

OUR GOD & THE “CRAZY” LEES

IN A LAND BEYOND TIME

“THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE.” (JOHN 1:3)

Since the beginning, God has created the heavens and earth. Our interest in nature, adventure, historical landmarks and archaeology, have been high on the list for our travels. Well, shopping too, if it is part of the trip. 😊

For this trip, Teck Chai and I headed to Lapland where we marvelled at the beauty and were in awe at the feet of God’s creation in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Yes, this trip is also on our bucket list. We give thanks to God to be able to travel together as husband and wife (something that I learnt not to take for granted over the years after all that we have been through) and the blessings during the trips. 😊



“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. (Ps 19:1-2)

We transited in Frankfurt before Oslo and the photograph was taken in the departure lounge. I was looking through the glass panels, admiring the drops of snowflakes, falling onto the tarmac; munching on the sandwiches and an apple for a pack & go lunch.

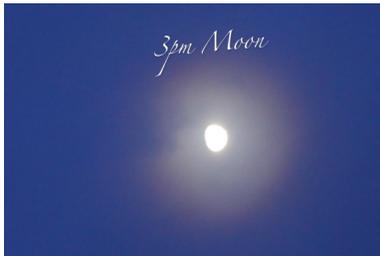
Our first stop at Oslo, Norway, got us prepared for the wintry cold that was to come over the next 10 days. The roads were slippery from the ice formed through the heavy snowfall. I am always excited when I see

snow. This trip had snow falling on my head and it was all around us. The scenery looked like it is a bed of fluffy white cotton, waiting for us to step on it. Wow!

In Oslo, the temperature was below 10 degree Celsius and it was still manageable for us. The sun set early at about 4 p.m. during this period in that part of the world. How beautiful it was when the skyline turned red, lining the perimeters of the sea with its glory. It was also not surprising to see the moon in the afternoon.



“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.” (Ps 96:11-13)



“How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number - living things both large and small.” (Ps 104:24-25)

It was a beautiful sight at every stop we made. The depth of snow increased at the pit stops and the weather turned colder dipping into below zero temperatures.

As we made our way for an overnight Hurtigruten cruise, it was the first moment for us to catch the Northern Lights. I learnt that once there is a cloudy night with snowfall, the chances of seeing Northern Lights were very slim. I enjoyed the cruise as I always



have. Yes, battling the cold with warmth in our hearts; giving thanks to God! ☺



There were visits to the parks and the city areas to understand the culture of Norway. Finally, the “Crazy Lees” had the opportunity to catch glimpses of the Northern Lights when we were in Tromsø. It was a beautiful sight and you stand amazed at how wonderful is our God when you see such a phenomenon. The spectacle of the green colours was so natural that we knew we can tick off this

item on our bucket list.

“The heavens are yours, and yours the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it” (Ps 89:11)



The journey continued with visits and sights of the Lutheran and Protestants Churches in Norway and Finland. The one that we particularly adored was the ‘Rock Church” in Helsinki, Finland. It is known for its striking copper dome and it was built out of rocks. Could you see the Cross at the top?



As we gazed into the nature despite the cold temperature of -20 degree Celsius, our dream of doing a husky ride across the horizon came through. Do you recall moments when we complain about the hot weather in Singapore?! In that moment, I am reminded and thankful for the blessings despite turmoil and challenges in our lives too. There is a purpose for everything!



Lapland Sun

"It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshalled their starry hosts" (Is 45:12)



All the pictures were taken from the hand-phones. We cannot believe how wonderful the photographs turned out; capturing the heavy snowfall with the huskies to the rising, setting of the sun and the appearance of the moon.

As a finale of the article, let us introduce to you the famous Ice Hotel and the visit to Santa Claus in Finland. Fancy having juice in a cup made of ice and really, they can drink hot coffee and tea from the ice cups too. These are great memories as souvenirs!



"Give them a message for their masters and say, 'This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: tell this to your masters: With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please" (Jer 27:4-5)

Also, the final stop was the reindeer farm and the rides on the snow fields through the forest of frozen trees in Helsinki at -32 degree Celsius. We



thought the snow mobile ride on the night through the snow-capped mountains were the coldest ever on our trip! Well, we were educated by the locals that it could have been -45 degree Celsius when the weather plunged! Arggh!



works in our lives, let us continue to believe in Him when things are tough and sometimes even when we do not understand. We stand in awe of Him who is the Creator before and beyond time; knowing that he is our God!

Joyce Tan (aka Mrs Lee)

