



INTERCONNECTIONS

Ministry Update from Rene and Lani Quimbo - Philippines

April was a very busy month for us as we prepared materials for 400 adults, youth and children expected to join us for VBS in 8 venues. VBS began the second week of April and concluded the first week of June. A total of 442 adults, youth, and children participated in the theme "VBS Athletics" in 8 locations!



in Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, and at the House of Hope Ministry Center, Cagayan de Oro City.

Randy Mayfield (*pictured below*) and Andy from Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri, USA attended a conference here in Cagayan de Oro City the second week of April. Randy also scheduled a concert at **Life Resources Foundation (LRF)**, a missionary training school in Iligan City on April 16. He invited the Portal Christian Fellowship music team to join him in this ministry. It was an exciting time spent in practice, and a blessing to join Randy serving the Lord among the LRF students, alumni, and the people in the community. We are grateful to the Lord for bringing them our way---for the fellowship, encouragement, and teaching.



We covered the topics of **focus** (Phil 3:8); **discipline** (Heb 12:1); **endurance** (Heb 12:2); **team work** (Heb 10:24); and **confidence** (2 Tim 4:7-8). The highlights of the VBS included altar call for those who wanted to commit by faith their lives to Christ Jesus, and those who renewed their commitment to submit their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In Bongao, a number of participants gave testimonies of the impact of VBS on their lives. We had participants coming from Tausug and Sama Muslim tribes in the VBS



A retreat for staff and volunteers at the **Portal Study Center** and at **Hillside Learning Center** took place in May. We pray it strengthened their resolve to serve God with greater focus, relying on God's strength and wisdom, trusting God to provide and protect, and to bless the work of their hands.

A series of meetings were held in June spearheaded by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) with strong participation by the Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Social Welfare and Development, Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the city of Cagayan de Oro City Estate Management, the barangay chairman, and the Shell Company concerning the demolition of Bajau and other structures situated on the water close to the city pier which is under the PPA's jurisdiction. This is a government project that will be implemented by evacuating, demolishing the area and then the Shell Company will build its depot in the region. It was decided that residents will be resettled to permanent housing in a community away from the sea. The Bajaus, used to living on the sea in houses on stilts, at first refused to be evacuated. They preferred to settle in other Bajau communities in coastal provinces. However, this is where many of them were born and have lived all their lives... so they changed their minds and finally agreed. **House of Hope Ministry Center** is among those structures that will be demolished. This is our 15th year in the area serving the Lord among the Bajau people. Since there will be no space allotment for a ministry center in the new community, we are considering building on a small property that we own (about 120 square meters) in the adjacent town of Opol. We are committing this plan to the Lord in prayer.

We are very excited about the repairs at the **Hillside Learning**

Center building which started in June. This project is fully supported by Midway Presbyterian Church, Powder Springs, Georgia. We wanted to begin working earlier but the rainy season came early and local government leaders did not allow heavy transport vehicles to pass for fear of adding damage to the roads brought about by the rains. We can't thank God enough for this great blessing.



The nearly daily rains have proven helpful to the **rubber/coffee farm** that was burned down. Rubber trees that were not completely burned down started to grow shoots close to the base of the trees. Since we planted budded or grafted rubber plants, it is possible the grafted scion is gone, still it is much better than a totally dead plant. We remain thankful to God.

Our prayer goals for the coming quarter include: completion of the Hillside Learning Center building repairs; construction of House of Hope Ministry Center for the Bajaus in Opol (if God will give us the opportunity); Eugene's enrollment in Master of Ministry program and distribution of Sinama, Tausug, Tagalog and Cebuano Bibles to the different ministry centers

including JIL in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi made possible through the support of Central Presbyterian, St. Louis; Alpad's enrollment in Diploma in Ministry program through the support of Christ Enrichment Church, Tacoma, WA; completion of Bible Study material for women; and discipleship classes in all ministry centers. Thank you for joining us in praying for all these concerns.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you. God meets us where we are in various aspects of our life and ministry. We see God at work and feel His presence in our heart through your prayers and loving care. Thank you, friends, for through you we receive and experience God's goodness, encouragement and provision. Thank you for helping us recognize that our gracious God enables us to serve Him and His people with grace. We are praying for all of you. God bless us all!

Yours in Christ,

Rene and Lani

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Though monthly donations fall below budget, we try to find creative ways to fund our ministries including selling charcoal to restaurants and fish to support our hot lunch feeding program. Will you consider helping us with a one-time or monthly gift?