



# Interconnections

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

Dear friends,

Ministry schedule in the 3 ministry centers was so hectic this quarter. With the help of our ministry volunteers and coworkers, we were able to complete on time the DVBS teaching and special activity materials. The songs and the accompanying actions were finalized, and the seminar/workshop for teachers and their assistants was conducted, and we were ready to hold the DVBS as scheduled. Several members in our churches (in Opol, Lacolac, and Zamboanga City: the 3 DVBS venues)) were more than happy to serve by keeping the rooms clean and orderly and cooking snacks and meals for DVBS staff and participants. We are grateful to a number of ministry friends who promptly sent their support to help out with expenses, and committed to cover this ministry with prayers. We have over 100 participants total in these ministry areas. We plan to continue to hold DVBS because over the years we see it as a ministry that introduces youth and children to the life and work of Jesus Christ based on His word,

refocuses participants to meaningful study of the scriptures, and involves not only church members to a ministry of service, but draws the attention of the parents and other people in the community to God.



Hillside Learning Center (Lacolac) DVBS participants

Just before the DVBS, a family retreat for Opol church members was hosted by the Lacolac church congregation during the third week of April. We had a Good Friday evening fellowship, a seminar on Biblical principles on financial management, and an outing at the Taguiti river (hiking down and up a steep mountain which was fun for the young ones, but a hard test on knee strength for the rest) and celebrated Resurrection Sunday together. It was a time to get to know each other better, and a time to spend time away from the city. The city kids learned to climb trees and one little boy would only eat his meals up on a tree. For many, it was also an opportunity to serve one another through preparing, cooking, and serving meals, counseling, encouraging, teaching, laughing and relaxing together, and more so in sharing talents and gifts during worship and fellowship time.



Members of Opol congregation enjoying the refreshing Taguiti river in Lacolac

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Zamboanga City Ministry Center DVBS

We made a quick trip to Zamboanga City last week of April, joined the ministry there over the weekend, arranged for Alpad and Napsa to hold the fort while our co-missionaries Gemma and Jo travelled back with us to Cagayan de Oro in order to cast their votes for the national elections, and to assist in the various ministry programs in Opol and Lacolac. We thank God that we were able to take them to a nearby water park for refreshment and relaxation. They enjoyed the water slides. They went swimming and floating on a rubber raft on a long and winding pool lined with flowering trees and bushes. Having been away from Zamboanga City for almost one month, it brought us joy to learn upon Gemma and Jo’s return how God has blessed the work of Alpad and Napsa.

Alpad’s testimony was especially moving: He and Napsa experienced the Holy Spirit’s encouragement and inspiration as worshippers faithfully come for Sunday worship service. Alpad renewed his commitment to be actively involved in the men’s ministry. We have been challenging him for a long time to focus on the mission work, reminding him of 1 Timothy 4:12 to “*not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity*”; and verse 16a “*watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*” Please pray with us that God will strengthen both Alpad and Napsa to be diligent in the work and make their progress evident.



Saturday afternoon prayer meeting in Lacolac



DVBS group activity in Opol church: Piecing together the heart puzzle



Iking's graduation from Asian Theological Seminary in absentia on June 15, 2022

Our son Iking's graduation from Asian Theological Seminary was held on June 15. He decided not to fly to Manila for the ceremony because required pre-graduation activities would take over one week. He recently obtained his license/certificate from the authorized national government office to solemnize marriage. He was also recently ordained as pastor/minister of the word. During the celebration of the 19th anniversary of Lacolac Christian Fellowship, he officiated the marriage of two couples, both members of the church. Also during the anniversary celebration, 8 church worshippers who just completed church membership class gave their public profession of faith. This was followed by the baptism ceremony of another 8 church members. The two couples participated in the marriage counseling session held at the church (the church's marriage counseling certificate is required for the issuance of a marriage license). A seminar for wedding and baptismal sponsors was also conducted as a requirement for the sponsors. Though this church ministry required a lot of time and work, we see it as a crucial church service as it does not only bring us to center our heart and mind in Jesus, but it also brings people in the community to the church as part of their involvement and participation. Just this past Sunday, 5 adults and 4 children joined our worship service for the first time.



Iking officiated the marriage of these two couples



Rene's eldest brother Raul and wife Joy shared a powerful testimony of God's faithful deliverance

Rene's eldest brother Raul and wife Joy (visiting from the U.S.A.) came for a short visit. They joined us for ministry up in Lacolac and in Opol. They both shared a powerful testimony of God's faithful, gracious, mighty and wonderful work in their lives, a celebration of His deliverance from an especially challenging journey as they raise up a special son. Time and again in their lives, God proved to be a very present help in trouble, producing in them a quiet confidence in God's ability and not in theirs, to see them through in any circumstance.

Lorna, a long time friend and a prayer partner, flew in from Manila to lend a helping hand in whatever ministry we were involved in. She worked with us for a little over a month. She gave her all in every ministry opportunity. She served well with us in Opol, in Lacolac, and in Zamboanga City. We praise God for bringing her our way.



Lorna gave the welcome remarks during the DVBS in Zamboanga City Ministry Center

Although we encountered unexpected difficulties in processing the church building permit, we thank God that we finally got the construction permit from the local government unit responsible for the area of the building site. Now we are gathering construction workers as the workers we previously contacted had found other construction work brought about by the delay in obtaining the permit. Another thing is we are still trying to locate a safe and adequate storage for the building materials. We plan to purchase in bulk because prices are going up fast and to ensure availability of the materials when needed. Please pray with us that God will meet our needs according to His mercy and grace.

Dear friends, thank you for your faithful prayers, for your generous financial gifts, your sincere friendship, and your strong partnership. “This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God” (2 Corinthians 9:12). You have refreshed us, and we are deeply grateful.

In Him,

**Rene and Lani**

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