

Malcolm and Mimi Dando, in the Philippines Kinuman Church Report by Junemar, Church Secretary



After the local government lifted some restrictions and protocols, we decided to go back to our church and have its service. We are still obliged to follow their health guidelines regarding church activities like social distancing and wearing a facemask.

For three consecutive Sundays we were able to conduct the service, but not all members felt comfortable. So, to accommodate all church members, we put some chairs outside the church extending the size of the area. Whilst the weather was fine this worked well but on the following Sundays, we had rainy mornings with members running inside the church for shelter and it started to get crowded.



It is very uncomfortable watching our members who can't sit well and can't listen properly. Kids were running, some were shouting and then crying. It was a total mess every Sunday. Pandemic affects our church activities.

However, we noticed that during the pandemic we had an increase in membership of our church which is very overwhelming. People just realized how important is to maintain our relationship with Jesus during this pandemic.





We asked the barangay Captain if we could go back and use again the Barangay Mini Gym for church service, fortunately, they agreed. Until now we still used the mini-gym as our church. Every Sunday the gym is packed with people, and every Sunday we have new people coming and our family is growing. There were times that we're running out of chairs, but thanks to our partners in the UK we bought new additional chairs for the church.



We continue our services despite the pandemic. We catered to wedding ceremonies, child dedication, pastor's conference, water baptism, and others. God gave us all those privileges knowing the situation is very hard. Some people say that God blessed this church because, with all the struggles of other churches in the city, we are still able to function without fear.



We also appreciate our members because they never surrendered and are still with us through ups and downs. Their faith and dedication to serving God draw the church into a family, a strong body of Christ.

Our Young people are also dedicated and committed especially in helping the church. They also had their gatherings every Thursday which helps them a lot to maintain their relationship with Jesus. Until now they don't have their face-to-face class and we used that opportunity to mold them in the words of God.



Last May 26, 2021, I got my first dose of vaccine from a local government where all senior citizens in the city were required to be vaccinated. And in fact, I volunteered myself to be at the top list to be vaccinated at that time. I still feel very well then days later I felt very uncomfortable that I felt very weak. I never mind it and I just continued my daily chores.



I attended a pastor's seminar and was chosen to be their speaker; I went to other places for pastor's meetings. On the following day, I felt my body in pain and had diarrhea and I don't like to eat that time so meme just keeps looking after me and also I lost my sense of smell and taste. So on the 13th of June, on the very afternoon, I was thinking that would be my last day.

Luckily on that afternoon, all the church workers gathered for a meeting, so the time I was shut down they were the ones who rushed me to the hospital. Going to the hospital is never been easy even you are dying. They let me sit on the wheelchair and asked so many questions and then you do the swab test. Sad to say I was tested positive but Junemar was not convinced about the result, so he got the test result and said it's not positive but the doctor won't allow me to go out because they said I was positive.



For 14 days of quarantine, I was in the moment of thinking about counting my days. But with those moments, I encounter God and believed His promises were true to me, and claiming He is my healer. One of the patients there died in covid, but God showed His favor and power to me. Now I'm alive and well because of Jesus and I believe I have the mission to continue.