

# Newsletter 8 - Iljo de Keijzer

Augustus 2006

By finishing off my Bridgecourse I ended my full time study. I am working part time in the slums and part time busy with language study. One of the things that really had to succeed was my speech after receiving my certificate, in Tagalog! It also had to succeed for encouragement to other students, for them to see what they can accomplish after one year of study. To me it was a special moment to look back and realize what I've accomplished. All thanks to God! The coming months my progression in language will be tested every month at the language department. So that they can correct me when needed.

## ***Bukang Liwangway***

A short word on my first day of work in Welfareville. (The slums I'm working at now) After some wondering through very small alleys, passing laundry baskets and games of Bingo we arrived at a place where we always have our Bible study. We had our Bible study in the alley, so once in a while bikes were passing through or we had to speak louder to drown out the neighbours. Neighbours who didn't want to come still heard everything about God and Jesus.

## ***My work***

I am involved with different Bible studies in different areas and in house churches in building. I'll probably start training new and current Bible study leaders. Furthermore an important task is encouraging people on their self-esteem. Self-image is very low most of the times and people haven't had proper education. We are trying to give them the proper training so that they can become more self-secure and so that they can do their work properly.

Peema Dugue is 43 years old. She's an Australian Filipino. She teaches Physical Education. After she emigrated to Australia God called her back to spread the Word to students. I had to move for several reasons and she had just come, so we decided to live together. We each have our own room and a landing where my office is situated for now. I'm doing temporary work for short- termers. The coordinator had a heart attack, all is well, but he's not allowed working for a month. I'm getting e-mails in all kinds of languages now!

## ***News***

Usually hurricane season starts in August, September but this year we already had one in May. Lots of the crops have been destroyed. Even dikes were broken through. That means that with severe rain parts of Mindoro will be flooded again.

## ***Language study***

Actually Tagalog is very easy;) I discovered that in an elevator one day. The only thing you have to know is 'ba'. The conversation goes as follows:

Customer: bababa (rising voice)                      Translation: are you going down?  
Elevator boy: bababa (lowering voice)              Answer: we are going down.

## ***Youth camp in Pinamalayan***

Last April we went with about 100 teenagers from Bukang Liwayway on a school trip. Quiet time, Bible study, workshops, games, swimming lessons etc. very busy schedule but we had a wonderful time! Teenagers have made a choice to live for God. Youth camp is also used for practicing leadership. I did one workshop on love and dating, a very loving topic to teenagers. Especially in the slums a lot of abuse takes place. Many teenagers are having babies at a very young age. So I could also teach them about Biblical values. I enjoyed it a lot.

## ***Project Timothy 2***

We had a good time planning and thinking through topics for our projects. In November we will talk about it some more.

## ***First impressions of my parents***

Traffic rules, there are no traffic rules! Making acquaintances with Peema, OMF-ers, friends, neighbours, people from church..... Tagalog to us is nothing more than a lot of sounds. Luckily many people speak English very well. Nature is beautiful, palm trees, coconuts, mangos, bananas. Huge butterflies, orchids growing in the wild. What wasn't so nice were ants on the kitchen table, cockroaches on the floor and geckos on the wall. We had a wonderful time in Mindoro, Bohol and Mindanao. We did some sightseeing, we have seen chocolate hills, crocodile farm, visited Iljo's language school, slums, Bible school and many more. Every church ceremony we went to, people were very heartwarming. The kindness of the people, nature, the noise, smog, the heat and the flexible times will always be remembered.

## ***Future***

In this month (September) I'll have my preparations on my first leave to Holland. And in October we will talk with all the missionaries that came here two years ago, to talk about how we feel at home, what to do during difficult times and so on. And in November project Timothy 3.

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