



VBS Report of Interconnections

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

Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,

On the second week of April, we started conducting the VBS in the first venue, up in Lacolac, at the **Hillside Learning Center**. We were excited because for the first time, adults wanted to participate. We had close to 120 adults, youth and children who preregistered. Early morning of the first day of VBS, the head of the local government announced the cash for work program offered by the government to commence on that day. All adults, and most of the youth joined the cash for work program. Our disappointment brought about by this didn't dampen our enthusiasm as we welcomed participants to the first day of VBS. **Randy, Andy, and Mary Ann from Central Presbyterian Church (pictured below) helped us close the VBS to the delight of the VBS participants and several parents who showed up for the closing program, as always.** Personally, we are thankful to God for their gracious ministry to us and our co-workers. We are encouraged by their labor of love and humility (always willing to do anything) and we look to them with joy and gratitude.



On the last two weeks of April, we conducted VBS in the two outreach areas of Kiraba and Molugan, also at the House of Hope Ministry Center for Bajaus in Cagayan de Oro City, and in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. In Bongao, we had over 200 Tausug/Sama VBS participants. We were surprised to find so many adults, about 100. But we discovered some were confused... they thought we were campaigning for some local political candidates, and they thought we were giving away gifts. *We gave them more than what they expected, and far more precious than any politician could ever give: we shared Christ's gospel of salvation.* **Only two of the adults were not ready to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.** The trip to and the ministry in Bongao were physically taxing, but we were refreshed of the encouraging fruit of the work there among the Tausug/Sama Muslim groups. While there, we learned that another Tausug and Sama community has opened to evangelism. **Praise God with us for His continuing outpouring of His grace upon Muslim tribes in these communities.**



Presbyterian Mission International
12330 Conway Road St. Louis, MO 63117
pmi@covenantseminary.edu
Donate at www.pmiweb.org

In Kiraba and Molugan, there were **several parents of VBS participants who inquired if there could be a Bible study for adults.** Needless to say, we are excited to open one. Please pray with us that this would get started and that God will use this to open the door of faith to other adults.

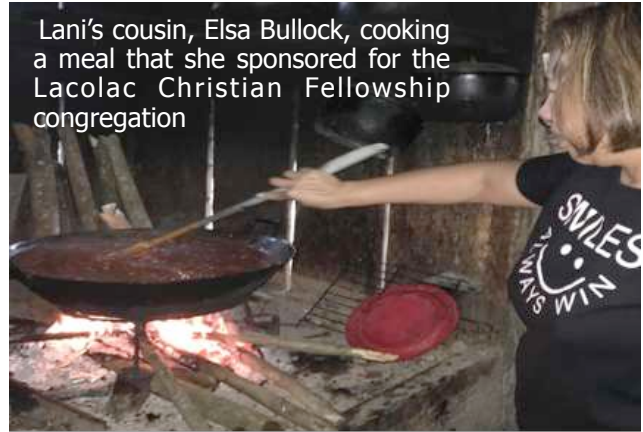
The VBS in **Mampang Ministry Center** in Zamboanga City was conducted on the third week of May. Preregistered participants were over 100 Tausug/Sama adults, youth, and children. But with Eid'l Fitr just a month away, several adults decided to focus on fishing and buy and sell business to save money for the celebration. We were disappointed with this turn of events, but we remained excited of the opportunity to teach God's word to those who came. Still, we had close to 100 participants who were eager learners. *Staff from Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac travelled with us to Zamboanga City to help out Iking and Roxan in this VBS.*



Lani with Iking, Roxan, Gemma, and Jornel team teaching VBS in Mampang Ministry Center in Zamboanga City

After we concluded the VBS in Zamboanga City, the last of 6 venues, we went to Dipolog City (Lani's hometown) to spend a few days for a staff/volunteers retreat. Lani's older sister accommodated us in her home. We were able to spend some time in the historical city of Dapitan (where our national hero Jose Rizal was exiled before he was executed in the 1800's) and to relax at the beach. It was short,

but enough to give each one of us a breather. We are grateful for times such as this. To bring workers from different ministry centers together for a few days is something we hope to do every year.



Lani's cousin, Elsa Bullock, cooking a meal that she sponsored for the Lacolac Christian Fellowship congregation

While in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, for the VBS, we stayed 3 days more to be able to join our partners at JIL church in Muslim evangelism. *It was very inspiring to see several adults and youth get on fire to reach out to Muslims with Christ's gospel of grace.*



Outreach ministry in Lomboy, Tausug and Sama community in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi with our JIL partners



Randy Mayfield preaching at Portal Christian Fellowship

At **Hillside Learning Center**, on the first day of April, we had the baccalaureate for graduating elementary students of the nearby public school. We look forward to this each school year because of the opportunity to preach the gospel to graduating students and their parents who belong to the local cult group. During the service, two adults from this cult group showed a bit of disrespect by their actuations (silent laughter, facial expressions), but there's nothing they could do to discourage us from doing this year after year.

This month of June we celebrated two church anniversaries---**14th anniversary of the Lacolac Christian Fellowship and 15th anniversary of the Portal Christian Fellowship.** We pray that the worshipers in these two churches will continue to grow in their knowledge of spiritual truth, and that they may walk worthy of the Lord, rooted and built up through His word. Let us pray that their faith will lead them to submission and service. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness throughout the years!

Thank you friends for blessing us with your prayers and financial support. God has made every provision for us to obey His call. The enablement of the Lord through your faithful partnership brought joy, growth, and blessing in our churches and fellowships.



Please continue to pray for us. We also continue to remember each one of you in prayer. May all that we are and all that we do bring glory to God (Philippians 2:11).

Yours in Christ,

Rene & Lani

renelaniquimbo@gmail.com



Rene officiating during the wedding of **Joven and Eula** who are both members of the Portal Christian Fellowship.

May the Lord bless them and keep them!

Rene & Lani Quimbo - Presbyterian Mission International

Donation address: PMI, Covenant Theological Seminary, 12330 Conway Road, St. Louis, MO 63141

Philippine home address: #37 Faustino Neri St., RER Drive Phase I, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City 9000