



Interconnections

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

Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,

The psalmist proclaimed in Psalm 73:28

“But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.”

We continue to be grateful to God for drawing us closer to Him through varied circumstances He allowed to pass in our lives. Most of last year we experienced our fair share of financial struggles, but, He was mindful of our needs, at some point, He provided graciously and gave us much encouragement.

The much-needed pickup truck was purchased through the financial assistance from Old Orchard Church and from Central Presbyterian Church, and through your generosity, our monthly budgetary needs were fully met.



Grateful for much-needed transportation

Work on the **Hillside Learning Ministry Center** repairs is still ongoing despite health and relational issues among the carpenters, and even in the midst of our current health crisis. Furthermore, our rubber trees are finally being tapped, and although the harvest (*photo lower right*) has not reached the minimum sap weight for the buyer to come and pick it up, we are a bit enthusiastic of this produce.

We cancelled the prayer walk around the community scheduled the month of March, and the prayer team instead gathered here at the church to pray for the people in our community. Ever since the third week of March, all church assemblies have been cancelled. We distributed materials to every family to meditate upon and pray for at their house during the scheduled days and time our church gatherings for worship, prayer meetings, and Bible studies. *One father shared with us a few days ago the benefit of worshipping at home as a family.* He gathered everyone last Sunday when it was time to worship (other families were also meeting at the same



Downstairs repair work at Hillside

time in their own homes). He asked his oldest son (10 years old) to open the worship with prayer, they sang songs lead by his wife, and they went through the entire worship program (as what we would do when we worship together as a body of Christ in the church). He led the meditation of the Bible text. He testified that something beautiful came out of that first family Sunday worship at their home.



Trees tapped and rubber sap collected in metal barrels

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In Zamboanga City, at the **Mampang Ministry Center**, church assemblies, daily visitation to Arena Blanco and prayer visits to our Muslim neighborhood were all cancelled beginning the third week of March due to community quarantine declared by the city government. Please pray with us that our Muslim neighbors, *pictured below*, who have been joining the prayer meetings (we have recently added a Bible study component; two more groups were also added making the total to five groups meeting weekly) will not grow cold when we resume meeting when the health scare is gone.



Prayer visitation with Muslim neighbors in Zamboanga City

The youth and children outreach ministries of the **Portal Study Center** in four areas (another area was added in Opol), together with the **Portal Christian Fellowship** worship service, prayer meeting and Bible studies, were all cancelled beginning the third week of March due to the community quarantine declared both in Cagayan de Oro City and the town of Opol. *An online Sunday worship service and Friday*

Bible study and prayer meeting were put in place.



Rene preaching online beginning 3/15

One of the blessings that resulted from this arrangement is that friends and relatives (and even relatives of church members who are not worshipping with us hear the messages on speakers set up at their houses) from afar are able to join the online worship service, prayer meeting, and Bible study.

Please pray with us as we are looking for ways to be able to minister to the people with practical help during this health crisis. Small buy and sell business is the main livelihood of the Bajau church members. With the community quarantine in effect, they are forced to stay home. A number of church members working in big construction companies are being told that work will be discontinued and will resume when things get better.

On a personal note, Lani's older sister Lilia, succumbed to ovarian cancer that had metastasized. She passed away the first day of March and we buried her one week later. She was 65 years old, unmarried, a strong Christian, serving as a member of the board in her church.

Dear friends, we are grateful for your strong and faithful partnership in the ministries God has called us to do. Especially during this covid-19 pandemic, we remain vigilant in praying for God's gracious care and loving kindness for His people. We are reminded of the passage in Matthew 14: 22-32. Peter was walking on water toward Jesus, but when he saw the wind he felt afraid and started to sink. Jesus rescued him, and spoke to him about his little faith and doubt. And when they climbed into the boat, the wind was no more. Now, there is this wind. We pray God will strengthen our faith, focus on Jesus and not on our circumstances. May He find us faithful. As soon as God would have accomplished His purpose for this wind in our lives, it will die down. Praying that God would open the door of faith to others, as those who were in the boat worshipped Him saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

In Him,

Rene and Lani

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