

Update on the school

The Mangyan kids have now been at our Bethany school for three weeks.

Raquel and I have so much we want to thank the Lord for.

1. Health wise Raquel is much better physically. Right before the kids showed up she had a high fever. I brought her to the clinic and after x-rays and a blood test it was determined she had a bacterial infection and close to having pneumonia. Once again she was put on antibiotics. THANKING THE LORD that the antibiotics produced good results so that Raquel was able to meet with the kids upon their arrival and together we were able to orientate them and our staff.

2. I in particular have been super busy getting everything organized. In addition, I am teaching from 7:30 AM until 4:30 PM with only a one hour break after lunch, during which time I get a little nap on top of one of the classroom desks. I'm pretty much full speed ahead from 3 AM until 7 PM. Yet He has kept me well and so far He has given me the energy I've needed. THANK YOU LORD! This should not last too long as I train the staff to take over some of my work load.

3. THANKING THE LORD TO THE MAX for answering our prayer that He'd send the ones He wants us to train. So far all the kids have been very cooperative. We have not had any behavior problems with any of them. And the staff is GREAT!

The pictures below will help explain the past three weeks.

The Oriental Taubuid and Hanunuu students arriving at Bethany compound having taken a 6 hour ride in a public van seen in the background. Notice most of the kids arrived with no shoes or even slippers/thongs.



The next day (Sunday) our students (sitting on our newly purchased plastic chairs) joined the Bethany Fellowship church service. The dorm is only around 70 yards/meters away.



The newlyweds (Beth and Lemar) are preparing lunch for our big family of 40 plus. (33 3rd graders, two Taubuid high school students, Tonio and Rosalie (dorm parents) and their 3 year old son, Kuya (older brother) Sacio, and Coach Jesson (who is helping with teaching these little ones).



Raquel and Tonio cleaning fish.



Our tables were still being constructed, so the first meals were on our laps.



Resting in the girls dorm. There are 21 gals sleeping wall to wall. The boys room is adjacent. There are only 12 boys, but a very symbolic number.



The classrooms were also not yet ready so our first orientation sessions were outside.





Many of the students only came with the clothes they were wearing. Thankful to our sister-in-law Marilyn who sent a large box of used clothes. The girls and boys were very happy receiving these used clothes.





Our first day in our new classroom, Lolo (Grandpa) Kermit giving them a test of various subjects to see what all they know. The first couple of days the students had to write on their laps since the tables were still being made. I teach most of the grades including Math, English, Filipino and Values (Bible). Jesson teaches science and social studies which includes history. However I still am in the class with him as I guide him how to teach. His teaching style is geared more for high school students. Phoebe below is our music teacher. She is the daughter of Pastor Rey and Grace. She's excellent! The kids love her and are learning a lot.





Here is our big family of students and staff with Lolo (Grandpa) and Lola (Grandma).



The 33 3rd graders.





Even though they are officially in 3rd grade, they lack much of the basic knowledge they should have received back in 1st grade. When they arrived, they knew virtually no English, and most could not tell time or do even simple arithmetic problems. For English I do a lot of TPR (Total Physical

Response) getting them to act out the English words or sentences like, “Take the stone from my hand”, “Give it to her”, “Give it to him”, “Throw the stone”. Yesterday we worked on pronouns and “Follow me around the tables”, “Go around the tables”, etc. Last week they learned about our solar system. For them to really grasp our solar system I had them line up. The tallest was the sun, the next tallest was Jupiter, then Saturn etc., the smallest was the moon. I then took them outside and lined them up according to the position of the planets around the sun, Mercury (Jay Anne) being closest to the sun, and then had them go around the sun (Jerlyn). At the same time the moon (Herber, in blue) was going (actually as fast as he could run to keep up with the rest) around the earth.

We’ve asked the students what they’ve liked about the school. Besides learning a lot, many have also mentioned liking the food, and getting plenty of it. Many come from the mountains where they often are not getting a full meal. Being in the Philippines our staple is rice. We end up consuming two 50 kilo sacks of rice every week.







We often gather in their dorms to sing praises to God and to pray. Below I am teaching them a Tagalog song with action (“Dito ay masaya, doon ay masaya, kahit saan ako ay masaya...” – “Here we are happy, over-there we are happy, everywhere we are happy...”) and below that, a Hebrew song (Psalm 136 – “Hodu ladonay ci tov...” – “Thanks/Praise to the Lord, for (He) is good...”).





Every Saturday morning we bring 3 or 4 to our home to give them one on one attention and to teach them how to type. The two young boys below are exceptional bright, and cute. :) Their ates (older sisters) are also sharp and very helpful. Raquel then takes them into town to buy some very needed clothes for them.



Often I'm asked to speak at the Bethany church. I was not the one who posted the verse behind me, but it is very appropriate for what I am striving to do with these kids. My prayer is that many of these Mangyan kids, if not all of them, will become mature children of our Father above and be very influential in His Kingdom among the Mangyans and even beyond.



After the Sunday service we had a dedication of the new school building the Titrud family financed.



One of my favorite times is being on top of our newly constructed school building for a time of relaxing and praying and giving thanks to our Father. Not sure you can see the kids playing soccer in the background – first time they played soccer in their life. They happened to see me and came running upstairs to join me. I took the time to practice English with them and to sing and pray. We've had to do a lot of praying lately, especially for those who have had physical ailments. One of the students scratched himself with a rusty nail on the back of his head – he did not tell us until it was badly infected. I was afraid that he might have come down with tetanus. But praising the lord he is now back to normal health. Around the

same time he also was electrocuted climbing up a light pole by the basketball court, burning his finger tips and one in particular became infected. One of the girls arrived with a bad burn on the bottom of her foot, which also became infected. Many now are being treated with boils. So not only their instructors, but we (mainly Raquel and Jesson) have become their doctors/nurses as well. Often I come to the school compound around sunrise and go straight to the top of the flat roof, mentioning to the kids around that they can join me if they want. During the last two sunrises all 35 of them ended up joining lolo. Makes me very happy that they all want to give thanks to our Father above and at the same time learn English – I also practice with them the English words and clauses they've learned, and each time add a few new ones.

Below is Matias, one of our main Mangyan translators, who came to visit us wanting to save his work on the internet. Besides being full time teacher I continue to oversee translations of the Bible in four languages (usually early in the morning – around 3 AM). But the translators are now trained enough (including knowing how to type and use the computer) that they can do their work without too much of my supervision.



Again thanks for your prayers, especially for our health, as the students and staff here are still very much dependent upon our leadership.

Thanking Him to the max as He has so beautifully gone ahead of us fulfilling this vision we believe He gave to us.

Kermit and Raquel Titrud