



# The Bruce Rice Family IN THE PHILIPPINES

## Field Address

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## Sending Church

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## Mission Board

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**Greetings from Mindanao.** In November, **Jeanne and Emily flew to the United States** to help our daughter and her husband in Oklahoma with the birth of their second child. Jeanne's father paid for the trip to the U.S. so they could also visit him in east Tennessee after leaving Oklahoma. Jeanne's father is 91 years old, but his mind is sharp, and he is still in fairly good health.

Jeanne and Emily were scheduled to depart from Knoxville, Tennessee **returning home to the Philippines on January 12.** However, 3 days before their departure, **Jeanne contracted Covid**; and then a few days later, **Emily also**, but with a milder case than her mom. Then Jeanne's father and other members of their family circle became sick. Thankfully, the worst of it is now over and they are all almost **fully recovered**, except Jeanne's father. He has developed pneumonia. Please **pray** for him, Harold Moore. Consequently, for the time being, we will **delay rescheduling their return trip to the Philippines.**

When Jeanne and Emily finally arrive in Manila, they will not be able to fly on to Mindanao immediately. They will have to stay at least **7 days in Manila under quarantine.** The Philippine government requires international travelers to book their own rooms at one of the hotels that provide quarantine services for travelers. The approved hotels work in coordination with the health department in monitoring the guests who are under quarantine. Of course, travelers must pay for their hotel rooms and their meals themselves. We really are not sure yet how many more weeks it will be until we are together again. It has already been too long. **Please pray** that all will go well and there will be no additional unexpected delays along the way.

Now on to some **more exciting news.** Finally, after many disheartening delays, **construction has begun** at Salug Valley Baptist Church in Molave, Zambaonga del Sur. You could **help us pray** that construction will continue steadily so that we can achieve **two goals** long before the end of this new year.

We hope to **begin having church services** on our own property by this summer. This will allow us to invest the money we are currently spending on rent, into our own facilities. One blessing of living in a tropical area is that buildings do not have to be complete to begin using them. Essentially, as long as there is shelter from the heat of the sun, and you can stay dry when it rains, then you are ready to move in!

And secondly, we hope to **transition the Bible college in Dipolog City here to Molave** and bring it under Salug Valley Baptist Church.



Thank you for your heart for world evangelism. **May God continue to bless you and keep you in His care.**

Sincerely in Christ,

Bruce A. Rice