

Grace in Action

Stories of God at work in and through the GIS community

November 2017

When Worlds Collide

Unlike many families whose children attend Grace, Eric and Jen Ford did not move to Thailand for their kids' education. GIS was an unexpected bonus. When the Fords' team realized that what they needed to do in their ministry arena had to be done outside of the restrictive country where they were living, they picked up and moved to Chiang Mai.

Jen was fulfilled homeschooling her kids; but with all of the positive qualities she and her husband were hearing about Grace, the Fords decided to enroll their kids in the school. It wasn't too long into the school year, however, that the learning challenges they suspected their son had began to surface.

Some time before this, Jen had sensed the Lord had something new on the horizon for her—just what, though, she wasn't sure. It was then that her son's needs came to the forefront. His world and hers collided.

Without a clear understanding of why her son was struggling, Jen began to educate herself and to advocate for her son. As she sought a diagnosis for her own child, she learned about advocating for kids who struggle with learning. She discovered she enjoyed finding answers to the puzzling learning struggles some kids have.

Jen realized she was doing the very thing that God had for her to do next. So she went back to school herself and is working to complete a master's degree in developmental psychology, focusing her studies on the developmental challenges that children and adolescents have.

Eventually—through Jen's advocacy, and the testing available through qualified teachers at Grace—Jen's son's challenges were diagnosed and his needs could be addressed.

"GIS is both a school that desires to find ways to make learning happen for kids with extra academic and behavioral challenges, and a school with a heart to help parents continue in ministry," Jen said. "Because GIS has been able and willing to offer our son specific accommodations that work with his limitations, our family feels supported and we are able to continue to pursue the things God has called us to."

As Jen finishes up her degree, she hopes that what she has learned will not only help her own kids, but also others' kids in the future.

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www.gisthailand.org



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.