



# Interconnections

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

Dear friends,

We did not expect the government imposed restrictions due to the health pandemic to continue till now. So many plans have yet to be implemented in several outreach areas and churches under our ministries. ***The momentum of ministry programs especially in the Muslim outreach in Zamboanga City that got started just a few months before the Covid 19 outbreak was put on hold.*** Even as of this writing, the city is still placed under general community quarantine. Any person entering the city will be placed immediately on 14-day quarantine in a government facility. As of this writing, our co-workers Annie and Jo, with Alpad and his family, just informed us that the city government has given city residents specific days when they could leave their homes to do essential errands in the city.

Here in Cagayan de Oro City where we are based, only one exit pass is issued per household. Only people with exit pass will be allowed in grocery stores, pharmacies, and other business areas. Fortunately, we were able to get vehicle pass and health certificate in Baungon, Bukidnon where the Lacolac ministry center is located. These documents allow us to travel to

Lacolac as necessary, presenting, together with said documents, an ID that we are residents of Lacolac.

Although Cagayan de Oro City is currently classified under modified general quarantine, travel within the city is still strictly restricted only allowing workers of essential services and people purchasing essential commodities to leave their residence. Lockdown are also enforced in targeted communities, those with high incidence of Covid 19 positive cases.

The government has tried its best to help our people. Still, our people suffer from lack of basic necessities, it is very sad to see people confined to very small spaces with tin walls and tin roofs, no running water, and on lockdown.



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Although the government now allows assembly up to 50% of capacity, our congregation in the 3 churches has decided to wait for the Department of Health update on health situation in our regions to get better due to young children and older people in said congregations.



Packing rice, bread, coffee, and canned goods for distribution

cash for medicines. Up in Lacolac, we also distributed to about 30 families meat (we slaughtered a pig ourselves), vegetables, spices, noodles, canned goods, coffee, rice, and bread several times.

***Thank you all for your gifts that have blessed so many.***

Through your generous help, we were enabled to do what we could to help out people in our communities. We assisted members of our churches to (1) start an online buy and sell business, (2) put up stalls in public markets to sell vegetables, dried fish, fresh fish, and spices, and (3) cultivate backyard vegetable gardens by providing areas when needed, also seeds and seedlings.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise! His goodness and faithfulness amaze us to

Knowing that there are people in need of food, we did everything we could to distribute, from time to time, to 38 families in Cagayan de Oro City and in Opol town rice, noodles, canned goods, coffee, dried fish, fresh fish, spices and vegetables, and a bit of

no end! Despite the restrictions, ministries in the different churches and outreach areas continue to flourish. In Opol, we have started four Bible study and worship groups. The groups are meeting weekly. The small group meetings meet the requirements of social distancing and not more than 10 people in a group. Here in the city, we continue with online worship, Bible study, and prayer meetings. Families take turn in leading the prayer meetings. Josh, one of our elders, together with our sons Iking and Rory has also started a Tuesday evening online discussion on a variety of topics on what's going on in the world in the light of God's word.

Packing meat, bread, and cooked noodles for distribution



One of backyard vegetable gardens in Lacolac



A stall at a public market ran by church members we assisted





The Lacolac ministry center building repair...almost done.



Before the onset of rainy season, we fetched water and washed clothes at the nearby river.

In the mountain ministry center, we continue to distribute Order of Worship to member families every Sunday. One time a family of six recorded their worship service at home and shared it with us. *To learn that there are members who truly are engaged in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ which is vital to their growth especially in our current circumstances brought much needed encouragement to us. We often pray that we have disciplined the members enough that in times such as this, they will continue to thrive in the faith and Christian service.*

Dear friends, now more than ever, our heart is filled with beautiful praises to the One Who holds everything together in His hands. Though we are facing a challenging tomorrow, God's divine

providence frees us from anxious thoughts, and opens us to His gracious care. We are forever grateful to your ministry of prayer and financial support. ***May you find God, who at times allow a difficult path before us, turn it into a thing of wonder to encourage us.*** May He make us brave and courageous as we live day by day for His glory and honor.

In Him,

**Rene and Lani**

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