



# Interconnections

*Ministry Update from Rene and Lani Quimbo serving in the Philippines with PMI*

*Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,*

**April** came and suddenly the health condition of two people close to us turned for the worse. **Rene's mother** was in and out of the hospital throughout the year, but late March to early April, she was confined in ICU. During this time we were ministering in Zamboanga City, and when we came home to Cagayan de Oro (CDO) City in order to file the annual requirements of the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission). As soon as this was done, Rene hurriedly flew to Manila to be by his mother's bedside. Lani had to attend to ministry concerns (the boys were working, and helping her as needed, and she and the boys were scheduled to follow Rene one week later) foremost of which was assisting/attending to the needs of Elay (a coworker for 16 years), and **Elay's sister** (a faithful and generous ministry supporter) who came home to CDO from the USA second week of February too sick even to walk. Elay's sister passed away two months later, just two days after Rene's mother passed away (5 days since Rene's arrival). The rest of the month of April, in addition to regular ministry programs, was spent on the preparation and reproduction of VBS materials for the estimated 350 youth and children participants.

**The whole month of May was committed to VBS ministry in the different ministry centers.** We had two teams---one team headed by our son Iking was assigned to conduct VBS in five venues: Kiraba, Camp Evangelista, and House of Hope Ministry Center, Portal Study Center---all in CDO, and in Molugan, El Salvador City. The VBS at the Portal Study Center, the fifth venue, was conducted in June. The other team was assigned to conduct VBS at the Hillside Learning



Center in Lacolac, Baungon, Bukidnon, at Jesus Is Lord Church in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, and at Mampang Ministry Center in Mampang, Zamboanga City. **We had a total of 326 participants in all venues.**

We fell short of our expected number of participants because many Bajau families moved to other coastal towns and cities after they received funds from the Philippine Ports Authority to vacate their homes and to relocate to other areas.



*Children participate at VBS in Lacolac.*



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VBS participant lifting up the “mountain of problems/fears” as he recites Psalm 121:1-2

The aims of VBS theme “**God Makes Me Strong**” were to teach participants to: (1) do what is right even when afraid and discouraged; (2) do what is right even if everyone else is doing wrong; and to (3) acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God and no one can go to the Father except through Him.



Out of 316 participants, 314 prayed to receive Christ as Lord and Savior or continue to commit their lives to Christ

The opportunity to teach youth and children (and adults in Zamboanga City), is something we look forward to each year. About **15 parents in Tawi-Tawi** came to assist, and one particular couple sought us for counseling. Last March, when we went to Tawi-Tawi for Bible and Bible study material distribution, we also had an evening fellowship where we shared about God’s redirection of our ministry in Zamboanga City. *While being redirected could be very painful, uncertain, may require long-suffering, and we may encounter*

*unanticipated changes, we can rest in God’s providential provisions and directions.* This couple gave a testimony that this message gave them the necessary push to allow God to redirect them. The husband quit his job that didn’t allow him to worship on some Sundays and prevented him from doing Bible study and other ministries. He is now involved in a small business and he and his wife hope to be full time missionaries.

The preceding events did not give us enough time to start construction of the **new House of Hope Ministry Center** in its new location in the town of Opol. Furthermore, our two chief carpenters got sick. We plan to start construction the last week of June.



Tawi-Tawi youth at Vacation Bible School

The seminar on the use of the Bible Study for Women material was held this June at the **Portal Study Center** and at **Hillside Learning Center**. The women found the material so helpful that they decided to use it for a weekly Bible study. We hope to do the same for House of Hope Ministry Center, Mampang Ministry Center, and at JIL in Tawi-Tawi.



Blessings from a member of **Christ Enrichment Church** (Tacoma, WA) given to members of Mampang Ministry Center

The **prayer walk** this quarter took us to more than 100 homes. Our team of 12 intercessors understand that prayer must be guided by God's Word, and that it should be part of the fulfillment of the Word of God itself.

The rice farm under the **Work for Food program** was a failure the past season--it was attacked by farm rats two weeks before harvest, leaving nothing. We expected to harvest close to 100 sacks of rice which would have been a big help to our feeding program.



Clearing land at the coffee and fruit farm

On a different, happy note, we would like to inform you that we have scheduled to **Home Ministry Assignment** visit the USA from the second week of September to the first week of November this year. We are grateful that our good Lord has opened the door for us to do so. We are looking forward to visit with you to share what the Lord has been doing in the various ministries here which you are a big part of, which would not have been possible apart from your faithful partnership. It would be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together God's faithfulness for the 17 years of ministry in Mindanao, Philippines.

*Thank you dear friends for rejoicing and praising the Lord with us for His guidance and provisions for this past quarter, and we ask for your prayers as we enter our 18<sup>th</sup> year of ministry.* Please pray for (1) JIL as they use the Tausug and Sinama Bible study materials for the Tausug and Sama outreach ministries, (2) 6 home weekly Bible studies in Lacolac (also a way to invite non-believing neighbors to join), (3) proposal to the Filipino-American Church in Arizona requesting for funding for Lacolac feeding program and repair work for Bible study areas, living quarters, kitchen and bathrooms. We are also grateful to God for the help we received from a family to restore what was taken by those who broke into our ministry center in Mampang, Zamboanga City, to fortify windows and doors of the center, and to build a small house for Alpad (our second

year seminary student) and his family within the ministry center premises to ensure that there is someone in the center at all times.



Sunday worship service in Lacolac celebrating our 13th Anniversary

Please know that in everything we thank God for your perseverance and faithful testimony of helping the ministry grow. **You are God's encouragement to us** that we may be enabled to encourage others to the praise of His wonderful name (2 Corinthians 1:4-5)!

*Yours in Christ,*

*Rene & Lani*

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Adult participants at Mampang Vacation Bible School



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