



Interconnections

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



VBS participants at Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac

House of Hope Christian Fellowship congregations. Up in Lacolac, the **Lacolac Christian Fellowship** celebrated its **15th anniversary**. Despite the very muddy paths (because it has been raining hard there almost every day ending the long drought that lasted till May), the church members pushed their way to the ministry center and were in high spirits even in the

pouring rain. It was a joyous occasion as we celebrated it with families who have since moved to the city and other towns and came for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary with us. Needless to say, we shed some happy tears! These anniversaries are a testimony to God's faithfulness and steadfast love for His people.

Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,

The recently concluded VBS brought close to 300 participants in 5 venues. Thank you for praying with us. The VBS team enjoyed fairly good health despite the very hectic schedule. We were encouraged by the VBS students' active participation and engagement in the different discussions and activities. Remember in prayer those who came forward to commit their lives in faith to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The month of June we celebrated 2 church anniversaries. The **Portal Christian Fellowship** celebrated its **16th anniversary**. This year it is made more special by the presence of our Bajau/ Sama worshippers. Since the first quarter of this year, we have been holding joint Sunday worship services for the **Portal Christian Fellowship** and



Celebrating Portal Christian Fellowship's 16th Anniversary

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We arrived in **Mampang Ministry Center** in Zamboanga City on May 15 about 9 in the evening after about 13 hours of driving from Cagayan de Oro City. We were full packed since we brought with us the carpenters (and their tools) who will work on the fence construction around the ministry center. As soon as we got inside the ministry building, people pelted our roof with stones. We couldn't go out as it was dark outside and for us getting hit by the stones was a possibility. What a sad welcome! We prayed aloud, asking help from our Mighty Warrior and Defender, and declared that this was one of the reasons why He brought us to this place. The VBS in Mampang was well attended, close to 100 participants. Despite pressures from their Muslim relatives and neighbors (this happened during the month of Ramadan), they faithfully came day by day. Pray with us that as they grow in knowledge of the person and work of Jesus Christ through His word, may they also grow in obedience as the fruit of their growing faith.

While we were working on the fence, we observed children, youth and adults mostly carrying slingshots shouting, whistling, creating noises to attract the attention of our dogs. When our dogs ran to them barking, they started to hit the dogs with their slingshots like it was nothing. Other adults did not stop them in any way. So we scolded them, at the same time calling our dogs in. One neighbour told us that farm animals were maimed, even killed this way. And no one dared report them to the authorities. One day while we were there, soldiers and anti-drug police officers came for raid operations in this relocation community. **We covet your prayers for God's protection as we continue to serve Him in this place.**



VBS participants at Mampang Ministry Center in Zamboanga City



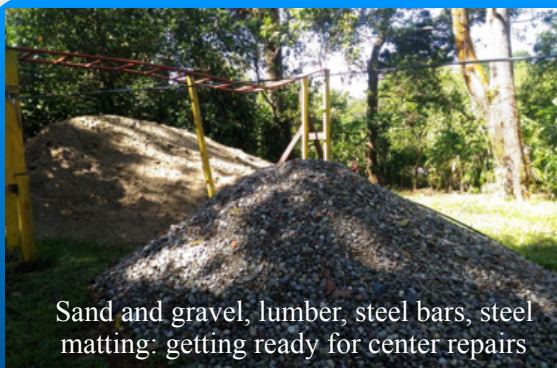
Newly constructed fence around the Mampang Ministry Center



Our pickup trapped in this deep canal was pulled back by the big truck

During the dry season, we focused on the procurement and transport of building construction materials for our ministry building repairs. We are scheduled to start the building repair work this month of July. The carpenters, who are church members, have also been engaged in working for government projects such as school building and road/bridge construction. We cannot compete with government daily rates, but we remain grateful to our carpenters for prioritizing the church repair work.

We covet your prayers as we face rainy/typhoon season in our country. We are now starting to park the pickup vehicle about 2 hours walk from the ministry center. Several times we had to be pushed and pulled by more than 10 men. Twice, we were pulled by a big truck. The road to the mountain ministry center looks more like a rice paddy. It is getting difficult to bring supplies to the



Sand and gravel, lumber, steel bars, steel matting: getting ready for center repairs

center. We have arranged for a water buffalo-pulled cart to meet us this weekend.

Please also pray with us concerning Sama girls in our congregation in Mampang marrying young. They are being married to unbelievers. Now they go with their husbands and live in Muslim communities in other cities. They only get to come to church when they visit their families here in Zamboanga. Furthermore, several families have migrated to Malaysia for better job opportunities. Since their employers are Muslims and they are living in Muslim communities, most likely they will not be able to join any Christian fellowship.

We also ask for your prayers as we face financial challenges in the ministry. Through eyes of faith, we look to God, as always, for wisdom, insights, solutions to problems, guidance, and provisions to our every need.

Dear friends, as always, our heart is filled with gratitude to our God, the Hope of believers, who holds everything in His hands. He fills us with hope and faith for everything, whether big or small, possible or impossible. **We remain grateful to you too for your ministry of prayer and financial support to us and the people we serve in the various ministries.** May the Lord continue to uphold us all with His victorious right hand!

In Him,

Rene and Lani



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