

The Bruce Rice Family In the Philippines



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Dear Friends:

The work of world missions has three primary facets: **proclaiming** the Gospel, **planting** churches, and **preparing** leaders to continue the work. Each phase of this work leads naturally, and by necessity, to the next phase. If implemented correctly, this creates a cycle that will continue until the Lord returns. **Preaching** the Gospel produces baptized disciples, who gather in **local congregations**, that are led by **trained pastors**. Other men are then prepared and sent out to **continue the process**. Before His ascension, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted this simple and effective plan that can be replicated by even the simplest of people, and in any context. This plan also provides an opportunity for every Christian to be involved in some way in world missions.

On **June 12, 2022**, when I **stepped down** as missionary pastor of **Salug Valley Baptist Church**, we enjoyed seeing this cycle repeated once again. In 2015, we started Salug Valley Bible Study Center in the **town of Molave**, a 90-minute drive south of Dipolog City. The following year, the congregation that grew out of the Bible Study became Salug Valley Baptist Church, with over 60 founding members. Now, seven years later, **Pastor Loper Asenda** is the new pastor of SVBC. Pastor Asenda was my associate pastor from the beginning of the work in 2015.



Pastor Asenda was saved and trained at **Westside Baptist Church in Dipolog City**, which we started in 2001. He is a member of the **Subanen tribe** and lived in the mountains of Zamboanga Peninsula until he moved to Dipolog City at the age of 22 years old. The Lord has done a marvelous work in the life of this man and his wife **Ellen**, who was saved and trained in the first ministry we started in Cagayan de Oro City. After Ellen graduated from Bible college, she came to work on staff for me in Dipolog City, where she and Loper first met. This is one of the finest couples we have been associated with in our 36 years in the Philippines. Please pray for the church and Pastor Asenda during this time of transition. Thank you and may God bless you.



Sincerely in Christ,

Bruce, Jeanne, and Emily Rice