



Winter Philippine Report

February 2006

Breaking News—The Blaan Hymnal Is Off The Press



How do most teachers spend their Christmas break? Probably most enjoy time with their children (and grandchildren), get together with friends, and relax with a good book or some movies. Well, we spent our break working on the layout and proofreading of the Blaan hymnal. It came from California via e-mail attachment shortly before Christmas. Leon did the layout. I did spelling corrections, keyboarded a few additional hymns, and did proofreading. It took most of our time for about 2 ½ weeks. We did take time to celebrate Christmas with friends and take a short trip to Manila for shopping and rest. We sent the final copy off to southern Mindanao via courier service in early January, and it went immediately to the printer.

About February 1st we received exciting word that the first copies were ready! Conversing in Blaan on the phone, I asked Pastor Cuma how the books looked. He replied, “Really, really, really good! My teeth are shining, I’m so happy to see it!” The previous printing, done in 1987, had had many songs dropped out of it. So this collection of 180 hymns and choruses is a real treasure. Hundreds of congregations

will now have something to enhance their worship services.

Here is one of the songs. It’s one that most of you know in English.

Bong Fye Aktoo

(Tune: *Blessed Assurance*)

1. Bong fye aktoo, Dyisas i do,
Tay dét i kafye, mgimò ngà Dwata.
Amfun kagalwà, banli Dwata;
Sut di Tulus, mgalob di litè.

Koros:

- Ni sa tulen-gu, lêgu lingag;
Dmayen Falwà do di klit i du.
Ni sa tulen-gu, lêgu lingag;
Dmayen Falwà do di klit i du.
2. Too blé ktogu fye fnò ayè
Faldam kagketto, kanteen-gu nan.
Fdu tah mebe dad kasaligan;
Talù kafye, lê man bong kakdo.
 3. Too kimen-gu, gaftud agu,
Di kene Dyisas, kagkahgu fye nan.
Na mantay, lêgu kenen fatan,
Fnò bong kafyen nan, fnò bong kakdon.

What next?

We have already been asked what our next project will be. It’s a smaller one this time. Pastor Cuma and his wife Lydia have a nice house to live in, with one shortfall: it has no electricity. The power lines go by their house, but the only source of electricity is an extension cord that runs out their window and to an outlet in the neighbor’s house. They get enough current to power two light bulbs and a radio-cassette player. For the entire house this lighting is far from adequate. For \$300 the house could have a meter, be wired, hooked up, and have fluorescent fixtures put in. We would love to see Cuma and Lydia enjoy this in their home.

Bagabag School

Our school year is progressing well. We are into the second half now, with changes taking place since Christmas break. At that time our Grades 1&2 teacher needed to go to Manila to get medical help.

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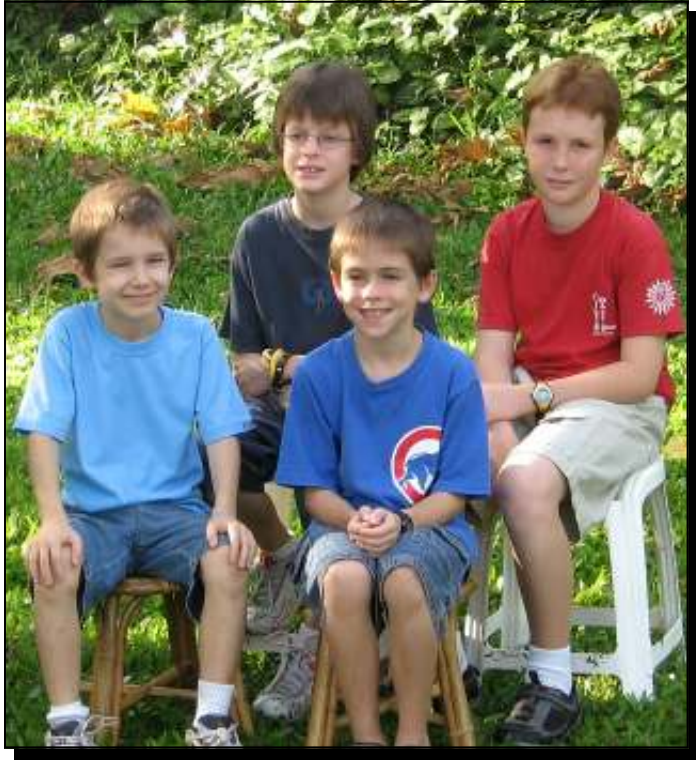
Praise 'n Prayer

- Praise for the help from around the world in putting the hymnal together, including financial gifts to help with printing costs.
- Pray for the distribution of the hymnal and the Koronadal Blaan New Testament. Recently someone bought 1,000 copies of the New Testament to distribute. Pray that the message will go deep into the hearts of the readers.
- Praise for a good school year. Having a dedicated, enthusiastic staff is a real plus, but the students are what it’s all about, and we have a great group of them.
- Praise for the arrival in our family of Gabriel Bode Osbekoff, son to Dennis and Kristy. He arrived on December 4th.



- Pray for needed teachers for the coming school year. Two are leaving after this year.
- Praise God for YOU, our faithful team. You stand by us in prayer and giving month after month. We appreciate and thank God for every one of you!

For a few weeks things were pretty chaotic for this young class. Now a teacher from UK who was here two years ago has returned to help. He and I are team-teaching Grades 1-4. Neither of us has had a lot of experience with the younger ones, so this has been fun, finding out what they know and how they learn. Teaching MKs is really a great joy and privilege. Here are the smiling faces we see each day.



*The 3rd and 4th grade class. As you see, all boys!
Left to right: Calvin, Joel, David, and Jonathan*



*The 1st and 2nd grade class. Three left-handed boys!
Left to right: Caleb, Daniel Morgan, and Luc*

I teach with a great team. Each is dedicated to giving our MKs the best education they can.

Thank you for the many Christmas cards sent to us this year. It was wonderful to hear from so many and catch up with your families' lives.

Sally

Sally,
and for Leon



*Back, l-r: Sarah, Sally, Trevor, Norma, Steve
Front, l-r: Michelle, Mary, Ros*

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