



Interconnections

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

Dear friends,

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise! Finally, after one year and 3 months from our last ministry visit to **Zamboanga City**, we were finally able to travel to this ministry area. We took the missionary family who recently committed to serve the Lord with us to Zamboanga City (ministry focused on reaching the Muslims for Christ) on March 3. We took a Covid-19 rapid test. However, the receiving local government unit had a new protocol that requires a negative swab test for us to enter the city, the certificate expires in 5 days. We got our result at around 8 in the evening and proceeded to start our road travel at 5 in the morning the following day.

This family had been with us about 2 months prior to said travel. We focused our time together on a series of orientation meetings concerning Muslim outreach ministry. We stayed with them in Zamboanga City until March 22, ministering together both in Arena Blanco (where most of our current church members reside and in **Masepla**, (where our ministry center is located) reaching out to the Muslim evacuee residents. Settling in for this family was a bit challenging because of

different culture especially the languages of the people: Muslim language (Tausug and Sinama), Chavacano (commonly known as bastardized Spanish which is the language of non-Muslim people in the area). Until they learn the language, they have to speak in Tagalog, the national language.



Jikim and Rovilyn Borja
(with son Ezejedavhanuel),
our new missionaries
assigned in the Zamboanga
City ministry

The last Sunday we spent there, we held a **missionary commissioning ceremony** during the worship service. Since the church was opened to in-person worship a month ago, this particular Sunday we had the most number of worshippers, the church was filled to capacity, glory to God! Let us pray for the opportunity God

is opening in the neighborhood. Soon, 500 Muslim families are returning to reside in the area. We are excited what new things God will do---our new missionaries are going to be in the midst of a busy, purposeful ministry!

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Fellowship at the Mampang Ministry Center in Zamboanga City

Our church in **Opol** is blooming in so many ways. Our work has been made so much stimulating by the new eagerness of several members to ask neighbors to open their homes to a weekly Bible study. *We started with 5 home Bible studies, now we have 9 ongoing weekly home Bible studies.* The two bigger groups hold the Bible study in the church due to social distancing concerns. The said members are carefully watchful, when they observe that a Bible study participant is keen to learn and ready to worship, they would invite him or her to come to church.



Worship service at the Mampang Christian Fellowship in Zamboanga City

When we opened the church for in-person worship back in September last year, about 25 worshippers came. Now, we are expecting close to a hundred worshippers. The children and youth outreach ministries are picking up with our new, enthusiastic youth ministry volunteers. God does raise up faithful workers for the harvest is indeed plentiful. We are praising God not only for opening the door of faith, but also for providing volunteers who are not only

willing to learn, but hard working as well. *May we ask you to please pray with us?* Our good friends interconnected us with their church in the U.S. We submitted a church building project proposal for funding. With more believers God added to our number, social distancing protocol has been a real concern for some time now. May the Lord grant us favor, and meet the desire of our heart.



Recent worship service at the Portal Christian Fellowship in Opol

Currently we have about 6 Bajau families who are now residing in Opol. They earn their keep through small buy and sell business---selling vegetables from house to house, and selling small gadgets in the streets. Others also do housekeeping work for the neighbors. We made sure that aside from their participation in various Bible studies throughout the week, a weekly fellowship is held for Bajaus alone. This way, we can teach, converse, and counsel in their mother tongue.



One of the 9 weekly home Bible studies in Opol (This one is held in the church due to social distancing concern)

Up in the **Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac**, we held a youth jam activity. Sixteen youth participated, and 3 youth workers facilitated the said activity. They watched the movie “*Les Miserables*”. After the short discussion, they were assigned to small groups for a more intimate, heart-to-heart conversations on the impact of the movie on their life view. Please pray with us that they will take to heart what they have learned and be able to share it with their circle of friends.



Cell group meeting at the Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac



Youth Jam activity at the Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac

Earlier, there was a church lockdown one Sunday due to a church member who was contacted as part of Covid-19 tracing program of the local government. Apparently, this member got in contact with someone who was with a Covid-19 patient the day before she came to worship in the church. We were alarmed because we have already been with many people already, and how long the church would be on lock down. We were so relieved when this member’s swab test result came out negative. Now, our church is opened to in-person prayer meeting and Bible study gatherings. We can’t thank God enough for the encouragement these ministries have given to our church members, especially to the new ones who participated in these programs for the first time. The *prayer walk around the community*, our first time since the start of the pandemic brought so much delight. To be able to *visit homes* of non-

church goers in the community and be able to *share God’s word and pray* for them in their own homes is so precious. May the Lord be merciful and gracious to draw these people unto Himself to the praise of His name!

Dear friends, our heart is filled with gratitude to God and to each one of you for your strong partnership in the ministry ever since the beginning until now. *Your faithful service of prayer and financial support, and endeavors to connect us with helpful believers have encouraged us all the more in the Kingdom work, and are very much appreciated.* We are truly blessed. Thank you. May our Father enable us to be brave and courageous as we serve Him daily for His glory and honor.

In Him,

Rene and Lani

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