



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.

Grace in Action

Stories of God at work in and through the GIS community

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September 2017

The New Staff Says: He Is In Control



It can only be called a leap of faith when Kristen was asked by TeachBeyond to teach overseas for two years instead of the two weeks she had planned. Still in school and having never been overseas before, she couldn't help but harbor a feeling of doubt, wondering if this was truly God's calling. When she agreed with Thailand as her first choice and her applications were sent out to schools, Grace was the only place that responded and eventually accepted her. "Every time I feel doubtful, God would provide me with a little bit more," she recalls about her fundraising process. Kristen started fundraising in June after graduation and even though she was at only 35% two weeks before her flight, God provided her with 90% of the funds she needed two days before takeoff. "God has really taught me about patience," she says. "That everything is in His timing."

Kristen Torres
3rd Grade Teacher

Jourdan has been involved in Campus Crusade for five years and found out about Grace through them. As she prepared to come to Grace, her tallest brick wall came when she was fundraising. She had only 31% of her funds raised on July 1st with her deadline being July 14th. One of the hardest things for Jourdan during this time was to not be distracted by other options in case coming to Grace didn't work out. Many people, including family members, were skeptical that she would make the deadline, telling her to consider looking for a job. Jourdan however remained steadfast, and in the end God pulled through. It wasn't until the final week after many prayers and tears that God provided everything that she lacked and cleared the way for her to come. Even her Visa came in at just the right time despite many problems in the process to obtain it. Through this experience, Jourdan realized all of the different ways that God can help us. "It's a whole new way to trust God and watch Him pull through despite my doubts," she says. "It's God saying, 'I have everything that you are in my control and if you trust me, I will take care of the rest.'"

Jourdan McFarland
2nd Grade Teacher



James Stanley
Social Studies Teacher

Coming from a military background, James has no experience in teaching a class full of teenagers, but that was what God called him to do overseas. When he and his wife Julie sent their resumes to different schools in Thailand and the Philippines, all replied that they were an answer to prayer. The deciding point was when Julie, after doing much research on all the schools, came to James and said that there was one school that God kept on putting on her heart—Grace International School. Before this, James had already told God that he will go wherever God calls him to and to let God work in Julie's heart because she was hesitant about going overseas once more after leaving Russia where James was on military duty. They started their journey as they sold everything they owned in the States. "We don't own any of this, God owns it all and we decided to let go of everything that will keep our hearts divided," James explains. If they were going to come here, they were going to come here with their entire hearts and no material ties back home.

"Who am I, LORD God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?" David asked God in 2 Samuel 7:18. It is this verse that has touched James' heart despite his overwhelming first weeks of adjusting to Thailand and teaching. He is out of his comfort zone but God is good and has confirmed to James over and over again through the kind words of parents and smiles of children that yes, this is where God has called him to be.