IN THE SPIRIT OF THE PIONEERS  
By Sulad Brayan and Bethel Jane R. Taglos

“Engrave in our hands their diligence, write in our hearts their virtue, and impress in our thoughts their vision, their mission and their passion.”

We finally said, “Yes!” We finally said, “Lord we are ready to go!” From the moment we said yes to the call we had understood right then and there that that was never our agenda. “Oh finally this isn’t all about us. This is all about God’s agenda; His plan and His great love for souls living in the mountaintop, in a village called HUAI FAI with people called MIEN (One of the largest numbered hill tribe in Thailand). It is in Nan Province, Northern part of Thailand.”

It was never in our plan to be missionaries again in a foreign land for some number of reasons like “Why tire up ourselves by learning a new language and suffer the cross cultural adjustments where in fact we can serve our own tribes in the Philippines?” These are quite very reasonable reasons, aren’t they? Anyway, we can be missionaries anywhere. So our thoughts and eyes are fixed on serving our very own unreached tribes. We thought, that would be our fate but then as God told prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 55:8, “Your thoughts are not my thoughts and your ways are not My ways.” In a speed like the lightning as we would like to describe it, we got our papers ready in a month including our passports in which we didn’t have one yet. In just like a single blink of our eyes, we got our passports, school records, authenticated marriage contract and lastly our Visa in just matter of days. The months processing became weeks and the weeks became days. August 3, 2016 marked the date when we first set foot in the land of many Elephants and August 26, 2016 will be our first day in the mission field. Where stories upon stories and miracles upon miracles of God’s grace, provision and most enduring love to His people will soon take place and shine in the entire Mien village and the surrounding villages.

At this very time, we have come to grasp a very timely significance of all the rush in our processing, “the Lord is in a great hurry to save as many people as He could that there is no need to delay.” We don’t know exactly the details of how will we do it but as long as we know and have understood the Master's plan which is to SAVE LOST SOULS we have confidence in the sufficient grace of God. What we only have in hand are the Word of God and our praying and yielding hearts to what the will of God is for us and His people. We are earnestly praying that our spirit may be like of the Spirit of our pioneers. We cannot help but marvel the spirit of our SULADS pioneers in this work here in Thailand. The spirit and heart of a SULADS are graven in their hearts and written on their minds. And we cannot help but pray that the double portion of their spirit be also given to us. As a couple, we have seen and felt the great sacrifices of our pioneers here in our work in Thailand. When they could have chosen a different life; a life of comfort and a life lived only for the welfare of themselves and their families, they have chosen the opposite. By God’s grace these pioneers and leaders we have here together with their entire families chose not the calling of the ordinary hands, they had chosen the road less traveled which is to reach the unreached people specifically the hill tribe in Thailand. By their choices made WE ARE TO FOLLOW. Today, we stand as witnesses of how the good Lord will choose and work out in the individual lives of people who are very open and willing to be under His command.

Our Prayer is… Dear Lord, Please give us the double portion of their spirit to stand for the love of your work as they did. Make us want but the spiritual welfare of the around us especially those we came to serve as the pioneers did. Engrave in our hands their diligence, write in our hearts their virtues, and impress in our thoughts their vision, their mission and their passion. Please Dear Lord, make us one with Your agenda. May the seed of their influence grow into a big tree that will bear more fruits of influences in our very lives. And more than this we claim Your very promise that your grace will be sufficient in us to be daily surrendered to your will, to be daily devoted to your Words and Instructions and to daily BE LIKE the first Missionary, Your Son JESUS Christ. In Jesus name, amen.