



# ***Project Philippines***



## **Leyte Christian College and Mission in the Republic of the Philippines**

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### **June 2020 – the Philippines and the Pandemic**

As the coronavirus continues to shake the world, the Philippines is suffering. Although their numbers are nowhere near the magnitude of the U.S., there is still a lot of panic and pain. The number of deaths due to the virus is about 1,200 and confirmed cases is around 40,000. However, because of lack of testing & lack of top medical facilities in most places in the Philippines, everyone suspects the real numbers are much higher. Most people know the medical facilities are not up to par, so there's still a lot of panic (for good reasons). As I write this, strict lockdowns remain in many places in the Philippines, though not all. And there are still tough restrictions. For example, no riders on the back of motorcycles allowed (only 1 person per bike). This is tough, as there are a lot more motorcycles in the country than automobiles, and people depend upon them so much. And that's only one example of tight restrictions still in place; there are many more. In the Philippines, although their political system is modeled after our own, the President has a massive amount of discretionary power (executive orders stronger than in the U.S.). As a result, Pres. Duterte has taken tight control of fighting the pandemic, and imposed many restrictions nationwide. There is still a long ways to go, not only in the Philippines of course, but everywhere. The bad news is the country is reeling from economic damage. The Asian Development Bank estimates losses to the Philippines in the tourist sector will be in excess of 2.2 billion dollars. Tourism is the #1 industry in the Philippines, and it is basically zero now. No foreigners, of ANY nation, may enter the Philippines at this time, and that isn't likely to change for awhile. That means we cannot go back now, but still hoping to be back in time for the new school year. As of now, the govt. is saying colleges and universities may open in September. I really hope that holds. But it all depends on the virus numbers being flattened, or going down. We're all praying for that to happen, all over the world! Many of our staff & students still remain stranded at our 2 campuses as travel has only in the last week or so started back up in some places (not all). Cebu City remains on hard lockdown. Many are suffering because of the lockdown. Millions have lost their jobs, and there is no govt. stimulus check. Let's continue to pray to God this pandemic would end! Meanwhile, I want LCC to be a "light" and beacon of hope to those around us. We've already held mass feeding programs near our 2 campuses to help the poor, last month, and I'd like to do more. Could you help??? Food is quite cheap in the Philippines. We could feed an entire neighborhood for just a few bucks...

Robin, Nathan, and I are now spending a lot of our time in working to get more balikbayan boxes shipped to churches in the Philippines. In spite of the pandemic, the Forex company is still working hard and getting these boxes delivered. Since returning to the U.S., then finally getting out of quarantine a month ago, we've packed & shipped 12 giant boxes, full of hymn books, Bibles, Bible class materials, books, communion supplies, etc., to various churches. If any of you, or your congregations, could donate these supplies to your brothers & sisters in the Philippines, please let us know. We will come & pick them up!

To help, please send any donations to:

**Project Philippines**  
c/o Southwest Church of Christ  
4515 Cornell Blvd.  
Amarillo TX 79109



I'm so proud of our staff & students! They spent a lot of their free time making masks & giving them to neighbors as well as front-line workers at checkpoints and other places. Almost all of them participated in this great project!

## *Memorials / Honors*

Why not honor/remember your loved one  
with a special gift ?

### **In Memory Of:**

**Ronnie Tomlinson** (gift by Melissa Stout)  
**James A. Hale** (gift by Billie Hale)  
**James A. Hale** (gift by Mike Hale)  
**Norman Kerr** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Sandra Powell** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Chanda Lee** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Mary VanMeter** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Mary VanMeter** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Ann Shaver** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Sandra Powell** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Chanda Lee** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Natasha Barly** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Vege Hunt** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Rigen Osmena** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Zack Dubuque** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**David Lefevre** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Betty Doan** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Shirley McKinney** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Julio Villanueva** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Dixie Boyd** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Cliff Moody** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Adrianna Martin** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Roy Finely** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Geraldine Kincheloe** (gift by Diane Tomlinson)  
**Melvin Otis Pate** (gift by Diane Tomlinson)  
**Ronnie Tomlinson** (gift by Diane Tomlinson)  
**Hyland Weaver** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Hazel Grice** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Gracie Shaw** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Mike Myers** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**Ray Tannehill** (gift by Fred & Sharon Selby)  
**James A. Hale** (gift by Mike Hale)  
**Pauline Bavousett** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Betty Ridenour** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Adrianna Martin** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Jo Allen** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Sam Bell** (gift by DeWayne & Tricia Trimble)  
**Pauline Bavousett** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Jo Allen** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Sam Bell** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)  
**Dean Oliver** (gift by Roger & Betty Wilcox)

Catch us on Facebook:

Johnny Lcc or simply  
Leyte Christian College



## *OTHER NEWS*

Another reason to be proud of our staff & students is their great work in sharing food with neighbors during this pandemic. Many Filipinos, particularly those in tourist-related work, have lost their jobs. So, during the last week of May, our team at the Cebu campus fed almost everyone in our local barangay (neighborhood). More than 500 meals were given out. We purchased over 300 pounds of rice, plus canned meats, vegetables, noodles, etc., and the staff & students packed many bags of food for each household. The people were all so grateful to our team!!! There are several pics of this awesome activity you can see, below.

Thanks to so many of you for sharing & sacrificing during this time of great panic, as our support has not suffered much in spite of many congregations in the U.S. not being able to meet for worship. We are deeply grateful to all of you!

You may be wondering how we were able to finish up our semester & school year in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and all the tight lockdowns. Mostly this was done online and/or with homework assignments given to the students. Sadly we were not able to hold graduation ceremonies for the 8 students who were set to graduate, but all of them really do want to come back and "walk the stage" next year with the 2021 grads, if possible. We'll just wait & see what happens...

As noted above, we're still continuing on with our "Shipping Ministry" to the churches of Christ in the Philippines. More than 100 churches have now been served, thanks to your good generosity. Most congregations in the Philippines are so poor, mere "house" churches with 25 members or so. These small churches basically have nothing, although some are larger. We supply much-needed items, such as hymnals, Bibles, Bible class materials (including children's), communion supplies, used clothing & shoes, etc. If you would like to help us with some of these items, which you may already have and are no longer using, please let us know. These boxes ship door-to-door, to almost any address in the Philippines. Most of what is given is donated by YOU, our great supporters, and second-hand is fine! Let us know if you could help. We also need funds to ship the boxes. It costs \$115 to ship one large box. Could you help us supply these items?

If you'd like to personally support just one of our GREAT Bible students, it costs only \$40 per month to supply all needs. For slightly more than \$1 per day you could help 'change the world' for Christ by supporting one! Believe me, they are worthy! Let us know - we'd love to partner with you...



## Photo Gallery



More than 300 pounds of rice which was given to neighbors at the Cebu campus, to help with their meals after many lost their jobs.



Noodles, canned meats, sardines, and coffee packets were also given to those in need.



More cases of canned meats, noodles, etc. given to our neighbors who are in need. From YOU, our great supporters!



The bags, now prepared with rice and other foods, are ready to be loaded onto the truck for delivery to our neighbors.



Sharing a bag of food to a family in need, in Moalboal, Cebu.



Our team coordinated with the barangay officials so we could get the food to those most in need.



Moalboal is a town where most jobs are in the tourist sector, thus more than half of the jobs in the town have been lost.



Students & staff packing the bags of food to be handed out to those in need.



Julie Mae at work on the sewing machine as the team made hundreds of face masks for neighbors and front-liners.



The materials for these face masks were all donated by YOU, our great supporters!



Dave Villarosa, the Filipino rep for Forex company who delivers all our balikbayan boxes to churches in the Philippines.

**Project Philippines/Leyte Christian College is sponsored by the great folks at:**

**Southwest Church of Christ  
4515 Cornell Blvd.  
Amarillo, TX 79109**

**Any funds in support should be sent to them. You may also give online at: [www.southwest.org](http://www.southwest.org)**



## Photo Gallery



These 2 ladies, our neighbors at the Cebu campus, were so grateful to have received this bag of food!



LCC staff members who helped organize this great feeding program: Julie, Mernie, Erwin, Kenneth, Ricky, Maricris.



Weighing out the rice put into in each bag, in order to be sure that everyone received the same amount.



Lockdowns now loosened a bit, members meet to worship at 'house church' near to the Tacloban campus.



Tacloban was locked down TIGHT, no one could travel anywhere (even to church!) if it was not deemed "essential."



So proud of Nino & Erce, at the Cebu campus, for organizing and working a new massive gardening project.



Left to right: The first 2 pics are Joy and Jeann helping load the bags of food into the truck (you can see the large amount of rice at the bottom of the bags); a balikbayan box arrives at a house church in Mindanao; little Timo – son of Nino & Erce – helping in the watering and fertilizing of the garden works project; a nice meal as a "Thank You" to those staff & students who worked the food give-aways, etc.



If you're from a country with high numbers of virus cases, you are now required to have this on when at the airport in Manila.



We've been in & out these gates dozens of times. So, just wondering if this will be the "new normal" (yuck!).

**Project Philippines and Leyte Christian College are both sponsored by:**

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Amarillo, TX 79109**

**Donations may be sent to them.  
Or you may give online at:**

**[www.southwest.org](http://www.southwest.org)**