



The Bruce Rice Family

IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Sending Church

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October 20, 2020

Here We Go Again. Because of the **recent spike in cases of Covid-19**, large gatherings in the two provinces of Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte have once again been suspended indefinitely. This of course affects public worship services for Salug Valley Baptist Church in Molave and for Westside Baptist Church in Dipolog City. In addition to the **interruption in regular church services**, travel between the two provinces has also been restricted. This prevents us from going to Molave. In order to continue gathering for worship, we have to be **creative and discreet**.

In Molave, a small group of staff members and some nearby church members gather in the church kitchen for services on Sundays and for midweek services. Throughout the day on Sundays, other staff men and some of our preacher-boys lead services in the homes of other members. For all the other church members, we provide everything they need to have a service in their homes, with the father or another member of the family leading the service. Some families are joining together, and others are inviting their neighbors. It has been such a blessing to see the grace of God at work in the lives of His people.

In Dipolog City, there are almost 40 people living on the church compound, including all the staff and their families. Everyone is divided into two groups for separate services at the same time. One of the two separate services is always live streamed on Facebook for church members to watch at home. Many of them only have their cellphones to use while watching the services. And for members that do not have internet access or prefer to have a worship service at home on Sundays, they are provided the same resources we are using for our church members in Molave.

Persons Who Were Baptized at Salug Valley Baptist Church in October



Update on the church property. Progress is being made step by step on the new property that SVBC began purchasing earlier this year. The **bamboo fence** around the property is now complete and will keep out the neighbor's cattle. The next step will be to **fill in all the large holes** where the coconut trees were removed as well as the trenches that remain from when the land was under cultivation. There is really nothing else we can do until after the remaining balance is paid. After that, we will begin **plans for the first building**.



There is **good news** about paying off the balance. The amount of money that Salug Valley Baptist Church still owes on the property **continues to shrink!** SVBC is a young church, not yet five years old. The church has no wealthy members; but, from the younger members to the older ones, everyone is praying and working to do their part in erasing the debt. Our people are doing what they can, but with their limited income and the weak economy in this area, we recognize that the major portion of what has been paid up to this point did not come from the church. It has come from sources outside of SVBC. We are amazed and humbled by the concern of so many other churches and individual Christians for the Lord's work in this place. We appreciate each of you. **Thank you for your love for world evangelism.**

Please pray for the staff and members of Salug Valley Baptist Church that their faith will also increase so that **they can experience** in a greater way how God can work through them. They are witnessing how God is using other churches and other Christians to bless their church, and we want them to see **how God can use them** to do even more than they could ever imagine. May God continue to keep you, guide you and bless you by His marvelous grace.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bruce, Jeanne and Emily Rice