



*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. I completed my Master of Divinity degree in 2014, Master of Theology degree in 2016, and am now pursuing a PhD. I've been serving as an administrator and Old Testament professor at Asia Biblical Theological Seminary since 2017. 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 have a heart for youth and children's ministry. I especially enjoy counseling young women.

# our children

*Christian* is twelve years old and in 7th grade. He is talkative, smart, and funny. He enjoys reading, games, coding, 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!



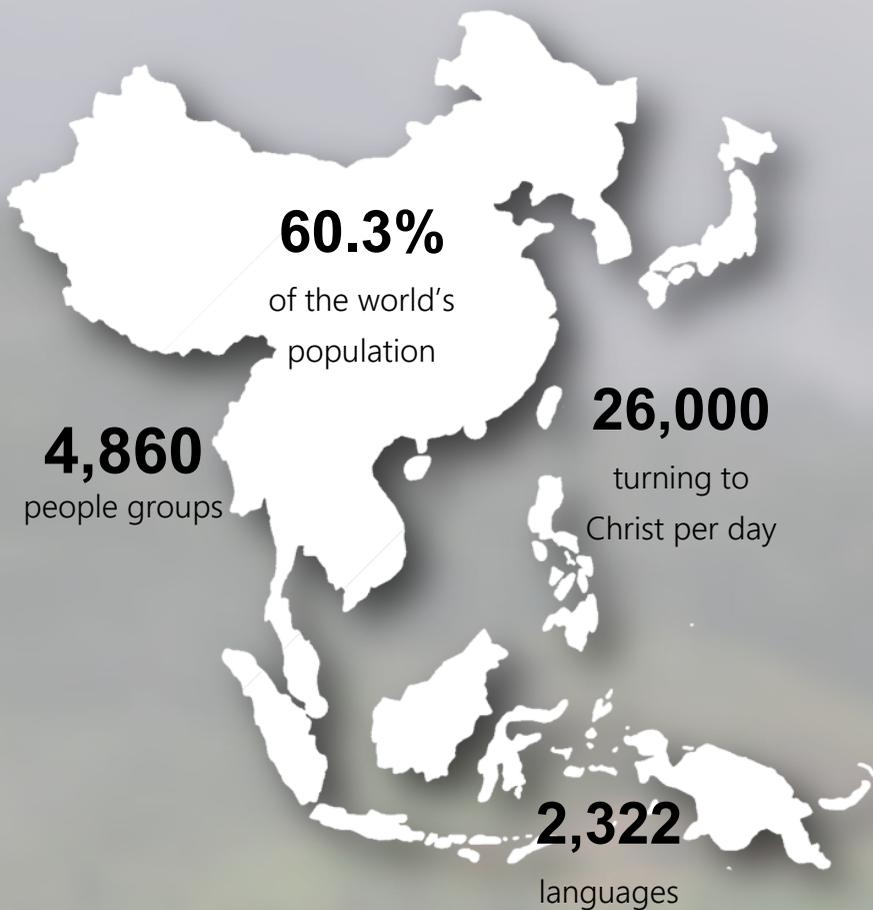
*Abbie* is ten years old and in 5th grade. She is spirited, hard working, and creative. She enjoys painting, baking cookies with Mom, and playing with friends. Abbie is a caring big sister to her younger siblings. She loves Jesus and enjoys telling others about how much He loves them. We are so proud of our sweet girl!

*Isaac* is six years old and in 1st grade. He is feisty, happy, and adventurous. He loves to explore, do crafts, and play with cars and Legos. We are so blessed to have Isaac in our family!



*Hannah* is four years old and enjoys doing pre-school with Mommy. She is happy, confident, and affectionate. She loves puzzles, bubbles, books, coloring, 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, 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*

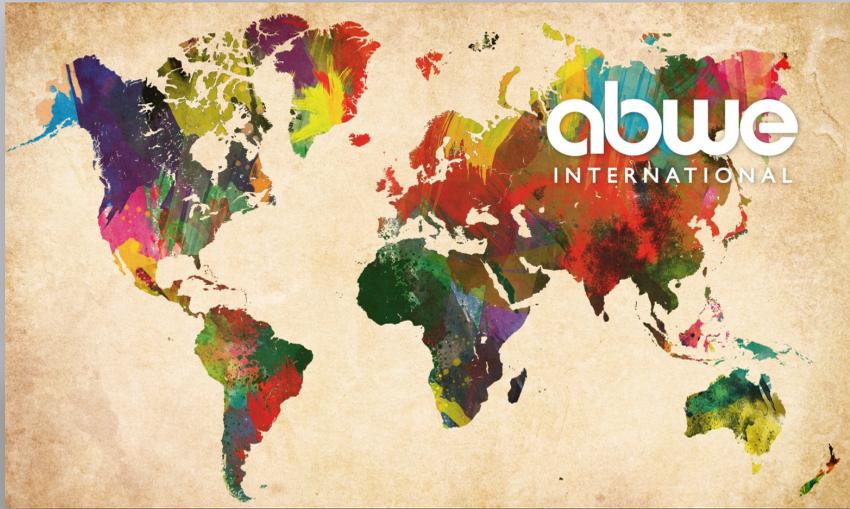
Fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying leaders, churches, and mission movements among every people.

## *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. God has called and prepared them for this assignment through their life journey. 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 Asia Area Director



Association of Baptists for World Evangelism

Founded in 1927 | Serves in 70+ countries | Nearly 1,000 missionaries



ABWE is an IRS approved 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability.

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# our organization



**Asia Biblical**  
**THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
*Cornerstone University*

“ I have known Greg and Rachel for almost two decades, and have been able to watch them serve the Lord in full-time ministry, both in Asia and in the US. 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 Asia Biblical Theological Seminary

## *What does ABTS offer?*

- Quality
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Global Perspective
- Context
- 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 American 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. It is with this sensitivity that ABTS can equip leaders IN the field, FOR the field.



### 10 Seminar Sites in 5 Countries

Thailand, India, Cambodia,  
the Philippines, and  
Singapore

### Degrees Offered

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

### Current Students

293 - from 28 nationalities

### Total Graduates

370

# 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 during two-week residence seminars and through distance education. As an ABTS professor I regularly travel to 10 seminar sites located in the countries of Thailand, India, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Singapore. 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 teach classes and lead Elementary Chapel at our children's international homeschool co-op in Chiang Mai and I enjoy pouring the truths of God's Word into the co-op kids each week.

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 attend a local Christian school and are living in boarding houses away from their families, so having an older woman they can talk with in person is invaluable to them. Counseling a young woman over coffee is my favorite activity!



## *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 only 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

**Before ABTS, Pastor Jhun Cairo was convinced he was a failure.**

At 21-years-old, Jhun became the senior pastor of a church after being the associate pastor for just six months. He served nine grueling years believing that, as head pastor, the success of his church depended solely on him. "It was so hard," Jhun remembers. "You come to the point where you just feel so tired." Unable to keep up with the pressure, Jhun resigned. He engaged in a period of intense self-evaluation and concluded that he had failed, but God wasn't finished with him yet.



"I thank the Lord because He is the God of second chances," Jhun says. "Through His Word, I realized I had the wrong motivations when I started out in ministry." Jhun was trying to do everything himself and had come up lacking. God led him to Ephesians 4:12, "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some

prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."



This renewed perspective helped Jhun use his God-given gifts to help equip others in ministry so that he didn't have to carry the burden alone. What had been his area of greatest failure was about to become a great success.

Over time Pastor Jhun realized that he had to use his gifts to train others in ministry so that he didn't have to carry the burden of ministry alone. Pastor Jhun came to ABTS and became equipped so he could empower his church for ministry. Pastor Jhun is now training the people in his church to serve alongside him in ministry. He preached a series of sermons on reaching the lost which ignited a passion in his church for sharing the Gospel. He is now teaching his church members how to lead evangelistic outreaches in their neighborhoods.



Pastor Jhun is a living example of how equipping Asian leaders empowers them to expand God's kingdom in Asia!

# 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.

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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.
- **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:

**[vugginks.com/giving](http://vugginks.com/giving)**

All gifts are tax deductible.

# *the* VRUGGINKS

TRAINING LEADERS IN ASIA

Equipping

*Leaders to reach Asia.*

Empowering

*Asian churches to reproduce.*

Expanding

*God's kingdom in Asia.*



## *Contact Information*

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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](http://vrugginks.com/giving)