A Spectacle unto the World

By Jell Christy Cabanero

It was the arrival of the Taglos couple and the long weekend that prompted us to visit Phayao again. We missed almost everyone especially Heiaggy. Our visit there was awesome and somehow our missing hearts were filled with joy as we once more gather together with them. The memories of home doesn’t bother so much us now as we contemplate the fact that we may stay here for good.

Our short stay with them finally ended and we have to go home already. Our director was very much worried about us that he made it sure that we be able to arrive home safe and sound. Together with his wife, they picked us from Chiangrai by Sunday and went home. The travel was quite long since it was a rainy afternoon and we arrived at their house in Chiang Khong at around six in the evening. We stayed there for some few minutes hoping for a sip from the director’s sister in law hot soup. But we learned that she just started cooking. To save time, we left and went to the market instead. They ordered sumptuous meals of which chiefly are spicy. I just observed them as they gave us spoons and chopsticks and some other condiments, and when we were about to eat, the director told us to offer a prayer since we normally do that. I was totally amazed because as far as I could remember, we had shared meals only twice. It’s only when sir Jhun and other missionaries visited us here and when we had lunch together at the office. With joyful heart, I offered a prayer of thanksgiving and praises. I never knew then that they were only observing us and watching our every move. Now, I’m starting teaching the students in our school with short children songs sang in our churches. Also, I started praying before starting the class with them by letting them repeat the words I pray.

Before, I was a little bit hesitant to show my faith in the school specifically in the classroom because I am afraid the Thai teacher would reprimand me for doing so. But I eventually realized that why would I be ashamed of the gospel? Of God’s great redeeming love for fallen men? Of His soon return? Of me being a Seventh Day Adventist Christian? Of Jesus himself? I remember Apostle Paul when he said that we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. 1 Cor. 4:9. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Heb. 12:1. Let us then continually bear with us our identity –fully reflecting the character of Jesus Christ.