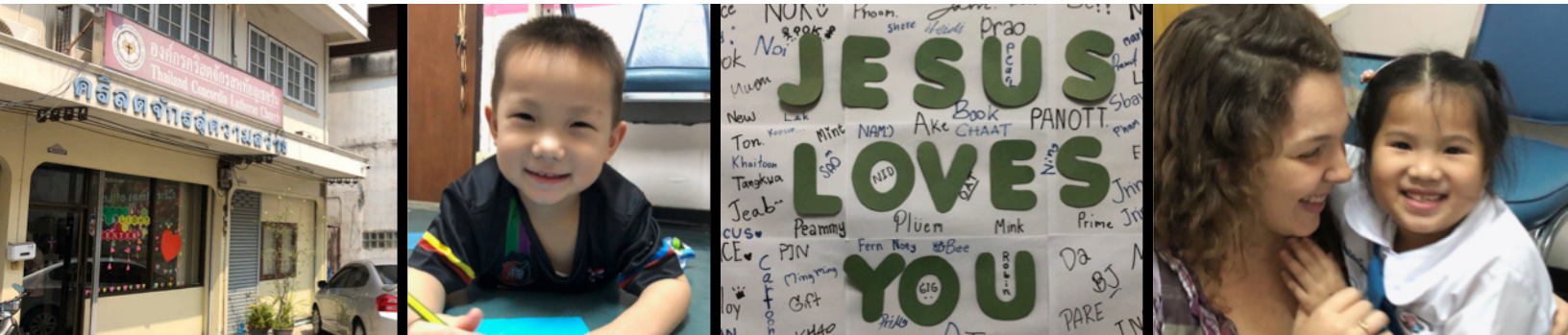


# CHANGING PATHS



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Left - Concordia Into Light Lutheran Church occupies the second floor of this humble building which also serves as the base of a long-standing English language instruction and relationship-building ministry on the first floor. Students like Pokpong (left center) learn that Jesus loves them through missionaries like Ally (pictured right with Bangpan).

What do Earth, Gift, Captain, Proom, Pare, Pham, Bee, Dew, Oat, and Golf all have in common? Surprisingly, something. The answer is that all of these are names of students at the Into Light English Center located in the northern edge of Bangkok, Thailand. As unusual as some of these may seem, it isn't uncommon for Thai students learning English to choose a name more easily remembered by foreigners unfamiliar with the local language.

The simple act of learning what name to call the students is, of course, an important part of the whole teaching process. Surrounded by a classroom environment intended to promote effective learning and friendly engagement, students at the center interact with members of our mission team who always have an eye on connecting them to the church through invitations, activities, and special events. One such example is a recent sort of 'block party' with a John chapter 3 theme verse ('for God so loved the world') that gathered together close to 100 current and former students, neighbors, and church colleagues. (Other gospel-sharing moments aren't necessarily as extravagantly intentional, perhaps simply taking place in a regular conversation through an uncomplicated connection over a common interest, like coffee!)

As we approach the Lenten season, we can reflect on how God calls us. We deserve to be called what we are - sinners, through and through. Yet, He has looked upon us, seen our condition, and kept his promise to send his Chosen One, the Christ. Now, on account of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we are called God's children by grace through faith. This is the message that is being proclaimed through a simple building in an undistinguished neighborhood in the middle of a giant metropolis capital of a Buddhist-majority southeast Asian country. And, in fact, it is the message of hope for the world.

As we work to support the ministry in Bangkok, we acknowledge, appreciate, and thank you for your continued partnership.



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