



*FTMW*  
*Filipino Tribe*  
*Mission*  
*Welfare*



# NEWSLETTER

No 2 2009

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## NEW-OLD PROJECTS STARTS UP 2009

### 1. Diabetes clinic in Adlay

One of the returning problems that are in the Philippines is the uncertainty with scheduled visits. Only four days before we should depart, I got the message that the doctor we should visit in Ozamiz should be in Manila right that Sunday and Monday we booked to be in his clinic. To change to a later time was not possible, since our doctor in turn, had booked his own meetings, the days after. This lead to that Dr Pasaporte, who is the main responsible, invited us to the inauguration of the clinic in April 24 instead. This means that the planned tour to Ozamiz, as I show in the last newsletter, will be held in April 23 – 26 instead.

Is it not possible to foresee this? Maybe a question you ask. In Sweden, we are much more emphasizing when it come to be "on time" and keep appointments, but here in the provinces, not all have a watch, but work after the time between sunrise and dusk. Unfortunately, it has been a tradition here to change appointments, and as a person in the higher society, it is not for sure that they have customers enough, frankly speaking, that if a doctor or other sponsor has booked a voluntarily, and unpaid visit/treatment and suddenly get a paying customer, this paying customer will be prioritized, a behavior that frequently delays the work for the poor.

Can't we pay then for the treatment, so that they can receive their appointed treatment? No, we don't have that amount of money, but have to accept what we can receive and wait and rebook several times until we eventually receive what we need. Still, we uses this time of waiting in a maximized way (see

other chapters about visits to doctors) through giving education to chieftains, parents and others about the importance of hygiene, dental care, literacy etc. so that they shall be inspired to learn more.

## **ANNUAL HEALTH CONTROL OF THE GODCHILDREN**

We have now, in the closest, finished all our updates, and are preparing them to be sent out to our sponsors. Rain season is longer, as people in Sweden complain on climate changes due to warmer summers and colder winters, people is saying the same here but with the rain as subject. For us it means that we, again, can't reach the village of Gacub, but we are ready, as soon the sun will shine for some hours between 6am–10am. Then the mud will dry out and we can ride up in the mountain with our motors.

It has been a good start of the year 2009, and we hope to get more done during the year, since we got more cooperators through dentists and ophthalmologists.

One of the problems is still the poverty and the big distances. It is not easy to have continuity and we hope therefore that we will be able to expand with more sponsors for our godchildren during the year, so that we can have full timers that will give parents and children what they need. In this involves also one of the hardest tasks any one can get, to negotiate between different tribes that is illiterate, with different insight due to culture when it comes to how to execute different missions work. It is often, so called, political disputes, which run into violence's. Unfortunately, it is called "war" in newspapers and CNN, but it is more of the kind, cultural and religious disputes. I am here in the middle; I see how it works, and how their reactions are, and the fears that exist for this island is not more than a myth.

## **NEW INVESTMENTS 2009 – 2010**

### **1. Medical mission**

In the same way as with the Diabetes clinic, this visit we reported about to Cagayan has decreased to that I have had continuous meetings with one of the coordinators, Joey Daus in Arise Ministries, since we could not get an appointment with the doctor due to other emergencies in other places. We are now coordinating a meeting, hopefully combined with the start of the Diabetes clinic in Ozamiz at April 24. The distance between these cities is only three hours, which is relatively short here.

Instead, we have redistributed a gift for medical projects, with money from the sponsors to give health to more people. About this you can read in following two articles: Visit to dentist, and visit to the ophthalmologist.

## **VISIT TO THE DENTIST FOR MAMANWA GODCHILDREN**

Tuesday, February 24, was a milestone in our work to coordinate local resources with the money we receives from you to help the children to a better future.

Unfortunately, mostly of the aid given to the tribal, is given by persons that want votes for themselves being the next councilor or barangay captain. This means that both tribal and Filipinos are wondering when we say that we want to help them to a better hygiene and show how to execute different work as environmental protection, farming, fishing etc. without anything in return.

The doctors have known since long. Several doctors executes already their own free missions, and when we learned to knew each other, we started share, through that they give free time, and we pay the material. As they pay all, they can't help so many, but together with FTME, we reach more. We work without political or religious musts.

Since we have two godchildren with families in Taganito, we agreed to do a first aid together for these. As you might already know, the child fee is used in three areas, the child, family and community/tribe. We had now the opportunity to let the parents come with their godchild, but also with other children that had problem with health, both within the community and in the village.

Here comes a report, showing the day with pictures and explanations about what happen, how and why. What is the interesting thing, when it comes to the cooperation with tribal, is that they are quick learners, good listeners but also interesting queries for a better understanding, this to understand in this case how to approach next time, and not to be too afraid of pain.

Sure we recognize? How many have not panic when it comes to visit with the dentist?

I admit that I was very surprised over the gut that Angel, who needed to pull out two teeth, didn't show any reaction when the dentist gave anesthesia. She was amazingly good, in spite of this, Rashel Mae was not fully convinced about the success, even if she had not even close as big problem as her friend Angel.

## AT THE DENTIST



Dentist Ariel Uriarte and the teacher Edelina Perez

The children arrived at 9am to the terminal. There I met them together with pastors Teodoro Bat-ao and Ricaredo "Ric" Huelma for transport to the dentist clinic.

Edelina "Ading" Perez is teacher for Mamanwa in Taganito. She has 35 pupils and 25 adult in her school, which the mining company TMC Taganito Mining Corporation built high up close to the new settlement of Mamanwa.

TMC has also built the new houses and drawn water and CR to them.



First to begin was Angel Salazar.

She was amazingly good. Without show any face, express a word or even show worries or pain, she took both anesthesia's, one at the time, to pull out two teeth, one tooth in the upper and one in the lower cheek. Now the teeth will move free for four months, then she will come back for further control. If needed, she will have braches.



This maybe you feel as well?

Rashel was not in the mood to pull out a tooth, even if Angel, just before her, never showed any pain.

Her father had to lie down in the chair while Rashel lay in his bosom. After that the anesthesia was given, she changed her mind and was excited as well.

Rashel is missing sponsor right now, but we have a saving left from past year, which we use for her. Her mother and younger brother deceased last year in tuberculosis.

## ON THE HEALTH STATION



After the dentist we went to the local health station for check-up of health on both parents and children.

It was not that dangerous here, just stethoscope and to inhale and exhale and that the doctor took a look at the tongue and the eyes.

Angel's sister Mareth has a rare sickness in her eyes, so with her we went to an ophthalmologist after lunch.

We get receipt on medicine for the father of Rashels and Multivitamins to the children that we bought.



Here you can see how relaxing it was to meet a doctor after being to the dentist.

Now we all was hungry, and the dentist had told that it was no problem for the children to eat after their treatments, so we directed us to a restaurant, or as it is called here, eatery.

During this time I went to the drug store and bought the medicine and toothpaste. Toothbrushes we already bought at the dentist clinic, but the paste was out of stock there.

## LUNCH



After the visits to the doctors it was time for lunch. Then the teacher took the opportunity to teach the parents how to brush the teeth, use the paste and measure the medicine and multivitamins they got prescribed.

Both families received individual toothbrushes, even to the siblings and father of Angel.

## AT OPHTHALMOLOGIST CLINIC



As already mentioned, the elder sister of Angel, 12 year old Mareth, had problem with her eyes. Something grows on the cornea that now caused her blindness on her left eye, and poor visibility on her right eye.

It shown that the town has not any ophthalmologist but an optician, and he did not have the right equipment to say which disease it was she suffered from, only for production of glasses. That is the way it is in the provinces. Those that need help need to travel far into the cities. The optician called an ophthalmologist in Surigao city and said that we were welcome when we could.

We did not pay any fee to any doctor today.

All doctors we met, inclusive the optician, was happy over that we helped, those they call, the poorest among the poorest. Therefore it was included in their charity program to help us for free, they said. The best thing is that both the dentist and the optician are positive to come with us out in the jungle next time, to help even more.

This is only the beginning. These pictures will be shown to different tribes that cannot read or write, so that they will understand that we really want and have ability to help them, this so that they also understand that we do not walk around and picture them “for fun”, but for their own personal sake.

## VISIT TO AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Since Mareth Salazar had an eye disease that could not be diagnosed, we decided together with her mother, that we should go to Surigao city already in the next morning. This since I had shopping to do with my wife there and could guide them too. However, the great grandfather of Angels deceased during the day and her mother was forced to go to the mountains for his burial, why it became postponed. I did not though here would be time for a visit in the nearest time, but get wrong.

In the following weekend, the board decided to go in Surigao city to change the signatories of the bank, why I early Monday morning contacted the teacher and asked if they had ability to come with us, which they could.



It had happen an accident during the weekend and the daughter of Adings, Felma, had fell of the bike and hit the head such serious so that she got blood in her left eye. Ading asked if she could follow too.

We admitted this, since we have money for the community as well, but it shown eventually to be free for her too. Since she was child, she was free on the bus, and the doctor did not charge and told it was no problem to her visibility.

Here they are waiting for the doctor.



The doctor, MD Jaimenito C Go, was in spite of his Chinese name Filipino. He was very sincere and talkative all the time.

He wanted to know where they lived, if they got vaccine against an eye infection he thought erased in the Philippines, but he now said that Mareth had.

The mother of Mareth told that they have had no opportunity to give her vaccination and that some chieftains are skeptical to allow vaccine. Now Mareth is a role model to these that all children must get vaccine as soon as possible.



He told further that the name on the disease is Post-Measles Keratitis. A kind of inflammation, which, when it has gone as far as in the eye of Mareth not can be treated with medicine.

He prescribed medicine, which shall be dropped in her right eye three times a day, to see if it is not yet too late to save.

He told further that the only way for Mareth to get her visibility back, is a transplantation of the cornea, and these operations is only made on two places in the Philippines, in Manila and in Davao.

He told that he normally sends his patients to Manila, understood that often they are rich and can afford this. In the case of Mareth, it is a catastrophe, since she never will afford. 12 years old and already doomed to be blind, not a too funny en diagnosis for an active girl that is second year elementary.



We talked about what we could do for her, and this is what we decided.

1. She will have medicine for her right eye.
2. The doctor will contact Davao, who and how the transplantation is executed.

The doctor was uncertain since he never cooperated with them before, but he promised to call me following Wednesday.



As I earlier mentioned, there were no problem with eyes of Felma. A message that was a blessing compared to the earlier news.

Felma was worried, but it released after a while and both children was positive to receive help and at the same time see how it works at the ophthalmologist.

Now they have a good overview how a society with health care can work, and that they are a part of it.

## LUNCH



During lunch we met chairman, vice chairman and treasurer and talked about the day and what to do next.

We told that we now only waited for a message from the ophthalmologist, if we can go to Davao or Manila, and that we don't know yet how to finance the budget and how the reaction will be in the tribe.

They promised, together with the teacher, to show all chieftains what is good for their children and families, while I continue to reach help, as the mother wish.

## DAVAO

In this edition, I will not show any pictures from her treatment or transplantation, since it has not yet happen, but already the day after, Tuesday March 3, doctor Go called me and told following due to transplantation of a cornea to Mareth.

- Davao executes complete transplantations and has a bank of corneas from different donators.
- Mareth can be surged under their charity program, which will sweep away some of our expenses.
- We must pay the donator of the cornea. We have no price yet, but will get it later.

He told that we are free to come at any time, why I already suggested to the family Monday, March 9. In that case I will meet them in Davao, since I am in Cagayan de Oro and Ozamiz from Thursday March 5.

At Davao Medical Center, they will initially measure the eye and make necessarily examinations for transplantation. After this, we will wait for a donation. How this is executed, I don't know today, but I will inform as soon as I know further.

## GIFT

This operation will give us expenses that are beyond our savings, and as you see, I try to find local sponsors through different charity program, government and other organizations. In the case of Mareth, we will seek help from two other instances. MSWD in Claver, which is the municipality where Taganito belongs, and NCIP is the governmental organ for the indigenous people, and they have funding for Mamanwa, as for other tribes. In this case it is needed that the chieftains are cooperative to us and the family, to release money for this issue.

Since we have extra expenses, however, in shape of transports, food, hotel, and hygiene utilities etc. means that we are very thankful if you want to give a gift for this purpose. If you send us a gift for this, mark it: medical project or CHP1100 (Child health care).

Thank you for your donation!

I ask our deepest and warmest thanks from me and our cooperators for your engagement. Book already now a visit at Torp this summer. It is located outside Örebro and more information can be found through EFK, Örebromissionen or Swedish Baptist Churches.

God's peace

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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](http://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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