

September 2017

Dear family,

I have now been in Calapan, Mindoro for three weeks overseeing our Mangyan translation workshop. There are 20 of us, 14 native translators and 6 of us consultants. We always have such a great time together. See below my take on Psalms 133. Oh how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony/unity!

All has been well here in Calapan until last week when many of the translators came down with some kind of bug resulting in coughing to the extent that one of them came down with pneumonia. I myself last week had been experiencing stomach issues. Found out I had “plenty” of bacteria in my stools, but glad they did not find any amoeba or other parasites. After boiling up some ginger I cut up and adding some apple cider vinegar to my ginger tea, I now seem to be ok. Thank you Lord.

Raquel stayed in San Jose, Mindoro to be there for the carpenters who are doing the finishing touches on our home. Our Mangyan students/grandkids are presently in their villages for a one week break and one week studying in their various villages with our staff scattered among them guiding them in their studies.

Our students and I will join Raquel in San Jose after this week. Below I once again posted some pictures of our activities if you are interested and below that my reflections on Psalm 133, the text I used when I was the speaker at the Mangyan worship service this last Sunday. Psalms 133 was also one of the more recent Revised Common Lectionary readings.

Thanks once again for your prayers and help in our various ministries.

In His service,

Kermit and Raquel Titrud

*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

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Pictures from our translation workshop in Calapan, Mindoro. Sorry for the quality. Too much light coming in and/or the one taking the picture (me) is not all that skillful with cameras. But at least you get the idea of our working conditions.



Below: Grace (the American) is working with the Hanunuu team. Derek (the Englishman) is working with the Western Taubuid team. Buen closest to the camera oversees the logistics with regard to these workshops and also oversees the Western Taubuid team. Beth, next to her, is a native Hanunuu speaker and I put her in charge of the Hanunuu translation.



We sure are grateful that Derek joined the team. Derek and his wife Liz finished the Western Taubuid some 17 years ago. Then Derek taught in England and last year retired from teaching so he could spend more time with us on the Taubuid translation. Thanks Derek for your BIG help.



Kermit goes from table to table guiding all the groups and checking over flags (comments/questions/concerns sent to him

by the teams via our Paratext program). Lenie (whom I put in charge of the Eastern Taubuid and oversees all the computers) is at end of table with Renato cleaning up various books.



Below: doing devotions teaching them Psalm 133:1 in the original Hebrew with a dance I kind of made up to go with it.





After all the hard thinking and after lunch, pretty much everyong takes a snooze.



Wiped out!



At the same place where we translate, on Sundays it is converted into a church. Two Sundays ago I gave the sermon and Tonio behind me was the “MC”. Tonio is the dorm father for our Mangyan kids. He is also one of our Taubuid translators and so he too attended the translation workshop.



The Mangyan Sunday congregation



Beth with one of my youngest apo/grandkid, Lemer Rence Lee. Raquel and I are Beth's godparents.

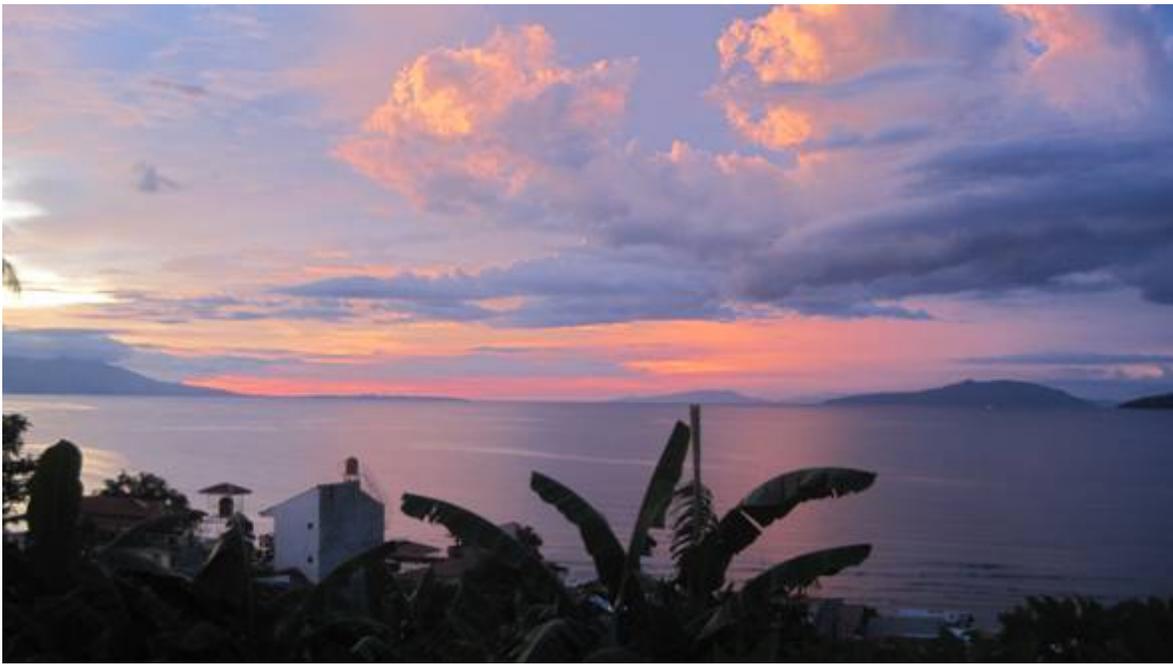


After the service there was a birthday party – actually it covered all the birthdays from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Lots of food – kind of a pot luck. First time I experienced such a b'day party, celebrating every ones b'day for 2017. After lunch and during the whole afternoon they had dramas and games. They divided

the congregation into four groups – those with b'days on Jan, Feb and March were one group, those with b'days on April, May and June in another group, etc. Each group had prepared ahead of time a skit, often with a special number to go with their skit. They even had appointed judges and at the end they announced which group was number 1.



Once again I get to enjoy the sunsets at the porch of the OMF guest house. I never get tired of God's handiwork.



After a hard morning and afternoon of heavy thinking, time for some soccer. Mind you my mind is constantly racing between Taubuid or Hanunuu and Tagalog and Hebrew or Greek and sometimes Hiligaynon and German and English – and I’m finding the older I get the more draining it is. At 5 PM we convert our eating area into an indoor soccer pitch. [I should get better pictures for you. : ) As you can see we lay the benches on their sides to keep the soccer ball, at least most of the time, in the court.]



I really enjoyed my time in the USA – very relaxing on the farm in Minnesota and on the 8000 plus acre ranch in South Dakota. I had not sent any pictures before of our time on the ranch. Sending them in case you might be interested.





Ranch home of my cousins (3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed to be precise), nestled among the ponderosa pines.



Our view from the porch. This too I never got tired of enjoying. They had more lawn mowers than I had on the farm in Minnesota. : )



Just got an email from our Filipina daughter Yrrah. She just had her first baby, naming it Chesed. She wrote: “Ever since I've learned this word from our Hebrew lessons, I've always wanted to name it my son. Our little one is truly a reminder of God's loving-kindness.” Yrrah was one of my students when I taught Hebrew in Thailand. I also put her in charge of our Hanunuu translation, but then she married a cool guy from The Netherlands. Thanks to our Paratext program, she is still able to contribute, sending us her comments on the Hanunuu translation via Internet even as she resides in The Netherlands. In the last couple of years I sure have acquired a lot of grandkids. Chesed, may you grow up to be a mighty

warrior of our loving God, who is full of kindness and is faithful to His Word. Thanks Lord for your chesed that you demonstrated to Yrrah and Jan Daniel and their little one, Chesed. Guide Chesed's parents as they bring Him up in your ways.



Happy Lola with another of her latest grandkids, Jordyn



## Psalm 133

גַּם־יִחַד אֲחִים שָׁבֶת וּמֵה־נִעְמִים מֵה־טוֹב הַיְהִה

Oh how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony/unity!

Below I share in brief what I shared at the Mangyan churches these past two Sundays:

I can identify with the Psalmist on my many relationships with

God's people, some of which I mentioned to the congregations here:

1. translators - our times together at these translation workshops are special,
2. my mga apo/grandkids in San Jose,
3. within WBT and SIL and OMF and Bethany Fellowship and many other Christian groups,
4. my many brothers and sister throughout the USA and those individuals and groups supporting us,

I feel very blessed – Thank you Lord for allowing me to experience Psalm 133 throughout my life, and in so many places on this earth.

What we experience in verse 1 is “as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe.” – verse 2

Of course this comparison is very strange to those living in the mountains of Mindoro and I'm sure to many others as well. We do not practice this act and its preciousness escapes us. However I shared with them that this was Aaron's initiation into the priesthood. I then shared with them that humans need a priest – that due to our sins (both corporately and individually), we cannot approach God. He is holy and we are not. A sacrifice is needed to cleanse us of our sins. In light of the New Testament we know that Aaron's priesthoodness prefigured Christ. Our being made right/holy/saints in God's eyes via Him providing us with a priest is indeed a very precious thing. I then shared with the Mangyan congregation that also in light of the New Testament, we realize that we all are priests.

Rev 1:6 - He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father.

Actually even in the Old Testament the priesthood was given not just to Aaron and his descendents, but to all those who follow God.

Exodus 19:5,6 reads, "Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant...you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation." In Rev 5:7-10 we read of what the 4 living beings and 24 elders sang:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth." I reminded them of the missionaries who came to their villages to proclaim this good news knowing that God has ransomed every tribe, and that each of them are now priests since they accepted the good news about Christ. I then had each of them say to the one sitting next to them, "You are a priest" and to also say to the one sitting next to them, "I am a priest". I also had each say to their neighbor, "You are a king" and to also say to their neighbor, "I am a king". The Mangyans are looked down upon by the lowlanders here on Mindoro. I think it was an encouragement to them to know that in God's eyes they are not lowly people, but in fact they are priests and kings.

1Peter 2:5 reads:

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that

please God.

Aaron offered sheep and goats as sacrifices. How about us, as priests, what are our sacrifices we bring to God? We find in Heb 13: 15 that our “praise to God” is “our sacrifice through Jesus, which is the offering presented by lips that confess him as Lord.” Also the next verse, Hebrews 13.16, reads: “Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God.”

Rev 5:8 talks about the four living beings and the twenty-four elders holding gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. I then had them gather in groups of 3 or 4 and exercise their gift as priests, praying for one another and whatever might come to their mind. But I did share with them my heart, that His church will be empowered to fulfill the great commission, which is getting His Word into all the corners of the earth including every tribe and language group. A recent reading in the Revised Common Lectionary was Rom 12, sharing further as to what offerings as priests we can give to God, offering our very bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

Again, Raquel and I want to thank you for your role in being priests of our loving Lord, particular your prayers towards our various ministries and being a part of our lives.