



FTMW
Filipino Tribe
Mission
Welfare



NEWSLETTER

No 5 2009

NEWS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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PREFACE

The last subject in this newsletter is not a set caption but a question. In connection with interaction in aid between countries, the purpose can differ, often religious but also political, or in connection between the two, ethically. The reason or purpose to have this contact can be to sell products, stop pollution, create flow of labor and work, or mutual understanding for peace etc.

What many make a mistake about, in both countries which cooperate, is that they believe that just the one country have the "ultimate" solution for both. The truth is often, if not always, somewhere in between. In that one understands his own culture, it is possible to share and understand other cultures, but how can you take part of a culture without knowing what to share? It is a behavior that we call tourism. To travel without service in return, to bath, tan, visit things worth seeing and experience exiting events in an unaccustomed climate, on an unknown place. On the same time, unfortunately, maybe being biased, founded on the treatment received.

When one wants to be part in the global development, deeper studies must be made, seeing behind the scenes and know what will meet when sharing a product or a message. It is devastating if one then builds his relations on prejudgments. It must be a mutual understanding.

To avoid a feeling of hopelessness and maybe wanting to give up, when realizing that it is difficult to understand each other, we have started an educational cooperation, in which we collect, primary, national information about how things works. A person in the provinces, who cannot read or write, feels that laws and regulations is only made for the rich. In a system where it is impossible to read information, a choice must been made in who to believe. Someone who can explain and lead the family, group, tribe or village forward, and the choice is on a leader that will help with the development work, to plan for all in the group/society.

Unfortunately, it is here what we call corruption enters. A system is built up, in which one tries to make his work safe by making himself indispensable, and since ones become elder, a child or relative

is prepared for the continuation of the confidence/appointment. This leads to the disputes, which is called war, and shown on TV, since people feels disregarded and cannot reach to the better life that the leader was intended to help them to.

So that we will understand each other better, I lift some stories and domestic history. It is a hope that it will give mutual understanding why it is difficult some times, and that even we in "giving/donating countries" must adjust our attitude. It is easier to cooperate when sharing experiences, and ability given to pick of the good experiences to develop methods to avoid that the bad reiterate, this, among other, when it comes to malnourishment and refusals to give ones child treatment, as we has told about in previous newsletters.

I am myself back in Sweden now together with my family. We will be, as I mentioned before, at EFK's exhibition at Torp during the period June 15 – 20. In the end of this newsletter is a link to their homepage.

I have also heard that there are problems to make the autogiro working. A for me not unusual situation, since it has not worked correctly since Nordea bought Postgirot and made it to Plusgirot. I will handle this so that you, who are new sponsors and applied for this service, to pay the sponsorship fee through autogiro shall get it working. The reason for the problem is that it has been problem to make Nordea to accept the new board signing the organization. This, in spite that I filled and sent all forms needed from us. We apologize for this.

THE RIVERSIDE PEOPLE



As I mentioned in newsletter number 3, earlier this spring, I will return to Pastors Vicente Barbarona, Lyn Belarmino and their work among the riverside people, which is residing in Torno, Dipolog City. As the name says, this people are living along a river that stretches along the highway, on the fringe of the city.

Pastor Vicente Barbarona, and his wife Thelma, run in the reality three different missions under two organizations.

It is under the missions of the churches Dipolog Worship Healing Center and March of Faith Church he is travelling around to preach so that he can provide his other mission, which is to give education to the children of the riverside people.



In his home church, which is located on the ground of a boarding house, he and his wife have two classes every morning. The first starts at 7:00 to 9:00 and the other 9:00 to 11:00.

When he is travelling, his wife runs the school with some help from the assembly. The church is still relatively new and small since the majority living here is Catholic, but several of the Catholic families

is happy for his engagement in education, and lets their children participate. Without mention names on families and children living in the area, I will now share of the picture of the work, the pastor couple has described to me about the work together with a female pastor, Lyn Belarmino.



Pastor Lyn Belarmino

Pastor Lyn Belarmino runs a church which name is International One Way Outreach Foundation. She is founding her church on the Bible verse Mark 16:15 in which Jesus says: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

She tells further that she have 12 young people, 35 children and 17 family members in her church.

One eye of Lyn is destroyed since a welding spark come into her eye when a man suddenly started welding without warning her.



Pastors Belarmino and Barbarona works together to reach as many of the children as possible, this with both education and nourishment. They are also trying to engage the parents to help, so that they will understand why it is important that the family care its hygiene and have a variation of vitamins with help of properly composed meals.

The mothers on the picture live in one room, and the kitchen seen in the background. Skin infections is usual on the children and the only thing the mothers seems to do, is to wait for their husbands to come home with money for their daily food.

These kind of children is often malnourished. The family can't afford to buy meat or vegetables to the rice, but eats only the rice. When it comes to the vegetables, little contact is made to it. Vegetables are



not seen as food but the striving is to afford fish, chicken or meat from pig or water buffalo.

Every rain season, the river flood and create chaos when it sweep everything away. Therefore, the houses are built on pillars, but they do not abandon the place, and the natural question becomes, why?

The soil is fertile, and it is possible to seed corn and other crops, possible to sell in the market. Copra is made by coconut shells, and some handicrafts of rattan and other products. The river is also suitable for transport of lumber from the jungle, as we in Sweden did too in the past

Nobody will take the risk to move another place, where the soil can't give the same opportunities or as the river gives other kind of works.

A man is washing his clothes on a raft on the river

Here I show some of the children and families along the river.



Copra production



These children and families participate in different ways in the churches program for a better future. The pastors has not on far, as much resources as they want, but is now appealing to **FTMW** to have a project fund opened so that they can reach out with the work needed.



Unfortunately too little is done from the side of the City, but even from the city, resources is given in shape of a wall, which is called river control.

It is a kind of flood protection, which shall keep the water at flooding, but the money is not enough and the work is delayed

Still water is streaming from down streams, since the river control is not yet built through the village, but the water can follow the roads back. Beside this, the first built portion has started to crumble away and need maintenance.



This mother is only 15 years old, but does her best to take care of her child. She has no time for education.

Can we help the pastors to give her that together with the other parents?

FOR WHAT HELP IS EDUCATION?

A not too uncommon question, even in Sweden, among our youth, and unfortunately there are even adults that make the same criticism; the education is not enough to give our youth a successful future.



Does it help to complain? What can I do? I'm not a teacher or politician!

In reality it is such as that the teachers needs the backup from the parents to run a purposeful education. If they don't get that support in discussions in the parent-teacher association, they cannot prove the needs to the municipal or educational board, since the politicians in their turn feels that they are more correct than the teachers. This is unfortunately founded in the fact that the parents are not heard. When parents are not heard it is understood as they are satisfied with the politic and therefore siding the politicians.

Has it strike you as a parent? That your engagement in your child's schooling and your queries also engage teachers and principals to work harder, since their efforts feels meaningful. Maybe not because you know the latest within technology, history, science, sociology or math, but because you are engaged that your child will receive the best education! If this is clear as daylight for you, that the

parents is important for the children's ability to assimilate in education in more than one level, I mentioned presence in the school's parent-teacher meetings, but also important in the questions; how can I nourish my child, how do I teach hygiene to my child, which ethics is important in our culture/our society and which ability do I give my child to develop to handle its adult life?



Can you, then, imagine how it is to be illiterate and a parent? That as a parent never bent to school, not lived in a town but in the forest, lived on the fruits of the forest and hunted the food to eat. Suddenly you are invited to give your child an education!

That is the situation many tribal is living in. They are looking for work in the new mining companies or the factories. They are hired, just because they are illiterate and cannot read or remember the contents of their contracts. They are lured to a lower payment, don't receive enough to support their family, and in the same time hindered

from farming their own crops or have time for a nursing garden. Every earned coin is used directly for food, or maybe, which is most usual, to already existing debts, created to handle last month's hunger.

We has example on small restaurants that has been opened to serve the crew in the mining, and what is taken by the crew is noted and withdrawn from their salary. Without education are the tribal like innocent children that enjoy to eat them full every day, but when the paycheck arrive, they realize that all money has been used on their own food, and not a single centavo is paid out cash but transferred to the owner of the restaurant.

No information or help is given so that they know what their daily consumption is supposed to be, no protection is given from the company, but they has to "have themselves to blame!"

What is your opinion?



In Sweden, a security has been built up through years of strikes, negotiations and political proceeding actions, which has been tried out and reinvestigated. Ådalen 1931 set an objective in Sweden that enough is enough.

The employer shall not need to kill his employed to get good workers, and employed shall not need to fear their employer to provide them self. Does this only belong to the social democracy?

It is not my opinion that it is so. I am not politically engaged, nor in Sweden, neither in the Philippines, but I have been taught to respect the work our ancestors has done to give us a decent life.



In the Philippines, people are in the beginning of such a process, but with the difference that in the Philippines lives 10 800 000 (ten million eight hundred thousand) tribal without education and an unknown number of illiterate among "Filipinos."

With Filipinos means the people who has lost their identity with a tribe or commonly pronounce themselves Tagalog or Visaya, often a big-city dweller, but also belonging to local

populations in the provinces without typical or known identity or kinship with a specific tribe or culture. **FTMW** in the Philippines has now started to develop an education plan with LGU's, such as municipal office, village council and MSWD. Together aims are set for the common development wanted and realistic targets in the cooperation.



In this way it is possible for the different municipalities to provide their own development plan, which all organizations worldwide, in connection with mission work and humanitarian aid, can agree in, and money will not be paid double for same work or to corrupt, but all involved will know who is leading what in the common development work.

Following is, among other, what the development plan is contended of (with reservation for changes)

- Education in human rights to municipal and village councils
- Fertilization of land so that tribal from the mountain can cultivate their herbs and vegetables
- Education to parents (CWC-work)
- Education of doctors, updates in general medicine and some specialization
- Vocational trainings adjusted to the need of the municipal
- Establishment of social instances for help to vulnerable women and children
- Establishment of Detoxication clinics for adults and children (often in the bigger cities)
- Invitation to local churches and organizations to participate in the development work
- Invitation to national and International organizations to participate in the development work



On the picture you see the pastor and the Manobo chieftain Teodoro A. Bat-ao, **FTMW** together with anthropologist May Rosales from **USC** University of San Carlos, Cebu, who is helping with a design for an educational program, making the children of Mamanwa able to adjust to the Philippine elementary school.

A work in line with the child convention, that children have the right to an education.

At this meeting we met teachers in Taganito, Claver, Surigao del Norte, who is working within Mamanwa, both with education to children and adults.



The teachers methods how to reach the children with a correct pedagogic method, to create interest for education, will be the basis for this official plan, which will be a recommendation to all in the country that work with the tribe.

The meeting was held in TMC, Taganito Mining Corporation's facilities.

Thanks and TORP

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!

<http://www.torpkonferensen.nu/>

God's peace

Thor Klaveness

Adlay, Carrascal

8318 Surigao del Sur

Philippines

thor@tribemission.com

+63 929 803 6638

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FILIPINO TRIBE MISSION SWEDEN

Org. Nr: 802422-2393

ftms@tribemission.com

Att: Klaveness

Norreväg 11/46

233 39 Svedala

Sverige

Chairman Bodil Klaveness: klaveness21@hotmail.com

Treasurer Rosauro Maniquis: ro_cee@yahoo.se

Account information:

Pg: 418296-0

BG 5495-2361

Bank account: 9960 420418 2960

IBAN: SE31 9500 0099 6042 0418 2960

BIC-Code (SWIFT): NDEASESS