



Interconnections

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

Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,

Dear friends,

When several adults in Kiraba, one of our outreach communities, asked if we could have an adult Bible study in the area, we got so excited and immediately prepared to start the following week. Week after week they gave us different reasons why they could not join in the Bible study. Indeed, many people find it difficult to commit themselves to anything. They are tentative, indecisive, and afraid of getting involved in something new and different.

While we were disappointed with the attitude of said adults, instead of getting discouraged, our team decided to focus on how we can get more youth to participate. We observed that the interest of the youth has shifted to playing video games, and some of them thought that the Bible study was just good for children and that they are “too old,” and actually felt embarrassed to be seen by other youth to be joining a Bible study. To address the issues, we

encouraged several youth from our church to come with us to the area for youth Bible study and fellowship and incorporated some fun activities during our meetings. Being young is exciting, but when young people focus on passing pleasures instead of eternal values, they will develop bad habits that make them callous towards God. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to admonish young people to flee the evil desires of youth and to point them to the path of righteousness. May the grace of God continue to draw them to know Him more, the Christ of the Bible.

A training was conducted for youth to prepare them to get involved in our Sunday school for children not only at the **Portal Christian Fellowship**, but at the **House of Hope Christian Fellowship** as well. The young people who struggled with temptations common to them and have can effectively share their experiences with children who are just beginning their spiritual journey.



Preparing food packs to be distributed to Sunday worshippers at Hillside Christian Fellowship during recent unrest near Lacolac.



Portal Church members take turns in hosting Friday Bible study, prayer meeting, and fellowship in their homes.



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At the **Mampang Ministry Center** in Zamboanga City, a number of youth continue to meet every Saturday afternoon for Bible study and fellowship. We are praying that they will find the wisdom and strength to resist the tempting influences around them through knowledge and obedience to God's word. Furthermore, our lone adult **literacy class student**, Napsa, continues to learn to read and write. She is challenged by the fact that her husband, Alpad, is now in his third year in Bible school, and her daughter is now in kindergarten and she is not able to help her in her classes.

A good number of Bajau elementary and high school students are enrolled in the city.

Only a few are enrolled in the town of Opol. We are glad that we are still able to assist them in their studies, and guide them in their spiritual journey. We are making sure that they are spending regular time in Bible study and prayer with those who can help explain and apply God's message. This quarter, children's church has been started at the **House of Hope Christian Fellowship**. It is our goal that the children will be trained to choose what is right, thereby helping them to obey God and set their hope in Him.

This July, we started lunch break Bible study and hot

lunch feeding program for the primary and elementary school students from the nearby public school. In the beginning, we had as many as 60 students who came for this lunch break ministry, but at the start of this month of September, when the government implemented a feeding program for the malnourished students, the number of

students who come has been significantly reduced by almost half. It is mandatory for the malnourished students to stay in school, and if they are absent from school, the teachers will "invite" other students to substitute for them. Still,

we endeavour to **teach God's Word** to the children who come trusting God that by His grace these children will learn and become wise.



Serving hot lunch to students of Lacolac Elementary School after lunch break Bible study every school day.



Alpad serving as liturgist at Mampang Christian Fellowship in Zamboanga City

Our youth at **Hillside Learning Center** organized this July. Their regular activities are (a) Saturday afternoon Bible study and fellowship *where the youth group members take turn hosting this meeting in their own homes* and (b) preparation of the sanctuary for Sunday worship service. One of their special activities is the youth get-together scheduled last week of October. Each youth group member is expected to invite one or two non-church goer youth in our community to this activity. We are expecting 40 youth participants. Please pray with us God will bless this ministry and direct their path to lead to Him.

We are grateful to God for the **prayer walk team** who remained determined to pray monthly despite the occurrence of conflict in our community between the government military and communist rebels. Although the fighting is now outside of Lacolac, communist rebels continue to be present in our community. Soldiers have set up camp near our ministry center, and one Sunday, a reinforcement of 50 soldiers came to worship at the church. Let us pray that God will put in their hearts a hunger for His presence in their lives.

Under the “**work for food**” program, the first week of September was the first harvest of rambutan for this season. Other fruits such as durian, soursop and lanzones did not do well. We are still harvesting as of this writing, we bring the fruits down to the city, sell them in offices, house to house, and on the street corners. We were not able to harvest rice, the rice field was a total failure. The field rats attacked during the flowering stage. We tried to get rid of the rats but it did not do much in reducing its population.

At the supermarket recently, we met one of the girls in one of our Bible studies 17 years ago. She is married, and she introduced her husband, who was with her, to us. She said it has been a long time since she came to church. In the middle of our conversation, she suddenly asked if she could come for a one-on-one Bible study, she was in tears. We were a bit surprised, but we enthusiastically set a schedule with her. *May the study of God’s word revive her longing to know and love God.* We covet your prayers.



Selection of **rambutan fruit** (related to lychee).



Truckload of rambutan fruit on its way to Cagayan de Oro City to be sold.

Thank you all for your partnership, for helping us with your prayers and gifts, enabling us to minister with a grateful heart. May the Lord direct us in everything we do with His gracious favour!

Yours in Christ,

Rene & Lani

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