



Manila, october 2010

In this letter more about livelyhood... No matter how important it is for people to get to know God, ow do you do this if they are hungry, children cannot go to school and people die because they cannot pay for simple medication? In this letter, a different part of our work; giving a solution for these problems.

My aunt also came over for a 2-week visit and wrote some about her first encounter with life in the Philippines.

Peeking through the door at Iljo's place... I love the long flight of 12 hours. When I arrive, I greet Iljo with "kumusta", the first words tagalog I learned in the plane already. Traffic looks a bit like in Egypt. Lots of beeping, noises and cars overtaking left and right. Amazingly I did not see a single accident. At home we are greeted by Pogi, the dog, excitingly barking in the garden (incl. Rabbit, vergetables and flowers). The windows are always open, screens protect against mosquito's and iron bars against burglars. We hear every noise from outside, hard to sleep the first few nights.

Eating, they do here with Fork and spoon. I tried all kinds of food I did not even know excisted! Dishes they do with a sponge dipped in soap and than rinsed with COLD water. Jeannette and Olga are friendly housemates, so I feel at home soon! It is great to see something from Iljo's work and life. We visit ABCCOP (Alliance of Bible Christian Communities of the Philippines). She does there the admin of the bible schools, holds meeting and makes plans for the future. We also go to a slum area in Manila.



I am touched by the poverty. Iljo trains people there to lead housechurches. We eat together afterwards, with our hands! We stop at one of the little houses where Iljo stayed reguarly. Through the bars 2 kids take my hand and bring it to their forehead. "please bless me?" they say.

Sunday Iljo gives a presentation in her church about mission and churchplanting. She talks very excitingly! I did not see her preach, but am sure it will go with the same enthousiasm.

The trip to the island Mindoro is amazing!!! The gueshouse of OMF has a huge garden with view on the ocean and some little islands.

We make a trip through rice fields, besides waterfalls and through rivers all the way to a tribal bible school. Never expectd to see a place like that for real and not only on TV. The view is breathtaking, the school looks like it came straight from a museum. I try to eat some rambutan (fruit) without getting bitten by 50 ants that walk on the skin.

I also get the first chance in my life to snorkel. What a world you can see under water! Not planned, but still seen is a local hospital. Iljo gets an alergic reation to a catterpillar and needs to get injections every 6 hours at the emergency room. Unbelievable, after injecting, the same bandage gets placed back on the wound! Unthinkable in the Netherlands!



Special, is my last day here, July 29, Iljo's birthday. 5.45 in the morning I am being waked up by Jeannettes colleages singing worship songs and bringing baloons. They pray for Iljo and than we eat together something like chicked rice soup with egg. Together with rice bread, that looks more like cake! At night we celebrate together with some close friends and share our deserts together! A real special closure to a special trip! Salamat/thanks Iljo!



Tot ziens!!!!!!!

Aunt Christa

Health

Last week I told someone about the incredible hectic schedule my colleague had with all the teaching and travelling. Her reaction was “is that not like your schedule always, what is wrong with that?” This way I got confronted again with the reality that even a missionary cannot work always... I am still learning to say “no” and not planning too much in one week. So far, so good. More than 4 months without fever, colds etc... A new record for me, even in the flu season! A good motivation to keep going, but vaule your prayers for me finding a healthy balans in life.

Ondoy, 1 year!

A few weeks ago was the 1-year rememberence of the victims of the typhoon “Ondoy”. 37 victims are still not found! Hundreds still live in camps. We were able to help many with emergency food, rebuilding and new livelyhood with all the money that came in.

Give man a fish and he eats a day. Give him a fishing rod and teach him how to fish and he wille at the rest of his life!

We went going according to this principle. People can buy their own food and slowly rebuild their house if they have a steady income. We can all see it is not convenient to farm pigs in a city. So finding a means of income within the context where people live. After some time they slowly have to pay back the money invested in them, so we can help others again... In this letter i will show you a few of them.

Pedikabuhay

Pedikab, a taxi bike, kabuhay; livelyhood, a way to give income to people.

20 man, from one of the slums where we work got a way to transport people for money, or start a small mobile shop selling warm snacks during the day.



Bulacan; Mololos Bible Church

A leader from the church received a loan to start a fish selling business. With him 4-5 families can get an income to sell that fish at the local market. Again, 6 more families to receive a means of income. Only 6, but 6 families that can send their children to school, feed them and in the case of “normal” descise can provide them with medicine and check-up.



According to need... Palapat Bible church

A local church, in the middle of one of the most effected area's after the typhoon is being able to help 10 families. One is starting a small supermarket, one is celling gas to cook on (no gas pipelines here), one started to raise chickens and an other is selling rice or vegetables. A lot of different small scale projects, but things people have knowledge about, or can handle it fysically.

Francia; one of the miljon's of Pilipino's

She is my helper, twice a week she comes to do the laundry, stand in line endlessly to pay bills.... Her husband left her and she has 2 teenage sons. One who does not want to study and one who could not enroll, because of financial problems. He wants to study only criminology, and that is one of the very expensice studies. With working for us, she can earn just enough to feed them all and get their daily needs. But she wants more, she wants her son to study again next year and wants to make sure the kids have something to do to prevent them from hanging out with friends drinking and using drugs.

Usually we drink coffee together the day she is working and I hear the stories of her life. Slowly her desire to start a very small size supermarket in her house. Through some money from a heritage I could get her started. I will send a picture as soon as her store is being fixed. But at least she is selling stuff already and making a small extra income..



Agenda:

8-10 okt; Planning for servant leadership training school in Baguio..

16 okt.: Teaching wisdom literature Welfareville

18-22 okt.: mission conference for local churches

30 okt?: teaching in Naga?

16 ? November: Language test

23 nov.: Year end meeting with leaders of TEE centers

27 nov.- 1 dec.: Staff planning and evaluation in Baguio

December: Lots of christmas parties and admin to do!

Dec 27; introcution of TEE program in Mindeano

Greetings from a still warm Manila

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