

Dear family,

Since our last update around a month ago Raquel and I spent one week back in Calapan working with the Mangyan translation teams. Once again we had a great time with them and we were able to check over a number of chapters in various books of the Bible. I am very grateful that Derek continues to come and help us for a month every summer. Derek oversaw the Taubuid Occidental New Testament some 15 years ago and then went back home to England to teach at an elementary school. But when he heard we were working on the Old Testament, for the past five years he has been coming to the Philippines every summer to help us with the translation of the Old Testament. He mentioned to us that in a couple of years he will be retired and then plans to help us full time until we finish the Mangyan translations. That was very good news. Our plan is to finish these Mangyan translations in 2020.

Raquel and I are presently in Tacloban, the city that was devastated by Typhoon Yolanda back in November 2013. We are working with the Waray translators, around six of them. All of them have other responsibilities (pastors, teachers, and students), so they come to the translation office when they can. Raquel and I stay at the missionaries' home here at the Bethel International School compound, where our translation office is also located. I was asked if I could also help coach the soccer teams of Bethel. So around 4 PM I excuse myself and let the translators work on their own, and I become a soccer coach. It's been fun coaching and playing with these young ones on a very nice soccer field (only about 50 meters/yards away from our home).

Our classroom for our Mangyan elementary kids is almost finished. Thanking the Lord for the good progress.



About a month ago Jesson and I took a trip up into the Mangyan mountains to see how the education of the Mangyan kids in their own language was coming along. After a two hour trip on our motorcycle, we then crossed this wooden bridge to begin our three hour climb up the mountain.



As you can see, the trail was pretty muddy.



Two of the teachers I trained came down the mountain to meet us and accompany us to the village of Balani.



As we climbed up we often encountered those coming down carrying on their backs their produce to be sold at the market below. The sacks were full of various crops such as bananas, avocados, ginger, sweet potatoes and other root crops. What they bore on their back was roughly equivalent to their own weight. Many were coming from villages three hours away and what they generally received for their produce would be around only 2 to 3 U.S. dollars.



It is so encouraging to see that pretty much the whole community shows up for Sunday morning service.

Check out their drum set in the front row and below.



After the service, Jesson and I taught the kids some new songs. A year ago I had already taught them Psalm 136 in Hebrew and they still remembered it.



Jesson and I spent the night in the village – very basic accommodations in a bamboo hut. On our way back down the mountain a number of the young people (above picture) wanted to accompany us to make sure we got down safe and sound.

In about a week from now (August 13) Raquel flies to Manila and then will fly to Minnesota on August 16. (Michael and Shoni are now back in Minnesota. Michael in particular wanted to be closer to his family and old friends.) Shoni is due around the first of September and she wanted her mom to be nearby during that time. Raquel of course is also looking forward to being with her daughter during this time. Raquel will be gone for about a month. I'll stay here in Tacloban with the Waray translators and coaching soccer.

Concerning Raquel's respiratory situation, she is doing much better, but still has slight back pains and her lungs seem to ache.

With regard to my digestive system, I'm doing much better. We have much to be grateful for.

We pray you are doing well in your corner of the world. Once again, thanks for your prayers and being our partners.

Yours in His service,

Kermit and Raquel Titrud

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