



Missionary Update
Rene & Lani Quimbo
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Dear Friends,

God has led our steps as a family to minister in Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City and Bongao, Tawi-Tawi over Christmas week 2015. It was very hectic, but regardless of how physically demanding it was, serving for God and with God made the trip a memorable experience of His goodness for us and for the people we served.

We flew to Bongao, Tawi-Tawi in March soon after we were done preparing the materials for Bible study for the Tausug and Sama (Bajau) groups. We taught it to the team doing the outreach. The JIL church leader liked the materials we were using and consequently requested us to teach the entire materials to the church's prime 12 (12 people who each lead a life group). As many as 30 people showed up for this activity, and the same number of people came also to the retreat we originally planned to hold for the team doing outreach to the said Muslim groups.

At the Bayanihan Ministry Center in Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City, we held a two-day retreat for the 3 youth and 9 adults in our discipleship groups (3 girls, 4 women, and 5 men) and ministered to them and with them in the community over the Holy Week. As always, we found ourselves pressed for time. There was always so much happening. The day we left for Tawi-Tawi, a neighbor got shot and killed in a drug related incident. When we returned from Tawi-Tawi, there were drug related raids that went on all night till the wee hours of the morning. We heard gun shots and the sound of people rushing through the narrow pathways (wood planks on water that connects one house to another) just outside the ministry center. Our neighbor (who is in one of our discipleship groups) called out to ask for prayer because one of the guys the authorities were looking for was a close relative. He later shared that he and his wife (also in the women discipleship group) prayed all night. Indeed, God has far greater purposes of events He allows to occur in and around our lives, and in our prayers than just asking and receiving — He wants us to learn more about who He is.

We are almost done with the preparation of VBS materials. We are currently reproducing them to have enough for the 400 youth and children who will be participating in 8 venues. Next week, we will have a workshop for VBS teachers and assistants and we should be ready to start VBS on the 11th of April in the first venue and end on May 27th in the last venue.

Our prayer walk in Lacolac brought us to 98 households. One of the wonderful things about the prayer walk is the opportunity to read the Word of God in their homes (especially those who do not come to church) and to proclaim the Good News of God's salvation. The work for food program (agricultural projects) is quite challenging in the light of recent events. Up in Lacolac, it is harvest time for rice. Despite the long drought, God

has blessed us with the harvest of 75 sacks ready for milling. It has not rained for months now. The wells we dug near the center are all dried up now, and even the river where we now get water for washing is now so shallow. Early morning last Tuesday (March 29), while we were traveling from Zamboanga City returning home to Cagayan de Oro City, we received a call informing us that the rubber and coffee farm was on fire. We were in shock because we were told that it was most likely intentionally done by people angered by the result of the government survey that was recently conducted by the Department of Agrarian Reform. We were upset, but we lifted everything to God who holds everything together. We arrived in Cagayan de Oro City late in the evening. The following day, we went up to Lacolac to personally survey the damage. Two-thirds of the farm was burned down, many tears were shed, but we prayed that what the people intended for evil, God will intend for good. We don't know how, but because God is good, it should be so. God's character is a great comfort.

Below are our prayer requests for the coming quarter:

1. VBS from April 11 till May 27.
2. Tausug and Sama (Bajau) outreach in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
3. Discipleship classes in all ministry centers
4. Building repairs at Hillside Learning Center
5. Rehabilitation work on the damaged rubber and coffee farm

Thank you so much dear friends for your prayers to God on our behalf that accompany us wherever God sends us, doing what He leads us to do. Thank you also for choosing to invest in God's Kingdom in this part of the world. The fields are ripe for harvest. Thank you for helping us to be very much involved with the harvest for the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,
Rene and Lani Quimbo

Visit with some JIL members involved in Tausug/Sama outreach in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi



Prayer walking in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi



Retreat participants at JIL church in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi



Retreat participants in Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City



Eugene leading Sama youth and children fellowship in Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City



Youth discipleship class at Hillside Learning Center in Lacolac, Baungon



Rubber and coffee farm before it was burned down



Rubber and coffee farm after it was burned down



Rubber and coffee farm after it was burned down

