

November 14, 2016

Dear family at Cannon Beach,

Once again I had a great two weeks with our translation teams that met in Calapan. No one got sick and we once again had a very profitable time checking a number of chapters in various books of the Bible.

I am now back in San Jose, Mindoro with my dear wife. Last week pretty much all of our Mangyan "apo"s (grandkids) showed up to begin another two months of school here at San Jose.

The biggest news here is that they have now harvested the rice field next to our classroom and the kids now have one big soccer field to play in. The last few late afternoons we've been cutting off the rice straw stubbles - kind of hard kicking the ball with all the stubbles.

We continue to find it challenging teaching these little ones, but at the same time rewarding since they all want to learn and we see progress. They have to deal though with three languages (their own language of Taubuid or Hanunuu, Filipino/Tagalog and English).

Last Sunday Colossians 1:11-14 was one of the readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. It is our prayer for you:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

I now would like to give my personal take and application on the passage. My comments are in brackets and in blue:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power [At our age, Raquel and I really could use all the strength we can get from His glorious power - as we teach, nurture, and nurse these 30 little ones.] and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience [Of course, dealing with little ones requires a lot of patience, especially with regard to trying to get them to keep their rooms clean and organized. Besides being kids, cleanliness and being organized is not a high value in the cultures they are coming from. I though had asked them what they prefer, malinis/clean or marumi/dirty? They all said clean. With that we keep reminding them of what they themselves want. With regard to having to constantly remind them, I remember my mom's words when we were kids. She regularly would have to remind us with: "Shut the door! Where you born in a barn."], while joyfully giving thanks to the Father [We do give Him thanks, for although we know they have far to go, there has been lots of improvement and they all seem to want to grow in all areas of their life - intellectually, in wisdom, and spiritually. All do their weekly memory verses (which

they memorize in English, Tagalog and Taubuid or Hanunuu)], who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. [This of course is our greatest thanks, that He has called us to be His children, cleansing us through the blood of His Son. Also grateful that all these Mangyan kids recognize that they are His children.] He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [Almost daily the kids sing the Hebrew song found in Psalm 36: Hodu ladonay ci tov, ci leolam chasdo - Give thanks to the Lord for (He) is good, for his love/faithfulness is continuous/forever. We are also grateful for His healing powers - all kinds of ailments hit the bodies of these little ones. But He constantly is gracious to lolo (grandpa) and lola (grandma) with His healing them.]

I wanted to see the context of the above passage and thought the previous verses (9-10) also very applicable to our situation. I've changed the "you" pronoun to "little ones" - meaning the Mangyan kids:

We ask God to give these little ones complete knowledge of his will and to give them spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way they live will always honor and please the Lord, and their lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, they will grow as they learn to know God better and better. [Besides teaching them Math, Science, English, etc., we also have regular devotions, morning and night.]

The kids have recently received their uniforms. School uniforms is BIG here in the Philippines and in almost every school, public and private, the students wear uniforms. Our kids were very excited and happy when Raquel gave them their uniforms. Cute group of kids. See below picture.

Again, thanks so much for your prayers and support. Much appreciated. Continue to pray for us, these kids, and the four translation teams we continue to oversee.





The below picture is in front of their dorm and kitchen (the building on the left)



Yours in His Kingdom and for His children and His Word, Kermit and Raquel Titrud  
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