

# The Bruce Rice Family IN THE PHILIPPINES



**Field Address**  
P.O. Box 157  
Dipolog City 7100  
Zamboanga del Norte  
Philippines  
63-917-577-4610

**Sending Church**  
Higher Plain Baptist Church  
6810 N.W. 122nd Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142  
USA  
405-702-7715

**Mission Board**  
Baptist International Missions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9  
Harrison, TN 37341  
USA  
423-344-5050

**December 8, 2023**

**Dear Friends:**

This kind of letter is especially enjoyable to write. **Miss Mafe Barioga** graduated in 2004 from the first Bible college we started in **Cagayan de Oro City**. After graduating from college, Mafe (Mah'-fee) **transferred to Dipolog City** to help us at Westside Baptist Church, which was only three years old at the time. She planned to work at WBC for a year and then return to her home church in Cagayan de Oro City. But the Lord gave her a heart for the new ministry in Dipolog City, and she decided to stay. Now, **almost twenty years later**, Mafe is no longer single, but she is still a member of Westside Baptist Church, along with her husband **Berwin**, and their two children, **Breanne** (Bree-ah'-nee) and **Deon**.

In 2005, we opened a new Bible college in Dipolog City. **Berwin Tolero** was in the first group of students that enrolled. Berwin was **from the town of Molave**, ninety minutes south of Dipolog City. He had heard about the new school from another pastor in his area that was not even Baptist. By faith, Berwin travelled to Dipolog City and enrolled. In 2015, we started our third church in Molave and Berwin's mother is a now a member of that church.

**In God's sovereignty**, He brought Berwin and Mafe to the place where they would meet and get married seven years later. After graduating from Bible college, Berwin remained in Dipolog City working both in the church and teaching in the Bible college.



In 2019, this fine family began deputation going to Thailand. Deputation was interrupted by the COVID pandemic and Berwin's almost fatal bout with COVID in a Manila hospital. Now, finally, **they are in Thailand**. They arrived **one month ago** and are so excited to be where the Lord called them to serve Him. They have already begun formal language study.

**Please pray** for Berwin and Mafe and their children during this time of transition and adjustment. **Pray** for their financial needs. Please **pray** that the Lord will continue to allow us to influence and train people like them. **And thank you** to all the churches, pastors, and Christians who make it possible for me to write enjoyable letters like this.

**Bruce, Jeanne, and Emily Rice**