

Dear family at Cannon Beach,

Once again we thank our loving Father for giving us safety on our flights. Actually on our way to Manila from LA, we had a stop over of 8 hrs in China. During that time China Southern Airlines surprisingly put us up in a very nice hotel – with an excellent buffet breakfast (free) and a chance to get a shower.

We were only in Manila two nights at our SIL guest house and then we took to the skies once again for San Jose, Mindoro. We had a great time with our partners for our Mangyan ministries, namely with Rey and Grace of Bethany Fellowship and with Jesson (whom we put in charge of overseeing the teachers for the Mangyan kids. Jesson is one of my soccer kids from the time we were at Nasuli, Mindanao). I also asked Beth (our main Hanunuu translator) to come down to San Jose so we could go over her work with her. She continues to progress very well, having finished a few more books of the Old Testament during our absence. She is still with Raquel in San Jose while I'm back here in Tacloban, the town that was largely destroyed by Super Typhoon Yolanda [Haiyan] on Nov. 8, 2013. If you recall, I missed it all by 12 hours, having flown back to Manila on my scheduled flight on the evening of Nov. 7. From the reports I've received from my friends here, the town is now around 80% recovered. I've now been here a week and I'm pleased with the progress. We now have around 2/3rds of the New Testament in rough draft.

Besides translation work I also had some fun playing soccer with the high school team here at the Bethel International School compound, where I am staying and where the Waray translators come to meet with me. Saturday was the last day of their soccer tournament. They lost their first game. I was able to have a chat with them afterwards in their kind of locker room and gave them some pointers as to how they could do better in their following games. I also told the team that whether they win or lose, God and their coaches would be happy if we knew they did their best – that's all God requires of us. I then asked them why each of them should do their best. They did not seem to be sure and kind of gave an answer something like so we could win. I then told them that each of them should do their best due to their love for their fellow

players – that some of their fellow players are really trying hard and that they too should try their hardest even when they are very tired – if only for the sake of their love for their teammates. I like to think my talk helped since they won the next match 1-0, which allowed them to play in the championship match – playing again against the team they had previously lost to. This time though they won in a thrilling shoot-out, since the score had ended at 1-1 in regulation play.

Well that's the news on the other side of Lake Wobegon, here where the men are nicely tan, the women gracious and beautiful, and the children, well, that's another story.

Thanks once again for your prayers and being our partners in our various ministries – we are very grateful. And we too pray that you will continue to enjoy His peace and His many blessings.

Yours in His service and for His Word, _Kermit and Raquel Titrud

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