



Interconnections

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

Dear friends,

We celebrated our first Sunday worship in the new church building in El Salvador City on July 30. It was a joyful response to God’s blessings and celebration of His promises. It took a while to complete the construction due to many challenges, sometimes heart-breaking. Our hope remained in the truth that God’s plans cannot be thwarted and the Lord’s purposes will always prevail. We are grateful to Midway Presbyterian Church for their generosity in providing the resources for us to build it which made it possible for the Portal Christian Church congregation to come together in a special place to learn and grow concerning the life and works of the church to the glory of God.

DVBS was held in the three churches (**Portal Christian Church, Lacolac Christian Church, and Zamboanga City Christian Church**) with a total of 136 participants. The Family of God (Colossians 3:26) was the DVBS theme. The lessons covered topics such as (a) how do we become children of God, (b) as



Lacolac Christian Church VBS participants

children of God what do we inherit, and (c) what does it mean to be part of the family of God. The participants were taught that since they can never do anything to deserve it for it is God’s gift of love, mercy, and grace to them, and that they were chosen only in accordance with His pleasure and will, such should drive them to “kneel and bow down” before God in humble adoration.

VBS participants at Portal Christian Church



Presbyterian Mission International
12330 Conway Road
St. Louis, MO 63117
pmi@covenantseminary.edu



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VBS participants at Zamboanga City Christian Church

A short seminar “**The Marks of a True Believer**” was conducted in all three churches. This was in response to the concern of several members of the church regarding how to distinguish between true and false believers. It seemed that this gave them a measure of peace of mind, having their heart at rest as they live having a right relationship with God and man.

Up in Lacolac, we continue to hold a prayer walk around the community once every quarter. It does not only open the door of opportunity to bring the word of God to their homes and to be prayed over, but in the Lord’s pleasure and will, He opens the door of faith to some. To those who are in a place of discouragement, weakness and helplessness, the prayer walk gives us the occasion to encourage, strengthen, and admonish them with the word of God.



After our fellowship meal, we gathered together at the sanctuary for a worship service; Iking preached God’s word



Iking preaching in Portal Christian Fellowship



The second floor of the new church building where the sanctuary is located



Rene opened the worship service with prayer



Canned goods, noodles, rice bags, coffee, biscuits, condiments, and candies were also given to the fire victims



Kitchen utensils, laundry utilities, hygiene kit, toys, and food items were distributed to fire victims in our congregation.

As you already know, we have visited recently our **Zamboanga City Christian Church** congregation due to the recent fire in Arena Blanco that rendered 300 households homeless. Just today, as of this writing, we learned that the city government has already laid down the guidelines for the recovery program with regard to the fire victims. They will be relocated to White Sand area, not too far away from the ministry center (much closer than Arena Blanco), and they will be given a bit of financial assistance (about \$178) by the government to build their house. While we are happy that they will be residing much closer to the ministry center, we are saddened by the insufficient help that the government is extending to them. We will return to Zamboanga City as soon as they start to build their homes. We hope to assist them in this endeavor as well as in their livelihood.

Dear friends, please know how thankful we are, as well as the congregation, for your prompt help that met their immediate needs while waiting for the delayed government assistance. We are also appreciative of all the efforts that you have done (prayers and gifts) to enable us to bear fruit where God has placed us.

We are forever grateful for your faithful partnership. ***May God give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed*** (Psalm 20:4).

In Him,

Rene and Lani

Rene and Lani Quimbo
renelaniquimbo@gmail.com

Rene & Lani Quimbo - Presbyterian Mission International pmiweb.org

Donation address: PMI, Covenant Theological Seminary, 12330 Conway Road, St. Louis, MO 63141
 Philippine home address: #37 Faustino Neri St., RER Drive Phase I, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City 9000

