



BALIKATAN NG MGA KRISTIANO, INCORPORATED

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"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

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Postponement of 2020 Balikatan Conference

Dear Balikatan Members and Friends,

After much prayer and deliberation, the Balikatan Board (Board) and the 2020 Conference Steering Committee decided to **postpone** the 2020 Balikatan Conference to December 27-29, 2022, due to reasons related to the coronavirus pandemic.

The **uncertainties** of when lockdowns or quarantines will be fully lifted in the USA, Canada, and the Philippines have prevented Balikatan and IVCF Philippines from continuing with critical preparations for the conference. Also, the pandemic has **financially impacted** many of us, such that, planning for travel to attend the conference may no longer be at the forefront of our priorities after lockdowns are lifted. A lot of us are likely to have other immediate priorities post pandemic.

Rest assured though that the Board would continue its plans to facilitate the preparations for one or two **conferences in 2021**. The venue and dates for these conferences have not been determined.

For the rest of the year **2020**, the Board has started organizing **Balikatan webinars with IVCF Philippines**. The first one, hopefully, will be held within the next two months. The Board will inform you when this initial webinar will be held.

I'm going to shift the focus of this message to an appeal for your continuing prayer and financial support for **IVCF Philippines**, which has also been impacted by the pandemic. In the last month alone, it experienced significantly lower-than-normal receipts of financial support for its Staff. This trend may continue unless we are moved to give more, by God's grace.

IVCF Philippines, like most other institutions that were impacted by enhanced community quarantine, is transitioning to online meetings and webinars with its Staff and students who are dispersed all over the Philippines. This would require an upgrade to faster internet speeds at the national office and 8 regional offices, subscriptions to online meeting platforms (e.g., Zoom), and increased mobile data load. These and other needs brought about by the pandemic are detailed in the letter of Christy Jutare, National Director, IVCF Philippines.

Lastly, I want you to know that my wife Annabelle and I are praying for all of you and your families at this unprecedented time in world history. Let us continue to pray for one another as we navigate the uncertainties that this pandemic has brought on us. Let us encourage one another in the faith, and continue trusting and obeying our God who controls world affairs, including pandemics.

In the midst of continuing uncertainties, I once again urge all of us to remain focused on God, who loves us, and is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Thank you for your time, and hope to see you in the next conference.

Landy Ancheta
President, Balikatan