



Interconnections

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

Dear friends,

**“You who answer prayer,
to you all people will come”
Psalm 65:2**

We prayed for a closer bonding among our congregation in Opol, Lacolac and Zamboanga City churches. To foster our desire, we came up with the idea of special group presentations (drama, dancing, singing, or a combination of two or three) during the Christmas Thanksgiving service of each church. They practiced as early as October (in Lacolac, we added a sports fest: mothers vs. daughters; fathers vs. sons scheduled the day before Christmas Day). With God's blessing, all went well---what a delightful day it was for all the 3 churches!

The Bible Content Overview class in Opol church will resume this February 2023. It will surely be such a joy to see the participants complete the

class requirements by the end of April. The Zamboanga City church congregation scheduled a church family outing last October. They decided to go to White Sand Island for the day. Everyone had a good time swimming, playing games, catching up with each other, or just relaxing in the fine, white sand and clear waters. Two short seminars were conducted in the Zamboanga City Ministry Center: one on Prayer and another on Spiritual gifts. A short seminar on Spiritual gifts was also held at the House of Hope Ministry Center in Opol.

One of the things that gave us particular joy was a testimony given by a member of the Zamboanga City Church whose response to the Sunday service sermon went something like this: **“For us, the truth from God’s word we have received and learned is more than any material gift we could be given”.**



Lacolac Church congregation



Lacolac Church ministry volunteers presenting a special number



Lacolac church women wearing tribal costume for their presentation

Iking continues to hold weekly Bible study and fellowship with the Bajaus in Opol. While our missionaries assigned in Zamboanga City are here in Cagayan de Oro City for special assignment, **Alpad** and his family, together with **Itah** and **Ana**, are taking over the ministry. Praise the Lord for church members who are growing in faith and service in the Lord's Kingdom, and willing to learn and to work hard for the Lord.



Lacolac church kitchen crew

In Zamboanga City, Kaka Bebing, a long-time member of the church who was at the very beginning of the ministry back in 2007, is struggling under clan pressure to leave the church. Earlier this year, her younger sister and family (a total of 9 people) succumbed to said pressure.

In Opol church, Julie, a very active member, has just notified the church she is not coming to church anymore because her family asked her to leave and to return to their previous non-evangelical church because she was reminded by what her deceased father instructed them that they must remain together in the same church. We covet your prayers. Ron-ron, who had expressed his desire to leave his work to become a full-time church worker sometime ago, had grown cold recently. Just two weeks ago, he came back to join our Tuesday and Thursday evening bible study and said something like this: *“It is not good to entertain gossips. It leads one astray”*. Praise the Lord for this realization. Also, a guy from Opol church who has been a member of the music team, did

not return to church even after the government had allowed church meetings (pandemic time) for many reasons, one was his poor health (though we see him posting pictures of his family eating out or going somewhere; his wife and son continue to come to church). We visited him at his house several times and helped his family move to two different houses twice. Then a big, incredible surprise on Christmas Thanksgiving Sunday service: he came. He is now back to church after almost 3 years of absence, back to joining youth group bible study he used to teach. Then last Thursday, he was back to teaching youth bible study. Iking was so moved when this guy said: *“you have to take a step back and let the light of God’s word shine on you.”*

Praise the Lord with us. This brought us to tears, tears of joy to be sure. **God knows how to inspire, encourage, and to spur His servants “to love and good work” and to “not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”.**



Youth dancing to “Feliz Navidad” song



Memory verse recitation



Memory verse recitation
during Christmas
children's party



Ongoing church building
construction in El Salvador City

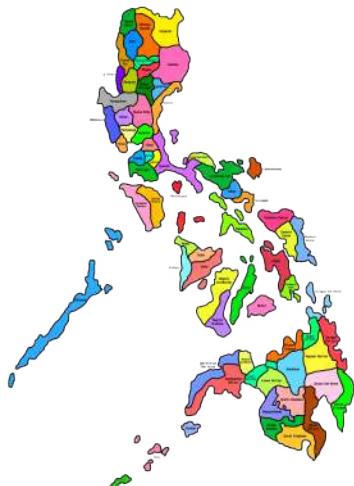


Fathers vs. sons:
basketball, volleyball,
badminton games



Mothers vs. daughters:
basketball, volleyball,
badminton games

We thank you dear friends for your faithful and strong partnership in the work. Your prayers and your financial support, all blessings from the Lord, have enabled us to bear fruit. **Please pray** for our upcoming short *seminar on Theology of Christian Giving*, for the church building construction to go smoothly (health of construction workers, availability of building materials, and good weather), safe travel for the return of our missionaries to Zamboanga City, and for increase in our monthly ministry funds. We have experienced more months of receiving funds well below our budget this year. We are praying it will be much better next year. ***May God meet all our needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus*** (Philippians 4:19).



May we all have a blessed New Year!

In Him,

Rene & Lani

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