



FTMW
Filipino Tribe
Mission
Welfare



NEWSLETTER

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VISIT TO OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Continuation from previous newsletters about our visit to Davao ophthalmology with Mamanwa child.



As you might remember from previous newsletters, Mareth Salazar has an eye disease that cannot be treated in Surigao city and by Dr. Go. We decided that she should receive medicine for her right eye and that the doctor should contact Davao about how and when transplantation can be executed.

I made a visit to Davao in March 9, and it was supposed that Mareth should have come with her father to the hospital. It never happen, which is shown in previous newsletter, and a new negotiation and several meetings with education and information to all involved was ahead of us. Thursday, April 2, I were in Taganito talking with the teacher, Edelina Perez, and we agreed that she shall show the child for the parents and the Chieftain at least once monthly, and this evaluating meeting shall be recorded. This to make them understand that there will be no progress in the child's case with the herbs that they now are using.

After this visit, we had a seminar in April 17 and 18, where all representatives from the four provinces were present. On the Saturday, April 18, also Edelina was present and we went through the budget for the sponsored children in Taganito and the ongoing situation. Edelina informed that the mother now refused to let the child go, because it was a bigger meeting held for Mamanwa tribal in CARAGA, in Ampayon the coming week, April 20 – 23. She said that the Datu told all families to participate. Since

Cholly Bat-ao, our new chair, works within NCIP (National Commission for Indigenous People), she told that this was not the situation, but that representatives from all tribal councils shall be present. This involved the father in the family since he was such representative, even called kagawad.

Edelina had mobile phone number to the Datu, so Cholly made a call and talked with him about the situation for the girl and the risk for permanent blindness. The Datu promised, after also talking with Teodoro, Datu for Manobo, to tell the mother that the examination for the girl was more important than her presence at the meeting.



Tuesday, April 21, we decide together that the mother and child should follow me and Teodoro to Davao, but that we should pass through Cagayan de Oro, this since we had children with hare mouth who should get operation (see other article).

Already six o'clock in the morning we were in Taganito. Edelina and the daughter Mareth was there but not the mother. She was home in her house in the mountain and had now changed her mind again; in spite that Datu told that it was important to the child. Teodoro stayed in the bus stop while Edelina fetched the mother for a new negotiation. I needed to proceed to the village Bad-as to meet a volunteer, which should help as an assistant. We waited for Teodoro, and he came alone at ten. We continued immediately to Butuan together.

In the bus he told that the mother shall go to the big meeting in Ampayon, and since the Datu was already there and not in Taganito, Teodoro asked his wife Cholly for assistance, since NCIP is the head for the meeting in Ampayon for Mamanwa. The mother and daughter came in separate bus from TMC after four o'clock. Since they should come late and we also had work to do in Cagayan de Oro, we split up, with thought to meet in Davao next day. Mine and the assistants work in Cagayan can you read about in separate article about children with hare mouth.

In the evening I spoke to both Cholly and Teodoro, and they told that the negotiations went well and that there now is a fix decision that the mother and child will follow Teodoro to Davao next morning at eight. By this decision I took the night bus to Davao to prepare their arrival. The estimated travel time to Davao for me was approximate six hours and for Teodoro seven hours. He should therefore not reach in time before office close, why I needed to be in Davao to try to keep a doctor available for Mareth.

Coming morning I was already in Davao and awaited message from Teodoro that they were on the way. It was his wife that contacted me first. She told desperately that the mother now changed her mind again and refused to follow. This time she pointed to the monthly payment that is made from TMC. This since the Datu was with us, but the CRO (Community Relations Officer) was not present.

We realized that we now need to coordinate all available resources in the community to enable help to the child with doctor's treatment. It is not enough with one department at the time, but will now place a suggestion to the working group for Mamanwa to coordinate barangay Captain in Taganito, CRO from TMC, Datu, councilors from Mamanwa and appointed parents for a special meeting with education within this subject.

Dr Go, who treated Mareth in Surigao city, will help us to inform about medicine, treatment and why vaccine is important, in cooperation with the pastors Rubenial and Huelma, which is teachers within DepEd for adult education and who will make a guideline for this work.

I decided therefore to visit DMC, Davao Medical Center, to prepare and find out more information about what happen in connection with a transplanted of a cornea.



This time I found right department. The one I wrote about in the previous newsletter was the post-operation department and now I came to the department where examinations are executed. I came to the doctor's room, but it show that the responsible doctor were on an early lunch, but that she should be back soon. A doctor I spoke with, told she was the former responsible, but that she was now promoted to another area in the clinic, why she could not give me any admittance to take picture, but recommended the new doctor in charge.



The new doctor came and said she was recently graduated ophthalmologist and new in office, why she asked me to talk with the director of the hospital before she could give me further information about the treatment and picture taking.

I turned to the chief in the hospital administration, and his secretary presented me to the chief of clinics, who was, thank God, also an ophthalmologist. She viewed the pictures of the child, and agreed that diagnose of Dr Go seemed to be correct. I explained about the problem we

have to get the tribal child to treatment and that I needed pictures to show child, families and sponsors for a better education about hospital and medical treatment, and she agreed that it is very important to show in picture about treatment and operation. She called for the doctor in charge, which I had spoken to earlier, and told her that I had free access to the clinic and that she could tell about the treatment. She also admitted, with small changes, what Dr. Go previously told, namely:



- DMC Davao Medical Center executes complete transplantations but the bank of corneas from different donators is in Manila.
- Mareth can be surged under their charity program, which will sweep away some of our expenses.
- We must pay the expenses of the cornea. The price is p25,000.

To the left, you can see how an eye surgery is executed. The principle is the same for most operations and is executed with help of a microscope. Two assistants are continuously helping the doctor for the need during surgery.



Both children and adults are operated in the same department. The hospital has no department for children. In case of need, operation room, used by orthopedic clinic, on lower floor, is used.

A cornea can be found to adult within a month from the eye bank in Manila, but in the case with Mareth, it is not certain how long time it can take. The price is set due to the analysis that the cornea must undergo to be screened free from diseases as hepatitis, HIV etc. and transportation to Davao. Chemical analysis costs are estimated to 20,000 piso and other costs approximated to 5,000 piso. We estimate the total cost for the patient, including fare, food, lodging and assistance to approximate 15,000 piso, which gives us a total of approximate 40,000 piso to treat Mareth.

GIFT – DONATION

Alike in previous newsletter we will ask for your ability to give a donation since 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.

1. MSWD in Claver, which is the municipality where Taganito belongs
2. 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.

In case 1 and 2 above, DMC take responsibility that money is paid out to the hospital from these departments. The only part they ask our assistance with, is that we make sure that the patient brings a verification of social status, a reference from the barangay captain and doctors report from Dr. Go. Since we have extra expenses, however, in shape of transports, food, hotel, and hygiene utilities but also because of the education we now need to start to show the tribe the importance of vaccination to the children, and even so to the adult, which means that we are very thankful if you want to give a gift for this purpose.

The total cost for the treatment, with visit for evaluation and measurement and revisit for the transplantation, including costs for the cornea, has been estimated to approximately 40,000 piso, which respond to an approximate value of 8,000 SEK.

Costs for education is ongoing, but in any case, we are happy for any donation of any size, since many small donations gives us the opportunity to help as well as one bigger. In case of turnover, it will be saved to our account for children who need help with doctor, se article about children with hare mouth.

If you send us a gift for this, mark it: medical project or CHP1100 (Child health care).

Thank you for your donation!

MEDICAL MISSION

CHILDREN WITH HARE MOUTH

I has since Christmas myself been a sponsor to little Brian, who is born with hare mouth. His parents could not afford the travel expenses to Cagayan de Oro, in spite that the treatment there is free. The parents needs to work, and the fare and food is expensive to them.



Brian with grandmother and Pastora Cynthia

Brian belongs to Assembly of God, in Alegria, and in the same municipal there are in total five children who are in need of this operation. I gave money already in December to make this operation executed, but the doctor has not had appointment until the month of April.

In connection with this work, I found out that it was pastor Senonis (previous newsletter) that is contact person for this kind of doctor's mission, and when I also found out that there was a ten year old girl in my home village Adlay, with same problem, I asked him if it was ok to bring her too. He was positive, and it was decided initially that the children should gather in Alegria Sunday, April 19, to travel together pastora Cynthia Mijares on the following Monday.



I agreed with the parents to Nicky, which is the name of the girl in Adlay, that I should come to them with additional information during Thursday, April 16. We agreed that the father should be her companion to Cagayan. I got message from Cynthia that she needed to postpone the travel one day, since she needed to visit the bank during Monday before they left, for the payment. She suggested that the father and Nicky only needed to take the bus to Bad-as, and she would fetch them there on her motor, why I promised the family to come with money for their fare to Bad-as, or Alegria, depending on the outcome.

Sunday when I visited again, the father told me that they still not decided definitely if they wanted to proceed with the child to the free treatment, but he told me he would come to me later in the evening when he had talked with his wife. Since he never showed up, I went to his house again with my wife Jovelyn as interpreter. He had gone out fishing, and was told not coming back until 4 am in the morning, and the bus should come five. He had not spoken with his wife and she was afraid to take an own decision without him. We agreed with his wife that they still had the opportunity, but in such case, they need to come immediately in the morning to get money for fare.



I informed Cynthia that the journey was cancelled but that I should tell her if there were any changes. She went worried for the girl as well. I went immediately, late on the Sunday evening, to the village Captain since I now had several cases of violations, both against human rights as well as to the child convention in the village. I informed which cases it included, including the case of Nicky. She told that the family belongs to a sect called Church of Stone, and that they have own rules, like Jehovah Witnesses, when it comes to operations and treatments. I told her that it is not legal to let a child suffer due to a faith, since the child is innocent and unable to take action for itself and own treatment empowered by faith, and therefore is protected by the child convention and Philippine law against such suffering, and that the family must immediately be educated and informed. We agreed that we together shall oversee possibilities to reach out to the citizens that are without education or readability.

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We will now look at some of the children that were in Cagayan and get their operation executed. The children were divided in two groups. In the first, in which Nicky should has been, were also "my" child Brian, two year, and a twin boy at six, which name is Refiel. Here is Brian, he was operated Monday, April 27, and came home Thursday, April 30.





Here is Refiel, he was operated first, in Wednesday, April 22, and came home night to April 28, why I could visit him in his mothers store on the market for picturing of him and his family.



Refiel's twin brother Rafael is very happy now when he has a real twin, and all are excited to see how Refiel will look when all the wounds are healed.

Refiel feels well and eats as usual. Well, actually more than usual. According to the mother, he didn't like to eat before but now he eats much more, so apparently he has got taste for food.



Refiel's mother's store, and on the picture you see her sit talking together with the twins and pastora Cynthia Mijares.

This is, among other, how we use money we receive that is donated to medical need for children and children's health care. This is also a good opportunity for us to tighten bonds with people in the community for education, how we together can create opportunities.

Thank you for your gift, all involved sends their bighearted regards to their sponsors.

After a number of weeks, the children will revisit the doctor in the hospital in Cagayan de Oro City to take away the stitches.

As mentioned in other article above, we are very happy for donations done to our account for children's health care.

Even donations for education is important since several parents not want to let their children receive medical care, this due to different reasons, but often based on mythology, local traditions, but also due to political corruption.

MALNOURISHMENT IN MAMANWA

This chapter is hard to write about, but it is one of our absolute most important goals for our mission in the Philippines. Many people in Europe, and especially in the Nordic that I talk with, don't realize how serious the situation is for the tribal, indigenous people, and those without education in school.

In the article above, you can see how different people react by suspicion when we offer help; they have only themselves to blame, says people on the street in Sweden! The rift is wide when it comes to the understanding for how it is possible to help these people. Those that has read Swedish history, knows that we once were in the same situation less than 150 years ago. Can we not share from our knowledge, technology and experiences then?



Angel born, she is daughter to Mavin and Beauty. I met them this day in their new settlement outside Pantukan.

Mavin is son to the Chieftain of Mamanwa, but this day in May he was still only a child of a royal family. He was newly married and saw his first and only child been born. His group of the Mamanwa tribe was participating in the program we started for education, and that later led to their children's enrollment in the Elementary school in Adlay.

Mavin did not belong to the students. In 2007 his father's eyes was so bad that he could no longer lead the tribe as a Datu anymore. Because of this he decided that his son should overtake as a Datu. Mamanwa held an official ceremony, and as we have inauguration for our king, have they an inauguration for their new Datu. The young father Mavin became Datu Mavin, chieftain of Mamanwa in Adlay and Pantukan. Together with Datu Berting, he is one of two chieftains in the area. He has an own servant in the Mamanwa tribe, but to support himself, the family and the tribe, he got a work in the nearby mining company VTP. Same company as my own brother in law is working in.



Unfortunately it belongs to my experience to meet these problems in the daily life here, and see how people, of different reasons, chose not to listen to advices and educations about how they can improve their own livelihood for their own family.

They will live as they always done. "this is the way we do in the Philippines!" Have I not heard this before back home in Sweden as well?

It was always better in the past, and not a thought that development also can have a positive impact in the meaning that it can give better sustainability for the own family as well to the village where living. I am now to give you a story from my own life in the Philippines and it starts already in May 3, 2006. Four days before was

In Mamanwa, the salary is not used solemnly for the own family, but all men put together their incomes to cover food and needing for all. A good method that keep the tribe together, but which makes aid as our more difficult, since we cannot aim a child or a family alone, but need to cooperate and elaborate with the whole group.

Together with Mavin we have divided the group into those that can receive education and those that must work. We give continuously Mavin advice and education how to cooperate with different organizations in the society. In 2008 when I came, they had been forced to close down the education temporarily since many parents chose to go up

in the mountains for their livelihood. Mavin wanted to give the tribe education but since the soil in Adlay is not good for farming, Datu Berting chose to move up to Pantukan again, why a split was in sight. The barangay council in Adlay has prepared an area, which will be fertilized to give the tribe an opportunity to farm their own herbs and vegetables, but due to the different mining companies, which have started mining, something more serious had happen.

Since the tribes is protected by law, and their natural settlements is not to be touched or destroyed, the companies is paying out capital, which shall be used for the development for the tribes but also reparation after done mining projects so that the nature is undestroyed. We hope to be able to help in monitoring that this will be and that nobody shall suffer because of any the ongoing mining projects.

An effect of this generosity to the tribes was that suddenly people reported themselves to belong to different tribes. Manobo is most popular, since they are alike other Filipinos. This because they want to have share of this paid out monthly money, through the different mining companies. Unfortunately we have experience of such a false person, which is under investigation now since he succeeded to get an office in the municipal as a chieftain, and which work was to share the money between the two tribes in Adlay, Manobo and Mamanwa. Eventually, Mamanwa has got no share at all, and been denied education and help, why he violates both Philippine law and human rights.

This led to that nobody has given attention to Mamanwa. Even the previous cooperators we had for Mamanwa has abandoned this work and we have opened what we call a "Kids club" in Adlay, which means that the godchildren's parents form a council and cooperate how we can help them most effective with the godchild fees.

Since Mamanwa is very difficult to cooperate (see article about ophthalmology), it is few who can and have patience to help them. The village council has had a feeling of being out of authority because of the confusion that has been because of the fraud working. I have personally talked to the director of NCIP in Butuan, and he has asked us to tell Mamanwa to file official complaint about their situation. The council of Adlay, decided through their captain, Wednesday, April 29 that even they will send information to get advice in this work.



FTMW received the question from Datu Mavin in April 18, to help his daughter who was ill. Since one of our godchildren belongs to his family, the board decided to help little Angel. Already at Sunday April 19, we went to the pediatrician in Cantilan together with her mother Beauty.

It was my wife that had had contact with Mamanwa since we have a store in which they shop, but we are also close neighbors. With my wife Jovy, Mavin's wife Beauty and little Angel on the motor, I drove to the doctor in Cantilan, who found out what the problem with Angel was. She was malnourished.



Together, Jovy and Beauty decided that Jovy should help her to give nourishment and medicine daily. Since Mamanwa not easily handle to give individual help, but that other members in the tribe will take from the medicine, we saw only one solution in this case, to save the life on Angel, and it was that my wife mixed the amount of milk and vitamins needed daily and gave Beauty every morning. Jovy told her how and when Angel should have her additional, but also that she need to eat more than just rice. She must get nourishing food to the rice.

This they did daily, and after two days Jovy said that the child eat better and looked healthier, but Friday, April 24, something happened and Angel went so ill that the parents took her to the public hospital in Madrid. From what Jovy got to know from members in the family and the tribe, Angel had suddenly got difficult to breath. She had been given herbs and they had let her breath smoke to facilitate breathing.

This is one of the more serious problems with the tribe, and with other tribes as well, that they have their own medicine men/women that not accept modern medicine and advice, but will give from their own solutions on the problems occurring. Many times the situation gets worse, the children suffer and we have difficulties to reach with correct treatment since the parents is under traditional ceremonial power.

Once again I took the motor. This time with Jovy and a relative to the child and went to the MSWD. They are responsible and help that the bill from the hospital will be paid, but since the couple went without prescription from a local doctor, it must be shown by evidence from which municipal they belong. I was worried that the child would not get consequent treatment, since the hospital maybe should suspect that the bill would not be paid. MSWD confirmed to me that they always cover for Mamanwa to 100% due to their problem to fit in to the society. We continued our conversation with MSWD and we agreed to coordinate our resources within FTMW with MSWD to help the village council in Adlay to reach all illiterate and tribal.



To Angel this aid comes too late.

She is not breathing anymore. The angel that the child has and who is looking at the face of God and defend it fetched Angel to come home to heaven that very day.

We helped the family with some food and some money likewise has her destiny made sure that the MSWD and the village council are united in the work to help the poorest among the poor. But Angel could not stay. She was the only child to Datu Mavin and Beauty, and they are now without child. In difference to other families in the Philippines with many children, they are now paralyzed of a great grief.

Can you help us make sure that it will not happen to more families?

Your gift for education or to the Mamanwa tribe saves life. We are missing sponsors to tribes. Do you know any that is interested, please recommend them to us?

ADULT EDUCATION

As seen from the events we experience in the Philippines, and as I told earlier about in previous newsletter this year, a plan for education to adults has taken shape. Thanks to two of our new BOD that is licensed adult educators within DepEd, we has been able to have goal aimed negotiations during spring with teachers in other places, chieftains, councilors, mining companies, social departments as MSWD and municipals.

I will express that it seems to be clear to all partners in the society, how important it is that every municipal and village council have their own development plan to follow. With help of this plan as a tool, different organizations are able to coordinate their aid for the best to the citizens in each community.

The CARAGA-region with Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur is among the most poorest and underdeveloped in the country, and it must prevail unity among its partners to reach visible progress. In the Philippines exist a population of indigenous people, i.e. tribal in a total of 10 800 000 (ten million eight hundred thousand). It is in comparison the whole population of Sweden plus 600 000 that is more or less illiterate or in minority in the Philippines, squatter in a number of different tribes by all kind of religions.

We can see that foremost understandings and education must be done about how following laws can protect and help all in the society by:

1. Human rights
2. Child convention
3. Violence against women and equality

We hopes that FTMW will be able to create education package in cooperation with DepEd (Department of Education), MSWD, DSWD and local government units, churches and organizations that has shown interest.

The portion that aims community cooperation in the sponsorship fee to godchildren is used, among other, to this kind of educational work.

You can even give appointed donations aiming our educational work through our account and mark the payment EDP2000 or as shown at our homepage at ongoing projects.



In the picture is shown Jennifer Urquia, our new parent representative in FTMW together with Jovelyn Klaveness giving FTMW's gift to the mother of Angel, Beauty, and the sister of Datu Mavin.

They express their thanks to all their sponsors in their deep grief.

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.

Observe that we are available at Torp in the week of midsummer June 15 – 19!

God's peace

Thor Klaveness

Adlay, Carrascal
8318 Surigao del Sur
Philippines

thor@tribemission.com
+63 929 803 6638

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**
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Filipino Tribe Mission Welfare's homepage:

Se FTMW or Philippines in task bar

Godchildren:

Se Child sponsor in task bar

FILIPINO TRIBE MISSION SWEDEN

Org. Nr: 802422-2393

ftms@tribemission.com

Att: Klaveness

Norreväg 11/46

Chairman Bodil Klaveness: klaveness21@hotmail.com

233 39 Svedala

Treasurer Rosauro Maniquis: ro_cee@yahoo.se

Sverige

Account information:

Pg: 418296-0

Bg 5495-2361

Bank account: 9960 420418 2960

IBAN: SE31 9500 0099 6042 0418 2960

BIC-Code (SWIFT): NDEASESS