

Hallelujah Moment from Japan

"God Is So Good!"

By Debbie Umipig-Julian

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Debbie stands with Eva, Mustafa, and their children, KC and Zilan.

Photo courtesy of Debbie Umipig-Julian.

Mustafa wandered through the mountains for a long time and finally had to flee his home country in order to preserve his life after he quit a militant group. A Kurd from Turkey, Mustafa ended up in Japan where he met Eva, a Filipina working in the entertainment industry. Mustafa and Eva formed a family and after some time (and two children), they began seeking legal documents as refugees in Japan.

As I saw this family come through the door into the crowded room of our office in search of assistance, something happened inside of me and I knew they were sent by God.

In the months that followed, the family was settled into an apartment free of charge and received support of groceries and clothing. Occasionally, I would go with them to court, to the immigration office, and to collect public signatures.

At times I was exhausted after spending a long day in a meeting with this family, struggling to understand the documents in a different language; or frustrated when Eva would call at 10 p.m. telling me she couldn't sleep and wanted to cry out of fear of being deported separately from her husband. But almost three years later, the much awaited day arrived when the court decision was handed down.

I got up early in the morning to the sound of the telephone ringing. It was Eva. "Hello, sister! Yes, we got it!" she shouted at the top of her lungs. "God is so good!" Eva cried and laughed as she broke the good news that they could now remain in Japan legally.

God is so good, indeed!

Devorah Umipig is a Global Ministries missionary serving in Tokyo, Japan, as a social worker for the Christian Coalition for Refugees and Migrant Workers (CCRMW).

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