



FTMW
Filipino Tribe
Mission
Welfare



NEWSLETTER

No 1 2010

NEWS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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PREFACE

In this number Pastor Thor Johnny Thoresen's continues his story about his work among our godchildren in the four provinces, which constitute the CARAGA-region in eastern Mindanao.

However, we will also see the reverse of being active among people, who lives in ignorance of their human rights, and what happens when they, in frustration, tries to improve their living conditions. Knowledge how to provide one self is missing and the ignorance about the surrounding cultures that exists, also besides the rights every human has, leads to armed conflicts, both now and then in bigger or smaller scale. The latest conflicts that touched the political tension between two clans in the province of Maguindanao are not visible in our area, but shows to us in Sweden and worldwide, why it is important that we support the Philippine Department of Education's striving to give an education to all children. A level we have overcome in Sweden since almost a century ago.

Reverend Thor Johnny testify in this newsletter about how he have been kidnapped twice by the NPA but been released both times, second time by a crying commander that could not understand why people in Sweden and Norway voluntarily want to give money to help their native children.

A great thank you, to all of you who contribute, and already have contributed. You are involved in the work to turn the development in one of the worlds, proposed, most corrupt areas. It is in our striving that more wants to join our work. Right now it is only possible for us to make selective measure among the families and tribal who receive allowance, but with higher amounts we can also enable us to have permanent crew that help as teachers within different areas and coordinate medical care and aid.

You can book us for a presentation of our work in your organization or at your company among your workmates.

1. Report from Pastor Thor Johnny Thoresen about Adlay

Pastor Thor Johnny Thoresen

* * *

December 2009



Jennifer Urquia

The reason that Adlay became the last to visit was that our representative, Jennifer Urquia, gave birth to a son just one month ago. I spoke with her already at the first board meeting when I arrived, and we agreed to wait until the first month of her baby was over (In the Philippines, a mother shall rest for a month after birth before going back to normal duties, note by Thor Ks). Adlay is in a way headquarter of our work. This since Jovelyn and Thor is building a house there on their parent's lot. I lived there in the beginning of my stay, and got a small view of the work that is done to secure the future of the Mamanwa tribe. It is, in time, precisely here the most important work is executed when it consider the tribal that better and better get involved with the population, especially through their children's schooling.

Pastor Rubenial offered himself to be with me and Jennifer the first day. It is about the children Joyce, Ellen Grace, Meben and Juniver. The church of Rubenial, Panikian Gospel Church, has in a way an overview over the work for its church organization also in Adlay. This because that the church in Adlay at the moment have no pastor. But they have a beautiful church building and a deacon in charge. Rubenial arranged that the first meeting with the godchildren, their parents and us representatives, was held in the facilities of the assembly. It was time to fill in the lists of need. As earlier told, it is meant that this document is to ease the work of the representative for the purchases, and guarantee that the child really receives what its need is, for the sponsored money. But the document shall also help the treasurer in the work to show books and revise the purchases. Again I got the honour to be the representative of the children's sponsors together with Jennifer and pastor Rubenial. It was only smiles on the children's lips and their parents when they heard the sum of money we should use for their purchase. It is sponsored money from September 2009 until March, April 2010, so it was time to be considering in the planning, both for Christmas, and for the months to come. We had a fabulous time together, when we should tell the children that they really have people in Scandinavia that thinks upon them, have their picture in their home, and faithfully sends their money so that they, the godchildren, shall achieve a better health, education and future.



Lunch in Cantilan

Later we went off on the long way to Cantilan. There we should visit a tailor for measurement of the school uniforms, buy new school material, milk, rice, medicines, vitamins and much, much more. The day became long and we stayed at the market place to eat rice and chicken together. We were all tired when the day was over, and a jeepney, a Filipino made car, could drive people (us), and the purchase back. The very next day, we only had to follow up in the lists and purchase milk, powder milk, and a sack of rice to each family.

MAMANWA

It was also fantastic that we had a sum of money for the tribe of Mamanwa. A representative accompanied us the whole day. The money was even enough for powder milk to them as well. At time it is 13 families involved in Mamanwa, and they should all get something back home. The dark faces of the tribal were shining, as well as their teeth, when they realized that they were included in the work of **Filipino Tribe Mission**. Rubenial had not the possibility to follow the second day, but Teodoro Bat-ao, pastor and representative for Gacub and Madrid was with us.

Now it is Christmas in Mindanao, it is Christmas far away in Trento and Prosperidad. It is Christmas in Gacub and in Madrid, where I have promised to be preacher this time, since it is a new built assembly that Bat-ao leads far up in the jungle. It is Christmas in Adlay and in Taganito. Thanks to the sponsors' blessings, many happy families are now celebrating Christmas.

But we need to reach out to more. On our home page you can see all children that have not yet received a sponsor. So, let us set a goal for the year of 2010. I will with my fresh experiences now come back home to the spring, and be with Thor and Jovelyn in meetings and conferences. Our work is worthy all support. We have the best leaders and board down there, not least in the pastors Huelma and Rubenial, and of course the other representatives.



The training I have had with the representatives, about how the sponsors should wish that their money is handled until they reach and are used to the godchildren, is finished. A folder is made to each representative, and a system is established, which cover all projects. This was the thought we had five years ago at the start, and which you can read in our home page www.tribemission.com, that we too, have a spread of children over Mindanao. Welcome with us, take a decision for a new child to sponsor, if you are not already, so that many, many more can be included next year.

With best regards Thor Johnny Thoresen!

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2. Why is it vital to be a sponsor?

I will emphasize that this article is one of the most important I ever written this far in our short history. The reason is that Thor Johnny Thoresen lifts some issues which some aid workers, worldwide, knows well, but which is seldom talked over thorough in media.

Sometimes we hear about news journalists or aid workers which has been wounded or killed when they has executed their work, to make sure that people can live a secured life. Why do these people expose themselves for this, is a question many asks, and why is it necessarily to travel into unknown territories, if there is a danger for ones life and/or health? This is a question that is immediate also for the Philippine government and its citizens.

This query is quite complex, but one will find that it must exist people that care, if we want peace in the world. In many places in the world, among them, our own, we have a selfish view on what we do and should do. We know it is good to help since it also gains to ourselves, in that we create a safer society. But if it is to the cost of our lives, why we do it then?

There are two approaches in helping people. One is the humanistic; that all people have their own value, and through that have the same rights to live on the same conditions. Most laws pointing on equality is built on this. The other is the divine love that is expressed through some religions; since God loves His creation, we will not contribute in its destruction, but convey the love as God knows it.

The expression is seemingly the same, but with the difference that Christians sees the love to the individual, shown to man through the love sacrifice of Jesus Christ, as the driving force, while the humanistic have the man's own value as the driving force.

Independent of what make you feel engaged to help, we want you to know why your engagement is so important and how it impact in reality. One thing is granted: your engagement saves lives, both our own and others!

Since there are so many Filipinos that lives, work and strives abroad to help their families, I hope that we together shall be able to find solutions on how to reach more with nourishment and education, an education, which not only help an individual alone, but the whole Philippine society, to support itself in a better way.

It is first here an article by Thor Johnny Thoresen which he has wrote in the shape of being a student pastor in the student association Oslo Christian Academy in Norway.

Report from our Student Pastor and Missionary Thor Johnny

I have now fulfilled my mission in the jungle areas and am back to civilization. I have been taken captive two times, but miraculously liberated of Christian people in New Peoples Army (the revolt movement). Many are tired of war, and a prayer chain has been established for peace in the country. Great riches are hidden in “the green hell” that many call the jungle areas because they are so difficult to penetrate if you are not born and grown up here. But it is in these areas the unreached people live. To reach them with the Gospel you have to go into “the enemy’s area”.



AFP Philippine Army

During the peace conference in Prosperidad December 12, 48 hostages were taken. This gave big headings in the newspapers, and got great attention in TV. Some few hours before this happened; I was picked up by an unknown three wheel motorbike and brought to Rosario for a one day’s stay. I don’t know if it was angels or Christians driving the vehicle. No one spoke, but the peace of God rested upon us. The next day I was back in the conference, which was transformed to a Pentecostal meeting. I may never have heard such a wonderful worship song. Prophetic message came several times that the Philippines shall take part in the great Harvest in the end of time. The people in the meeting shook their head, but confessed their faith in God’s calling. They are so poor

that they cannot even travel to the capital. But I told them about Chile and Argentine sending missionaries to Europe.

Now I understand Paul, who tells us about the sufferings he had to go through in order to come to the unreached. I have found a place for rest by the sea, a house owned by Japanese in Unidad. Thank you for prayer! I have invitations from churches all over Mindanao, but am waiting for order from the Lord of what to do. **PRAY FOR THOR JOHNNY, HIS SECURITY, HIS ANNOINTING AND HIS ECONOMY.**



Trento, Cebulin

Thor Johnny continues his telling in an email to me that; I do not oppose that you publish what Arne Dag and the Student church has published. What I have promised to those that has helped me to reach the unreached people, is to protect the names on pastors and the people that helped me, because of their security but also mine.

An important point, which is good if people get information about is, that each time I have been released, it is because they has visit the home page of **Tribe Mission**, and they are overwhelmingly convicted that we are here, not to utilize, but to help.

I should been shot, Thor, but I asked the commander for another 14 days to complete my mission. He asked me what kind of mission, and when I told him about the godchildren, he started to cry. He had seen program on TV about organizations with godchildren, and could not believe why unknown Swedish and Norwegian voluntarily could give money to them. The godchild in Trento is on, what they call; their territory.

I told that my mission is to be there to teach local men and women how to use and distribute the money. The commander gave order on bath, food and transportation for me back to Prosperidad.



The village Adlay's village council also called Barangay Council in 2009

FTMS is hoping that you can see the importance of the work done worldwide among the poor, and why it is important that even they learn about their legal rights in the society. It is when that happens they stop warfare, and becomes a part of the building of their own country. A vision that already "the first Filipino", José Rizal, had in the end of the 19th century.

The poor often feel shameful because of their lack of education and knowledge to provide themselves. A shame that is ours if we refuse helps them in order due to the Convention on the Child and Human Rights. Laws that we all are partakers within, and enjoy the fruits of, foremost through UN but even within EU.



Pastor Thor Johnny Thoresen at his beloved ocean at Lanuza, Surigao del Sur on the island of Mindanao.

I ask our deepest and warmest thanks from me and our co-operators for your engagement. Please, talk with a friend about the possibility to be a sponsor to a child or to any of our many projects in the Philippines.

God's peace

Thor Klaveness

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Sponsorship fee

The monthly fee for a godchild is
€20/SEK200 or €15/SEK150 for group sponsor
and can be paid as follows:

1. By autogiro
2. By payment card/bill which can be paid monthly, quarterly, half year or own choice.

When paid within Sweden, payment can be done
to account shown lowest this page.

Payment outside Sweden but within
Europe, pay to: NORDEA Sweden

IBAN: **SE31 9500 0099 6042 0418 2960**

SWIFT: **NDEASESS**

Internet pages:

Homepage for the network:

www.tribemission.com

Filipino Tribe Mission Sweden's homepage:

Se FTMS in task bar

Filipino Tribe Mission Welfare's homepage:

Se FTMW or Philippines in task bar

Godchildren:

Se Child sponsor in task bar

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NOTE

This Newsletter is written to reach people not common with the Filipino culture. To tell about the way Filipino's lives and give an opportunity to help where help is needed.

We are in no way participating in any political movements, but are involved to lift the knowledge to have patient and ability to live side by side with one another. Notwithstanding if it belongs to be to Filipino's or other.

If you want to contribute with your own experiences and/or knowledge, please feel welcome. News in our newsletters is solely based on facts from Filipino's and experiences from other within the Philippines itself. We belongs to different cultures, therefore it is sometimes different viewpoints on the news.