



## The Bruce Rice Family in the Philippines

**Field Address:**

P.O. Box 157  
7100 Dipolog City  
Zamboanga del Norte  
Philippines  
011-63-65-908-2688

**Sending Church:**

Windsor Hills Baptist Church  
5517 N.W. 23rd Street  
Oklahoma City  
USA  
405-943-3326

**Mission Board:**

Baptist International Ministries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9215  
Chattanooga, TN 37412  
USA  
423-344-5050

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Prayer Letter September 2014

Dear Pastor and Church Family:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. This school year Westside Baptist College of Ministry opened with 37 full-time students, a slight increase over last year's enrollment. The students are from nine different provinces in Mindanao Island. During Orientation Week we had revival services each morning and evening for the students and staff. We have found this helps prepare everyone spiritually and mentally to begin the new school year.

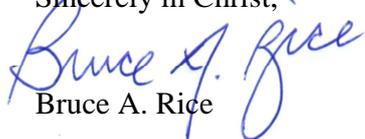
One of the guest speakers for the revival services was Pastor Jesse Ladera, from Riverview Baptist Church in Butuan City, on the eastern side of Mindanao Island. I think I enjoyed Pastor Ladera's preaching more than anyone because of my relationship with him for the last 25 years. Jesse Ladera grew up in a Baptist family in Bohol Island but never understood salvation through repentance and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. He moved to Cagayan de Oro City to live and work with his brother in 1988. Jesse began attending Lapasan Baptist Church in January of 1989. As he continued coming to church and listening to the Word of God he finally saw clearly the way of salvation. While sitting in the pew one service he received the Lord Jesus Christ into his life, without even coming forward to be dealt with by a personal worker.

Immediately, Bro. Jesse became excited about serving Jesus Christ and trying to bring others to faith in Him. Now all these years later he still has the same attitude. While continuing to work his secular job Jesse attended our three-year evening Bible Institute. After graduating from the institute program he quit his job and enrolled in Lapasan Baptist College and Institute as a full-time student. In 1997, he graduated from LBC&I and for three years worked as an assistant pastor. Then in the year 2000 he started a new work, with minimal support, in a very poor area in Butuan City. Through much labor and in spite of many trials, temptations and tears he has established the Riverview Baptist Church. They now have their own property with a simple church building and parsonage. And finally, the Lord gave Bro. Jesse a wife. He has a very good wife and two sweet daughters.

Recently I preached for their annual World Mission Conference. The Lord worked in a marvelous way in this small church and the mission conference became a revival. I was thrilled to have the privilege to preach for one of our "sons in the faith" and to witness how God has used this man. And by the way, Bro. Jesse never graduated from high school!

Through your faithful support of our family and ministry over the years you have invested in the lives of people like Pastor Jesse Ladera. May God bless you in return for the blessing you have been to many people.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Bruce A. Rice



Students at  
Westside Baptist College of Ministry



Pastor Jesse Ladera and His Family



Preaching at  
Riverview Baptist Church