



The Bruce Rice Family IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Furlough Travels. A *flat tire* sitting at McDonald's in Greeneville, Tennessee. A *dead battery* in the parking lot of a hotel in Kingman, Arizona. A *ruptured radiator hose* on the interstate near Waco, Texas. That is the extent of the inconveniences we have had with our vehicle, while driving **44,000 miles** over the last **nine months**. We have been in the mountains, across the plains and through the desert. We have driven through snow, ice, torrential rain and gusting winds. We have been in large cities with horrendous traffic and on lonely roads with no one else in sight for miles. We have travelled far into the night and on into the early hours of the morning. We **thank the Lord** for His constant protection and watch care.

We still have churches to visit in Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Oklahoma. Our last trip will be by air to Prince Edward Island in Canada in June, to celebrate our fortieth wedding anniversary. That is made possible by a pastor in Canada who is a good friend and by the generosity of his church. Finally, we will **fly out of Oklahoma City on July 3**, heading home to the Philippines.

I do not normally mention finances in my letters, but I do want to **praise the Lord** and express our appreciation for the special blessing several churches and Christians have been to us this furlough. Over **fifty-percent** of the estimated budget for a **new building** for Westside Baptist College of Ministry in Dipolog City has already been given or has been promised. **Twenty-five percent** of the needed amount to **purchase property** for Salug Valley Baptist Church in Molave is already in the bank.

God and His people have been very good to us and the ministry in Mindanao. Five of our supporting churches **increased** their monthly support, and two new churches **added** us to their mission family. One of those new churches is a Spanish congregation in Texas. The additional support will be a great help in the work.

In addition to visiting churches in the United States and Canada, we had the great privilege of visiting one of our supporting churches on **the island of Trinidad**. They invited me to preach their mission conference, and they also made it possible for Jeanne and Emily to go with me.

Dipolog City News. There were **six graduates** from Westside Baptist College of Ministry in March. This is the first time we had graduates from all four levels, beginning with the one-year diploma for *Foundation for Christian Service*, all the way to a four-year bachelor's degree. The graduates are from **five different churches** in Mindanao Island. Two of them are brother and sister. Thank you for making it possible to train these young men and women to serve the Lord in the work of world evangelism. Your **investment in missions** affects the lives of people around the world, in this generation and in the generation to come.



Sincerely in Christ,

Bruce A. Rice
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