

# Sinag Lahi

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASIAN CENTER FOR MISSIONS

## Outstanding Filipino Witnesses

by Rev. Nathaniel Ramos

*Asian Center for Missions - Philippine Director*

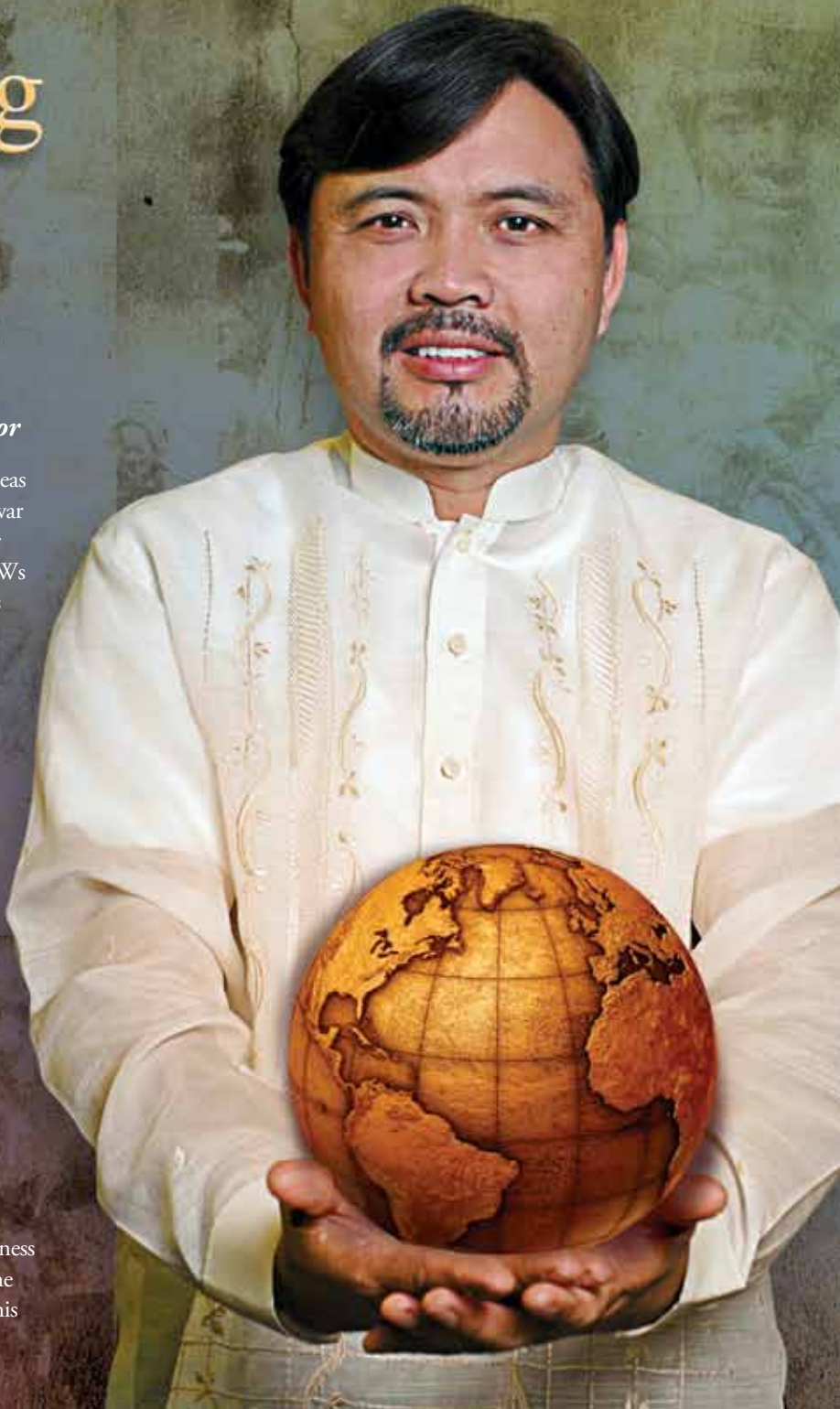
Our nation was and is still bombarded by news about overseas Filipino workers (OFWs): those who fled from the civil war in Libya, those affected by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear radiation in Japan wanting to go back home, and the three OFWs executed in China. One must ask: What is God doing? What is He trying to tell us Filipinos?

The Bible is filled with stories of adventures, of God revealing Himself to people in their life's journey. A good example is Abraham who God called to go, and in going, God will bless him to become a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12).

In response to God, he crossed cultures and built altars to the Lord as an act of worship and witness to the polytheistic people surrounding him. God's agenda is Abraham's agenda. At the idolatrous and pleasure-loving Sodom and Gomorrah, he rescued not just Lot, but also the kings of Sodom from their enemies.

Then he declared and blessed the name of the Lord of heaven and earth, who gave him victory. Imagine, a meeting of heads of nations with Abraham worshipping, giving glory to the Lord! To Abraham, worshipping the only true God is a witness to the nations, who worship nature and the works of their hands. Abraham went abroad to worship and witness!

When the angels visited Abraham to see if the world must be destroyed because of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, the angels were amazed at how Abraham showered them with kindness through his hospitality. Eventually, the angels did not destroy the whole world—only the twin cities. Aside from saving Lot and his



## OUTSTANDING FILIPINO WITNESSES

daughters because of Abraham's prayers, the angels promised the patriarch that his wife Sarah will give birth to the son they've been waiting and praying for, for 25 years.

Abraham, through kindness, became a catalyst. He tried to transform the culture he is in touch with through his kindness and prayer. He is an excellent model for our OFWs—an altar-builder, a worshipper, a witness, and a catalyst.

On the other hand, we can also learn a lot from Lot, who also went abroad but for a different reason. He chose Sodom and Gomorrah—its potential for business despite its wickedness. Unlike Abraham who was an altar builder, Lot became an opportunity-seeker. Unlike his uncle who tried to transform culture, Lot became a conformist. He even offered her daughters to the citizens of Sodom.

Lastly, unlike Abraham who became a patriarch and taught God to his household, Lot's story ended in an incestuous relationship with his daughters. They were already out of Sodom, but the spirit of Sodom is still within them.

What God is doing to our OFWs is a challenge to their agenda. Is our agenda for going abroad God's? Are our OFWs altar builders, worshippers, witnesses, and catalysts? Or, opportunity-seekers and conformists, losing families to the culture they chose?

I read that there were two types of settlers that colonized the present United States: the pilgrims who sought God, and the adventurers who sought gold. I pray that through Asian Center for Missions and the Global Bayanihan campaign, our nation's agenda for sending out overseas workers to the world will change from gold to God.

### Overseas Filipino Witness

## A TIME TO BE VIGILANT



In the news, we see upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa, but what Bert (not his real name) sees is a golden opportunity for missions.

"I believe God is using these events so Muslims can discover the truth about Christ," says Bert, one of the pioneer graduates of Asian Center for Missions. For years, he carefully yet passionately shared the Gospel in Saudi Arabia and Libya, introducing Jesus to Islamic clerics, as well as OFWs.

The Filipino missionary believes that his fellow *kababayans* must stand in prayer and vigilance for such a crucial moment for the Good News.

"I think this is a perfect time for OFWs in these countries to rehabilitate 'spiritually' the areas where there is conflict. They need to vigorously pray for it," Bert adds. His words echo the very heart of ACM's Global Bayanihan campaign: empowering overseas Filipinos as a new breed of missionaries and a shining light to nations in turmoil.

"OFWs have a special role in missions, and this holds true especially among Muslims, who often feel rejected and neglected," says Bert. "But Filipinos have a special capacity to reach out to them and have them experience God's love, which is crucial for Muslims to have a spiritual breakthrough."

### GLOBAL BAYANIHAN: LINKING EFFORTS IN MISSIONS

The Global Bayanihan campaign is the ACM's strategic response to God's global agenda: the Great Commission. It is an initiative to partner with churches and missions organizations—in the Philippines and abroad—through prayer, mobilization, training, and facilitating the sending of cutting-edge Filipino missionaries to the least-evangelized nations of the world.

For more information on Global Bayanihan, call us at (02) 810-5381.

### Filipinos Abroad

## A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A PRIVILEGED PEOPLE

by Christine Darg, missionary to Israel and the Middle East

The Lord gave me verse 23 of Isaiah 49, where He gives a prophecy to the Jewish people, and it applies just as well to Muslims, their half-brothers. And He says that "nursing kings and queens" will come to them and minister to them.

So Filipinos are not just servants and workers; they are kings and queens. Why? Because they are a royal priesthood. Some of them may be engineers, construction workers, or housemaids. But no matter how low, middle, or high the task is, they are royal ambassadors, because the Word of God says so.



When we do our duties in the spirit of love and in the spirit of friendship evangelism, the people will know that He is the Lord. Whenever a humble servant of God comes to unbelievers in love and serves them, then they'll know that God is God. They'll know that Jesus is Lord. They don't learn it through argumentation. They learn it through the humility and love of a servant of God. Love is the key.

We only have to share the Gospel whenever the Holy Spirit shows us to share, and then our lives will speak for themselves, by our character, through our attitude. We are living epistles read by all men. They will know we are Christians with our love.

Filipinos are privileged because the Lord has chosen them as ambassadors of the Most High God. And He has made a way for them—where many other people don't have a way—to get into the homes, hearts and lives of these unreached people.

I want Filipinos to grasp that they're not just going forth to work, but as a privileged bearer of glad tidings and of the Good News. Some people just go to work, but they are going on an adventure, a travel, a journey for the Lord.

## FAITHFUL STEWARD

by Daniel Escobar III

Our business is named after God: All Sufficient Medical Supply and Pharmacy in Pampanga. We always tell people that it's named for our Lord who always provides. He made the impossible possible in our lives—more than we can imagine.

My wife Teresa and I made our best decision when we decided to support the Great Commission by giving to ACM. By faith, we committed to our giving, and God honored our faith. He used people to establish continuity and strength in the business He entrusted us. Competition is tough, but we're still here, all because of God's grace.

Time went by with so many blessings, and we became defocused. We failed to consistently seek God's instructions. We went on our own, and made wrong decisions. So in 2004, we had our toughest financial crisis. Our competitors predicted



we'll be down in six months.

But I told Teresa we must fulfill our commitment to God, in spite of difficulties. So we gathered some of our jewelries and gave it to ACM in Angeles. At first, they were hesitant to accept it, but we insisted. God is faithful to His promises, so He expects us to fulfill our end.

God never failed to provide, enabling us to bounce back. Slowly, we paid all our debts, and our children were able to continue schooling. Once again, we overcame because of His grace alone!

Today we choose to give to missions because what we possess is God's. We're just stewards of His wealth. It's not for us to keep but to give in God's work. As our support of ACM continues, missionaries are sent to unreached countries, and with every soul they harvest, rest assured we are also part of it.

### Inside China

## GRACE SURPRISES!



Jochi (not her real name) is a fervent disciple of two Filipina missionaries and ACM graduates. She belongs to their home study group, and just recently, she joined a small team who journeyed to China for a missions exposure trip.

Jochi and the team were full of compassion for the lost, and zeal for their calling to the Great Commission. Despite China's heavy restriction on Christianity, with God's leading, the team boldly shared the Good News of Jesus and prayed for each person they've met.

As they spread out in groups of three around town, three of their leaders were caught by the police and were investigated. Their Bibles, notes, and contact lists were confiscated.

Right away, they sent messages to let the others know of their whereabouts, and to warn them to be extra careful. They admitted the accusations against them and honestly told the police what they were doing.

But the leaders were in for a big surprise. They didn't know that among the police is a believer. After the investigation, the officer privately talked to the three and returned their belongings. The other officers decided to let them go, since they didn't want to put them in prison with the Lunar New Year approaching.

Truly, grace surprises! Our Heavenly Father moves by His grace. The missionaries-in-training were released, and they continued the task of reaching out to the townspeople. Many have heard and came to a relationship with Jesus our Savior. God's work started with grace and ended with grace.

## GLOBAL ANIHAN

### INDONESIA



Surprisingly, a local teacher shared meals with Claire\*, even though the food was "unclean" to Muslims. Claire also gave encouraging words to this woman, who she learned remains childless. This newfound friend then invited Claire to her village home, where she was warmly welcomed by the family.

Also, Claire celebrated her birthday with Christian and Muslims, where they had a comparative reading of the Bible and the Quran. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Indonesians to hear God's Word.

*Pray for Claire's Muslims friends, that they may receive a special revelation from Jesus.*

### MONGOLIA

The missionary team in Mongolia celebrated the local New Year among families of their disciples. One of them, Suren\*, invited the team inside their tent for fellowship and a lovely meal.



The team's visit allowed them to pray for Suren's husband, who is an unbeliever, and share the love of Christ. Suren agreed to have a Bible study in their home this summer.

*Pray for God's goodness to flourish in Suren's family as they host Bible studies in their home.*

### THAILAND



Joey and Raya praise God for finishing their Thai language studies. This year, they are helping out in a Bangkok NGO as English teachers and social workers.

They also plan to conduct music and computer lessons for young Thais.

Yet their ultimate goal remains unchanged: to build meaningful relationships among students, especially those from a nearby university, and eventually share the Gospel with them.

*Pray for God's provision and Gospel opportunities for Joey and Raya's ministry in Bangkok.*

*\*Real names withheld for security purposes.*



**GLOBAL  
BAYANIHAN**  
Bayan. Bayani. Anihan.

## Global Bayanihan in 2010

Last year...

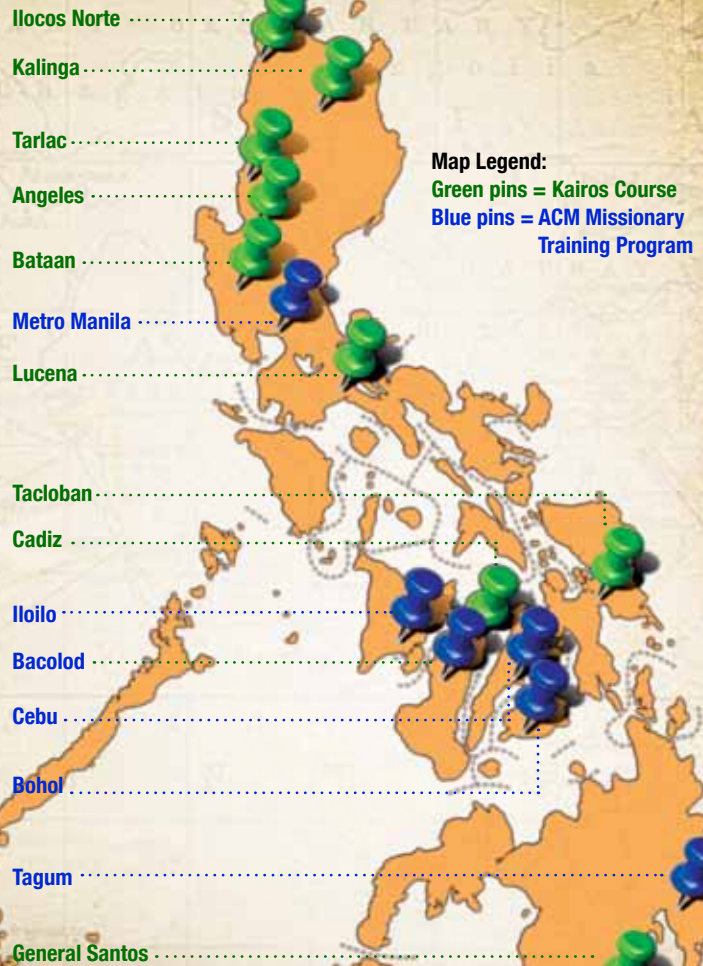
**617 participants** from all over the Philippines, from Ilocos to General Santos, finished the Kairos Course. It is a condensed course on cross-cultural missions developed by Living Springs International, and a prerequisite for more intensive training in ACM.

**106 graduated from ACM's Missionary Training Program (MTP)** held in our centers in Manila, Cebu and Bacolod, and via mobile training in Iloilo, Bohol and Tagum.

*Do you want to bring the Kairos Course or MTP to your church or city? Call us at (02) 810-5381.*

**32 short-term exposure trippers and 22 long-term Filipino missionaries** were facilitated in deployment to China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Brunei, and Thailand.

**110 active Filipino missionaries** in Southeast Asia were refreshed and encouraged through ACM's Missionary Care program. *You can also care for our missionaries by being an MCare volunteer or supporter. Call our MCare Department at (02) 840-0975.*



## Give to Missions, Change the World!

Your gift to ACM literally transforms nations and cultures. Your support empowers Filipinos as ambassadors of God's life-changing Gospel!

- **Credit Card.** Send your donations to ACM easily and securely with your credit card. Just go to [www.acmnet.org](http://www.acmnet.org), click SUPPORT, and fill out the online form.
- **M. Lhuillier.** At any M. Lhuillier branch, submit a customer information sheet indicating the date, your complete name, address, contact number, amount of your donation, and "Asian Center for Missions" written on the receiver's name.

- **Bank.** Address your donation to Asian Center for Missions and deposit to Metrobank Savings Account No. 3-27050135-5, Metrobank Alfaro Branch. Fax a copy of your deposit slip with your name, address, and contact number to (632) 840-2104.
- **Mail.** Make check or postal money order payable to Asian Center for Missions and mail to PO Box 2572, Makati CPO 1200, Makati City.

For more inquiries, call us at (632) 810-5381, or visit us at Room 604, ACCM Building, 102 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

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