



Advancing Native Missions

When the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached throughout the world... (Matt.24:14)



A MISSION UPDATE PREPARED BY ANM FOR:

ATI TRIBES AKLAN

Evangelizing the Filipino Ati Aborigines in Aklan, Philippines

July 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We bring you greetings in the name of Jesus from Ati Tribes Aklan, hoping that you and your loved ones are all doing well!

Children from Aeta families are among the most disadvantaged children in our country. Not only are most of them highly malnourished but they are also educationally deprived. Because of the very low economic and social status of the Aeta people their children do not



A little Aeta child partakes of coconut meat for her meal. Malnutrition is prevalent among indigent Aeta kids. Your gift of \$30 will help provide supplemental feeding for a month for one child.

generally have access to opportunities that non-Aeta children have. It is our vision to educate the Aeta children, for we believe that through education we can help them improve their way of life. We thank God that since 1999 through our school, Laguna Christian Learning Center, we have been able to provide pre-school education to a number of these unfortunate children. It has also been very encouraging to see many of them learn so many things about God and apply what they have learned in their own homes. Sometimes children teach their parents about God in their home. We have received many testimonies from parents about how their lives have been affected since their children started coming to our school.

degree in elementary education. This was such a great blessing to the ministry because we had been advised the previous year by the government that our Learning Center would be closed if we did not have a teacher with a bachelor's degree in education. Sheryl was truly God's provision for the ministry. All of our three teachers are volunteers receiving only a small allowance to help with their personal needs.

All Aeta pastors from the provinces of Negros, Guimaras, Iloilo, Antique, Roxas and Aklan met in October last year to elect officers for the purpose of organizing a Panay Ati Foundation. The following month we held an Ati consultation meeting to identify the province with the most number of Aetas and their problems. We found out that most of their problems are lack of education, occupation and housing. Because of these we cannot motivate them to live a Christian life. Many of them have chosen to drown their problems in alcohol consumption. It is my goal to evangelize my people and to help those who are hard drinkers turn away from this vice and become devoted to



*Enrique and Margie Martinez
Missionary Leaders*

We have our 8th batch of pupils in our learning center this school year 2008-2009. We are grateful for our three teachers handling the nursery, kindergarten I and kindergarten II classes. One of them, Sheryl Sallador, joined the school back in June 2007. She has a bachelor's



Thank you so much for the funds you sent to have the roof of our school fixed!



Our Learning Center pupils dramatizing the birth of Christ during the school's Christmas program



At our recent Ati tribal camp

their family. My continuing desire is that children of Aeta families will be able to obtain some education and that there will be no more Aetas roaming as street beggars in the city.

Prayer Requests

1. Please help us pray for wisdom in our church and school ministry and in leading the workers.
2. We are praying for financial support for our two children who are both college students.
3. Please help us pray for a family or church who is willing to support our supplemental feeding for the very needy and hungry Aeta children. We had to discontinue this program due to lack of funds. We now have 20 Aeta children, each of whom needs 80 pesos (less than \$2.00) for their daily supplementary feeding. (1,400 pesos or \$30 a month per child will help).
4. We are praying for a motorized cargo boat as a source of livelihood for our Aeta brothers and sisters so that they will not have to work as migrant sugarcane plantation workers and thereby motivate them to live a Christian life and enable their children to be educated.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Enrique V. Martinez

Please pray for Christian Nicole!

Christian Nicole Salibio (right) is a nursery student at Laguna Christian Learning Center. He is suffering from a liver infection causing swelling of his body. He can't eat three times a day. Sometimes he eats coconut meat as food supplement. With the little that we have, my wife Margie and I are paying for his medical care. We have taken Christian and his little sister into our custody as their parents are in another province in Negros Island working in the sugarcane plantation. We are afraid that if their parents take these children with them, they will just die because their parents' income will be barely enough for their food. We are also spending for their schooling. But we can afford to feed only five children. We give priority to the sick children and those who are really needy such as Christian and his sister. Our hearts go out to them. But we are quite limited in what we can do. We are earnestly praying for additional support for our supplemental feeding program so that we can help not just five children but many more.



Gifts for Ati Tribes Aklan are tax-deductible and should be made payable to Advancing Native Missions.

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