



Harvest field to harvest force

FOR YEARS, FILIPINOS HAVE BEEN LEAVING THEIR COUNTRY TO WORK OVERSEAS, FAITHFULLY SENDING THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY BACK HOME TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES. TODAY, THE LORD OF THE HARVEST IS SENDING FILIPINOS OUT OF THEIR HOME COUNTRY TO GO TO THE UNREACHED AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. WHAT WAS ONCE CONSIDERED A “HARVEST FIELD” IS NOW BECOMING A “HARVEST FORCE.” THE FILIPINO CHURCH IS TAKING ITS PLACE IN GLOBAL MISSIONS BY SENDING ITS OWN TO THE UNREACHED OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND TO THE WORLD.

Mobilizing the Filipino Church

History was made in August 2019 when the IMB signed a covenant with One Sending Body (OSB), the sending entity of five Baptist conventions in the Philippines. The agreement forges an official partnership between the two missionary-sending organizations and facilitates teaming between Filipino and IMB missionaries to advance the gospel.

Filipino missionaries will be commissioned to serve alongside IMB workers as seconded team members. The first missionary training program is scheduled for April 2020. Although the formal agreement is new, the sending of Filipinos as cross-cultural missionaries is not. Filipinos have been serving cross-culturally for many years, being sent out by their local churches, Philippine Women’s Missionary Union (PWMU), as well as other



See Filipino Baptists sign historic covenant with IMB, by [Caroline Anderson](#), on [imb.org](#).

independent mission agencies. It is a prayer that as a result of this formal agreement, more Filipinos will receive the additional training and support that can be offered through such a partnership. IMB missionary Steve Hagen said that while there are many geographical areas and isolated people groups in the Philippines still in need of the gospel, there is also a thriving national church.

“There is great potential for the Philippines to be an influential sending nation,” Hagen said. “Not only is there a strong national church, Filipinos are incredibly adaptable and amiable; able to fit in and get along in situations where many cannot, with an unparalleled passion for serving others.”

“Filipinos have the capacity to be a powerful force for sending to Southeast Asia and around the world.”

1 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. As Filipinos move forward in obedience to reach the nations, pray with them for the resources that they need to move and minister among an unreached people group. Pray for local churches to join them through prayer and financial support.

2 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. It's difficult for some desert peoples to hear the gospel due to living nomadic lifestyles or living in countries with closed borders. Radio programs that tell the gospel are overcoming these barriers. Pray for unhindered broadcasting and for the people recording these programs.

3 GLOBAL NETWORK OF AMERICAS. Pray for the lives and health of Brazilian missionary couple, Richard* and Diana*, who have served for 15 years in Africa. Richard has bone cancer, Diana just lost a baby during pregnancy, and they've had to return to Brazil for Richard's treatment.

4 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for the One Sending Body leadership in the Philippines as they seek to serve the five national conventions in sending missionaries to strategic places for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

5 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES. God, strengthen your sent-out ones. Give them words to speak as they challenge and help churches in East Asia to send out their own missionaries. Teach them to be dependent on your Spirit alone. Help them to be faithful, shining like bright lights in dark and difficult places.

6 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. Many Central Asians are devout Muslims who try to follow Islam's rules and be good Muslims. Pray that they will understand that their efforts cannot bring eternal acceptance from a holy God. Ask God to reveal himself to them and open their eyes to the truth of Jesus Christ.

7 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. The Student Mobilization Team helps mobilize and train young adults to serve among the unreached through Nehemiah Teams, a short-term mission opportunity. Pray for effective training and mobilization efforts.



8 SOUTH ASIANS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. Pray for workers as they develop relationships with South Asian churches and believers in the United Kingdom. Ask God for opportunities to mobilize and train local believers to get out into the harvest field and commit to the task of making disciples.

9 HAUSA OF WEST AFRICA. As followers of Christ choose to plant their homes and families among the Hausa (HOW-suh) people, please pray that they will be a bright light in the darkness. Ask for the Lord's protection over those who are willing to continue to carry his light into the deep darkness among the Hausa.

10 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Praise the Lord for a new couple who was added to the Student Mobilization Team and will arrive in March. Pray for them as they learn the culture and language, which will enable them to minister effectively in this new position.

11 AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS. Underneath the high quality of life associated with the Netherlands lies a shocking wave of loneliness. Pray that the lost and lonely will discover the truth and enjoy a restored relationship with God through Jesus. Ask that local believers will share this hope with their neighbors.

12 TAJIKS OF TAJIKISTAN. False teachings have begun to creep into Tajik (TAH-jeek) churches. Pray that division and false teaching will not plague the small, yet growing, Tajik church. Pray that they will hold fast to the truth and simplicity of the gospel!

13 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Many Filipinos are willing to work overseas and send money back home to their families. Pray that Filipino believers will be willing to step out in obedience to live and work outside of their home country as ambassadors of the King of kings.

14 DEAF PEOPLES. Outside of Puebla, Mexico, Jonathan* and Joel,* both Deaf, host a group for Deaf to learn Bible stories using Mexican Sign Language. Most of the group do not yet follow Jesus. Pray for Jonathan and Joel to keep sharing the gospel and that many will respond in faith.

15 SOUTHERN YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN. Taiz is the battle line between opposing forces. Pray for the people who have fled and for those who remain. Life has changed for them, and they grieve the loss of good days gone by. Some have heard the truth about Jesus. Pray that they will remember it, believe it, and share it. Pray for peace.

16 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. As Filipino Nehemiah Teams prepare to spend 4-6 weeks on mission in strategic areas of the Philippines during April and May, pray for God to soften hearts to hear and accept the Good News that will be shared.

17 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for more laborers in the harvest. There are many opportunities to serve as we seek to bring the truth to those who have yet to hear it. Pray that these long-term and mid-term service openings will be filled with believers who are committed to bringing truth to the unreached.

18 PEOPLES OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA. North 24 is a district in West Bengal (beng-AHL) with small villages tucked inside the surrounding jungle areas. Many of these villages are without a gospel witness. Pray that the gospel will reach every hidden area of North 24 District and that many will come to know and follow Jesus.

19 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Bunni, a Filipina, spent the past year in a Southeast Asian country, learning the language and culture to help her to train and mobilize local young adults in evangelism. Pray for Bunni as she helps send out teams for a month of ministry.

20 TORCH PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA. Several local believers have been interrogated as police look for illegal religious activities. Believers are trusting God that this persecution will further his kingdom and not suppress it. Ask God to help them be “wise as serpents” and “innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16 ESV).



21 EUROPEAN DIASPORA OF CANADA. The Vine is a new church plant in Calgary, Canada. The church planter is a Canadian seminary graduate, and three other families who are currently students joined the church-plant team. Pray that this new church will reach their neighborhood for Christ and that God will be glorified.

22 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Many IMB teams need additional help when it comes to ministry partners. As teams are open to receiving nationals from other countries to join them, pray for training to take place that equips those partners to serve effectively.

23 YOKOHAMA, JAPAN. “Our team is expanding, which is exciting as we anticipate what the Lord will continue to do throughout Yokohama (yoh-kuh-HAH-muh)! Pray for the Japanese people whom these two new families will come into contact with as they meet neighbors and people along their routes in their daily lives.”

24 DEAF PEOPLES. In Central Asia, Gretchen Snow* is learning the local sign language from her language helper. Gretchen’s prayer is for her language helper to see the truth and a reflection of Jesus Christ during their training time together.

25 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Dong & Inday, a Filipino couple, have lived in Cambodia for many years, partnering with local believers and serving through an ESL-related ministry. Pray for them as they prepare to receive teams during June and July.

26 NU OF COLOMBIA. The Nu People Team (noo) are continuing to move towards an exit strategy in the next few years, seeking to encourage the Pa church to continue the gospel work in this area. Pray that the team will be sensitive to any worldview issues that still need to be addressed in the Pa church.

27 NYUNGWE OF MOZAMBIQUE. In a rural area where digging wells does not result in clean water, a Baptist Global Response (BGR) team is working on a new type of groundwater collection near a seasonal riverbed. Pray for a successful project, for the safety of the workers, and for many to respond to the gospel.

28 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. In Summer 2019, over 100 Filipino young adults served for 4-6 weeks through Filipino Nehemiah Teams. Pray for even more to step forward to serve during summer 2020 among the unreached of the Philippines.

29 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for Magahi-speaking believers to boldly share the gospel and make disciples among higher-caste Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists. Pray for more oral Bible stories to be crafted in the Magahi language and for these stories of truth to spread among both literates and nonliterates!

30 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. Workers thank God for the language teachers who strive to teach them how to speak a new language. During their lessons, many opportunities arise for gospel conversations. Pray for more gospel conversations and for the hearts of the teachers to be softened to hear and accept the gospel.

31 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for the One Sending Body as they prepare for their first missionary pre-deployment training to be held at the end of April.

(*names changed)

All should go and go to all

According to the United States Census Bureau, there are 7.6 billion people living in the world. And PeopleGroups.org reports that 4.5 billion of them are still unreached with the gospel. What is God's eternal purpose for people?

If we study the Bible, beginning with the Law of Moses, through the Prophets, the Psalms, and the New Testament, we will see that there is one message – that all should go and go to all! From the very beginning, it has been God's plan to make the gospel known to all nations. No plan B or plan C. This eternal plan of salvation is not only for the Jews. God wants the Gentiles to be a part of the family too – this is the mystery that he has made known (Ephesians 3:1-11).



Studying the Bible and preparing to reach the unreached.

However, the sad truth is that the condition of the lost is still very critical. The enemy has held them captive with their hands and feet bound and their ears, eyes, and mouth covered, making it hard for them to receive the Good News. God wants to use the church to testify about this mystery.

As more believers around the world abandon their selfish ambitions and adjust their lives to God's eternal plan, more of the 4.5 billion people who have yet to hear will encounter his amazing gospel message.

Written by Blesie, a 22-year-old Filipina called to the nations.



SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFINITY

615 MILLION PEOPLE

2,626 PEOPLE GROUPS

294 UNENGAGED UNREACHED

601 UNREACHED

imb

Every church.
Every nation.

PRAYERPOINTS is available as a free email or print subscription. Please go to www.imb.org/prayer-points to subscribe, or call (800) 999-3113, if you need assistance.

You can also find **PRAYERPOINTS** on the IMB Pray app - available for iOS and Android devices. Find more prayer opportunities and resources at IMB.org/pray as well as on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.