

Dear family at Cannon Beach,

In my last update to you I mentioned that I was on the island of Caluya to check our Caluyanun translation with the young people before we reprint it in case there were words in it that the new generation no longer understands. I ended up checking it with the young people of three churches on Caluya. I met with them in their churches, handing out Matthew to one, Mark to another, Luke to another, etc. and had them read individually their portion. If they came to a word or clause they did not understand they were to raise their hand. If a particular individual did not understand a word or phrase, I asked the others if they too did not understand. Each session lasted for two hours. Pretty much each book or letter of the N.T. was read by at least two individuals. I was surprised how many words the younger generation no longer understood. I then was able to meet with Pastor Pabling Ysug (my co-translator from 1977-1990), and for two days at his home we went over the words circled, and for the most part we were able to come up with alternative words or constructions that the young people would understand.

From Caluya I dropped off at the island of Semirara to spend some time with my disciples 40 years ago (back then they were the young people of the church on Caluya). Many are pastors of churches on the island of Semirara. When I first visited Semirara back in 1977 and 1978 there were no churches on the island. I encouraged the young people who went around the islands with me to plant churches on Semirara. There are now around seven vibrant churches scattered on the island, mostly pastored by these young people of the past, many of whom are now grandparents. (Time sure flies.) I was supposed to be on Semirara for two days. However when Euly, my godchild and supervisor of the churches on Semirara, drove me to the pier to catch a boat for San Jose, the coast guard was not allowing the boats to leave due to a typhoon having hit the Philippines. I told Euly, no worries since "all things work together for good". I'm now very glad I was not able to leave the island since as a result, I was able to attend the Sunday service there at the main town of Semirara to witness how lively and how much love the young people there had for Jesus, praising Him with their whole being. I was also able to meet with the young Caluyanun speakers of another village to confirm my findings with the young people of Caluya from the previous week. Now Raquel and I will be kept busy as we edit the Caluyanun New Testament in light of my findings with the young people and my meetings with Pastor Pabling.

Though I had a great time and a profitable one on the islands of Caluya and Semirara, it is good to be back home to Raquel and our Mangyan grandkids. They all seemed to have gotten along pretty good without me, though they claim "it is better with lolo here".

It's a great feeling to know you are wanted.

I better sign off for now since many of you are also very busy with your life in Him. For those who would like to read on with regard to Kermit's experiences on Caluya and Semirara, enjoy and thank the Lord with me.

Again, thanks so much for your prayers and support, being our partners in His service,

Kermit for also Raquel

Further highlights on Caluya and Semirara:

1. I thoroughly enjoyed staying with Raquel's sister and family while I was on Caluya. Our nephew, Kevin, and his new bride were also there. I and Raquel are also their godparents. It was good getting to know my new goddaughter and niece, and interacting with her and Kevin.
2. It was also great to see Titing, who helped me big time when I was single with cooking and other household chores – back in 1977-79. A couple of years ago she cut her foot and it became infected and terribly gangrene looking. I did not think she would last very long. She would not allow the doctor to cut off her leg. She said she was just going to pray that God would heal it and if not, she'd rather go to heaven than be missing a leg. I had prayed with her a couple of years ago, but I'll admit, not with much faith since her situation looked VERY bad. But God was gracious to her and her two sons and grandkids, healing her. Wow! Totally amazing.
3. The neighbor of Titing is a guy from Switzerland whom I got to know when I was on Caluya a couple of years ago. He is setting up a scuba diving resort on Caluya. He wanted to bike with me around Caluya. So one morning we biked around the island of Caluya on the hilly gravel road. Boy, was I tired by the time we got back home. However I was comforted when I found out that he too (even though a young man in his 30s) was tuckered out as well, and he ended up sleeping two hours that afternoon recuperating.
4. My godchild Euly lost his wife (Raquel's cousin) a year ago from a heart problem. Only now was I able to get to Semirara to see him. He seemed to be happy having me stay with him. We spent a lot of time together and I was able to encourage him and give some suggestions in his work as a pastor of a church there and as a supervisor of the other pastors on the island. The two of us also were able to visit all of my previous disciples (and mga tangay/close friends) who are pastors on the island. I also taught Euly how to make Swedish pancakes. Euly plans to marry again and has a girl friend. A couple of his kids were not in favor of him marrying again, but after he told them, "Do you want your dad to die early?", they then agreed it was ok for him to marry. Having observed Euly's way of life while with him for a week, I might agree that without a wife he might not last long here on this earth. :) He told me that he mentioned to his girlfriend that if they got married he'd like her to no longer teach at the public school, but to help him with church activities. She asked him "kung kaya niya siya buhayin" – if he could support her needs (literally: if he could make/cause/give her life), since most rural pastors are barely able to live off what they receive from the churches here. He responded to her with, "I am presently being able to feed/take care of 20 pigs, ikaw pa?! (literally: you as well?! – meaning: of course I can also take care of you). You have to learn the Filipino language to have a good laugh at his comment: "ikaw pa?!" When I told Raquel she had a very good laugh as Euly expected she would. :)

[Note: Many of the pastors on Caluya supplement their livelihood with raising a few pigs. And it cost a fair amount for feed, so most can afford to raise only a couple pigs at a time. Knowing that Euly was able to take care of 20 pigs at one time seemed to ease her concern of

him taking care of her needs. :) They plan on getting married in April and Euly wants me to be his godfather once again.]

That's enough for now. I could go on and on. But I too need to get back to work. Again, thanking the Lord with all of my soul for how He took care of me and guided me and for being able to witness the strength of His Spirit among His children there. Back in San Jose, and for devotions the kids sang "Bless the Lord, oh my soul...bless His holy name...." I had fun going over the meaning of that song with them. Praying as I type that you my friend(s) will also experience His many blessings and reciprocate His blessings with blessing Him with your soul/whole-being.

BLESS THE LORD!