

Dear family at Cannon Beach,

In our last update I mentioned I'd send some pictures later. See below pictures of the activities of our Mangyan scholars/grandkids.

The Sunday before Christmas there was a joint fellowship of the Bethany churches in the San Jose, Mindoro area. Our Mangyan kids gave the special number singing Silent Night. The lowlanders were very impressed that these Mangyan kids were able to sing so well and in parts -sopranos, altos, and tenors. (Mangyan mountain tribes are thought as being very backwards and uncivilized). Some were moved to tears. Lolo Kermit and Lola Raquel were very proud of them. Psalm 8:2 (found in the Revised Common Lectionary for the New Year - January 1, 2017) reads:

Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens.



A few days later we went caroling. Maam Phoebe (Pronounced as Mom Febe) is their music teacher. I am the head teacher for all the other subjects.



During the caroling, we also brought them to the pier here in San Jose, Mindoro. (Their first time to see the pier.) Phoebe's sister Cheche is on the right. She is a nurse and has helped us many times with suggestions concerning the various ailments that come upon these little ones. The older lady, Grace, is their mom and she and Pastor Rey have become our number one partners in the education of these kids. She and her husband, Pastor Rey, along with their other daughter, Joni, are the main administrators of the Bethany school which we are under legally, so the kids will have a recognized degree by the government.



Veronica is the youngest of the group and only in second grade. She is a cutie and very sharp. We have all ages (8-14) enrolled and all grades (2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade). Most of the time I instruct them all together. But now and then for Math and English we separate them into two groups, depending upon their ability and not necessarily dependent upon their grade or age.



After caroling we brought them to the impressive dancing and colorful water fountains at the city hall. As you can see they are enjoying themselves.



Below: some of the younger ones of our group. Raquel and I enjoy being their lola and lolo (grandma and grandpa).



Below: some of the masipag/industrious ones working on our/their garden of various vegetables. The kids initially planted the seeds in little plastic cups. It's been fun watching the plants grow and bear fruit. It's been great for our Science class. The garden is sandwiched between our newly constructed house and rice field which is now our soccer field. We had to fence in our little garden due to goats roaming around.



Below: as you can see, our kitchen is coming along – getting ready for you to visit us. Note that it is right next to the recently harvested rice field – now our soccer field.





The old bald one in the background (without a shirt) is yours truly. Thanking our Lord that I still can compete and keep up with these little ones.

Below: also next to the soccer field is our classroom.



They seem to be pretty intent on the subject matter. For the most part they are pretty good listeners. I try to be sensitive though and give them breaks when I see they are no longer zoned in.



Going out the door of our classroom one can see Raquel's flower bed. I often thank the Lord for the gifted wife He brought my way.



Above: Our dorm parents, Tonio and Rosalie with their son, in their humble room in the dorm and kitchen building.

Below: on the other side of their sleeping quarters is the sala for the kids, where they have their evening devotions and then study afterwards. You can see they were practicing their song on the black/green board I had painted on the plywood. I wish you could see them during their group devotions – very lively singing full of joy and praise to our King. I feel blessed to the max watching them.



So grateful that our Lord came down to visit us here on earth. Indeed it was a Holy night. Christ our Saviour is born.

Below: children of the King in front of their dorm.



They are all presently in their barrios for the holyday break, scattered throughout Mindoro. However for two weeks during their one month leave classes are being conducted by Sacio for the Occidental Taubuid kids, Rosalie for the Oriental Taubuid, and Beth for the Hanunuu. They will return on January 16.

Wishing you a great 2017 with our beloved Jesus.

Yours in His service,

Kermit and Raquel