MISSION STORY:
The Call to Leave for a New Home
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A year ago, I was asked by a friend to go to Thailand to extend missionary work. What’s in Thailand by the way? What’s the difference between Thailand and Philippines when it comes to missionary work? I think they’re just the same. I brushed off the idea of coming here then. I find myself totally unqualified for the work and I have too many worries, fears, and what ifs. But the Lord never stopped calling. He called me not once but thrice! I was hesitant for many reasons and I was so full of questions. I know working here will not be easy. But in the end, I eventually said yes. We can never tell what will really happen next but we can all fully surrender our plans, worries and selves in the Lord’s keeping. After all, this is not our work. It is His.
I was planning to go here with my SULADS Philippines partner, Sister Precious. But the Lord had another plan. He get me married to have a lifetime partner instead. It was amazing how that wedding ceremony was made to happen since we just had a month or two to prepare. And we had only enough to spare at that time for a specific number of people. It was totally a wedding by faith. All SULADS cheerfully volunteered to help us and their prayers were of so much help for the success of the event. Last summer was something so memorable to all of us.
While we wait for our papers and our other documents needed to arrive here, the SULADS office sent us for the mean time to Belatan Tainga, Tawi-Tawi since we were expecting that we will be leaving sometime in August or September. We packed our things and prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide us. Davao to Tawi-Tawi was a three-day travel. It was quite long but the journey is life in itself. We left Davao on May 30 and arrived in Zamboanga by June 1. After we had just fixed our things on the ship to Bongao, Ma’am Bethel called and informed us that our tickets were booked already and that we were leaving the Philippines by June 19. It was a surprise not only to us but as well as to the missionaries waiting for us in the islands. I suddenly asked the Lord why so rush. Our plans and To Do Lists were shattered. I don’t know why. But God’s thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways (Isa. 55:6). He makes all things beautiful in His time and everything has a season under the sun (Ecc. 3).
We left the Philippines with tears in our eyes but with the assurance that God will be with us—always. Though we encountered so many problems while preparing for our passports and some other documents, the immigration had not been that harsh with us. Indeed, prayers are keys to unlock heaven’s miracles. As both of us were first timers, the travel was really hilarious. We’ve been to a place we never thought we would. Singapore’s airport was beautiful and amazing. I wonder how more beautiful and amazing heaven would be. For sure, it would be the grandest place I would ever see.
Thailand is a beautiful place as well. The Thai and Hmong are very nice people. The school welcomed us warmly. We felt so appreciated and accepted. Though the language is really challenging, we believe that we could overcome all these things through Christ who will give us strength. All the burdens, all the pains, the trials, and the homesickness; these all will pass away together with this world. And a new home will be established for the saved ones. They will be living with Jesus then. What a wonderful thought to ponder on!
Maybe, we are now in our new home or already living comfortably in this world. But this is not really our real home. We are all made for heaven. May we continue to labor for the Lord when we still have time left.