



INTERCONNECTIONS

Ministry Update from Rene and Lani Quimbo - Philippines

Dear friends,

July seemed to be the perfect time to start preparing for our U.S. visit scheduled first week of September. Then on July 3 we received word from **Eugene**, our co-worker in Zamboanga City, that he had a stroke. After a week in the hospital in Zamboanga City, he decided to return home to Cagayan de Oro City to recuperate. Our son **Iking** took over Eugene's ministry responsibilities in Zamboanga City. Then on the fourth week of the month **Lani** was admitted at the hospital for Dengue fever. She was discharged after 5 days, but her energy level was quite low. She slowly regained her strength although there were times when she felt tired for just standing up. We continued to prepare each ministry center for the two months that we would be away. We arranged for people to lead the different ministry programs in the various ministry centers.



August easily became a very busy month. It was during this month that the Lord raised up two co-workers to help us out in the ministries. **Jornel and Roxan** who both have five years experience in mountain tribe and Muslim tribe ministries, respectively, joined us. Jornel was assigned at Hillside Learning Center while Roxan was assigned to assist Iking in the Zamboanga City ministry. The timing was perfect. God knew what we most needed with the trip to the U.S. just a few weeks away. We still had time to not only introduce them to the people they are going to serve, but for them to work along side us even for a short time.

Then September came. We were hoping to have a few days to rest before taking the long

flight to the U.S. But we had to go to Zamboanga City (19 hours travel one way) for final arrangements. At least we had one day to stay at home to pack our bags. We arrived in Tacoma, WA on September 7 in time for the Christ Enrichment Church's 16th Anniversary (*pictured below*).



It was a time of great celebration of God's faithfulness in this church. **Lani's sister's family** (whom we have not seen for the past ten years) hosted us for two weeks. They took us on a road trip that brought us to the most wonderful state parks and national monuments in Washington and Oregon. And on top of that, while on these long drives, we had grand coaching sessions on church ministry from Lani's brother-in-law who loves the church with all his heart.

The Lord brought us to St. Louis third week of September. We were in the area until the end of October except during the middle of October when we went to Atlanta to participate in Midway Presbyterian Church's Reformation Worship Conference and to meet with the church's ACTS Fund

Committee, and we also visited friends and relatives in Georgia, Mississippi and Chicago. We had a great time of fellowship at the St. Louis Chinese Christian Church, Central Presbyterian Church (during Missions Conference), Trinity Christian Reformed Church, Covenant of Grace Reformed Church, Concord Presbyterian Church, and Old Orchard Church. We had opportunities to participate in worship services, youth fellowship, prayer meetings, Bible studies, lunch fellowship, art seminar, school chapel, Sunday School, and dinners with prayerful, mission minded, and loving people. To all our partner churches in the ministries, please know that you have nourished and refreshed us beyond words can say, and from the bottom of our hearts we thank you.

God opened doors to new friendships, and reconnected us with long-time friends that brought so much joy (even tears of joy). We also had the opportunity to meet with PMI board members during their September meeting, many of whom we met for the first time. We are always appreciative and grateful for their hard work and effective support on our behalf. Our visits to Covenant Theological Seminary were very short, we were not able to see all the people on our list, but the visits we had were wonderful. The campus was physically different, but the good feelings of being there remained the same.

We were hosted by eight different families during our U.S. visit, many of whom we have met for the first time. Believing that God chose the places and people we were at and with at anytime, we could not have chosen better hosts. They were all gracious, kind, and thoughtful. To us, it was a daily celebration of the hosts' gift of hospitality---making us feel at ease. And we were eager and very grateful recipients of their generosity and courtesy. To all of

you, thank you for enriching our lives.

We thank Central Presbyterian Church for sponsoring our visit. And we thank the Lord for the successful trip to the U.S.---successful because the purpose for the visit was accomplished: to declare the great works of God in our midst to all our partners in the ministry so we can together praise Him, and to share needs and struggles in ministry so we can together bring them to God in prayer.

To all our friends in ministry, let us continue to eagerly serve God together among the Muslim tribes (Tausug and Bajau), mountain tribe (Higaonon), and Cebuanos from all walks of life in our places of ministry.

Thank you for your encouragement and friendship. We are blessed by our visit to the US and we remain grateful for your strong and faithful partnership in the ministries He has given us here in Mindanao, Philippines.

In Him,

Rene and Lani

Photos: ongoing construction at the new House of Hope ministry center

