

May 2, 2017

Dear family at Cannon Beach,

During the last week I was working with the Waray translation team in Tacloban. Once again I had a great time with them and we were able to go through a number of translation issues throughout the Bible, including going over Romans chapters 1-6. I was also able to see Topher and Melanie and their cute na cute (very cute) 3 year old daughter. Topher works for Samaritan's Purse and they seem to be doing well, thanks to our loving Father. The afternoon before I left for Manila I was also able to play a game of soccer with Topher. We took on two coaches, two on two – lost 12 to 10 partly since I slipped on the fine dirt of the soccer pitch and scraped up my knee – for God to once again work His healing skills on my body. Thanking Him for allowing this body of 66 (years old) to still play with the younger ones.

I arrived in Manila a couple of days ago and Raquel just arrived (May 2). We fly to Portland, Oregon on May 4. Raquel told me she was able to contact our staff conducting the DVBS (Daily Vacation Bible Studies) and it seems that they have been very successful and they and the kids are very happy. They will continue going from barrio to barrio for the next couple of weeks. Thanking the Lord we can make an impact in the lives of probably around 300 kids scattered throughout the mountains of Mindoro this summer.

Traveling plans, Lord willing:

Portland, Oregon - May 4-May 20

Minnesota - May 20-July 16 (sometime during this time make a trip to the Chicago area)

South Dakota and Montana – July 17-22

Back to Portland – July 22-Aug 1 (then back to the Philippines)

Main ministry plans during the above dates:

1) Share with our loved ones and in churches what our Lord has been doing in the Philippines and encourage them in their various ministries.

2) Raquel will continue to revise and encode on her computer our Caluyanun translation (presently out of print). Kermit will continue to guide and check our Waray and Mangyan translations and help Raquel with our Caluyanun translation.

Besides the ministry aspect, we are looking forward to seeing our many friends and family members in the U.S.A. Looking forward to seeing our latest apo (Shoni's second child due early June) and I in particular am anxious to get to the farm near Clarissa, MN and just dance in the fields and the woods and taking occasional bike rides on the country roads. It has been a very busy 12 months with the start up of the Mangyan school, with the new building for teachers coming to teach, and with overseeing 4 translations and other kinds of ministries. Looking forward to just spending some relaxing time with our Lord.

Thanks again for your prayers and support. Continue to pray that the DVBS activities in the mountains will continue to be a blessing to the young kids. Also thanks for your prayers as we travel. And we too pray that He will continue to watch over you and give you His peace and Joy.

Hope to see you all hopefully May 14.

Yours in His service,

Kermit and Raquel Titrud

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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

MAY 9

Got a phone call from Shoni this morning. She was driving by herself on the way to the hospital since her water broke while she was teaching at a preschool center in the Twin Cities area. As I was talking with her she arrived at the exit ramp, however they were doing construction work so it was closed. I told her she better call 911 and I had visions of her having her baby on the interstate. Apparently she did make it to the hospital but they saw that the baby had turned around and so they had to do a C-section.

I received word from Michael that mom and baby are well. Thanking the Lord for hearing our prayers and for modern medicine.

Shoni was not supposed to give birth until the first week of June. However being very early, well before our flight to the Twin Cities, Shoni is asking us to come as soon as we can to help out (especially since they have little Jude to take care of as well). I called up Delta to see if we could change our flight. They were most gracious and Raquel and I now have a flight this Thursday to the Twin Cities, and without any penalty or increase to the cost to our flight. Thank you Lord.

See attachment for a look at proud dad Michael and little Jordyn Raquel.

We were looking forward to seeing you all this coming Sunday, but due to the above circumstances we'll have to postpone our coming down to Cannon beach. Hope to see you around the end of July right before we go back to the Philippines.

Your joyful missionaries,

Kermit for Raquel, and Shoni and Michael



May 13, 2017

MAY 17

Life in Minnesota

Made it safe and sound without any problems to Michael and Shoni's home in the Twin Cities. Shoni and new born Jordyn actually made it to their home from the hospital only a couple of hours before us (Michael dropping them off first before he came to pick us up).

This is the first time we saw their new home. Previously they were living in an apartment. I had the privilege of telling them that I believe they chose wisely - a very nice comfortable home at the edge of what I calculated to be 50 acres (20 hectares) of public woods, park, lake, creek, marsh, open fields with a nice foot and bike trail. Perfect for someone like me - I get to feel I'm in the country though I'm in the middle of the Twin Cities. After doing a little shopping - replenishing my personal supply after more than one year in the Philippines - T-shirts, socks, boxers, etc. (Raquel was getting embarrassed being with an old man wearing well worned garments) and an air pump for our bikes, I then took little Jude for a walk.

Most of the time when I send you an update it is about our translation work or of late, teaching young elementary kids from the mountains of Mindoro. The next paragraph will be a little different. If interested, I'd like to share my experiences on a walk with my almost 2 year old grandson. Or you can skip the next paragraph to find out what's next in the life of Kermit and Raquel (that is as far as we can predict).

Right outside Michael and Shoni's back yard is some woods with old majestic trees. Jude and I walked next to the woods over a small knoll/hill of beautiful green grass. I pointed out to Jude the beautiful small blue flowers peeking out and the beautiful dandelions. I'm not sure why Minnesotans have a war against dandelions. I think they are beautiful. Although my favorite color is green (which also seems to be our creator's favorite color) the yellow dandelions just make the grass even that much more green. I also had fun teaching Jude how to blow off the seeds on the dandelions that had gone to seed. He never was able to blow hard enough, but he soon discovered that if he shook them hard, the seeds would float away. He had fun picking the seeded dandelions and watching the seeds dance in the breeze. I had fun watching Jude and rediscovering God's creation through the eyes of Jude. At the top of the knoll we could see a marshy area and following the path we soon came to a creek. Immediately we saw a crane at the fork of the creek with a fish in its mouth. Every now and then it would drop the fish which would flop around until the crane jabbed at it picking it up again, until finally the crane probably got bored playing with the fish and so just swallowed it whole. It actually was a fairly large fish so I was thinking maybe that was the crane's meal for the day. Shortly after, we saw a duck swimming the creek with its 6 ducklings and then we saw something I had never seen before. At first I thought maybe I was seeing two beavers swimming in the creek, but they kind of looked a little different. They almost looked like swimming rats, but nicer looking and bigger than rats. I had heard of river rats, though I had never seen one before. Later, after going to Google to try to figure out what I was seeing, I determined that they probably were indeed river rats and specifically nutria, also known as [coypu](#). It was fun watching them swim up and down the creek, one chasing the other. I've enjoyed being able to observe and soak in God's other creations (animals, birds and vegetation) on this other side of the earth. Walking along the creek we finally came to a little lake with a playground. Enjoyed watching Jude check out the slides and swing and other playground apparatuses. He especially enjoyed sitting on my lap as we zipped through the air on a kind of a zip line they had there. I kind of enjoyed it too. Well, that's life here near Lake Wobegon, where the men are good looking, the women are strong, and the kids are above average. :)

Plans:

This Sunday I will speak at a Methodist church in Richfield (where I was raised during my early days - ages 2-6).

Then either Sunday night or Monday night my cousin returning from visiting her son in Chicago will pick me up and take me to her home in Saint Cloud where another cousin will pick me up to take me further on my journey towards Clarissa. Raquel will stay here with Shoni and family helping Shoni with her two kids as she recuperates from her C-section. I'll get our mobile home on the farm ready and other misc. items that I need to take care of and then after a week return to the Twin Cities to pick up Raquel and Jude, so Shoni can concentrate her time on the latest addition to their family.

Again, thanking our loving Father for taking care of our beloved ones and we rest assured that He will take care of our beloved ones and our ministry teams in the Philippines as well.

Yours,

Kermit with Raquel

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