



The Philippines

Spiritual Harvest

Church growth in the Philippines is at a critical point. Filipinos are expressing a hunger for God's Word as never before. Large churches in Manila are now sending out Filipino missionaries. Ifugao evangelists in the northern Philippines are targeting an isolated people group two provinces away.

The potential for a spiritual harvest is enormous. But church growth is limited by lack of solid Bible training for Filipino pastors and missionaries. Places like the rural Bicol Region are passed over, considered a low status area in this class-conscious society.

70% of churches have a leader with no formal training. 70% of rural villages have no church. There is an urgent need for pioneer church planting in rural Bicol (less than 2% Christian) and Muslim areas (less than 0.01%).

Training and development of Filipino pastors, church leaders, and missionaries will be critical to reaching The Philippines with the Gospel. Will you help bring in this harvest?

Working Abroad

Corruption and unemployment are a significant drag on the economy. Frustrated men are enticed by gambling which can lead to alcohol abuse and crime.

Young graduates unable to find decent jobs are leaving the Philippines in large numbers. Out of 100 million people, 7.4 million Filipinos work abroad. Many leave behind spouses and children, resulting in functionally broken families. The economy is sustained by money Filipinos earn abroad.

The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,100 tropical islands bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the east and the South China Sea on the west. The southern portion of the Philippines is largely Muslim while the middle lowland areas are primarily animistic Catholic. The northern mountain peoples adhere to tribal animism. A major unreached area is the Bicol Region.

While claiming to be Catholic (80%) or Muslim (10%), most people are in fact animists. They believe that life's events are controlled by spirits that must be appeased through rituals using material objects like charms and statues.

Tagalog is the national language. Two other trade languages are spoken throughout the country. Another 96 languages are spoken by minority groups.



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A Field Ripe for Harvest!

A Unique Religious History

The Philippines was originally composed of tight-knit villages, each with its own demi-gods and sacred objects. In the 1500s the Spaniards converted Filipinos to Catholicism, sometimes by force. But the conversion was shallow. People merely exchanged their local sacred objects for a crucifix, rosary, or an image of a saint while maintaining their original animistic beliefs.

To this day, Filipinos are attached to physical objects believed to have spiritual powers. People fight for the chance to gain a blessing by touching a holy object. When a prayer is answered, the object is honored, not God.

Spiritism and witchcraft are common, intermingled with religious rituals required in order to please God. Paul sounds as if he were describing Filipinos in Romans 10, "I know what enthusiasm they have for the honor of God, but it is misdirected zeal. For they don't understand that Christ has died to make them right with God. Instead they are trying to make themselves good enough to gain God's favor..."



World Team in the Philippines

World Team entered the Philippines in 1981. Three ministries emerged: a Bible training center in Ifugao; a church-planting team in Camarines Sur; and a church-planting team on remote Catanduanes Island.

Since then, World Team helped plant churches in Manila and sent a team to an unreached Muslim group in the southernmost part of the country.

The current focus is on the Bicol Region, the least-reached people in the Philippines, other than Muslims.

Ministry Overview

People	Filipino
Language	Tagalog
Location	The Philippines
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pioneer church-planting on multinational teams with Filipinos, like the current team on Catanduanes.• Cell church or house church planting in rural areas among unreached people in the Bicol Region, like the recently-planted Naga Community In Christ cell church.• Partnering with Filipino Christian leaders to provide training and mentoring for Filipino missionary candidates, like the Bible Training Center in Ifugao.

Join us in the Philippines - a field ripe for the harvest! Is God leading you to get involved? We're looking for others who share our passion - people willing to step out and go, to pray strategically, and to give sacrificially to see God's name glorified in the Philippines.



Join the Team!

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