

Trumpet Call from Hang Dong, Thailand 2018

Merry Christmas!

"...IF THE TRUMPET DOES NOT SOUND A CLEAR CALL, WHO WILL GET READY FOR BATTLE?"
1 Corinthians 14:8



Praise and Prayer

***Praise** - for the privilege of sharing this season together with these very special boys.

* **Praise** - for the opportunity to have Annaliesa here with us for a week to celebrate!

* **Praise** - for Nate and TJ continuing to enjoy their new school and adjusting well to life in Hang Dong (a Chiang Mai suburb).

* **Please pray** - that God would cause Nate's caseworker to be more amiable and very efficient at getting Nate's case ready for the Adoption Board.

***Please pray** - that the adoption process would go quickly; that all hurdles would be overcome in as short a time as possible.

***Please pray** - for Tim's teaching opportunities and ministry with the house fellowship to be effective and God-honoring.

Thank you!!

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Dear Friends and Family~

We wish you a **Joyous Christmas**, and His **fresh perspective in the New Year!**

We are constantly amazed at what God is doing in His world—most recently so as we listened to real-life examples of this shared by a group of non-western mobilizers gathered in our home! God is pleased when we, you, or any other believers accept His invitation to display and tell of His passionate Love for mankind!! What a *privilege* [albeit "*gloriously difficult*"—penned so 'spot-on' by Oswald Chambers] to be on pilgrimage through this life with Him!! How scary and empty it would be to try managing our journey without Him; after all, He specifically *designed it* to be lived under His Shepherding!! Oh, may God grace and empower us to show this sad world a joyous difference. **JESUS is that difference!!!** ... **He was born** to offer us the unmatched gift of a clean slate, a restored relationship with our Designer-God!! :)

For those who remember back four years ago, Ty started living with us full-time just before Christmas 2014. We commented then what a joy it was to watch Ty's discovery of so many "new" things we'd all come to take for granted. This Christmas marks approximately nine months of having Nate and TJ. Though older than Ty was, the discovery is still obviously there, and so enjoyable to watch...especially now, connected to Christmas! When redeemed by Jesus—the Promise of the first Noel—Christmas becomes **a season of wonder, surprises and joy!!** While for too many it's (at times understandably) become overshadowed by sadness, loneliness, and hopelessness, these boys (particularly Nate!) are relishing a season they never knew could be SO full of *wonder, surprises and joy!!* Watching them reminds us that HE is still about the mystery of redeeming, & reconciling ALL things to Himself!! We see in their eyes His Light progressively shining in, very gradually pushing back their fears and uncertainties. No question that during this time of year, when we specifically celebrate Jesus' birth, we ought to have an **overwhelming sense of wonder, surprise, and joy!** Reading through Luke 2, we can't help but sense these very emotions—including the "surprise" [shock!!] felt in four separate visits of an angel sent by God!! Moreover, imagine Mary's heart, and the awe of the shepherds and Magi. Indeed, what "great **JOY** to all people!!" What Jesus' birth promised *then* holds just as true and as hope-filled *today*—for millions across our world and for those in our home! We pray these truths are heartfelt in *your* homes as well!! We're praying you will enjoy **His Wonder, Surprises and Joy** this **Christmas!** Together—along with your faithful prayers & gifts—we remain...

Standing in the gap—filled with wonder, surprises and joy!!

Tim, Heidi, Annaliesa, Ty, TJ and Nate :)

www.SERVED.ngo. If any of you would like to send **YEAR-END GIFTS**, or support us monthly, you may do so by **sending your check to SERVED: 19225 Bothell-Everette Hwy; Bothell, WA 98012.** On the check memo line, pls. write: **for Tim and Heidi Sullivan.** *Please know we do not take your gifts for granted!!*

TEACHING MOBILIZERS from around THE WORLD:

The second group of mobilizers I taught in the fall season was also an absolute delight to work with! After I spent a week teaching and getting to know them, our family had them over for a meal. How true it is that meals are the *International Symbol of Fellowship*; they speak loudly and clearly to every culture! Surely that's at least one reason there was the breaking of bread together in the New Testament gatherings of believers. Sharing meals somehow helps knit our hearts together. **Please pray** these folks might be disciplined to put into practice the things learned during their time here in Chiang Mai, & allow God to form in them new "grooves of grace!"

HOUSE FELLOWSHIP:

Our little house fellowship has been preparing for a neighborhood Christmas outreach. So, we went out and invited the neighbors to a Christmas Celebration on the 23rd. We've done a number of things through the years related to serving and outreach around Christmas, but this is the first time in this location (the Thai people hosting our fellowship moved a while back). So it will be good to see what HE does in this time. :) **Please pray** with us for open hearts and open doors to continue relationships with those who come!!

~~As always, Heidi and I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and faithful prayers!! Especially at this point in our journey, we can't imagine doing this without the remarkable support you give us in so many varied ways!!...and we will likewise so much appreciate whatever YEAR-GIFTS you feel led by Him to give!~~

The Chronicles of Boy-nia by "Mama" :)

Perhaps this month I should title this little summary of life with our "three musketeers" as The Chronicles of "Mama-nia" instead of "Boy-nia"...as God's Spirit has been working much on ME, with regard to them! So many kind and caring friends often thoughtfully seek to encourage me by saying, "You're so amazing to take in these three boys!"... or "You're so sweet!"... or "You're so patient!" and so on—all of which I truly do appreciate and receive gladly, as I know your desires to encourage me are heartfelt!! :) However, the fact is that at least most of you have never seen me when my actions are far from being worthy of such compliments!! It's a literal life-saver that God only sees (and treats!!) me through the perfection of Jesus!! Decades ago now, my mother-in-'Love' shared something with me that I've not forgotten to this day: "The REAL YOU comes out in a crisis!" Well, let me tell you...it's UGLY!! :(

While I do believe God has given me the spiritual gift of mercy, it also seems He is in the process of pointedly refining this in me!! Oh, my!...talk about a "glorious difficulty" (as quoted above)!! I know in my head that if I allow His Spirit to work in this area, it will truly be a "glorious" thing...and people will be able to "get" that no human being could possibly respond in such a merciful way—thereby hopefully seeing that God is REAL through my life. But, after I've given the same instruction countless times only to find that literally seconds later it is not followed through on, there is too often NO evidence of mercy in my voice or actions—though I know the child's actions often stem from deep trauma and/or from tragic damage to their neurochemistry early on, which they had no choice about!!

Recently, I recalled Jesus' parable of the unmerciful servant: "...a king...wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ...[A] man...owed him ten thousand bags of gold... ...[He] was not able to pay, [so the] master ordered that he...and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him [only] a hundred silver coins. ...'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison...until he could pay the debt. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over...to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." ~Matthew 18.

Moreover, I was reminded of the instruction in Ephesians 4:2, to "[bear] with one another in love."
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So, you get the picture!! ... ugh!! "Deliver me from the body of this death(!!)," as Paul said. Well, now you have a specific way to undergird and support me in prayer...for which I'm truly grateful!! :)



**Left and above:**  
Christmas trees!!  
...at a mall and  
—best of all—in our home! :)

{FYI~Nate, eldest & tallest;  
Ty, second eldest and tiniest;  
TJ, youngest & middle-sized!}

**Below:** Nate and TJ spiffed  
up for school; then there's Ty  
—sporting his morning  
“pineapple head!” **Right:**  
hmm..Mr. Snowman needs a  
spelling lesson! ;) **Upper 3:**  
Decorations above front door  
& on back of school shelves;  
Ty being brave at the dentist!



**Far right:** Our “three mus-  
keteers” full of smiles near  
our front door; then all  
sprawled out together, en-  
joying a “Bill Nye, the Sci-  
ence Guy!” video.  
**Below:** “Hanging out,” li-  
terally, on their playground  
set in our side yard :)



**Right:** Our second family, posing in our front yard. All boys  
this time!!...and we're still learning the ropes of their  
differences from girls!! Note the purple orchids & aloe plant  
hanging from the tree behind; they're hung in their own pots  
— a typical way Thai people beautify their yards!



