

The Bruce Rice Family IN THE PHILIPPINES



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JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2018

Greetings from windy Ponca City, Oklahoma, where Jeanne, Emily and I are based for this furlough. We are originally from north Alabama and have always lived there during past furloughs. Our son-in-law is music director at a church here in Ponca City and this church is graciously providing a nice mobile home for us until we return to the Philippines next summer. Logistically, there are three great issues missionaries face when taking a furlough: the finances needed for the transportation and transition back home, where they will live and what they will drive. We thank the Lord and His people for providing all of those for us.



We flew from the Philippines to St. Louis, Missouri, to pick up the van we are leasing while we are in the United States. We arrived in St. Louis late at night on June 27, got a rental car at the airport and headed toward a small town nearby, where we would pick up the van the next morning. It did not take long for us to be pulled over by a very courteous highway patrolman for “slightly erratic driving and failure to dim our headlights.” He definitely thought he had a DUI on his hands. He was surprised to see it was just a very tired Baptist missionary from the Philippines. I thanked him for his service and thankfully, he let us go. You can be sure I was fully alert after that. Emily really enjoyed her first experience of getting stopped by the police.



The month of July was busy as we got settled into our home, bought some clothes, took care of dental work and got medical check-ups. Emily had an MRI of her brain to better understand problems she has dealt with since birth – damage to both optic nerves and delayed cognitive development. I had surgery to remove a skin cancer from my nose. We had new prayer cards printed for the first time in eight years. I spent hours and hours with my son-in-law preparing our video to show in churches. And we were still able to visit two churches in Texas and our sending church in Oklahoma City.

In August we were in five churches in Illinois and Nebraska. Afterwards, we drove to Canada and visited three churches in Manitoba. Then we left our van in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and flew way up north to preach at a mission conference in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. That church has supported our ministry for several years, even though we had never been there. Since all the hotels were full in Yellowknife, we stayed in the pastor’s RV.

There were a few important lessons Jeanne and Emily learned while spending a few days in an RV: be sure to conserve the water or you may run out just when you are in the shower and all lathered up with soap; if you do not conserve the water, and at the same time constantly flush the toilet, the waste tanks become full and will no longer cooperate with you at an inopportune time; and *most importantly*, be sure to close the faucets when you run out of water, because if you do not, when someone takes the RV to empty the waste tanks and refill the fresh water tank, they will wonder why the tank is taking so long to fill up and why water is running out of several places under the RV.





Driving home from Canada we detoured through the Black Hills of South Dakota to visit Mount Rushmore for the first time. The evening program made us once again very thankful for America and the privilege of being born in this country.



In September we headed south for a few days to visit our families in Alabama and Tennessee. When we returned to Oklahoma, we got together with our daughter Melissa and her family, along with our son Reed, for a short vacation. That was the first time we had done that in several years. During the month, we were able to visit six churches in Oklahoma, Alabama, Georgia and Arkansas.

During the first three months we have been in the United States, we have flown over 2,700 miles and have driven over 13,000 miles. We have passed many vehicles along the way with mechanical problems and blow outs. We have seen many accidents, some minor and others very serious. Thank the Lord for His watch-care and protection; all we have experienced is a flat tire while having breakfast at a McDonald's while visiting Jeanne's dad in east Tennessee. I know, we should have gone to Hardee's.

The last three months of 2018 will take us to churches in ten states. Please pray that we can be a blessing and an encouragement to the churches we visit. Pray that we can help further the work of world missions. Pray for our safety and our financial needs as we travel. And pray for our work in Mindanao – Salug Valley Baptist Church and Westside Baptist College of Ministry.

Thank you for your heart for world evangelism and the Lord's work in the Philippines. May God continue to bless you and guide you by His infinite grace.

Sincerely in Christ,
Bruce A. Rice
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