



FTMS *Filipino Tribe* *Mission* *Sweden*



NEWSLETTER

No.3 2013

NEWS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

1. Update from Mamanwa
2. Nutrition Month - July
3. The young leaders of today are the hope of tomorrow – Shay Cullen's column
4. Miscellaneous

PREFACE



On Monday, 9 June, school started again after summer vacation in the Philippines. During the school year 2012 – 2013 we have assisted seven children in the elementary, so that they could come to us in the morning before school for breakfast, teeth brushing, hygiene, and to dress in their school uniform. They came back later in the day for lunch and after school they came back to change clothes again and do their homework before going home to their family for evening supper and sleep.

Now 30 children from Mamanwa have started school and they trust on that we will continue helping them. We are in urgent need of more sponsors to this assistance. Read more in this issue about why and how.

FTMW has opened a small department in their office in the Philippines, which is offering tribal to sell their quality products, locally, and worldwide, to any who want to order. The products will initially be handicrafts in rattan which Mamanwa themselves uses in their daily life.

Several projects are ongoing. We work to give nourishment and clothes to the tribal and your contributions are essential in this work, independent the size of your contribution.

Many of the pictures in this newsletter are taken by our co-operators mobile cameras why quality vary.

1. Update from Mamanwa

Background



Since the Mamanwa tribal are a people which lives by their own plantations in the subtropical rain forests and by what they can produce, sell and beg together, the tribe is squatter over a wide area in the south Philippines. Due to their constant wanderings, very few of the tribal members have academic education.

The literacy rate is basically zero, even though settlements, mainly in Claver and Mainit's municipalities in Surigao del Norte province, has a higher level of knowledge. This is because a mayor of Mainit created conditions for the Mamanwa to study via ALS (Alternative Learning System) and the mining company TMC (Taganito Mining Company) in Claver have had two paid teachers for Mamanwa during the years 2004 – 2011.

Thor Klaveness, who is our coordination Manager, has tried to establish contact between the companies and agencies that work to give the Mamanwa training, but have found that the interest on the part of the Government, represented by NCIP (National Commission on Indigenous Peoples) is very low, not to say non-existent, as regards specifically the Mamanwa tribe.

Why it has become so, we have not arrived at a final declaration, but the facts we got from various local departments (LGU) and Anthropology Department at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City indicate that people in general are reluctant to face the more dark-skinned people. They say that they smell bad, spread the bacteria and are dangerous because of involvement with the NPA (New People's Army, a Communist-based guerrilla based in Central Luzon). Because they sleep outdoors, either wrapped up in cloth like cocoons stretched between trees like hammocks, or more permanent in a piled house as they lights a fire under it to keep the mosquitoes away, people say that they smell bad. This also depends on their breath because they chew a kind of bush to keep hunger away. And with the smell of earth that surrounds them, so people think that they are spreading diseases via bacteria and viruses, but science shows that it is exactly the opposite. They are sensitive for us who have a larger bacterial flora in us because that we live several in cities than they do in the forests with plenty of fresh air and clean water. They often suffer from diseases, which for us is in principle insignificant, such as; measles, tuberculosis, malaria etc. Not that we do not feel bad if we get them, but we have a higher degree of knowledge about cure and we do not suffer the side effects as easily as they do. The side effects I intend primarily is vitamin and mineral deficiencies, but also strong dehydration due diarrhoea which for many leads to lifelong injuries or death.

When it comes to the reputation of their involvement in the NPA, it is largely false, although there may be elements that lead many to believe it. Since Mamanwa are the subtropical forests of southern Philippines pathfinders, there are many people who hire them to find what they want. It has been told that the NPA used pathfinders from Mamanwa to hide from the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and PNP (Philippine National Police), but as well known is that AFP and PNP used the Mamanwa to find where the NPA are hiding! During the 14 years of experience as Thor has of Mindanao, and 10 years with the Mamanwa, he has never heard of that they armed themselves. It is also not uncommon for mining companies in their initial geological research work to use Mamanwa to find new sites to extract minerals; or rather how one can find there before they have got the permits and their machines has cleared the way. Furthermore they are an asset for tourists and other nature enthusiasts who want to experience the Philippine rain forests environment and wildlife.

In spite of this access as they are, so they are grossly discriminated against. Teachers refuse to teach them because they are "uneducable" they are, of course, black! Municipality workers are afraid they will rebel and hurt them. Midwives refuse to accompany them during childbirth, why there is a dark number with so called hilots — self-taught ditto. Nurses at clinics and hospitals are constantly putting them last in the queue, doctors are afraid of reprisals if they can't cure them (many in the Philippines are coming in too late and die in hospitals, why the rumour is that you die if you go to the hospital). Compare also with that many still think in year 2013 that the Manobo people have tail!

If not this would be enough should also be mentioned that the higher schools and Government institutions in Manila connives and gives not at all the assistance that they report to the UN for the protection of tribes, but allows local governors and mayors attend to this. A factor contributing to solve this problem is that the entire primary language group Tagalog, and other in government office, should learn the language Visaya in addition, on the same conditions as all other in the Philippines must learn Tagalog. The problem is not that the tribal do not understand Tagalog, the problem is that the Tagalogs have the power, but no influence due to the fact that they are not able to discuss, to make themselves understood or receive information directly from the people, which makes their language ignorance becomes cowardice to engage in Mindanao!

Description of FTMW/S breakfast project



During the fall semester of 2012 and spring semester 2013, seven children from Mamanwa has come regularly to **FTMS/FTMW's** office to get help with their hygiene and to eat breakfast.

What help the children got is to have a place where they can store their school uniform, wash themselves, brush teeth, eat breakfast and lunch and do homework.

Since it is important with education **FTMW** has in cooperation with **MSWD** in Carrascal encouraged parents and tribal council to take responsibility for their children in the tribe and make sure they attend school.

In connection with these conversations, the parents has expressed that they want their children to get school education, but that they do not know how to supply them with food and school uniform since they are dependent to cultivate their plantations in the mountains to survive.

The solution we have come up with is that there should be a place the children can be assembled, or that someone can help them when the parents are on their plantations or in the mountains to collect firewood.

MSWD Carrascal has asked **FTMS/FTMW** for help since there is concern in the area due to a dispute with a clan leader in another tribe that takes much of the municipality's resources. **FTMS**

and **FTMW** have accepted this cooperation, even if it currently means that we cannot guarantee that the children continuously will attend school.



The elementary school has changed its structure for Mamanwa children's sake, because they are not present regularly. The principal at Adlays primary school, Eflida, N. Ulvida, tells us that she appointed teachers to the Mamanwa and that there are two classrooms for them, which they use when they are in school. When the children are absent, the teachers help in the ongoing teaching in other classes. Thus suffer none of that the children are developed in a different tempo.

This is not good in the long run because all children need continuity in teaching and also get to know each other and be able to work without interference, because the current system leads to that children tease and that teachers may feel that teaching is hopeless when it is not able to measure or plan.

FTMW/FTMS continuous engagement



We continue our commitment in the same way for the school year of 2013-2014 as the year before to assist children who are studying in the school.

We will continue our work to show NCIP and other stakeholders that it benefits everyone in a society that all children must go to school, make friends and get good nutrition.

FTMW's goal is to help the children with:

- Breakfast
- Hygiene
- Lunch
- Homework

in cooperation with MSWD, DSWD, DepEd and NCIP



Unfortunately we don't have the resources we need because the province which we assist in is greatly neglected by the Government and its agencies and therefore heavily influenced by corruption and a non-democratic thinking.

We want all parties to get the experience of the joy that means that more people can read and write, more people can contribute to society's livelihood, and thus become more involved in the joint peace society.

Currently, many are worried about reprisals if something goes wrong. Public employees are worried about conflicts between tribal people, teachers worried about conflicts related to their workplace, pastors concerned about conflicts between ethnic groups and people in general for battles in the street.

All this can be solved by peaceful means, just if only a few dare to show the way how it can be done.

You are an important partner in this work. The more sponsors we have, the more children we can support, and the more adults, parents and teachers engage with us.

Since the academic year began in June, 30 children from the Mamanwa tribe has started their studies. We want them to remain in school but cannot afford to it without your help.

Your, your family's and your friends' commitment are important!

Expenses incurred as a sponsor

Since this work to provide assistance is ongoing, you can as a donor decide what amount you want to contribute with per month. If the amount is low in relation to the bank charges to transfer/pay into our account, you can with advantage pay per quarter, half-year or full year.

However, it is important for us to know how much and for how long, a certain period of time or to further, as you are interested in to support us in this work. All of the work which is taking place in Sweden is made voluntary, why the only costs we have is that we are obliged to under the bank's fees and in accordance with the law.

If you are not already supporting us with any contribution, you can contact us to establish your commitment. Contact details can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

2. Nutrition Month – July

CYP1050 – CHP4051



Each month has a learning objective in the Philippines and the month of July is the Nutrition Month.

Since, in **FTMW/FTMS** we have several collecting projects, which aim to nourish children and adult, it is natural that we participate in this national event, and give help locally where we are. We give aid, of course, every month, but July, in particular, is the month it is done officially to show to the public the importance of correct nourishment.

The projects within **FTMS** involving nutrition and nutritional teachings include: **CYP1050, School Meals**, which is to give children in pre- elementary and High School, one meal per day, **CYP1100, Child Health Care** helps malnourished children to recover through food supplementing, and that their parents learn how to vary the food to get all vitamins and minerals the body need, **CHP4051, The Mamanwa-project**, which is a tailor-made project for the Mamanwa tribe, to know how to cultivate and produce to supply their own families.



The money we receive is shared within the different projects accordingly after your dedication on the payment, then we invite parents and children to go through the project and make an estimation for how long the money will last. Precisely these projects, we want them to continue current, and we are very happy for those sponsors which contribute monthly.

Inday, the mother to the left, were some years ago, one of our elementary students.

The positive with Inday is that she knows what it are like to be a child and a student at the school without food in her belly. Therefore, she is very keen that her child should receive proper nourishment so he doesn't have to suffer as she had. Inday is still very malnourished and is member in our program for mothers.

Unfortunately, Inday is still fighting today because she does not have necessary qualifications from school, but perform to get food for the day through what we in Sweden call domestic services. She takes care of other families children and may eat their food when the parents comes back home. The distribution is small, however. Often there are barely enough food to the own family why it is that both Inday and her son are malnourished.

Inday and her son is now included in our nourish program, which we receive money to from you.

CYP1150



We are careful that the mothers shall understand that they shall not allow themselves to be tempted to buy powdered milk or other supplement on behalf on the benefits of breastfeeding, but that breastfeeding is the most important nourishment a child can get his first year at life, or as long as possible.

It is common for women, "Peter out" due to various causes, but we encourage them to take care of their health, as far as possible, given the resources available.

In this work are then fathers very important, because it is them who provide a livelihood for his family through work. It is hard in the cases the fathers have deceased in TB, other illnesses or accidents.



The children, who are really unhealthy due to inadequate nutrition in the diet, get nutritional supplements by us after the doctor's prescription.

Children who we judge suffering from malnutrition, or if parents come to us and are worried about their children, we take to the doctor for a health examination, where the doctor writes out an instruction on what the child needs extra of, as well as how the child will get the nourishment in the period up to the next medical examination.

It is not complicated recipes of medicines but additions in the form of; eggs for proteins, milk for calcium, and other common ingredients in everyday diet, to balance the immune system and giving the individual strength to grow or manage to work.



Thanks to the contributions we receive from our sponsors and godparents we can assist children and parents with this help. Our project number is: **CYP1100 Child Health Care.**

This means providing nutritional supplements in the form of vitamins, minerals, protein, and other food, is done in different ways. We strive to that all will eat fruit and vegetables daily.

We, too, work in network with doctors to give all care needed. At times we assist children and families for health check-up, and different examinations.



Depending on the parents wishes and our possibilities, we are going to their home, and shows the family and neighbours how to do and what to think about. Sometimes they come to our Office, and sometimes we meet in a public place which the society allows us to use for this purpose.



There are many institutions across the world that helps in the Philippines. Did you know that the Philippine government 2006 carrying amount over 11 000 different institutions office in Manila area and on Luzon, while we count on one hand which helps to regularly in our provinces?

Many disposable gifts will come in the form of plastic bags distributed to thousands of people. Plastic bags and packaging which then pollute the environment.

Please be aware of the environment in your giving, cooperate with others, and remove be on waste.

3. THE YOUNG LEADERS OF TODAY ARE THE HOPE OF TOMORROW

By Fr. Shay Cullen



The incredible courage, bravery, and dedication of young people are what the world needs to inspire and lead us into the future. Malala Yousafzai is a striking example of the capability of the youth to give the good example where adults are failing. Her speech to the United Nations ignited the hope and activism of youth around the world.

Shay Cullen



Malala Yousafzai

Malala was shot in the head by the Taliban assassin because she was such a powerful determined advocate of the universal right to education. She shows just how influential young people can be if only we listen to them and allow them to have their role and to take the lead at times.

The adult leaders, parents, teachers politicians, and the general public should realize that there are great youth leaders and youth groups who are giving their time and energy to saving the planet, helping the hungry, the oppressed, jailed children and they are campaigning for one important cause or another. They need the encouragement and support of the adult world because they deserve it; it's the right and good way to educate and develop good positive and caring character and personality in youth while growing up. The youth are the leaders of the future and they will take on the duty and obligation to support the passing aging generation.

What they need to grow strong and mature, besides healthy food and education, is for their inner self to be nourished with spiritual values. These are positive attitudes, relationships that cannot be bought at the supermarket such as trust, respect, affirmation, inspiration, encouragement, good example, security, emotional support, affection and friendship.



Jailed children among jailed adult in the Philippines

A nation is judged by the way it cares and nurtures its children. How very true this is. Parents, teachers, and authorities in general ought to put aside the age old practice of asserting negative authority over young people. The youth are filled with a desire to be acknowledged, respected, and encouraged in their activities and not to be scolded, judged and chided for youthful enthusiasm, immaturity, and mistakes. We all make mistakes so tolerance, understanding, patience, and forbearance is what adults need to have towards them. Then they will learn to overcome human frailties as they grow to maturity.

Given that encouragement and respect, they will become advocates of the good and beautiful just as Malala has done. Her parents are also to be admired for giving her the opportunity and support in her pursuit of education and the rights of all to go to school in the face of threats and intimidation.



It must be seen that these youthful heroes are striving to do good for all and what greater good is there than to sacrifice for the well-being of others. The young people of the world have these surging desires and hopes and must be allowed to exercise them with trust and as team work with adults.

They reach that through the opportunities provided to them by the adults in their lives.



There is the Filipino Akbay Theatre group supported by the Preda Foundation. Over the past many years, group after group have trained, practiced and performed their musical drama to near perfection. They are passionate and dedicated to inspiring and enlightening the audiences about the social realities of life of young people. They use this as a form of self-expression and an educational tool that appeals to the heart, emotions, and minds of the audience.

They spend hours and day in preparation for their local and international tours across Europe, Canada, Australia and Japan. There, they have inspired many people who moved to tears and came to an emotional and mental awaking. Then, with their own, real characters formed on this commitment, most carry it over to lives of virtue. They have honesty and integrity as strong-minded servant leaders. When they marry and have a family, the same life-enhancing virtues of loving, care and sacrifice for their wives, husbands and children is clearly apparent.



The volunteers at Preda Centre, Olongapo, Filipinos and from several nationalities, are the model of youth in action. They are living out their belief and faith in a greater eternal force of goodness and love. The Gospel message of the Good Samaritan is uppermost in their hearts and they want the opportunity to make it a reality in their everyday lives. These are the youth leaders of today and the best hope of good leaders in the future.

This extract is from Shay Cullen's column in PREDA Foundations Newsletter of 24 July, 2013 and can be read at Preda Foundations homepage <http://www.preda.org/en/> and is printed here by permission of Fr. Shay Cullen.

(Fr. Shay's columns are published in The Universe, The Manila Times, in publications in Ireland, the UK, Hong Kong, and on-line.)

4. Miscellaneous

INFORMATION

For more information about events, see information and follow the links from our website at www.tribemission.com. There you can too fill out a form to be a sponsor to a child or a project. You can too send us a mail to our address as stated on the last page.

Lectures/Events



If you want to book us to come, and that you will know more about the Philippines, and our local work there, please contact us on given numbers or e-mail as shown last in this newsletter.

Observe that we are pleased to come, if so only, for the sake of the information, for instance, the life in the Philippine provinces, and about how to help to own support. Information which can be well for use to, for instance, school youth, scouts etc.



It is you that decide the theme in cooperation with us, for instance, in connection with the UN-day, or any international engagement, or theme day at your work. School – Organization – Company – does not matter.

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:

See **FTMS** in task bar

Filipino Tribe Mission Welfare's homepage:

See **FTMW** or Philippines in task bar

Godchildren:

See **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 patience 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.

LAST PAGE!



Mamanwa children sit together with Inday, our first student, and her son. Her husband deceased in illness.