

Grace in Action

Stories of God at work in and through the GIS community

June 2018

Grace Upon Grace

Spending time with Deborah Kim/Park (KyeongHwa)—the Korean Community Coordinator at GIS—is an inspirational experience. Her love for God is contagious, and her enthusiasm for ministry quickly endears her to others.

Since 1995, Deborah and her husband, JuMan Kim, have been working to plant churches in Thailand, first in Rangsit near Bangkok and now in Chiang Mai. While in Rangsit, the Kims sent their then second-grader, HaeWon, to an international school in Bangkok. The daily, round-trip van ride there was four-to five-hours long. Their younger daughter, HaeMi, attended a local kindergarten near home, until the Kims understood the school's pressure on HaeMi to participate in Buddhist ceremonies. It was not an easy time for the Kims, but they believed God wanted them in Thailand and that He would take care of their girls' needs.

After a home assignment in Korea, God changed the Kims' direction to begin a new work in Chiang Mai. As their search began for a school for their girls, a friend casually mentioned a new school called Grace, among other options. Following the school tours, and after the family prayed together for God's guidance, the girls said, "We want to go to Grace."

The Kims did not understand how special Grace was until after the girls began attending the school. When they grasped the vision, saw the commitment of the teachers, and realized the school's objective to serve missionary kids, they realized it was God's grace that had led them to GIS.

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Deborah testifies that the Kims' ministry in Chiang Mai is a tribute to God's faithfulness and His strength. There are now five churches, a dormitory and ministry center, and Student For Christ (SFC) groups established on three university campuses. However, it has not all been easy going. In 2011, JuMan was in a car accident. While recuperating in the hospital, the Kims received the news that their ministry center had burned down. It was God's grace that no one was in the building at the time; everyone was next door in church worshipping the Lord. After much prayer, and trusting God to provide, the Kims were able to rebuild a year later. The most difficult time became the most grace-filled time, as the Kims watched God expand the ministries.

Deborah's main role is that of a missionary; but when she experienced the holes in understanding between Korean parents and GIS, Deborah began sharing the need for a Korean liaison to help bridge the gap, eventually feeling called to take up the task herself nine years ago. Deborah does much translation, provides insights on Korean culture, and hosts meetings with Korean visitors and families—all tasks which supply effective understanding, a much-appreciated service to the whole community.

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.

www.gjsthailand.org

