

Dear family Cannon Beach,

Trust you had a great Christmas and have had a good start on 2018. Raquel did in fact get to Caluya to spend the New Year celebrations with her parents and family there. She texted me that it was "madurus" on her way to Caluya, meaning the winds were strong and the seas rough. It stayed madurus for a number of days later preventing her to come back to San Jose. But eventually the winds died down enough for her to return, just before all our Mangyan elementary students/grand kids returned from their villages in the mountains. All of them were able to return safe and sound and healthy except for Lorita, who came down with the flu right before her group returned. Hopefully she will join us next week.

While Raquel was with family on Caluya I was by myself here on the school compound. But that was ok, I had great company, namely our Heavenly Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and the angels assigned to watch over me. I'm grateful I had our home built with a flat roof. I had a panoramic view of the fireworks that were sent up to the heavens from all over the town. I actually went to sleep at 8 PM, but woke up at 11:45 PM - just in time for the show.

We once again are back in full gear teaching these kids. It is enjoyable since they really want to learn. I get help from our staff of teachers that allows me to also work on the four translations I'm overseeing. I spent a lot of my time over the Christmas break going over questions they had for me posted on our Paratext program. For fun I critiqued how many Biblical Hebrew grammarians have analyzed the Hebrew verbal system, writing up my take on the Hebrew verbal forms. (If interested, I can send you an attachment of my write-up.)

Early this Saturday morning I was once again encouraged with the reading in Psalm 139 [which is the RCL reading for Sunday - Jan. 14]. I've pasted portions of it below to encourage you as well.

verses 1-5

*O LORD, you examine my heart
and know everything about me.*

You know when I sit down or stand up.

You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

*You see me when I travel [which you know I do a lot]
and when I rest at home.*

You know everything I do.

*You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, LORD.*

You go before me and follow me.

You place your hand of blessing on my head. [I am well aware of His myriad of blessings over the past 67 years.]

vss 9-10

*If I were to fly away on the wings of the dawn,
and settle down on the other side of the sea
even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.*

[Comment: After I read this I took it personally since I indeed flew to the East and settled down on the other side of the seas. And during all these 40 years He indeed has guided me and supported me. Thank you Lord.]

vs 14

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.*

vs 16 You saw me before I was born.

*Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.*

[So we have nothing to fear. He knows what our future holds and He is in control.]

So Raquel and I are looking forward to another great 2018 enjoying Him and our translation teams and the 28 grandkids He has placed in our lives who live with us here on the Bethany compound.

We trust that you too will have a great 2018 enjoying life in Him.

Again we are grateful of your friendship and prayers and support.

Yours in His service,
Kermit and Raquel Titrud

*Headquarters (for gifts – please enclose a note saying
"preference for the ministry of Kermit and Raquel Titrud"):*

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