

# INTERCONNECTIONS

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM RENE AND LANI QUIMBO

## Celebrating God's Faithfulness



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Presbyterian Mission International  
12330 Conway Road  
St. Louis, MO 63141

### Dear friends,

We are celebrating God's faithfulness! This quarter is the beginning of our 20<sup>th</sup> year of serving the Lord here in Mindanao, Philippines. We have reached this day because God is relentlessly good and completely trustworthy. Despite health issues, hostile to the gospel neighbourhood, weak commitment of a number of co-workers, roads that sometimes make travel difficult, and financial challenges, God has done in our midst not only what's best for His Kingdom purposes, but also what's best for us.

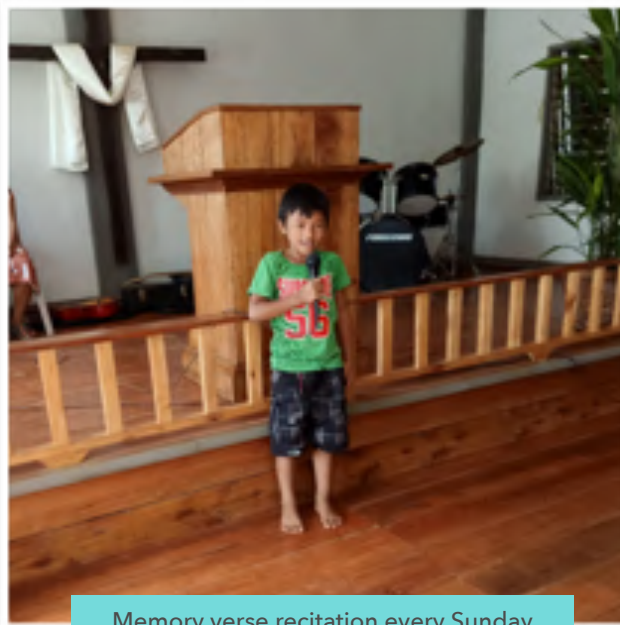
We have experienced His steadfast love even in the crises that came our way, and we are forever grateful to Him! We are thankful to you all who have become Christ's expression of His physical body in this world to us---through you we have experienced His comforting arms around us, His encouraging words, His gracious care in varied ways, His favour in our needs, and His generous love that point us to His nature. We are blessed.



Coco is the new drummer of the Portal Christian Fellowship music team

## Mampang Ministry

Last quarter we put up a fence (made of concrete and other sturdy materials) around the **Mampang Ministry Center** to replace the old, crumbling bamboo fence. The timing couldn't be more perfect. About a month ago, the government demolished the temporary housing in the designated evacuation center just a stone's throw away from the ministry center to force the evacuees (all Muslims) to transfer to the permanent government housing in another location. Since most of the evacuees disliked the new location (in this current location, several of them have been arrested as drug pushers, and caught doing other illegal activities) they are building small houses in the vicinity of the ministry center. Please pray with us to carefully seek for opportunities and to boldly enter open doors to reach out to them with the gospel.



Memory verse recitation every Sunday

## Staff Update

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of Alpad's failure to continue in his seminary studies. He could no longer cope with the academic requirements of seminary education. He continues to help in the ministry doing visitation and Bible study 3 times a week in Arena Blanco. Furthermore, our co-worker, **Roxan, in Zamboanga City** who asked to visit her sick father for a week in middle of July called us while home that her family wanted her to leave the ministry. One brother (a pastor) told her "if you are going to be a missionary till your old, nothing good will ever happen to you". We asked her to wait and pray about it, but she said her mind is already made up and that she loves her family more than anything. She left just over a week after she called us, so there was so much pressure to have someone go to Zamboanga City immediately to take her place. Our son, **Iking**, was willing to stop his seminary schooling (he is now in his third semester) in order to go (he served there close to a year when our former co-worker Eugene had a stroke) but we thought he should continue his studies. So, **Annie**, our co-worker in Lacolac (she has been with us since the year 2000) decided to go there bringing with her **Judy An**, our young ministry helper also in Lacolac. Thank you for remembering in prayer the Mampang Ministry Center and the mission God has given us among the Muslims in the community. **Our confidence is that God is working on our behalf and is calling His chosen people from among them.**

## Lacolac Ministry Center



Lacolac Ministry Center repairs

Up in **Lacolac**, the ministry building repairs are on-going. We get frustrated at times because the work is so slow. Only a few carpenters report for work because of the current government school building, road and bridge construction projects in the area. The government rates are much higher on top of the fact that there is no pressure on them to be on time for work. Still, we remain excited looking forward to the day when the repairs will finally get done and we are able to use the area for its intended purposes---for **Sunday school, Bible study, prayer meeting and counseling.**

The government feeding program for malnourished school children just got implemented up in Lacolac. We used to have from 50 to 70 students in our daily hot lunch and Bible study ministry, now we have a little

over then 30 students. We rejoice for this opportunity to teach the word of God to the children and to influence them to advance God's purposes in their life and in their families.

Our **prayer walk** this quarter brought us to 108 households around the community. The prayer team was moved with passion and zeal to bring them to the Lord in prayer (1) as once

again the community's peace and order situation has turned for the worse. In the recent community assembly, it was reported by the military that in the outskirts of our village the communist rebels are again on the move and (2) the people's apparent attitude of ignoring the word of God. *Please pray with us that God's people in this place will grow in the nature of God and to keep moving in the right direction.*

We started a **tutorial program** for students who are struggling to read and write. Most of them come from illiterate families. God is calling us to be relentless seekers for opportunities to bless, to show His favour, and to teach His word.





Preparation of rambutan fruit for sale

It is fruiting season for durian, sour sop and rambutan. Although the harvest is not as abundant as last year's, we are glad we are able to sell some to help defray other ministry expenses. The variety store has expanded to include large water containers, small gadgets, and chain saw spare parts. Whatever profits we gain go directly to ministry needs. This is necessarily helpful especially during this time when our ministry funds are way below our monthly budget.

## Praise and Petition

**Rejoice with us as we concluded church membership class at Lacolac Christian Fellowship and at the Portal Christian Fellowship**, which had 6 and 5 successful participants, respectively. **Home Bible studies** are still on-going in Zamboanga City, Lacolac, Cagayan de Oro City, and Opol town. Also, **outreach ministries** in Kiraba, Molugan and Opol continue. *May the Lord delight in cultivating in us His desires believing that God is working in us, giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases Him (Phil. 2:13).*

We also ask for your prayers as we face financial challenges in the ministry (again). Through eyes of faith, we look to God, as always, for wisdom, insights, solutions to problems, guidance, and provisions to our every need.

Dear friends, as always, our heart is filled with gratitude to our God, the Hope of believers, who holds everything in His hands. He fills us with hope and faith for everything, whether big or small, possible or impossible. We remain grateful to you too for your ministry of prayer and financial support to us and the people we serve in the various ministries. May the Lord continue to uphold us all with His victorious right hand!

In Him,

*Rene and Lani*

**Rene and Lani Quimbo**  
Email address  
renelaniquimbo@gmail.com

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

USA contributions address  
Presbyterian Mission International (PMI)  
12330 Conway Road, St. Louis, MO 63141

