

THE 2019 GRADE TWO PRIMER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IS UNDERWAY WITH NINE EXPERIENCED TEACHERS FROM SIX LANGUAGES.

What never ceases to amaze me about our indigenous brothers is how wonderfully resourceful they are. When their office lacked space for workshops, they constructed a thatched-roof lean-to from the property wall to the eaves of the building. When the thatch turned out not to be thick enough, they added a heavy plastic sheet over the leaves. When the rain blew in, and the floor turned to mud, they brought in eight bags of shavings from the local saw mill, and presto, we have a clean, dry “carpet”.

The thatched roof provides coolness; there are no mosquitoes, and the worst of the leaks in the roof have been solved. We carry on in our airy classroom just as well as we have in more elegant settings, though I did feel twinges of anxiety as participants draped computer cables and surge bars over the rain-soaked floor. Due to my protests electrical gear is now placed on wooden crates, high enough not to be in danger.

Another reason for gratitude is Marcelita, our deceptively beautiful gourmet cook. With the help of her mother and bouncy nephew Luisito, she serves up morning and afternoon snacks, and a full noon meal alternating fish and plantains with beef, chicken, and rice in mouth-watering dishes, though she works with a three burner gas stove (no oven) and has to carry the pots across the street to reach our class.

Concentration is such, however, that participants hate to stop, and plates grow cold while they “just finish this lesson”. I have seldom seen a group so motivated. I had feared the worst when I learned that we would have two new authors and two entirely new digital keyboarders/layout men. However, my fears were unjustified. The new authors have the right background and have taken hold quickly. One of the new keyboarders is halfway through a specialization in digital engineering, which means he can solve almost any computer problem we have. His younger brother is finishing a digital technician’s course so is almost as good. A special gift has supplied two new computers; thus glitches are fewer. AND everyone is friendly and happy, working hard and making great progress. This has to be a teacher’s paradise.

Handling the logistics, buying and bookkeeping is the ARIAP administrator Arnel. President Jeiser has to be away so Arnel is doing double duty. I am deeply grateful for his competence and kind heart.

Your prayers, of course, are what protect us from mishaps, mis-steps, and germs. I count on them, for heading a workshop is like living in a hurricane, and I need much wisdom to meet the hourly challenges.

Special love and greetings from all of us here,

- Pat Davis

