

Manila, December 2014

### Christmas gift

I think all of us saw the weakening of the typhoon Hagupit as an early Christmas present. Everybody was waiting in tension for the typhoon to hit us and 100.000ths of families were brought into safe areas. Although there still is a lot of agricultural damage and shelters that have been damaged, and still people died, it could have been so much worse! Slowly the typhoon just seemed to dissolve and only rain was left for us.



*Temporal housing from government, did not survive the typhoon.*

The first amazing news was that all our workers were safe! The second that all the houses we helped built and the livelihood projects were still in one piece. Currently we wait the detailed news as to what will be needed; most probably roofing and agriculture.

This week we are being kept busy with the finding of new dates for the cancelled trainings. A task not that easy as we thought it might be.

### Rhenen team

It was a great time working together with a whole Dutch team. They did a great job in helping out in IT, carpentry, looming etc etc. The team was also able to report in my home church after their trip and one of them will come back next April for theology graduation placement!



I will translate what they wrote themselves.

*Last summer we went for three weeks to the Philippines, with a group of 11 from the town Rhenen. We wanted to help the local church in evangelism and what else needed to be done.*



*We helped in building a stage in a new church, and it also was a special introduction to a very different culture.*

*We really enjoyed our time. Both the people in the slums, the church as well as we ourselves were impacted by this visit. For them it was very special that people would come all the way from the Netherlands to the Philippines just for them!*

*During this trip we tagged along with Iljo a lot. She put together a great program for us and was our local guide and translator. She did all this with great passion and enthusiasm and personal attention for each of us.*

*We really saw how much Iljo has become part of the local culture and community. Everywhere people greet her with great enthusiasm. We also were able to develop a website for ABCCOP, on their head quarters where we saw how Iljo also has to wrestle with lots of paper works and focused on preparing lessons for the students in the Bible Schools.*

*For us it was a special time to see another culture, but even more to see how people there trust in God and are grateful for what ever it is they were given.*

*Jelle Pals & Gerard de Visser, on behalf of the Rhenen groep.*

### Teacher training



*Lots of group work and interaction.*

I am thankful that the training is still ongoing. Last month we had another weeks training. Still around 50 are attending. The two subjects of last month were: Transformational Worship and Pastoral Theology. Both subjects were very helpful for the pastors in their personal life and also in learning how to teach the subject later on.



*Still smiling after 4 days of class*

### End of year meeting

After 5 years of postponing this supposedly yearly meeting, for many different reasons, including finances and typhoons, this time finally we were able to push through. We met with most of the leaders of the different schools from the different provinces. It was a good time of sharing concerns, meeting each other and for some, learning how they were supposed to handle the admin side of their school!

Even though maybe only half were able to submit the required papers, it was more than the last years and the others were committed to organize the admin the way they now know are supposed to.

A nice leap towards better functioning training for our pastors, missionaries and church leaders!



*Directors of the different schools.*

### Christmas and New Year

We are nearing the end of 2014 and are bracing ourselves for 2015. At the office, the last meetings, reports, Christmas celebrations and caroling (Filipino thing :-0). The days and nights are slowly becoming more cold, but still beyond 25! Also the dry season makes for less rain!

I am also looking forward to a time of refreshing between Christmas and New Year, traveling with a friend around in this beautiful country.

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Lets not forgot the real and true reason for this Christmas! Lets look back to 2014 with gratefulness, and with hope and expectations to 2015!

*Iljo de Keijzer*

### COLOFON

**De GZB en de OMF werken samen om de uitzending van Iljo de Keijzer mogelijk te maken.**

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