APRIL 2016 MISSION STORY:
ROYAL RIDE
Sulad Joyce and Hannamel Canilao wrote from SULADS campus at MVC. (Their time has been spent in learning Thai language as they are preparing for their cross-cultural mission in South Thailand.)

If there’s a will, there’s His Mighty Wallet and Wheels…

While we were having trip back home from Negros Reunion, we were thinking when we can possibly visit MVC since we’re just 8 hours away MVC but it seemed that we can relate to this caption: near, yet so far. We found time to continue with our application requirements for SULADS Thailand through Sir Jhun Cardeinte. We never even envisioned being SULADS missionaries in Thailand. We just decided to be back at SULADS ministry. That’s it. It only made me realize that God has something more exciting plan prepared for us that will be unraveled in His own timetable. AND He will deliver it wrapped in His beauty and goodness, directly at our doorsteps. That when He plans something for you He will make sure to present it to you without any hassle, effortless. That’s what He did to us and continues doing.

When Sir Jhun asked us if there was any way in which we can study Thai Language, we just replied, “We’ll look for ways to study on our own, Sir.” But actually we didn’t know how to effectively study the language. He then suggested to us if we can go to MVC to study with Sulad Kou Xiong but that was quite unthinkable. Then, we just found ourselves leaping with great joy when he told us that indeed we’ll be making it to MVC in due time. That was fast! God answered our prayer in a zoom and our wanting was filled right at that moment. My personal worries about financial matters gone instantly. Who are we to belittle God’s power anyway?

We planned supposedly to travel on January 25th, Sunday. But it seemed that God wanted us to be a little earlier by a day. We attended Vespers and told some of our close church members-friends that we will be leaving two days from then to undergo Language Training at MVC. Sabbath came and we couldn’t hide our excitement. Our minds were all filled with so many things in mind but we never packed yet, rather setting our minds to leave the next day which meant that we still got time to do the necessary preparations. The husband of one of the elders who happened to be very close to us approached my husband and told him that his brother working as a mobile staff at Valencia Sanitarium planned to visit their mom and be leaving right away lunch time. He drove all the way from Valencia to Davao International Airport to escort one of their doctors who also owned the vehicle. He thought that since Mawab was just few hours away from Davao, he will visit his hometown. Upon hearing the early good news, honestly, I couldn’t concentrate since I hadn’t packed a thing yet. Yet, we managed to finish the whole service and without ado rushed to our home after a hasty lunch and packed just enough for a month personal needs and clothes.

We headed right away to the church just to be sure that we wouldn’t be late for the ride. After few minutes, someone called from the outside informing us that indeed the mysterious vehicle was outside and we need to hurry to go back to Valencia at once. With all our baggages arranged at the back, we were a bit hesitant to ride for we thought that it will be just a typical vehicle but to our great surprise it was far better than our expectation. We volunteered to pay for some fuel. We never knew that Kuya Jamelarin drove extra fast and knowledgeable of the shortest way avoiding the traffic that might delay us both for our destination. Also, the trip was full of life since we never ran out of conversation, forgetting how nauseous and motion sick I was since our trip started. Instead of having an 8-hour trip, we made it for only 4 and half hours dropping us off at Bagontaas where we had a hearty meal to energized us more for our remaining trip to MVC. We were so thankful, really thankful, to Kuya Jamelarin being our God-given driver.

We stayed for an hour or more at Bagontaas looking for someone who could give us a ride to MVC. It seemed that no one showed up and so my husband started to look for a willing motorela driver to take us safely to MVC. After what seemed a century, there my husband asking us to get ready for the dusty road. According to the motorela driver that it was his first time to be at MVC. We just assured him of his safety through prayers and off we went stopping every now and then when discomfort alarmed us. It was dark, bumpy and dusty. We all felt an instant feeling of mixed emotions to be instantly at MVC Campus. With us was my sister-in-law who will be joining SULADS this Summer and at the same time decided to volunteer for a month at SULADS High School while self-reviewing for her upcoming Teacher’s Board Exam.

Feeling the cold wind blowing at our now turned-sticky skin, we knew that we were nearing to our most-coveted and prayed-for destination. The driver was amazed at the place and we prayed for his safety thanking him for his heart to help us all through the way. We couldn’t believe how fast we arrived, brought by no less than a royal vehicle, as we considered it to be. Well, as heirs and heiress for His Kingdom above, we all deserve a royal treatment, all provided by Him. And He will take us all by surprise. We will never forget the convenience, friendliness, safety and gratefulness we have in heart for God’s way of giving us a splendid “Royal Ride.” And we are still waiting for more experience after we had a “Royal Boat Ride” back at Tawi-tawi and a “Royal Car Ride” on our way to MVC. Once God plans something, He will make sure we will be delighted and be running out of words to praise His goodness and His ROYAL way of dealing us.