



Interconnections

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

Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,

During the first week of January **Gemma**, who used to be a missionary to the Higaonon people in Bisigan, Cagayan de Oro City, joined us in the ministry up here in Lacolac. This is an answer to our prayers. We needed help in home Bible studies, noontime Bible studies for elementary students, in the feeding program, and in store keeping. *On a sad note*, Eugene, who had a stroke in July 2017, is no longer part of the ministry in Zamboanga City and is no longer worshipping with us beginning this February. Since his absence in Zamboanga City, many things he had been doing there without our knowledge have slowly but steadily been revealed to us. We have confronted him about them, and while he acknowledged most of them to be true, he has not demonstrated regret or remorse for most of what he had done. In the beginning, he submitted himself to church discipline, but the discipline was based on incomplete information (due to lying) of what actually happened. Still, we extended every possible means of ministry to him, and for him to be “saved from the lion’s mouth,” but despite his verbal commitments, his actions indicated his unwillingness. It appears that he has forsaken us and his calling. His mother, brother, and sister no longer worship with us as well. We ask for your prayers.

Just this March 29, some kids in Mampang, Zamboanga City played with fire, and ended up burning the bamboo grove just outside of our ministry center. **Iking** was in Arena Blanco at that time holding a Bible study. **Roxan**, who was in the ministry center, panicked because the fire was so high and was close to our electrical wire. She called Iking,



Fixing the water pump at the Mampang Ministry Center; since this is just a few meters from the seashore, water is a bit salty and sandy.

and when Iking arrived, the fire subsided already, and they poured water on it just to make sure it was completely put out. Roxan overheard some people laughing and saying with glee “their place almost got burned down!” We encouraged Iking and Roxan that as soldiers of the Lord, they would have to “endure afflictions” that would come from different directions, even from the unbelieving crowd surrounding the ministry center, and all the more to carry on their ministry with seriousness of purpose. *The work goes on no matter the circumstances.*



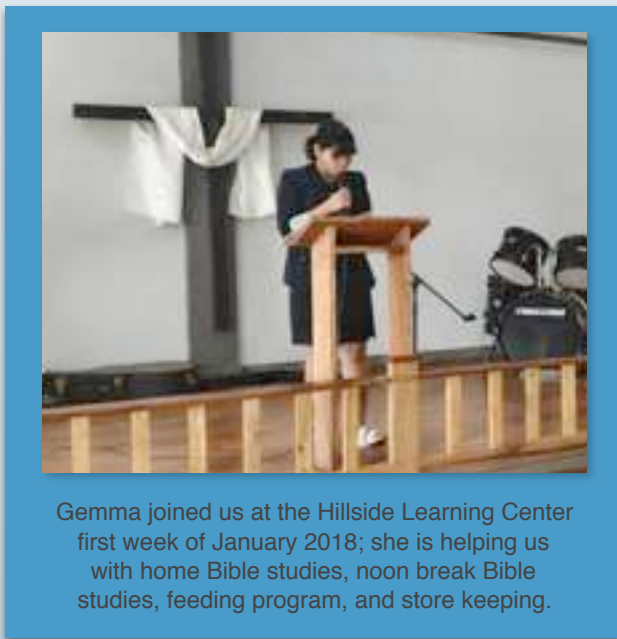
Roxan teaching children’s church at Mampang Ministry Center

It took a while for us to build **Alpad’s house** within the Zamboanga City ministry center’s compound due to many unforeseen happenings personally and in the various ministries. Finally, we have completed it, and Alpad’s family is ready to move in first week of April. We have also enclosed the area where we keep our water storage plastic containers to discourage thieves. The holes on our roof were also sealed to stop dripping when it rains. From time to time young people and even children throw rocks on our roof just out of whim, sometimes in the middle of the night. There is no way we can report them to the local authorities because no one will come forward to testify who did it. We covet your prayers.



Iking teaching Sunday School at Mampang Ministry Center

teach the lessons, the song and dance numbers, the purpose of the different games/activities, and to be sensitive to the students who are ready to entrust their lives to Christ. **The VBS theme for this year is “The Church: the Body of Christ.”** Pray with us that the 350 estimated youth and children participants will understand the importance of being a “living stone” in the “great house” of God.



Gemma joined us at the Hillside Learning Center first week of January 2018; she is helping us with home Bible studies, noon break Bible studies, feeding program, and store keeping.

The **monthly prayer walk up in Lacolac** brings us to more than 100 households. We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity of being able to bring His word to families who do not worship with us, and to be able to lift them up in prayer. May the Lord grant our endeavors success and to give us the joy of seeing others come to a knowledge of the truth. May the Lord help us to do our work carefully and faithfully that as we proclaim His word, people will trust the Christ who is revealed in His word.

A **counseling seminar** was conducted for several weekends for one of our church members who is getting married soon. A church marriage counseling seminar is one of the requirements for the issuance of a marriage license. We have also completed the preparation of Vacation Bible School materials, and we have already met with VBS teachers and assistants on the use of the materials, how to

Our brothers and sisters at the **Portal Christian Fellowship** in the city are also diligent and faithful in praying around the subdivision where the church is located during its monthly schedule.

A **prayer seminar** was held during the last week of March. Christian virtues such as faith, hope and love are the fruit of our fellowship with God and with our fellow believers. Participants were encouraged to hold fast to their confession of Jesus Christ and to boldly enter into God’s presence in prayer resting on the finished work of Christ.



Work for food program: time to cut all the weeds

Under the **work for food program**, much work is going on in the farm. The weeds and parasite vines grow way faster than the plants. And they have a way of wrapping themselves around the branches, choking them, rendering them unable to bear fruit, and ultimately killing the branches. We are speeding up the work before the rainy season, before the weeds can grow back up fast.

Please pray with us for the following: (1) we will conduct VBS in 6 venues during the months of April and May,

(2) we will be in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi the last week of April for Muslim outreach, (3) our son Iking plans to enroll in a Bible school this coming June to pursue a course in pastoral studies and (4) we plan to hold a staff and volunteer retreat this quarter. The last time we had retreat for staff and volunteers was 3 years ago. We rejoice that Midway Presbyterian Church through its ACTS Fund Committee approved our proposal for funding for the **completion of the House of Hope Ministry Center** building in Opol.

In closing, we remain **grateful to God** for your perseverance, diligence, and faithful testimony of helping the ministry prosper. Thank you all, you are God's encouragement to us, enabling us to encourage others to the praise of God's strong name!

In Him,

Rene & Lani

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Noon break Bible Study participants at the Hillside Learning Center

Rene & Lani Quimbo - Presbyterian Mission International

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