



Interconnections

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

Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,

Our city was placed on Alert Level 3 at the start of the new year which meant that only vaccinated people above 18 years old were allowed to join in-person religious assemblies. In view of this, we decided to continue our online Bible study, prayer meeting, and worship service in order to accommodate those who did not qualify for face-to-face gathering.

On February 9, the 7 PM Wednesday **Vesper** service began in Opol church. It looks like a regular service because families bring even their young children, and they come wearing their Sunday's best. The prayer meeting follows immediately after the vesper service. We are glad to get this new ministry going because after a while, we observed that people are getting excited to share their praises for answered prayers, their victories, joys, and blessings. They also have become more comfortable in sharing their burdens and prayer requests. And being part of a group that prays for the concerns of the community, our country, and the world opens their eyes to the heart of God.



Our son Rory opened the vesper service with a prayer at the Opol Church



Our son Iking leading the vesper service at the Opol Church



Prayer meeting follows the vesper service

As our city's Alert Level got downgraded to 1, our church decided to discontinue the online ministries effective March 13 (except for the Friday Bible study and prayer meeting) so that all will be encouraged to come for the face-to-face ministries: Sunday school, worship service, and other fellowship meetings.

Please pray with us. There are several families in the neighborhood where the Bajaus reside who are complaining about their presence in the community. The Bajaus feel rejected and dejected, and afraid of what these people will do to them. We told them to ignore them since the community chairman and his council knew and approved their taking up residence in the area. The smooth integration of the Bajaus with the non-Bajaus in the church is inspiring. The Bajaus perceive unconditional acceptance by the non-Bajau members as seen in their joyful participation in the different church ministries---there is a strong sense of belongingness.

In **Zamboanga City**, the team of Alpad, his wife Napsa, and missionaries Gemma and Judy An is working hard to schedule a weekly ministry of home visitation, prayer meeting, Bible study for men, women, youth, and children in Arena Blanco. At the **Mampang Ministry Center**, Judy An leads Saturday youth fellowship, Gemma holds Saturday Bible study and prayer meeting, and on Sunday, with Alpad and Napsa, they teach Sunday school for adults, youth, and children before the worship service.

One of our pressing prayer requests is that God will raise a male missionary to serve in Zamboanga City. Traditionally/culturally, men from Muslim background prefer a male teacher/leader. Although Alpad is helping in the work, the fact that he grew up in this community somewhat makes the older men uncomfortable or awkward.



Gemma teaching during the weekly children Bible study in Arena Blanco



Eat-all-you-can and movie treat for the children ministry helpers at Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac

At the Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac, we have completed the preparation of teaching materials for the fast approaching summer DVBS. We still need to make the decorations, select the games, choose the songs, and come up with the schedule of daily DVBS program of activities. Then, we will conduct the DVBS team training and workshop. Soon after the national elections (please pray with us for a peaceful and honest elections on May 9), we will hold DVBS in 3 venues: Opol, Lacolac, and Zamboanga City.

The prayer walk around the community of Lacolac took us to homes where God's word was proclaimed, the Good News explained, and prayers, on their behalf, were lifted up to God's throne of grace.

The short seminar on Boy-Girl Relationship in February was attended by 22 young people of our church. We thanked the Lord for the opportunity to teach Biblical principles concerning relationship with the opposite sex. Most parents are too lax in this matter. We can see their teenage daughters and sons going the wrong direction. Please pray with us that the truths have impacted the lives of our church youth.

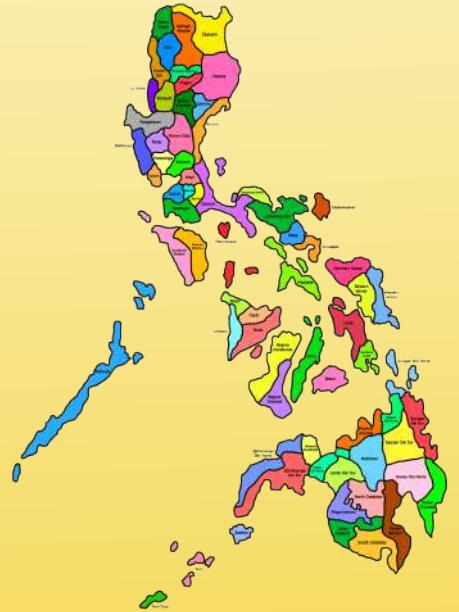


Dear friends, many times last year we were in situations similar to 2 Chronicles 20:12, "We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." God is always enough. God makes the difference in circumstances such as these, "From the ends of the earth will I cry unto you, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:2). Thank you for your faithful prayers, for your generous financial gifts, your sincere friendship, and your strong partnership. You have refreshed us, and we are deeply grateful.

In Him,

Rene & Lani

renelaniquimbo@gmail.com



Rene & Lani Quimbo - Presbyterian Mission International

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