



# INTERCONNECTIONS

*Important Ministry Update from Rene and Lani Quimbo - Philippines*



## Disaster Strikes Ministry Center

### RAIN AND WIND DESTROY FOUNDATION POSTS OF MINISTRY CENTER IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

Dear friends and colleagues,

On the morning of August 5<sup>th</sup>, we received very sad news from our co-worker, Eugene, that our Bayaniham ministry center in Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City collapsed. It had rained the whole night, and strong winds and high swells added to the pressure. And, despite repeated requests to stop, some of our neighbors continued to tie their boats to our posts that added to the stress. Thankfully, no one was hurt but 9 of the major foundation posts were broken and the building slipped into the water.



We built this center 3 years ago, and we have been using this space for Sunday worship services (for children in the morning, and for youth and adults in the afternoon), Wednesday prayer meeting, 3 weekly discipleship meetings for youth, women and men, tutorial classes, day care classes, and part of it serves as living quarters for Eugene, our pastoral assistant.



*Just last month we sent a photo of VBS that was held inside the Bayaniham ministry center in April.*



*The rainy season in the Philippines is between June and October. Here you can see the portion that is in the water is where our kitchen, bathroom and bedroom are located.*

Our rebuilding plan would include upgrading from wood posts to concrete pilings for a more permanent and secure structure.

The ministry center is located 12-hours driving distance from our home in Cagayan de Oro City. While Zamboanga has a nickname “Asia’s Latin City” due to centuries-old Hispanic influence in the area, it also has a diverse muslim population and a well-established mosque that was built in 1885. **Our ministry center is the only Christian outreach to this Muslim community.**

We just returned from seeing the damage for ourselves. ***We had two main problems to solve – where to meet until we can rebuild, and what to do with the damaged ministry center building.***



First good news! The adults begged for a worship service and a couple with 6 children offered their home as a place for worship, a place for Eugene to live until we can rebuild, and a place to store items we rescued from the ministry center (including our refrigerator)! Suaib’s home is built like the ministry center, and we had to turn away youth and some adults for fear the weight may make the house collapse.



Second, a local cemetery in Mampang, the adjacent community, gave us a temporary place to worship. Upon seeing us worshipping with the kids under the trees, the administrator offered the chapel on the grounds (*in background of photo*) to use for worship.



Finally, we decided to dismantle the building in order to save materials that can still be used in rebuilding

***We will continue all our outreach despite what happened.*** Although there is opposition from some Muslims in the area, the Lord has miraculously given us this time and place to serve this community. We plan to reconstruct the ministry center with a stronger, concrete foundation as soon as funds are available to do so. **Please pray with us. Please help us.**

***To reconstruct this ministry center, we will need \$12,000 dollars.*** Transportation of materials and skilled labor will be the bulk of the cost. The PMI Board has approved moving forward immediately.

If the Lord is prompting you to help us, send a check to PMI at our stateside address: 12330 Conway Road, St. Louis, MO 63117.



Or click on the PMI online donations page: <http://www.pmiweb.org/donations.php>

Select our name and use PayPal to send an online donation. Given the urgency to “**Rebuild Arena Blanco,**” we are especially focused on raising funds for this project in the next month or so. Thank you!

Yours truly,

***Rene and Lani***

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