

Dear family,

On the 25th we made it to San Jose, the other end of the island of Mindoro, a six hour plus trip in a van jammed in like sardines. Here in the Philippines they have a saying, “There’s always room for one more.” Some of the time the conductor had to sit in the same seat with the driver because there was no more room for him in the back as one more passenger was picked up. Even at my short size I get cramped legs. But we praise the Lord we made it safe and sound. Actually on my way to the van on a tricycle (motorcycle with a side car), I was sitting side straddle on the seat behind the driver with my computer bag and another back pack on my back. I noticed he was turning left – wrong direction – so I pointed out to him that we needed to go straight – he took a sharp right correcting himself and I almost went off the seat. I barely caught myself grabbing on to the rooftop of the tricycle. If I hadn’t I would have tumbled down the road – and probably on my way to a hospital with a broken computer. Then when we did arrive at Raquel’s sister’s home in San Jose, we were transferring our stuff from the van to the other side of the street. I think Raquel was pretty wiped out with the trip, and being exhausted with our intense working hours the past few months she so was not very alert. As she crossed the street she did not look to see if there might be any traffic. She almost got run over by a motorcycle. It was extremely close. Sure glad I still have my dear wife. So once again we thank the Lord for protecting us. Thanks again for your prayers.

On Monday, our regular 4 Tawbuid translators showed up bringing with them 3 teachers to be trained. During the past 4 days I’ve been working with them trying to produce lessons and education materials to teach to young elementary kids in their own language. I’m very pleased with what we were able to accomplish. We even put together a little song booklet. I had our 4 translators translate songs as well from a related language into their own language so the kids would have some songs to sing. I made sure they chose songs that kids would also enjoy. This Saturday (May 31) Jesson and I will be going with the Mangyan translators to Balani, one of the Mangyan villages Raquel and I went to around a year ago. There we’ll meet up with the teachers I trained our first couple of days here. Two of these teachers actually have a high school degree. The other one just an elementary degree. As a team we’ll be teaching 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders in their own language. We will be doing this in 6 different villages tucked in the mountains. Each morning we’ll hike to another village (the villages are about an hour apart on foot). We hope to meet with the parents in the churches sharing with them our plan and then teach the kids in the afternoon. So for the next week I and Jesson will be in a very remote area – no electricity and living in small huts built of bamboo floors and grass roofs. (Jesson was one of my soccer kids from Nasuli who has committed to help Raquel and me out for at least one year with overseeing this program and who helped us last year with the Cebuano translation.)

Raquel on the other hand will be taking Natalie and another young German lady to Caluya for one week. She is looking forward to seeing family and getting some rest.

Thanks once again for your prayers. I’m looking forward to working with these very humble Christian communities in the mountains, where they meet in their churches 14 times a week to sing praises to God, pray, and listen to His Word – right before they go to their little farms on the mountain side (mainly growing bananas, rice, corn, and cassava and other root crops) and again right before they cook their supper.

Yours in His service and for His Word,

Kermit and Raquel Titrud