

Dear family at Cannon Beach,

It's been about a month since our latest update. During the month of September Raquel and I were in San Jose, Mindoro, Philippines with our Mangyan grandkids overseeing their education as well as overseeing the final touches on the house we built next to the Bethany compound – getting it ready for you to visit us. : )

We also had a visitor for most of September. Bob Kuiken was a teacher at Faith Academy in Manila for a couple of decades. He is now working at the SIL headquarters in Dallas, but took a month off to come and help teach English to our Mangyan students. He really enjoyed them and they also enjoyed him, appreciating his help with their English. These some 30 kids really want to learn. When they first came they knew only a very few English words. They now have learned enough to minimally communicate in English and for the most part understood what Bob was trying to teach them. Derek, who is helping me with the Mangyan Tawbuid translations, also came for a few days. He just retired from teaching in England. They both really enjoyed the apartment we have downstairs for visiting teachers – claiming it was a 4 star hotel. You will have to come to see if it indeed is such. : )

We continually enjoy these little ones who have a big heart for Jesus and really want to learn so they can make a difference in their Mangyan communities and even beyond, fulfilling the great commission. If you would like to see some of their activities just scroll down at the end of this letter.

Items of Praise:

1. Good health – last week I had a cold and runny nose, but once again grateful for how our Lord has created our bodies to fight it off. The coughing and congestion is almost gone. And Raquel has not been bothered much by her bronciectasis.
2. Good health and great attitudes of our Mangyan grandkids/students. Also recently chatted with Shoni and Michael and they seem to be doing well in Minnesota.
3. Peaceful surroundings here in San Jose, Mindoro and enjoying our new home.
4. It is our wedding anniversary of 36 years. I am so grateful for the great wife our loving Lord gave to me.

Items for Prayer: Continuation of the above, that is for good health and that the kids will continue to shine for Jesus doing His will, which they believe is presently doing their best in their studies.

Plans:

1. Continue overseeing the school for Mangyan kids.
2. I am now on the island of Caluya (arrived a couple of days ago) - plan to spend one week here doing a final check of our revised Caluyanun translation getting it ready for publishing. We are out of print and a lot of people are asking for it. I met with three groups of young people in three churches on Saturday and Sunday. There are many words their generation does not know. Tomorrow I plan to meet with Pastor Pabling

Ysug (my co-translator back in the 70s and 80s) and see if we can come up with alternative words/constructions so that our translation will be very clear for the young people as well.

3. Mid November until end of November I plan to go to Tacloban to work with our Waray translation team.

Once again thanks so much for your part in our various ministries.

His grateful servants,

Kermit for also Raquel Titrud

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During the last couple of weeks our Mangyan students have been busy with three various projects. One was giving a report on an article from our encyclopedias for easy readers. We have 19 volumes so I picked an article for each of the students from each volume – mainly related to subjects they have recently studied – like the Atlantic Ocean, Mars, Vietnam, Cambodia, Arctic ocean, Antarctica, Fish, Topical Birds, etc. Sherilyn (on World War 1) and Arleth (on Seasons) below are two of our top students. Arleth demonstrated with a calendar from the USA what the country looks like during Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. There are only two seasons here in the Philippines, Tag-ulan (Rainy Season) and Tag-init (Dry Season).



Rochel did not show up with the students when they returned for the next school year. |

felt like the shepherd in the parable about the shepherd missing one of his 100 sheep. “And although he still had 99, he left the ninety-nine on the hills and went to look for the one that wandered off.” Although I did not go to the Mangyan hills to retrieve Rochel, I was very glad when her parents decided to send her back to us. One of the reasons she did not come back was that her dad had decided to go to a Bible school near Calapan (8 hours away) and her being the oldest child, they thought they needed her to help mom take care of the little ones. Eventually they decided that mom will just take on the extra work load so her child could come back to our education program at San Jose. I had the other kids take turns in the evening going over their notes with Rochel so she could catch up. In math she has already caught up, being a very sharp kid.





Above are the math problems most now are capable of solving. We have been into fractions and percentages. Our kids seem to be much more advanced than the public schools, though last school year when they first came to us they were way behind the kids in the lowland public schools.

Below is Veronica, our youngest and only in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade competing with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. She is sharp enough though and is handling the subject matter ok. We teach 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> graders all in one classroom, usually all being instructed at the same time with the same material – challenging so the younger ones are not snowed under (not a Filipino idiom of course), and at the same time keeping things going along so that the older ones are not bored.



Our students in our sala/living room during a free time – reading whatever they want from our bookshelf. They come to us or raise their hand when they get stuck on a meaning of a word or sentence.



Below: These past couple of weeks the kids have gotten into baseball – first time in their life, and enjoying it. Derek at bat is from England and it was his first time as well to play American baseball. He kind of batted like he was playing cricket. : )







The other Sunday we took the kids for an outing at the beach. They loved it.







Lola keeping an eye on her grandkids. I kind of felt like my dad probably did when he brought us 8 kids to the beach (near our grandpa's house in Long Beach, Calif.) It was not a restful time for him, his eyes forever looking intently to make sure Kermit or Deb or Howard are still up and have not disappeared under the water. Raquel and I had some 30 we had to keep an eye on.

Below: our students in the computer room where once a week they type on the computers and twice a week they have music, conducted by Phoebe. She is excellent and the kids are truly angelic when they sing.



During a festival day at the school, two of our students, Arleth and Angel gave a special solo number. Raquel dressed them up for the occasion giving them a formal Filipino look.



And all our kids also gave a special number. A few days later they also sang for a large seminar in a large conference room in one of the fancy hotels in town. We are planning in April, after school closing, to take them on a one week or ten day choir tour - from San Jose to Calapan stopping at various towns on the way, with them singing in churches and plazas.

