

Grace in Action

Stories of God at work in and through the GIS community

March 2018

A Time to Heal

In February 2016, James and Carolyn B received the news that no parent wants to hear: their daughter, Ruby—only 3-1/2 years old—was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

For the past 15 years, the B family had been ministering among an unreached people group in Central Asia. Suddenly, though, Ruby's health became the new focus of their lives. In critical condition, Ruby received six weeks of chemotherapy in Bangkok. The family then moved to New Zealand—James' home country—to complete the next stages of Ruby's chemo regimen.

While Ruby was receiving treatment in New Zealand, her two older brothers were enrolled in public school. Carolyn and James took turns with Ruby during her frequent hospital stays, and James made six, two-week trips back to Central Asia where his agricultural project needed his attention. Although they were well looked after by family and friends, their grueling schedule took a toll on the whole family.

With Ruby's second and final year of maintenance chemo looming, James and Carolyn wondered if a move to Chiang Mai might make sense. The location would allow James to be in closer proximity to his work, making his trips back to the region much easier. The family would be near many of their mission family for practical support. The couple could contribute to a media project in town, specifically focused on their UPG. Also, James and Carolyn hoped their three kids could attend GIS, as they could see the benefits of a year of international Christian school for their children.

There were questions and concerns, for sure; but when Ruby's oncologist from New Zealand happened to meet Ruby's doctor from Bangkok at a medical conference in Thailand, the two doctors devised a plan to provide the care Ruby needed in Chiang Mai. This was a clear sign to James and Carolyn that God was opening the door for their family's move.

With little time before they were to arrive, Carolyn says, "The GIS office staff made great concessions to finish our paperwork quickly in order to expedite the visa process for us." The principal's actions said, "Come. We're making space for you." From the first day of school, the B family made instant connections with GIS families, classmates and teachers.

Carolyn marvels at the work the Lord has done in their family. "The move here has freed us up for healing to take place in all of us." And that includes Ruby, too, who—for a little girl with a compromised immune system—has enjoyed a season of remarkably good health.

Grace International School exists to enable international Christian workers to remain in their field of service by providing for the educational needs of their children.

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