

## Christmas 2016 and New Year 2017

Dear family at Cannon Beach,

Wishing you a great Christmas. As for Raquel and me, we cannot thank Him enough for all He has done for us in 2016. Below we give some highlights of 2016 and our plans, Lord willing, for 2017. Yesterday late afternoon and evening we took our Mangyan students caroling. However instead of expecting money from those we sang to (which is the norm here), we gave out packages to those hurting financially. Each package contained a package of spaghetti noodles and a package of spaghetti sauce. Spaghetti is a special treat here in the Philippines. We also handed out sweet buns for the little ones. Our grandkids also had fun for a couple of hours last night at the city hall's plaza, enjoying the cool Christmas decorations, dancing fountains, entertainment, and the park there. [We'll send some pictures hopefully soon.] Tomorrow they go home to their families for their Christmas break and Raquel and I will be going to a nephew's wedding on the island of Panay. We hope to spend Christmas on Caluya and are looking forward to another good ride with our Lord during 2017.

[Much of the "highlights" below you probably already know from previous updates. Feel free to skip to "**Plans for 2017**".]

### **Some highlights of 2016:**

**January and February:** Had a great time in Dallas at our center. We were able to meet a lot of our old friends and make many new friends.

**March and April:** Were able to spend time with our new grandson, Jude, and his mom and dad in the Twin Cities as well as time on the farm in central Minnesota

**May - December:** In May we began our school for the Mangyan kids. After Jesson and I toured a number of villages in the mountains throughout the island of Mindoro and having tested the elementary kids in these villages, we picked 33 that we thought were sharp enough to make it through our program. During the past seven months they have gone home twice for a period of a couple of weeks and each time pretty much all of them have returned. There are now 31 of them we are taking care of. We are not only their teachers but also their lolo and lola (grandpa and grandma), meaning we are responsible for their total welfare, including taking care of them when they get sick. It is indeed very draining for these 66 and 62 year olds. But the Lord has been very gracious to us, giving us the energy, health and strength we need. Although it has been a lot of work overseeing them, the school, the staff and

the buildings being built, there have been lots of joys watching the kids grow, both in their knowledge and in their walk with Jesus. Almost every week we give them a memory verse which they memorize in three languages (English, Tagalog and their own [Taubuid Occidental, Taubuid Oriental or Hanunuu]. We plan on printing the whole Bible within the next 4-6 years in the three Mangyan languages. I believe they will be good translations, but the only way we can produce one that is excellent is by producing Mangyan scholars who can handle the English commentaries and are also knowledgeable in Hebrew and Greek. Our plan is that by around 2030 our graduates will be able to revise our translations. Hopefully some of them will go on to become consultants for other language groups, whether here in the Philippines or elsewhere in the world. This way the Mangyan Christian community can play a major role in getting His Word to all the language groups in the world - our Lord's Great Commission for His church. Not all the students will be gifted in translation or will feel led to do this kind of work, hopefully some will be missionaries or Christian leaders in their communities, or helping their communities in other professional occupations.

During all the above months, we have continued to be involved in the four translations I'm overseeing. Thanks to internet this is possible. However I have been in Calapan, Mindoro a couple of times (between 2 to 4 month stretches) to work with our Mangyan translation teams. I really enjoy these times with these godly men and women who really love His Word and want to help their own people to be able to understand it more clearly.

Again, we are so grateful for His BIG help in giving us wisdom and strength with regard to the various responsibilities He has placed upon us. Thanks also for your prayers and support. So much appreciated.

**Plans for 2017:** Continue overseeing the education of these 31 Mangyan kids and the translations of Waray, Hununuu, Taubuid Oriental and Taubuid Occidental. I do want to make one trip to India to begin a new translation for one of the state languages there. And there are soooo many other needs here in the Philippines with regard to the distribution of His Word and our continual involvement in the ministries of those we disciplined over the years. Hopefully I'd have more time to be involved in these other needs. However this would also require us getting help in the teaching program of these Mangyan kids. Pray that our Lord will bring to us those who could help us so more of our time could be directed towards the other pressing needs mentioned above. Sometime in the summer we'd like to take a trip to the USA to see our kids

and grandkids and our many friends. (Our second grandkid in the USA might be out of his/her mother's stomach by the time we get back to the USA.)

Again, wishing you a great Christmas and New Year. May He continue to guide your and our ways as we serve Him and enjoy His presence.

Nineteen forty-two (1942) was the year of Wycliffe's beginning; Wycliffe is approaching 75 years. Clip of Billy Graham speaking at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

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Thank you Lord for coming down to our earth to visit us and show us your ways more clearly and to redeem us, bringing us back to you as your children. Thanks also for your Word revealing to us the awesome and marvelous events surrounding your birth here on this earth.

Your servants,

Kermit and Raquel Titrud

*Email:* [Kermit Titrud@sil.org](mailto:Kermit_Titrud@sil.org); [Raquel Titrud@sil.org](mailto:Raquel_Titrud@sil.org)

*Headquarters (for gifts – please enclose a note saying “preference for the ministry of Kermit and Raquel Titrud”):*

Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando , FL 32862