AUGUST'S EIGHT ANSWERED PRAYERS

Sulad Joyce & Tata Canilao, South Thailand

The month of August brought accomplishments we believed made us ready to leave Phayao and get ready for the South. We've been in there for 3 months already just as planned for the language training. But God taught us something more than learning the language. Let us share unto you the list of the Lord’s eight tender mercies for this 8th month of the year.

FIRST: Pastor Luesak Yang finally replied to Sir Jhun's inquiry about our possible mission post in the South. After a long, silent times, he finally replied that Hat Yai Church is ready to accommodate us anytime while we look for school anywhere in the south to start the ministry.

SECOND: Teacher Chin of Dokbua Elementary School, where SULAD Jessica was assigned, asked some help from us with her student for speech contest. At first we were a bit hesitant since we didn’t have any experience how to coach storytelling but with the help of co-SULAD (teamwork), our practices went well. She always brought food for everybody noticing that we were many in the center and even spent some time eating and talking with the missionary trainees. A day before the contest, she dropped by at the center and requested Tata to pray for them. We were shocked and privileged at the same time to have such opportunity to share our faith through prayer. They were gold awardee for the contest. She even brought more goodies and treats for everybody during the Sabbath SULAD Dedication Ceremony.

THIRD: We met Teacher Eve in one of the center's English Bible class held every Wednesday. Funny and sweet as she was, she became our friend instantly. She has been working on a very important school requirement and asked assistance from us and from another co-Sulad. We've been discussing from time to time using God-given talents in a much unselfish way, power of prayer and about heaven. We’ve been with her in some of our social and spiritual activities (during English camp and church outings) together with the center’s tenants (Orval, Marvin, and Riz), who had always been supportive to the ministry. She said that she's happy to meet our family, especially Heiaggy, and even promised to visit us in the south in some future time. This friend deserves prayer and truth too.

FOURTH: Since our visas will expire before the month’s close, we went to Laos few days before the SULADS dedication. It was a total of 20 hours or more trip from Phayao to Bangkok then to Laos. We had the smoothest trip in processing and all, especially Heiaggy who never showed any signs of boredom and tantrums along the way. We met friends and encouraged a troubled one who learned to trust God's intervention in her life living in a foreign land.

FIFTH: The SULADS Dedication which highlighted the Candle Lighting Ceremony, Communion Service and Pledge of Loyalty was a way of reminding us that this work is entrusted, commissioned and dedicated for His Glory's sake.

SIXTH: We called TOEIC reservation office a week before our exam schedule. We had barely enough time to study so we just scanned the TOEIC review book to get some ideas on how the exam will be and eventually left everything to God. We arrived at Bangkok a day before the exam, quite tired and groggy. The day of examination came and we both surrendered our weaknesses to God—Tata's pessimistic perspective of not passing the exam just like most of his previous exams and my hyperopia. I was praying for him and later on knew that he was praying for me too. We had finished the very time-limited exam 5mins before it ended. Praises be to God we both made it with the same scores and above the passing rate we never expected!

SEVENTH: Language in our case was learned easily outside our learning zones; that is through real-life situations. With all the needed travels we had, conversing with the taxi drivers, buying for a local vendor, asking for directions and singing Church hymnal, were learning in action. Fueled with reading, writing and speaking, Thai language learning was never been this fun and useful.

EIGHTH: A day after TOEIC exam, we headed to the south with SULAD AMR Supervisor Ranny De Vera. We had such a meaningful journey with him. He was the one who told us about Muslim ministry in south Thailand last year, assisted and accommodated us from visa processing till our flight for SULADS Thailand and now he will be officially entrusting us to Hat Yai SDA Church (headquarters). He has been through our missionary journey, not to mention that he gladly accepted to be my "father" for our wedding 6 years ago. We couldn’t thank God enough for this.

Yes! These are only eight of the many certain unspeakable blessings which the Lord manifested to us as we “being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you (us) will perform it until the day of Jesus." Philippians 1:6. Please pray for us as we continue to work and pray and obtain God's answer for us with the work in the south of Thailand.