



# Interconnections

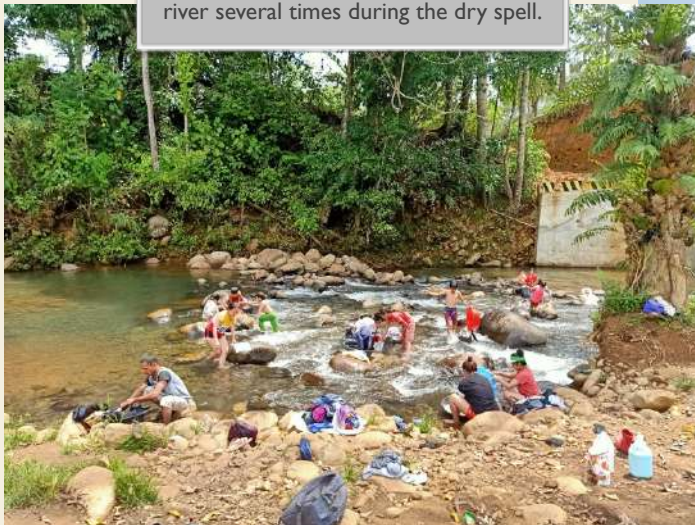
Ministry Update from Rene and Lani Quimbo serving in the Philippines with PMI

Dear friends,

We are grateful to God for opening doors of opportunities despite hurdles in doing ministry. The restrictive protocols following local government set guidelines under each community quarantine status of the different ministry areas made ministry quite challenging

Expensive swab tests required to enter **Zamboanga City** and the city government's Sunday lockdown pushed us to be creative in the ways we continue to minister to the members of the congregation and how we do outreach ministry. Beginning the month of May, no in-person worship was allowed in Mampang, Zamboanga City where our ministry center is situated. However, our ministry co-workers Alpad and Napsa Akmad (locals) were able to carry on the work in (1) **Arena Blanco** (where most of our worshippers reside; the Akmad family used to be residents in this community) and (2) **Masepla, Mampang** (for the outreach ministry) where they are now residing. Just a couple of days ago, a member of the congregation lost her toddler twins to Covid. The particular section in Arena Blanco where they reside has been placed on granular lockdown.

Our co-workers washing clothes in the river several times during the dry spell.



Work for food program - the coconut trees are now starting to bear fruit.



Presbyterian Mission International  
12330 Conway Road  
St. Louis, MO 63117  
[pmi@covenantseminary.edu](mailto:pmi@covenantseminary.edu)



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Since June of this year up to the second week of September, the quarantine status for **Cagayan de Oro City** and adjacent town of **Opol** had been upgraded to the highest quarantine level which restricts religious gatherings, among others. During this time, Bible studies, prayer meetings, worship ministries were done through cell phones, and for those with internet connection, we do them online. Praise the Lord, beginning this Sunday (September 26), we will be allowed in-person worship in Opol for 16 to 18 people only (must be from 18 to 65 years old only). Worshippers from Cagayan de Oro City continue to participate in the different church programs online.

In **Lacolac**, we were able to do most of the scheduled prayer walk ministry, in-person devotionals, Bible studies, cell group meetings, prayer meetings children and youth fellowship, and worship services, except during the 1 month lockdown we decided to impose upon the church since there were incidents of Covid positive residents (the elected community head passed away from Covid) but the local government decided not to place our community on lockdown upon finding out that there was not enough government funds to provide the essential needs of residents in the community.

The prayer walk team in Lacolac.



Roham reciting the children's memory verse during the worship service



Children ready to recite their memory verse for this Sunday.



On a positive note, we are glad all our family members are now fully vaccinated, and most of our ministry co-workers have received their first dose of the vaccine. Although we still strictly follow minimum quarantine protocols, there is more freedom to engage with people who remain unvaccinated.

The *Midway Presbyterian Church* in Atlanta has recently approved our church building proposal for funding. We are grateful for their valuable and kind help, and rejoicing in the Lord's favor upon us. We would also like to thank you all, our constant and good-hearted partners in the ministry, for standing with us at all times. We remain humbled and appreciative of all that you do for us and the work both in prayer and practical help. You are precious to us!



Children watching the film Prince of Egypt.

In Him,

*Rene and Lani*

Rene and Lani Quimbo

[renelaniquimbo@gmail.com](mailto:renelaniquimbo@gmail.com)



**Rene & Lani Quimbo - Presbyterian Mission International**

Donation address: PMI, Covenant Theological Seminary, 12330 Conway Road, St. Louis, MO 63141  
Philippine home address: #37 Faustino Neri St., RER Drive Phase I, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City 9000