



# 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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**October 18, 2023**

**Dear Friends:**

**Greetings from Indiana**, the Hoosier state. I have read several sources trying to discover why “hoosier” is the demonym for the people of this state. However, there seems to be no consensus among historians concerning the etymology of that term. Interestingly, Indiana has the same land area as the island of Mindanao, where we have made our home for almost 38 years.

We have enjoyed spending the last four months in the town of Avon, on the west side of Indianapolis. Being near our daughter Melissa, her husband Jose, and their two children is about the biggest reason we have enjoyed our time here in this area. Of course, leaving these two grandkids will make it harder for Jeanne and me to return to the Philippines in January. Emily was ready to go home within two months after we arrived.

**September 4, 2023**, was a memorable day for me. That marked a half century since the Lord graciously saved me at the age of sixteen years old. That same week I met a beautiful new girl in school who had recently moved to our town with her family. That girl became my sweetheart two months later, and my wife five years after that.

In September, **we made a quick trip down to Oklahoma City** to spend a couple of days with our son Reed. He is twenty nine and not yet married. Reed has worked for the same company since coming back to the U.S. for college in 2013. I appreciate the fact he has grown up to become a hardworking and conscientious young man. Next week we will make another quick trip to see him again.

After church on **Wednesday evening, October 4**, I had the indescribable blessing of leading our six year old granddaughter to faith in Jesus Christ. Isabella had heard the Gospel many times from her parents and in church, and finally it all became clear to her that night. Melissa sat quietly and listened as I explained to her daughter Isabella how to be saved. Twenty-eight years ago, I had the privilege of explaining the Gospel to Melissa, when she was also six years old. God is good.

Our time here is also allowing Jeanne, Emily, and me the opportunity **to see some doctors** and to take care of some medical things. Among other things, Jeanne is having therapy on her arthritic right knee twice each week to increase strength and mobility. I still have appointments in November at two different doctors.

Since this is not a normal furlough, we have not travelled as much as we usually would. Still, **we have been able to visit churches** in Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Toronto, Canada. While in Canada, we had the pleasure of going to Niagara Falls for the first time.

Please pray for us as we travel. **Please pray for Lapan Baptist Church in Cagayan de Oro City**, the first church we started in 1986, and pastored until July of 2000. The church is in the midst of unimaginable turmoil right now. Thank you and may God keep you by His marvelous grace.

**Bruce, Jeanne, and Emily Rice**