



The Bruce Rice Family IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Dear Friends:

Greetings from the tropical island of Mindanao. I explained in a recent letter about our plans to take *a one-year furlough* in June of this year. I mentioned that it will soon be seven years since we returned from our last furlough. Several churches have already contacted me about visiting them while we are in the United States. Because of the number of churches we are planning to visit, we will need to spend a lot of time traveling.

One thing that is hindering me from working out our schedule, concerns how we will live and travel during the year. There are two basic options, and *possibly you can help us decide* which is preferable.

One possibility, is to rent an apartment in Ponca City, Oklahoma, as our base. That is where our daughter Melissa and her family live. We could travel in a mini-van, going out two to three weeks at a time, before returning again to Ponca City. It is obviously difficult for three adults to live out of a van. Between meetings, we would have to try to find churches that have a mission apartment available or to stay in a motel. This would also require eating out more often.

Another option, is to find a small RV for traveling, rather than a mini-van. Instead of an apartment, we could live in the RV during furlough. The church in Ponca City, where our son-in-law works on staff, has facilities to hookup a motorhome. We could park at the church when we are in town. With a motorhome, we could stay out for longer periods of time, and avoid hotels and reduce meal expense.

Now here is a problem, I have no experience with a motorhome or a camper van. We have been looking on the internet for a couple of months, to get an idea of what is available. It looks like a "Class B" or "B+" might be suitable for us. From what I have read, the RV would need to be small enough to handle in heavy traffic in large cities. Since we would be moving every day or two, it would have to be easy to set up. It would need to be dependable and in very good condition. I will be sixty-one years old by the time we come to the U.S., and I am not a mechanic.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for in-put or suggestions from those who may have experience in this area. Over the years, I have heard some missionaries curse the day they decided to get a motorhome, and others who were glad they did. Some say to avoid motorhomes and keep travel as simple as possible, even if it means more expense for lodging and food. Jeanne said she would prefer a place to come home to each day, even if it is only a small RV, rather than a cheap apartment with "sketchy" furniture. Interesting argument. Both the living room suite and the dining room suite in our house were purchased almost thirty years ago...secondhand.

We have to make a decision very soon, because that will affect how I schedule churches. Some of you may be wondering why I have not followed up your invitation to visit you. Honestly, I am still unsure what to do. If you have some insight that will be helpful, please let us know. My email is brphbimi@gmail.com

Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,


Bruce A. Rice