

You probably heard about the Super Typhoon Hagupit (known here as Ruby) arriving here in the Philippines. Calapan, Mindoro is pretty much smack center in its path and it is supposed to arrive here around noon time (our time in the Philippines – about 8 hrs from now – presently 4 AM here). The winds are howling outside and all our windows are shut – not much rain yet, but I’m sure it will be coming. I just turned on the TV and Mindoro is now classified as signal # 3, which is the highest rating for a typhoon.

Thanks for your prayers. The OMF guest house where we stay when in Calapan is situated right next to the ocean, but up on the hillside (I’m guessing its elevation is around 40 meters above sea level). Yesterday the local government had those who live right by the seashore evacuate. We feel pretty safe here though. We don’t expect a sea surge, if there would be one, to reach this high. I’ll get this off since we are expecting that once it hits us we may no longer have internet for some time – generally with a super typhoon falling trees wipe out the wires empowering us with electricity.

With regard to our translation work with the Mangyans here on Mindoro, all’s well. Almost all of the Mangyan translators once again showed up for this three week translation workshop. Daniel was not able to come due to his wife having just given birth and apparently she is pretty weak. Raquel is working with the Hanunuu team and I go from table to table giving guidance to the three translation teams and checking their work. On Saturday, right before we stopped for the day, I had one of the old translators sing a couple of their ethnic songs. You might be interested in the one below sung by Lagbayun.

<b>Taubuid Orriental</b>	<b>Tagalog translation</b>	<b>English translation</b>
Sena man o sena man,	Mare, kumare,	(My) female-friend, (My) female friend
gyawa way ta ’m balayang;	linisin natin ang iyong kamotihan	Let’s clean your sweet-potato-patch
Emu ste fag day batang;	Ang iyo, nasa banda riyang ng tumbang puno	Yours is by/around a fallen tree
Emu ya mariruan;	Ang iyo, hindi pa nalinisan	Yours is not yet cleaned-up
Mabiun sak wa gbuadan	Namumunga na ang damong <i>mabiun</i>	There are now weeds of <i>mabiun</i>
sim tungud fakalian;	sa taas ng hinukayan mo	on-the-top of where- you -dig
Angku mariruan wan;	Ang akin, nalinisan na	Mine is now-already clean
Nus nga ta minfulidan	Kahit magpagulong-gulong tayo	Even-if we would-roll-around-in-it
wa tam e nasungadan.	hindi tayo magkakasugat	We would not get wounded/pierce

It is sung with 4 (or 5) notes, and notice that each line has seven syllables ending with the same or very similar syllable (“an” or “ang”). On another song they sang for us, each line ended with the vowel o. I found it interesting that the younger translators do not know any of these old folk songs. They told me that once Christianity was accepted by the community, these old songs were replaced with Christian songs. Actually it seems that many of the lyrics of their old songs had to do with the animistic spiritual realm, so I guess not wanting to be part of the old ways, having now been freed in Christ, there is the tendency to just let it all be of the past, even the songs that would be more neutral spiritually. Actually in the case of the one above, there is a good moral teaching of not being lazy and of helping out even those who are lazy.

Again, thanks for your prayers. Lately Raquel has felt very weak – not sure what the problem might be – maybe due to her chronic sinus problems. We are very grateful though for His many blessings and being able to stay warm and dry here at this comfortable OMF guest house.

Until next time, take care and enjoy our life in Him, Kermit and Raquel