ministry contexts. Tuition levels for all ABTS courses have been adjusted to fit the varied economies of Asian countries and subsidized by donor gifts from partners of ABTS. All of the full-time professors with ABTS are also supported missionaries in order to keep costs low for our students. Greg's salary is 100% funded by our financial partners' giving, not from students' tuition. Courses are taught by qualified Western and Asian adjunct professors, as well as residential missionary educators. ABTS's curriculum has been designed with rich insight and contextualized perspective to best meet the needs of the church in Asia. ABTS exists to equip leaders IN the field, FOR the field.



**Multiple Seminar
Sites Throughout Asia**

Degrees Offered

- Master of Religious Education
- Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Current Students

209 - from 27 countries

Total Graduates

461

our ministry

Greg's Ministry

I serve as the Professor of Old Testament at ABTS and am also the Director of Online Education. Our goal at ABTS is to make it possible for each student to obtain their master's degree while remaining in their ministry context. I teach Old Testament classes through residence seminars and distance education. As an ABTS professor I regularly travel to seminar sites located throughout Asia. Our goal in living in Asia is for me to be able to easily travel to the various teaching sites and for our family to be able to develop mentoring relationships with upcoming leaders in our community. Rachel and I also lead the youth group at our international church, so whether I'm training pastors or mentoring a teenage guy the goal is the same: to train future leaders to serve God in Asia and around the world.



Rachel's Ministry

I have two primary ministries while serving in Asia which both focus on training the next generation of believers. My first and foremost ministry is in the home. I homeschool our four kids and my heart's greatest desire is to train them up in the way they should go. I also lead the Chiang Mai Homeschool Co-op which provides supplemental classes, enrichment activities, support, and community to homeschool families living in Chiang Mai, Thailand. My secondary ministry is serving beside Greg in leading the youth group at our international church. Many of the teenage girls in our youth group have unique struggles living in a culture that is not their own and it's a privilege to mentor these girls and dive into God's Word with them.



Our Family's Ministry

Our ministry as a family is to form relationships in our Chiang Mai community in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Thailand is 94% Buddhist, 5% Muslim, and less than 1% are Christians. Many people have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ. As a family we want to be a shining light in this country filled with idolatry and darkness, so that the Thai people will come to know the life saving grace of Jesus!



our impact

Professor Vrugink has helped me to really look into the Old Testament more deeply and to understand God's purposes through His work in history. Before the Old Testament did not make much sense to me, but now I can see the plan of God running throughout the Old Testament. My understanding of the Bible has changed and now I have started to love the Old Testament and really want to spend more time studying it.

-Prashant, ABTS student from India



Through studying with Professor Vrugink, my perspective of the Old Testament has widened and I have become more careful with how I study and preach the Old Testament books. My excitement to study the Old Testament has been refreshed. His course was one of the most important courses I have taken.

-Paul, ABTS student from the Philippines



I have learned so much from the Vruginks, growing in my faith as a leader. They have been some of the main mentors and role models in my life. I'm so grateful for their welcoming and kind hospitality. Mr. Vrugink has shown me how enjoyable and fascinating the Bible can be, and Mrs. Vrugink has been a model of what a servant leader looks like.

-Lydia, youth group student leader



I'm so thankful for Rachel's leadership of the Chiang Mai Homeschool Co-op. She is incredibly gifted at organizing events and bringing people together. She also has a lot of really fun ideas for places to visit with kids. When our family moved to Chiang Mai about 8 months ago, we were feeling weary and in need of restoration. The co-op has been a life giving source of encouragement for our whole family. I am so thankful to have found this community.

-Stacy, Chiang Mai Homeschool Co-op Member



our sending church



The Vrugink family characterizes the beauty of those who are sent with the good news of the Gospel. While serving at Grace they poured themselves out into the lives of students, families, and those in need. They are constantly looking for ways to host and help everyone around them. They always give Godly guidance from a grounded Biblical perspective. Greg's wisdom is profound and Rachel's joy will not be outdone. Their children are a blessing and we delight in their partnership for overseas expansion of the Lord's Kingdom.

- Keoni Hughes, Lead Teaching Pastor

Greg and Rachel have been living on mission everywhere that God has led them since the time they were in high school! God burdened their hearts for the people of Asia close to 20 years ago, and now they have been faithfully making disciples who make disciples with ABTS. We are proud to be Gospel partners with them as they faithfully and intentionally train their own children while equipping the church leaders who attend Greg's classes.

- Tim VandeGuchte, Pastor of Community and Mission



Grace Community Church has been so richly blessed by the Vrugink family through the gifts and talents that God has given them and now uses through them as ministers of the Gospel in Thailand. While at Grace, they faithfully served our youth, taught sound doctrine in our Bible Study Hour and Sunday evening worship services, and were devoted members of a Life Group. They were always quick to live humbly and hospitably to anyone in need! They truly are a beautiful example of lives lived for Christ and not for self, and we are blessed and honored to be their partners for Kingdom advancement in Asia.

- Jon Smith, Elder

Greg and Rachel live their lives very intentionally, accomplishing much for the kingdom. They lead by example as genuine Christ followers. They have a strong desire to see people come to Christ and to be discipled well. Rachel leads girls Bible studies and has coffee dates to connect with girls and to share Jesus with them. They are well loved and remembered here in the States for their service and I'm sure are greatly missed from Chiang Mai while on home leave.

- Debbie Dykstra, Missions Committee Member



Grace Community Church
Hudsonville, Michigan

our ministry partners

Biblical Examples of Partnership

Luke 8:1-3 tells us that Jesus and his twelve disciples were traveling and along with them were three women: Mary, Joanna, and Susanna, as well as others. The end of verse three says, "these women were helping to support them out of their own means." These women offer an example of those who support Gospel work financially.

In Philippians 4:17, Paul says to the Philippian church, "Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account." Paul explained to them that to partner with him financially was not merely for his benefit, but so they could be credited with whatever was accomplished through his ministry.

Your ministry partnership will help us to equip leaders that will empower churches and expand God's kingdom. We believe a true partnership has two parts:

Our Part:

- **Ministry.** We will be your hands and feet in Asia. We will go on your behalf to equip leaders in Asia so they can empower their churches and expand God's kingdom.
- **Communication.** We will send a monthly newsletter so you are fully aware of what God is doing through our ministry and know our prayer requests.
- **Prayer.** We will pray for you regularly.

Your Part:

- **Awareness.** Keep up with our regular newsletters so you know what's happening in our ministry and in our lives. Also, make sure we are aware of your needs so we can pray for you.
- **Prayer.** Put our prayer magnet up and pray regularly for us and the requests we share in our monthly newsletter.
- **Giving.** Prayerfully determine what type of financial sacrifice you could make to invest in this ministry.



To become a monthly financial partner by enrolling in the automatic monthly withdrawal program, go to:

vrugginks.com/giving

All gifts are tax deductible.



The VRUGGINKS

Equipping
Leaders to reach Asia.

Empowering
Asian churches to reproduce.

Expanding
God's kingdom in Asia.

Training Leaders in Asia

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Support Greg and Rachel Vruggink

To support our ministry financial with a one-time gift or on an ongoing basis, visit:

vrugginks.com/giving



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