



The Bruce Rice Family

IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Finally! On April 23, the last payment was made on the property that West CDO Baptist Church is purchasing here in Cagayan de Oro City for our permanent home. In October of 2024, by faith, we signed the purchase agreement and paid the down payment. Once again, thank you to all those who helped us raise the needed amount for the down payment. *"Ug karon, salamat sa Ginoo, amo na gyud aning yuta!"* (And now, thank the Lord, this property is really and finally ours.) All that remains to pay are the taxes and closing costs.

Earlier this year, the owners of the property allowed us to begin construction even before we completed the purchase. On Sunday afternoon, January 18, we all gathered at the site for the "Groundbreaking Celebration." Then the next day excavation began. Today marks four months of construction. The Lord has marvelously supplied the financial needs of the church each week. Since beginning construction on January 19, the only time we were forced to halt the work was when it rained. And amazingly, in this tropical country, that has only been about four times, and never for a whole day. God has been very good to us.



The foundation for this two-story building has been laid and the fill-dirt compacted. The foundation is substantial because of the danger of earthquakes in the Philippines. In addition to that, the property is in a former water-shed area just a few hundred yards from the river. Last week, the first section of the ground floor was poured. This week, we are laying out the plumbing for the first floor. Welding continues in preparation for erecting the steel columns.

Rainy season usually begins by the middle of June. We are rushing to get as much done as possible before then. Meeting in a hotel function room for all three services each week is expensive, so we need to transfer as soon as possible. We have been gathering in the same hotel for two years. Time has flown. A blessing of being in the Philippines is that we do not need to have walls in the building to begin using it. All that is needed is a floor, a roof, chairs, electric fans, and bathrooms. Then everything else can be completed as we go along.

Please pray with us that the rains will come later than usual this year and the Lord will supply what is needed for the work to continue. May God bless you for the heart you have for world missions.

Bruce, Jeanne, and Emily Rice