



Church Planting in the Philippines

Orientation Manual

For international teams

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Church Planting in the Philippines

April/May is church planting season in the Philippines. "Summer of Service" (SOS) teams are planting new churches in target towns right across the Philippine Islands.

"For only those who dare to go too far can hope to know how far they can go."

SOS is the concept of evangelism by the witness of signs, wonders and miracles. The Pentecostal edge lies in the experience of Holy Spirit empowerment. The coming of the Holy Spirit results in Power and Witnessing. ACTS 1:8 When we become "stronger than the Strongman (the devil)", then we can bind him and take the plunder!

A Pentecostal mission is at its best when these are employed, especially when the going gets tough, but you must get going!

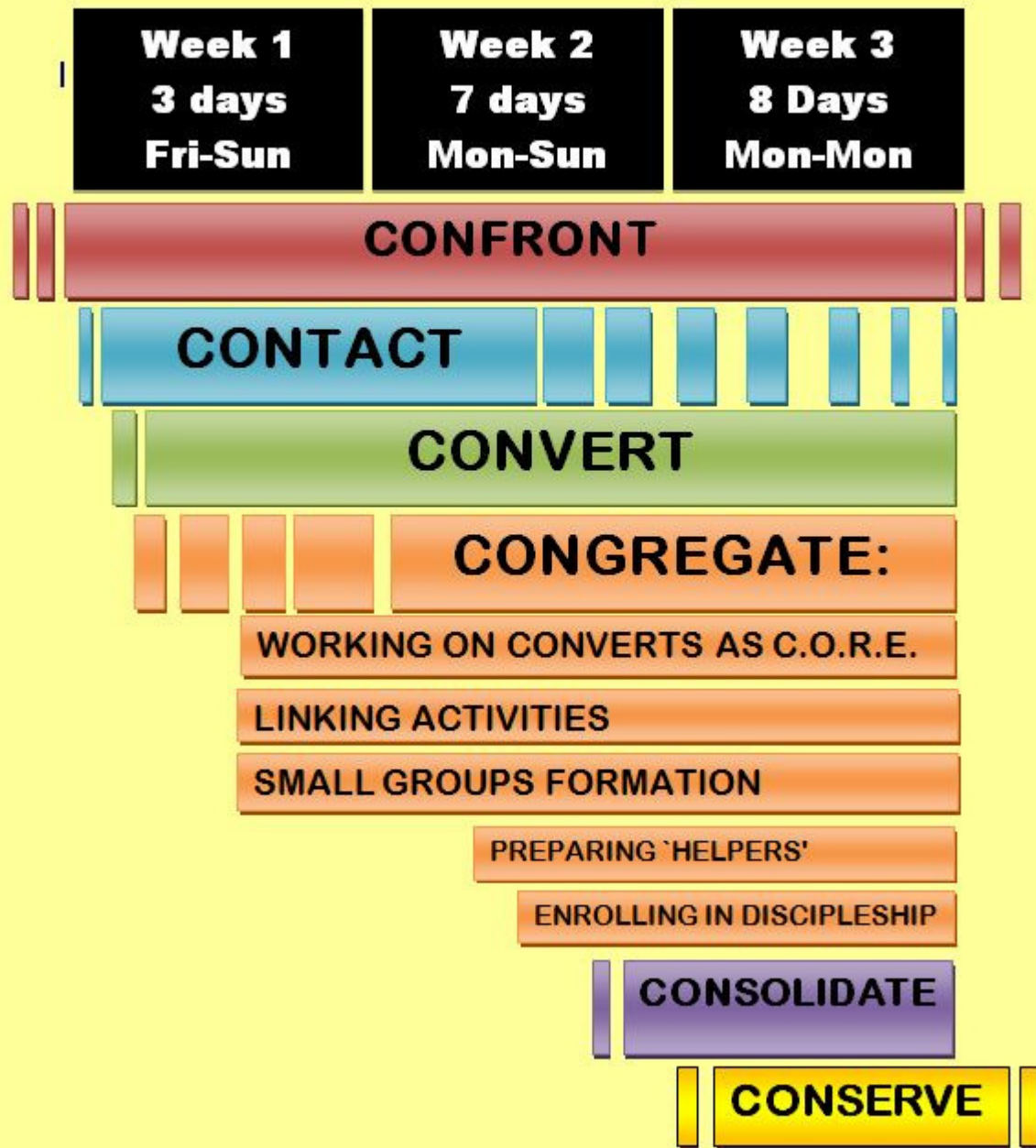
As Pastor Rey Calusay says, *"Church Planting is Priority Project of Jesus. You have made the right decision if you have decided to plant a church! Jesus is pleased."*

What is S.O.S. ?

Summer Of Service (S.O.S.) is a challenge for Christians to dedicate their summer vacation to participate in winning the lost and planting a church in a target town or city. "He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son." (Proverbs 10:5)

1. A trained and organized team is sent to a target place to start a local body of believers using the formula of fieldwork: *Contact, Convert, Congregate and Consolidate*. A trained Pioneering Pastor receives the results of the saturation evangelistic campaign.
2. The ministry belongs to every member of the church. Local churches send their members and leaders as volunteers so ordinary members are activated for fruitful ministry.
3. Members of the participating churches, from age 17 to 71 years old, go out and serve Jesus in missions. They are taught to witness, knock on doors, distribute tracts, give their testimonies, conduct Bible Study, heal the sick, cast out demons, disciple young believers and assemble them for church service.
4. The training and activities are goal-oriented. Nothing is included that will not help reach the goals. The exposure of members to the actual evangelistic environment trains them to become effective members in their churches.
5. The concept of evangelism by the witness of signs, wonders and miracles is practiced at every opportunity. Pentecostal missions are at its best when these are employed. We do spiritual warfare and confrontation with the forces of darkness within the context of the Filipino spirit world.
6. Traditional summer camps, retreats, seminars, and the like are good but do not produce the same results that SOS do. SOS utilizes members' desire to camp-out by bringing them into a town in a camping situation. But at the end of all the activities, a church is planted – this is the GREAT PLUS!
7. SOS is a hands-on training in church planting. Churches will be planted by the participants during the summer followed by a multiplication of the church planting efforts by the local churches in their local targets. It is a program of acceleration.

SOS FIELDWORK TIMEFRAME



SOS Timeline

Confront: Spiritual warfare is the key to church planting

The story of S.O.S.

SOS as a church planting program was born in response to the Great Commission. The Great Commission is a commission, so the best way to do missions is to go to the Harvest Field.

The development of the S.O.S. work is a beautiful picture of Acts 1:8 -- "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Pastor Rey Calusay, the Senior Pastor of First Assembly of God challenged his church to reach their Jerusalem - Roxas City, in the province of Capiz. His vision was to fill the city with the doctrine of Christ. Ordinary members were trained and mobilized to preach the gospel and conduct evangelistic Bible studies throughout the city.

The burden to fill the city of Roxas with the doctrine of Christ grew to reaching the neighboring towns, then the neighboring provinces and islands. The SOS concept continued to spread as churches and leaders from all over the Philippines requested for SOS in their areas. Filipino pastors, experienced in SOS, have gone to Cambodia, and have adopted the SOS strategy in that country, have and mobilized Cambodian believers.



Pastor Rey Calusay
General Superintendant of the AoG Philippines

Vision for Church Planting

Hundreds of people, young and old, give one month of their summer vacation to help plant a church in one of the Districts of the Philippines. The day of experts in church planting is over. The future of church planting is in the hands of laymen, who turn over to the Pioneer Pastor a congregation of believers committed to be the core group of the newly planted church.

I see the church healthy and alive, worshipping the Lord, loving one another, and evangelizing the lost world.

I see the church occupying the town or city by multiplication of churches in every populated area.

I see the church fast entering into a culture of church planting until Jesus comes.



Country Background

The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century; they were ceded to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. The Spanish occupation was harsh, and whilst architecture and other influences are prevalent, Filipinos do not like to be thought of as Spanish. The Spanish language was rejected, and Tagalog was introduced.

In 1935 the Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth. Manuel QUEZON was elected president and was tasked with preparing the country for independence after a 10-year transition.

In 1942 the islands fell under Japanese occupation during World War II, and US forces and Filipinos fought together during 1944-45 to regain control. On 4 July 1946 the Republic of the Philippines attained its independence.

The 20-year rule of Ferdinand MARCOS ended in 1986, when a "people power" movement in Manila ("EDSA 1") forced him into exile and installed Corazon AQUINO as president. Her presidency was hampered by several coup attempts, which prevented a return to full political stability and economic development.

Fidel RAMOS was elected president in 1992 and his administration was marked by greater stability and progress on economic reforms.

In 1992, the US closed its last military bases on the islands.

Joseph ESTRADA, a former film actor, was elected president in 1998, but was succeeded by his vice-president, Gloria MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, in January 2001 after ESTRADA's stormy impeachment trial on corruption charges broke down and another "people power" movement ("EDSA 2") demanded his resignation.

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO was elected to a six-year term as president in May 2004.

President Benigno S. Aquino III was elected in June 2010. His nickname is PNoy

President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte (born March 28, 1945), also known as **Digong**, is a Filipino lawyer and politician who is the 16th President of the Philippines, in office since July 2016. Duterte was among the longest-serving mayors in the Philippines and was Mayor of Davao City, a highly urbanized city on Mindanao island, for seven terms, totalling more than 22 years. Nicknamed "The Punisher" by Time, an alleged vigilante group called the Davao Death Squad has been tied to Duterte by human rights organizations and are responsible for the extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers

The Philippine Government faces threats from three terrorist groups on the US Government's Foreign Terrorist Organization list, but in 2006 and 2007 scored some major successes in capturing or killing key wanted terrorists. Decades of Muslim insurgency in the southern Philippines have led to a peace accord with one group and on-again/off-again peace talks with another.

Population: 100 million, increasing at more than 2% per annum

Religions: Roman Catholic 80.9%, Muslim 5%, Evangelical 2.8%, other Christian 4.5%
Sects: Iglesia ni Kristo 2.3%, Aglipayan 2%, (2000 census)

Languages: English, eight major dialects - Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan

UNDERSTANDING THE FILIPINO

1. **FILIPINOS AS ASIANS** - Understanding the Filipino starts with understanding the Asians.
 - a. **The Asian Mind - descriptive and narrative.** The Asian mind tends to follow stories. Learning is more through the descriptive rather than logical approach. Symbols and signs play an important role. The use of stories has been proven an effective tool for communication to Asians.
 - b. **Awareness of the spiritual world.** Deity is believed to be part of the natural world, that there is a 'give and take' relationship between the divine and the human world. This spiritual consciousness is reflected also in the belief of an after-life. The Asian mind has no problem in believing miracles, demons and demon activity, and in the reality of God.
 - c. **A Shame culture** - the 'group first, individual next' setting, conformity is not only expected but also considered as a virtue. Asians feel more comfortable when someone else makes the decision for him/her. Bringing shame to the family is a serious offense. 'Utang na loob' and 'pakikisama', 'pakipot' and 'pakitang-tao' are expressions of this shame culture among Filipinos.
 - d. **Concept of family system.** The family as basic unit of society is much wider in extent and greater in expectations. The individual exists for the family. Often, the old have the final say in family matters. Individual decisions against the will of the family is regarded as a threat to this family solidarity and is regarded as rebellion; dictated by fads and what others wear.

ROOTS OF THE FILIPINO CULTURE

The Malay temper is the main component of the Filipino culture. To understand the Malay, is to understand the Filipino. The following are the strong expressions of the Malay strain:

- a. **Readiness to adjust**, pliability, willingness to accept a new concepts, reconcile it to his old ones and lie with it happily.
 - b. **Desire and respect for 'niceness'** - what matters to him is to be nice, agreeable and pleasant.
 - c. **Frivolous** - he loves merry-making and enjoyment. Religious rituals and ceremonies become occasions for such.
3. **MAIN SOCIAL CULTURAL VALUES:**
 - a. Personalize - giving much emphasis to face to face encounters. For a Filipino, personal contact is needed before things or transactions can happen.
 - b. Authoritarianism - giving high regard to authority and power. This is expressed in the family, community and government system. Offshoots of this are the 'maninoy' system, and the 'bata' system.
 - c. Small-Group Centeredness - tendency to value very strongly a small group (this is aside from his family) which usually becomes his extended family. This small group influences his decisions. Related to this is the Filipino 'sociostat' - which is the Filipino tendency to stay in the group rather than to stick it out. If a member of the group rises or prospers above the group, the rest will pull him down. Those who attempt to improve or prosper; his efforts will be subjected to sharp comments. A common reaction is to choose to revert back to the old ways or position rather than be leveled to the face by the group.

FILIPINO HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Because of the cultural complex that interplays in the life of a Filipino, he has the following basic needs in the following order:

- a. The need to belong (Familism)
- b. The need to be reciprocated (Reciprocity)
- c. The need to be accepted in a bigger group (Social Acceptance)
- d. The need to climb the socio-economic level (Social Mobility)
- e. The need to be esteemed and respected (Pagkabayani)

5. VIRTUES ADMIRER:

The following are good traits Filipinos are losing and are trying to revive. Therefore, any Filipino would appreciate the following if demonstrated by fellow Filipinos:

- a. Word of Honor - truthfulness to commitments
- b. Delicadeza - sensitivity to what is right or wrong, proper and improper.
- c. Katapatan - righteousness in deed and thought.
- d. Kaayusan - orderliness
- e. Pagkamasinop - personal distaste for waste, overspending and a disposition of self-reliance and creativity.
- f. Kagalingan - the spirit of compulsion for competence in whatever job a person is working at.

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

The International presence is a great encouragement to the SOS Teams – most especially because we do what they do. We knock on doors, we visit houses, and we conduct Bible Studies. We become good friends with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

14 Day Itinerary

- *Day 1* We fly first to Manila, and stay 2 nights in a hotel.
- *Day 2* We spend the day in training in Manila at the hotel, adding to the training meetings already held at home. We get familiar with local culture, and with the climate. We visit a mall to eat and buy SIM cards and loads, and we cover again the basic aims of the SOS church planting team that we will join.
- *Days 3-4-5* Early morning we travel to one of the SOS Training Centers in Luzon and join with other teams preparing to go out to Target areas.
- *Day 6* International team members are assigned with teams of Filipinos to a "target town" - ie the towns where churches are being planted. International team members merge with an existing team of around 25 Filipinos.
- *Days 7 - 13* Field work starts in the Target area. There will be many opportunities for ministry. Firstly one-on-one sharing with local town people - if they know English they love to try it out, and Jesus is a great subject to talk about!!
 - Sometimes - there is opportunity to lead a Bible Study in a home or an office, or share testimony with a group of unbelievers.
 - Sometimes - we can participate in a water baptism.
 - Always - we can pray for the individuals we meet, and pray for the Bible study or service that we are in, even if we do not understand the language.
 - Always - we can be a part of the team of volunteers, and share in their daily program.
 - In our time there, we will get to know many Filipinos - volunteers, pioneer pastors, new Christians and potential Christians.
 - In the target town we will make many contacts, conversions and baptisms. International team members will go with Filipinos to the houses to conduct Bible studies and home church meetings. The local SOS Team members speak English, whilst some local Filipinos may only speak their local dialect. Team members that we go with will be our interpreters.
- *Day 13* Team returns to Manila.
- *Day 14* Arrive back home

Everyone who goes will be totally blessed. Not only will we have plenty to give and to share, but we will also receive much in return from our Filipino brothers and sisters in Christ. We will come back with a renewed passion and enthusiasm for the gospel.

THE S.O.S CHURCH PLANTING GOAL

An SOS team in a target place will work so that at the end of their fieldwork, they will be able to...

TURN OVER TO THE PIONEER WORKER A CONGREGATION OF BELIEVERS COMMITTED TO BE THE CORE GROUP OF THE NEWLY PLANTED CHURCH IN THE TARGET PLACE.

Three Key Words that describe the New Church to be planted:

- Congregation
- Committed
- Core Group

QUANTIFYING THE GOAL

| TOTAL TEAM EFFORT Should result to: | Minimum Goal Suggested by SOS | Team's Faith Goal | Sqd's Faith Goal | Vol's Faith Goal |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CONTACTS | As many | | | |
| CONVERTS: | 50 | | | |
| Repented & believed in Jesus as Savior | All | | | |
| Baptized in Water | 30 | | | |
| Baptized in Holy Spirit | 30 | | | |
| Oriented in Basics of Christian Life/Growth | 30 | | | |
| GOOD CONTACTS: Contacted in later part of fieldwork, have committed for a Bible Study. But processing through doorways of conversion will be started by Pioneer Pastor after SOS. | 50 | | | |
| CONGREGATED BELIEVERS: | | | | |
| Converts linked with Pioneer Pastor | 50 | | | |
| Converts linked with one another | 50 | | | |
| Converts Committed as Core Group Members | 50 | | | |
| Gathered during the Grand Opening Service: | 150 | | | |
| <i>The converts + the Good contacts + their invited guests, webs of relationships</i> | | | | |
| No. of Large Bible Studies | 10/10 | | | |
| No. of Small groups organized & Facilitators | 10/10 | | | |
| No. provisional leaders enlisted & oriented | 25 | | | |
| Organized Initial Church Records | Turned over to Pioneer Pastor | | | |

THE S.O.S CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY

The total church planting strategy is expressed in 9 action steps.

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | |
| | PRE-FIELD PERIOD | | | |
| C O N F R O N T Binding spiritual strongman and demolishing spiritual strongholds through prayer, worship and spiritual warfare | CONSULT | Consultation with interested parties on church planting | Determine target places, Pioneer Pastors, prepare logistics, etc. | IMPACT Meetings |
| | CONVENE | Gathering of leaders and volunteers for training | Prepare them for field work | Training the TRAINERS / Leaders |
| | FIELD WORK PERIOD (3 weeks) | | | |
| | CONTACT | Linking ourselves with the people | Build relationships Overcome resistance Motivate people to open homes for Bible study or attend one. | All possible Methods, like. House Survey Need oriented Visits |
| | CONVERT | Linking contacts with Jesus Christ | Lead contacts thru conversion & orient the new converts about basic Christian life & growth | Bible study: In One on One, Small groups and Seminar settings. |
| | CONGREGATE | Linking converts with one another and with the Pioneer Pastor | To materialize the SOS goal and provide smooth transition of responsibility from the SOS team to the Pioneer Pastor and his new church | Linking Enlisting Ldrs. Organizing Core Group Grand Opening Service First Church Meeting |
| | CONSOLIDATE | Summarizing results | To make them manageable for the Pioneer Worker | Organizing records for turn-over to P. Pastor |
| | AFTER FIELD WORK PERIOD | | | |
| | CONSERVE | Pastoral care of the Pioneer worker for the newly planted church. | | |
| | CONFER | Meeting of SOS leaders for evaluation. | | |

Budget – per person

| | <u>Pesos</u> |
|---|--|
| Manila return air fare - incl taxes | |
| <u>Basic Cost</u> | |
| Fares to target town (return) | 10,000 |
| Manila - hotel - 2 nights (twin share) | 5,000 |
| Manila - Meals | 2,000 |
| SOS accommodation & food & fares | 5,000 |
| Taxis to & from Manila airport, other expenses | 3,000 |
| Snacks, bottled water | 1,000 |
| Manila - Hotel - final 1 night | 2,000 |
| Manila – Meals | 2,000 |
| Extras (the above costs are 'budget rate') – add on costs | 10,000 |
| | <u>P40,000</u> |
| <u>Other things you may wish to budget for</u> | |
| Church service offerings (eg 3 x P200) | 600 |
| Day Trip costs (share fuel, etc) | 500 |
| SIM card & Load for phone | 600 |
| Souvenirs | 1,300 |
| Taxis – to & from airport, shopping etc | 1,000 |
| Contribution towards Filipino SOS team treat | 2,000 |
| | <u>P6,000</u> |
| Total | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">P46,000</div> |

Convert your currency to Pesos at Manila Airport

As at November 2016: US\$1 = P37. P46,000 = US\$920 (AUD\$1,250)

ADD INTERNATIONAL AIR FARE TO MANILA

Missions Trip - List of things to take

- Bible-small journal book-pen, pencil.
- Camera & batteries
- Flashlight
- Mobile phone & charger
- Family Pictures
- Folding umbrella - for rain and sun protection.
- Plastic bags (for laundry or food items), or Ziploc bags.
- Mosquito or insect repellent - should be Tropical strength RID.
- Sun screen lotion.
- Sun glasses.
- Alcohol hand wash
- Shorts & T-shirt for swimming (ladies wear shorts plus swimmers).
- Band-Aids, antiseptic cream
- 2 sheets or Sheet sleeping bag, small pillow (consider inflatable pillow)
- Personal hygiene items: (comb, toothbrush, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, shave stuff, feminine hygiene supplies, soap, small mirror, brush/comb, makeup, razors, handiwipes.)
- Prescription medicines you need. (LET SOMEONE KNOW OF YOUR ALLERGIES.) Essential medications should be in carry-on bag, remainder in suitcase.
- Light jacket.
- Towel
- 3 x small hand towels for wiping perspiration
- Clothes hangers (3)
- Thongs (sandals) for washing.
- Book to read, candy and snacks (granola bars, crackers, etc in plastic bags)
- Watch, money, credit card (optional)
- Air mattress, bum pack or small tote bag
- Extra SD Memory card for camera + empty USB Drive for sharing photos (8GB or 16GB)
- Washing powder in small quantities, or Bar of soap for laundry (eg Sards Wonder Soap)
- Ear-plugs (for sleeping and travel)

Clothes:

- Underwear (5) Shirts (4) Socks (4)
- Light cotton trousers (3) Shorts (2) Sleeping shorts(2)
- Shoes & Sandals
- Tailored shirts (2)
- Hat
- Fork/Spoon/plate/mug
- Ladies - outfits suitable for church (2)
- * Ladies – not sleeveless or low necklines please

Carry-on:

- Passport
- E-Ticket
- Money
- Credit Card(optional)
- Book To Read On Plane

- One full change of clothes may be helpful in carry-on bag

All liquids, aerosols and gels should be carried in a re-sealable transparent plastic bag. Max 100ml per item, 1 litre total. **DO NOT TAKE ANY SHARP OBJECTS IN YOUR CARRY ON OR IN YOUR POCKET!**



LADIES may wear loose fitting slacks or skirts. The main thing to remember is that it will be hot, but even with the heat, we must dress conservatively. You can do laundry on a daily basis, so there is no need to bring more than a four-day supply of changes.

There is really no need to take jewelry or extensive make-up. The people we are going to be ministering to do not have or use these for the most part.

MEN may wear slacks for field work. Long pants/shirt for the evenings. The sun is very strong, and for this reason, at least a T-shirt must be worn at all times.

TENT (may not be required for urban evangelism)



This foldable mosquito tent is ideal (approx \$88). Available on-line from <http://www.mosquitonets.com.au>. A less expensive 2 man tent can be purchased at K-



Mart, Anaconda, etc.

Find a tent that is mostly mosquito net (with an optional throw-over fly). Your tent may be pitched inside a building or outside, depending on the location of the team. It needs as much air-flow as possible, and is primarily for mosquito protection.

ABOUT YOUR LUGGAGE:

You are allowed (1) large suitcase of 20 KG, and ONE (1) carry-on bag that can be stowed. The Maximum size of your carry on is 56cm (L) + 36cm (H) + 23cm (D)

SOS TEAMS
Giving Gifts

International teams are being requested to refrain from giving gifts directly to pioneer workers and to individual church plants!

Experience has shown that a gift given to a Pioneer Pastor, or to one target town has a negative impact on the overall church planting work. Our goal is to support the Philippines AoG big vision

Pastor Rey & Zenaida write:

“Regarding gifts to fellow volunteers: It is true in the Filipino culture that those who do not receive will tend to resent if they see others receive gifts - especially from guests. Should anyone want to bless the Filipino - he can probably plan to do something to bless the whole team - say buying a special meal for all! Filipinos will love it!

The same principle should apply to giving gifts to pioneer pastors. We suggest your team members to refrain from giving directly to pioneer pastors such as support money or money for vehicles due to the following reasons:

- a. The philosophy of supporting a pioneer work is - we are supporting the work - not actually the pioneer pastor. The pioneer pastor may go or change, but the support for the work continues and will be applied to whoever takes over.
- b. The choice as to which district and target place to send international teams is the decision of the SOS officers. Any further assistance therefore given to a pioneer worker can be viewed (mistakenly) by others as favor extended by SOS council. We want to avoid being accused of favoring certain districts or target places.
- c. We are campaigning for the 20 AoG Philippines districts to take up their own responsibility in church planting, which includes of course supporting the church plants. Our movement has been plagued for many years with dependency on outside support. Yes, we need help but we also want to train our churches and leaders to be responsible.

We appreciate the generosity of friends from overseas. Indeed, church planting in the Philippines is eased a lot by the generosity of partners. We suggest gifts of money to be placed in the general SOS fund so that more can benefit. Here are some ways the funds are used:

1. Purchase chairs for the new church plants. It is a more immediate need for the church.
2. Pay for the initial rent of the venues for the church meetings - to ensure continuity of the new church plants.
3. For SOS general expenses especially at this time that the scope of SOS is already nationwide. Conducting planning meetings, Training the Trainers, and sending trainers to every area of the Philippines is an enormous financial challenge.”

Details about sending financial gifts from churches and individuals to the central SOS Fund from:

Mrs Annah Belle Guerrero-Calusay, Destiny City Church (FARM Inc)

Roxas City – firstassemblyfamily@gmail.com

International SOS Church Planting Team Member

PERSONAL COVENANT

You go not as a tourist, but as a guest of another country. It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of your host.

I recognise and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term mission. If accepted as a member of this missions team, I agree to:

Attitude

- Adopt an attitude that I am on this team for the purpose of understanding the host culture, and not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective and know that my way is not necessarily the best.
- Understand that our team's work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our mission partners are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best to help these partners attain their long-term goals.
- Regard the differing styles of worshipping with respect. I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior attitude.
- Remember we are Christians from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I will not take lightly this important responsibility of setting an example.
- Act as a servant-disciple of the Philippines Assemblies of God churches, I will respect the advice I am given concerning my attire, eating and drinking, and other such traditions which will help me to assimilate into the local community.

Actions & Activities

- Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race or traditions.
- Go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ and will adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I come in contact with during the trip.
- Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the International team leader, and also the Filipino leaders of teams that we join. I promise to abide by his or her decisions in relation to this missions trip.
- I agree to interact with all members of the team and promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships with team members during the trip.
- Refrain from complaining, interfering, and obscene or insensitive humour. I realise that others on my team, during the journey, and while onsite, will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts, and I will not treat that responsibility lightly. I understand that travel, especially to remote locations, can be difficult, and I promise to adopt a flexible attitude and be supportive as plans may need to be changed. I understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other prior arrangements are made.
- Avoid any actions which might be perceived as flirting towards Filipino people I meet.

- Refrain from using tobacco or alcoholic beverages when in the host country. Abstain from any illegal drugs or prohibited activity while on this trip.
- Understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular talents, whether the skills or talents are music, singing, or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these ways as fully as possible.

Giving of gifts

- Refrain from giving personal gifts of money, electronics etc. Although the intent of the giver is good, the result to the overall church planting across the Philippines is not good. **Refrain** from giving gifts directly to Pioneer Pastors such as support money, or money for vehicles. [Explanation: In the Filipino culture, those who do not receive will tend to resent if they see others receive gifts - especially from guests. Since the choice of Target Town for International teams is the decision of the SOS officers, any assistance therefore given to a pioneer worker or a local church can be viewed (mistakenly) as favour extended by SOS council. For effective ways of giving, see the following.]
- Giving small token gifts such as souvenirs is OK. Another way of showing love to our Filipino hosts is to bless the whole team - say buying a special meal for all! Filipinos will love it!
- Financial gifts from individuals (and churches) can be given to the central SOS Fund. All Filipino churches benefit from this – not just the Target towns that International teams have visited. Gifts should be nominated for a specific purpose, not for an individual church plant or Pioneer Pastor. eg
 - Purchase chairs for new church plants.
 - Pay for the initial rent of venues for new church plants
 - Give to SOS nationwide general expenses.

In signing below, I am 17 years of age or older, or my parent/guardian will sign also, agreeing with me to the above conditions.

Participant's Signature *Date:*
 (If participant is under 17 years of age, parent's signature is also required)

Participant's name *email*

Address

Telephone (Home) *(Mobile)*

Witness Signature..... *Date:*.....

Name Address & Phone Number of Pastor:.....

Important: the witness, where possible, should be your pastor, or your International team leader.

How to respond to requests for financial assistance

International team members are often asked directly and boldly (!) for financial support. This is the way of the Philippines – foreign aid has bolstered the economy for the last 100 years.

How should you respond when you are asked for money?

1. Beggars in the street (often children) – do not give money
2. Pastors & SOS Volunteers. You may receive a letter or an email after the missions trip soliciting funds. Below is a good response that you could change into your own words.

Dear

Thank you so much for your email. It was wonderful to hear from you and brought back so many pleasant memories of the time that we spent together in the Philippines.

Before we went to work with the AG Church in the Philippines we were asked to agree to certain things. One of those things is that we were asked not to provide direct financial support to individuals or the local Church that we had helped plant. We have been asked that any financial support that we provide be directed to the SOS centrally, so that it can be shared fairly amongst those where the need is greatest. This is of course very hard for us as we love you dearly and we really do want to see you blessed; and of course we also really want to see the new Church in equipped with everything that it needs as well.

We will ask that any gifts that we are able to provide be directed to your District in particular, to assist where it is most needed, but the final decision will rest with the Senior Pastors who have financial oversight of the Church.

We will of course never stop praying for you and we know that God will continue to provide for your needs and lead you in the directions that He wants you to go. We have seen God work very powerfully and we know that He will never ever fail you.

FAQ's

Answers to various questions:

> In the SOS Summary it says that the daily schedule involves various things,
> one being skits. Are we to prepare some skits...

If there are particularly talented drama presentation people - I'm sure 1 or 2 skits could be used. It's not the everyday thing in SOS. Each SOS (target town) team is different, and whatever talents are there can be used. Some SOS teams present a concert for the town including rap & rock items! Preparing skits from the International team is not necessary- unless the talent is there...!

> Should we get travel insurance...

Purely a personal choice. I do not have any recommendation or bulk deals. Some people do not take out travel insurance because the value of baggage contents is minimal, and missed or delayed flights will not cause business losses. Costs of medical emergencies are usually not so great. SOS Field Directors seem to be able to produce a Christian doctor or nurse quite quickly. The SOS Teams actually take good care of us and feel responsible for us. Why else do you get travel insurance? It's a personal choice.

> It talks a fair bit about the 'spiritual battle' that will be engaged in.

> Could you provide some insight into this. I am aware of the religious strong
> hold of Catholicism but what other spiritual battles are we likely to engage

Spiritual warfare has always been a key component of SOS team training.

a) training SOS volunteers to pray together in squads, for personal equipping; To bind the strong man, and to go out into the town with victory IN HAND (NOT the opposite approach - wait for Satan to attack and then pray against him)

b) As squads go door to door and cover their territory, members may discern strongholds. The squad will pray together before going out next time. Strongholds often identified are:

- i) idolatry. A plastic 'Jesus' idol ("santa nino") is found in almost every house
 - ii) fear
 - iii) lies
 - iv) promiscuity - 1 man told me he had 28 brothers & sisters by 1 father and 4 mothers (!!)
 - v) low self image - Filipino is less than a westerner
- etc, etc

c) demonic manifestation is quite common. Praying to set the captives free - probably in a front-of-meeting ministry situation, or in a home - often leads to salvation, and sometimes the whole family comes to the Lord.

>What is the security at the campsite? Is a camera safe? Would disposable be better?

The camp site is always attended. There is an appointed WARDEN who looks after security. Classrooms with our gear are kept locked. An expensive camera is OK, and it's OK to leave passports etc in your bag.

>Would I keep it in bum bag all the time?

Not necessarily, but that sounds like good security. You are right - we need to be security conscious - but the SOS teams are also trained in this.

>Do we prepare a testimony? How long?

Yes - definitely. Everybody should have a 2 to 4 minute testimony.

Include: I live in

My age is ?? (yes, ladies too! If you don't tell them, they WILL ask!!)

I have ?? children (it's ok Dan, they won't believe it even if you tell them you are a grandfather!!)

My interests are ...

And then: Here is what Jesus means in my life

Those amongst us who are more used to sharing or teaching should also have a range of talks up the sleeve. It is not unusual for the SOS FD (Field Director) to say "oh Sister Chris - will you be the one to share with the Team tomorrow morning - nothing more than half an hour" (!!). About NOW is a good time to ask the Lord for a particular thing to share. As you receive something from the Lord, develop a presentation around it - and then wait to see if the opportunity is given. If it really is from the Lord, I am sure the opportunity will be there.

>Will there be time to buy gifts to bring home? How much will we need to take?

Yes - we will try to fit in time for this. Of course the airport on the way home is more expensive and quite limited. Shopping in a mall is good, the typical prices are \$5 to \$50 for T-shirts, ornaments, mugs, handicrafts, etc, etc

>When it says to dress conservatively, can I wear a sleeveless dress/top?

Ladies: best to wear a dress or skirt with short sleeves. T-shirts for women are very common.

>Are 3/4 pants OK?

Yes - they are good.

>Do we swim in shorts over cossies?

Yes

>Should I take American \$?

No.

>Do we change money at the airport? Will it be open when we arrive?

Yes. The Banks are open for exchange when we arrive at the International airport. The exchange rate is approx US\$1 = PHP42 (Philippine Pesos).

We will pay the SOS money to the Team Comptroller after we are assigned to our Target town teams.

For the first 2 nights in Manila, we will probably ask someone to act as cashier for our International team and pay the hotel reception in one amount.

>Should I take my mobile phone?

Mobile Phones:

Yes - you should take your mobile phone & charger. When you turn on your phone in the Philippines, you can receive & send calls immediately - no global roaming required. SMS text messages are extremely popular in the Philippines. Cost of sending an SMS with your home SIM card is P15 (approx 28c). Careful though because **you** pay the overseas portion of a voice call from a friend who might dial your normal mobile number.

So a good option is to buy a Philippines SIM card (SMART) for around PHP40 (\$1) and get your own local phone number. (Cell phone booths are EVERYWHERE). You can buy top-up call-cards for PHP200, 300, 500 etc. Using a local SIM card, the cost of an SMS within the Philippines is 1 peso, and to overseas is 15 pesos. Your home family & friends pay the same when SMS texting your Philippines number as they do to your local SIM card number. When you install the Philippines SIM card, send a text message to family back home and they immediately have your new number.

Electric plugs:

Electricity outlets in the Philippines are all 220V. Your mobile phone charger will work - even your hair dryer and curler!! The plugs are USA style - two straight pins and no earth. You can buy a converter plug in the Philippines, or borrow!

Travel Advisories:

Some people ask about the bad press reports frequently heard about the Philippines. Mostly these reports are from Mindanao - the southern Muslim controlled area. We do not go anywhere near there.

The situation is monitored via bulletins from The Overseas Advisory Council (US Department of State) and other sources. The current climate in the areas where we will be is "calm" and no cause for concern. Our time passing through Manila is kept to a minimum, and we avoid 5 star hotels, resorts, and other locations frequented by foreigners (other than the airport). Once we are in the target town, we are looked after well by our Filipino friends. We are safer there than we are back home!

Wherever we go, at home or abroad, we face risk. Nobody can say which is the greater risk - the risk of being run over in the family driveway, or the risk of being in the middle of a terrorist attack. The one thing we DO KNOW is that we daily place our selves (confidently) in the hands of our loving heavenly Father, who has everything under control. While we will be wise and take all precautions, we trust our health and our safety to our heavenly Father.

Cultural Pointers

Here are a couple of cultural pointers, to help you adjust to life on the SOS mission field.

THE WASHING MACHINE.

I thought you would like to see the SOS "washing machine" in action! This is the fully automatic model, and the banana leaf is optional. Those who know my passion for pushing buttons are impressed by the efficiency of the machine, but a little concerned about the final colour of the clothes. *Was that shirt black to start with?!* Maybe the scrub cycle should be extended.



PERSONAL HYGIENE

This is the story of the "Philippine shower" - a washing of the body that requires 2 buckets. The large bucket is filled from the faucet (or the pump) and carried to the wash room. After lugging the water, you are indeed ready to "take a bath". The second bucket is a small saucepan-sized pail, used for dipping in the large bucket and delivering H₂O to the most needy parts of the body.



There are various movements (like dance-steps) for achieving maximum distribution of the water. There is the tip-it-over-the-head movement - always appreciated on a hot day, and achieves an automatic hair shampoo action at the same time. Then there is the reverse-action "bet-you-can't-get-the-small-of-the-back" movement - a little trickier and sometimes results in the wall and the floor being washed instead of the back. But perseverance brings results (unless the large bucket is emptied first). Similar to the shower back home, the aim of the exercise is to ensure that the water does not run out during the lather phase.

You CAN try this at home. Why not have a practice run? Take a kitchen saucepan into the shower, and use only the tap (no cheating). You will be agreeably surprised at the results, and the bathroom floor may get washed in the process.



For those who like privacy, relax. The guys were being macho and showing off - there really WILL be privacy for washing.

TOILET PAPER or NO TOILET PAPER

The fact of the matter is, you rarely see toilet paper in the Philippines. Is it because there are no more trees in the world? Or is it because the Sorbent and Kleenex have not targeted the Asian market? No - it's because water is cheaper and far more effective. When you think about it, a WASH has to be more hygienic than a WIPE (sorry, I didn't mean to get into the fine detail).

This calls for the small saucepan-sized pail again, filled from the large bucket or faucet. A two-handed rear-action movement and strong abdominal muscles are required for this. One hand slowly pours a well-aimed stream of water and the other hand cleanses the body. This is definitely more hygienic than the western practice encouraged by Sorbent and Kleenex. It is also safe to try THIS at home before leaving for the Philippines. Practice makes perfect ... and if perfection is not attained, the floor gets washed (again).

At the end of this cultural exercise, you may feel inclined to pack toilet paper. That's OK, but remember the 20Kg limit for your luggage. Water is definitely cleaner! Try it.

Bible studies

LESSONS FOR CONVERSION

1. WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR
2. JESUS, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD
3. WHAT IS SIN
4. THE WEIGHT OF SIN
5. REPENTANCE
6. WATER BAPTISM
7. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

STARTING A SPIRITUAL LIFE SERIES

8. NOW THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR
9. BEING SURE
10. YOU ARE READY TO GROW
11. YOU ARE ADDED TO THE CHURCH

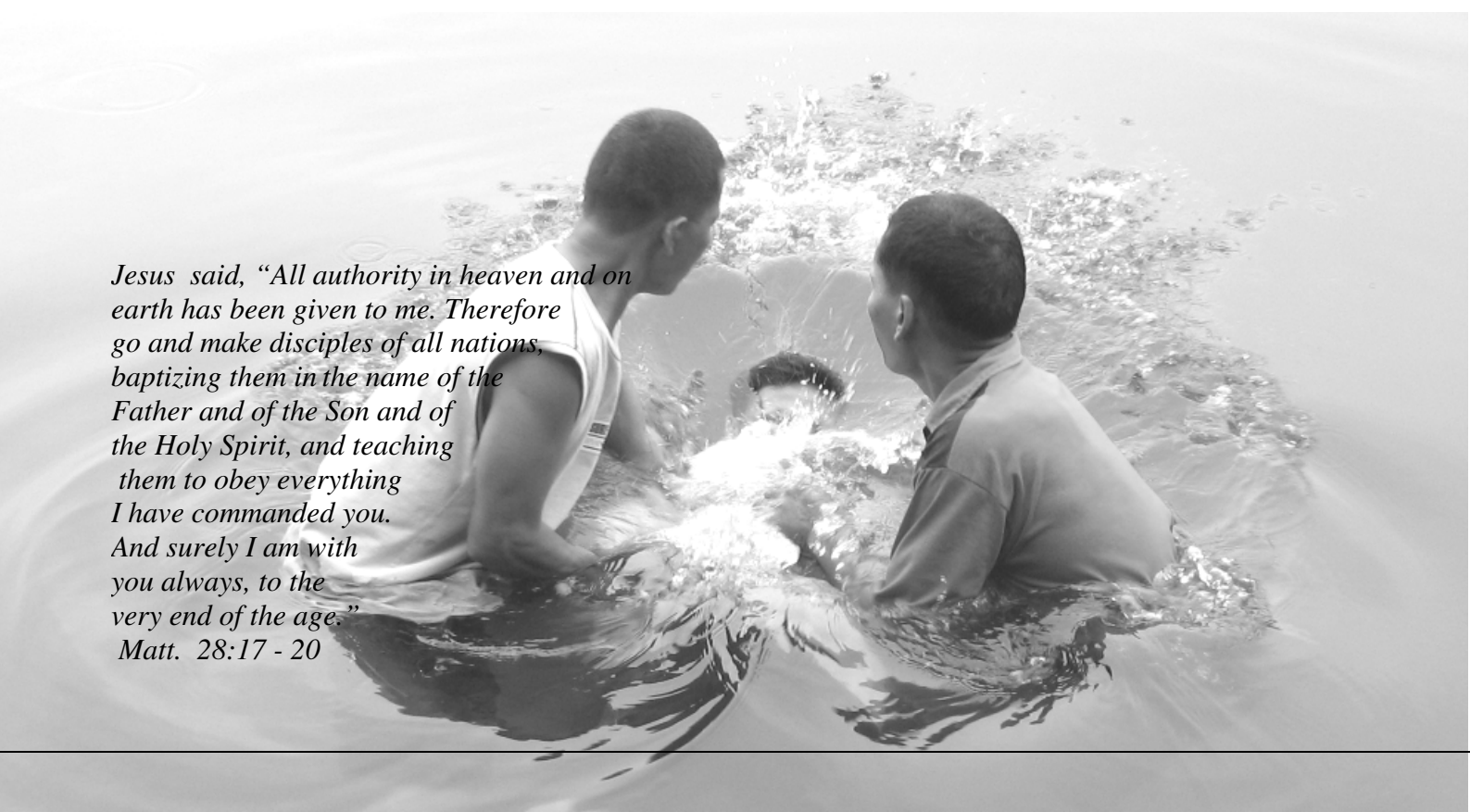
LESSONS FOR SEMINARS

12. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH
13. BELIEF BASED ON GOD'S WORD
14. THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

LESSONS TO HELP THE NEW BELIEVER

15. HANDLING PERSECUTION
16. WHAT IS PRAYER

WITNESSING GUIDE



Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matt. 28:17 - 20

WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR

Introduction: In order to accept the "good news" of salvation, people must first realize their sin and see their need for a Savior.



FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN IN THE BEGINNING

- a. GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS IMAGE – means man has the spirit part, that which is able to communicate with God. Gen 1:27
- b. GOD WOULD VISIT MAN IN EDEN. *'Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day'* Gen.2: 8

FELLOWSHIP BROKEN WHEN MAN SINNED AGAINST GOD

God provided for all the needs of man. But he also gave them command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Gen 3:6) But Adam and Eve disobeyed & sinned against God. When God visited them in the Garden, they were ashamed and tried to hide themselves from God. (Gen 3:8b). Then God drove them out of the Garden of Eden. The fellowship was broken.

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST SIN ON THE HUMAN RACE

What came into the heart of Adam & Eve after they sinned?

- a. GUILT – being aware they have violated God & His law, they hid from God
- b. FEAR – because they God rightly have something against them.
- c. DEATH – Sin brought death! Rom.6:23. Death as a result of sin means:

State of separation: **man's spirit became dead towards God, even if he is physically alive - 'you were dead in your transgressions and sins' .Eph 2:1**

Eternal separation from God (Who is God) – **'it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27. 'He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power'. 2 Th 1:8-9**

- d. CONDEMNATION – 'under God's wrath' – already condemned. *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.* John 3:18

RESULTS OF THAT FIRST SIN UPON US PERSONALLY

- a. WE ARE BORN WITH A SINFUL NATURE – *'All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.'* Eph.2:3
- b. WE ARE GUILTY – Because of our sinful nature, we sin, and so we are guilty and deserving punishment.
- c. WE ARE BOUND – under the control of sin. *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing.* Rom 7:18-19

THE CONCLUSION:

WE ARE IN DANGER – WE NEED TO BE SAVED

WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES – WE NEED A SAVIOR.

Let Jesus save you, today

JESUS: THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Many believe that JESUS CAN SAVE, but many do not know what kind of Savior He is.



HE IS THE SUFFICIENT SAVIOR

John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. You or another person cannot do anything to add to the saving work of Christ. No need for additional yoke such religious requirements, observance of sacraments, traditions, etc.

HE IS THE ONLY SAVIOR: Exclusive

Acts 4:12- Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. "Because Jesus is sufficient, God did not provide other "saviors" but made Him to be the only savior for all mankind.

HE IS THE DIVINE SAVIOR

To be a savior, you must be God! Jesus cannot be the Savior if He is not God.

Jesus is both God and Savior!

Titus 2:13 - while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Jesus is the true God and eternal life!

I Jn 5:20 -We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true-- even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

HE IS THE ABLE SAVIOR

Jesus is able to the worst of sinners., even whom man considers impossible.

1 Tim 1:15 - Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst.

Matt 19:25-26 - When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

HE IS THE PERMANENT SAVIOR

Because Christ is God, He ever lives to make intercession for us. Thus, He has a permanent priesthood. He has not given His work as mediator to anyone.

Heb 7:23-24-Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

HE IS AN ACCESSIBLE SAVIOR – JOHN 6:37; 3:17

Christ is readily available to all kinds of people! You can go directly to Him.

John 3:17 -For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

CHALLENGE: JESUS IS THE ENTIRE SAVIOR YOU NEED. JESUS MUST BE YOUR SAVIOR, OR YOU HAVE NO SAVIOR AT ALL! BELIEVE; TRUST IN HIM NOW AS YOUR SAVIOR! HE IS READY AND ABLE TO COMPLETELY SAVE YOU!

A Commissioning Prayer for International Team Members

Heavenly Father God

We thank you for your commission and the opportunities that it brings to honour you and be obedient to your will. We pray for the Filipino people and that they will hear of you in the most powerful ways through your faith-filled servants who come with your love and the wonderful news of their forgiving saviour, Christ Jesus.

Strengthen them for boldness to reach out with no fear, no anxiety nor feelings of inadequacies but to love and, love some more.

May the Holy Spirit guide them and lift them using the gifts you have given each one.

Protect them from sickness and grant them your joy to fill their hearts at all times.

Open the eyes of the blind and restore the ailing. Rescue the lost and redeem the wayward. May Your Grace be revealed to each person we meet along the way.

Thank you Jesus for Your love and your mercy, your path towards righteousness and holiness for all who accept and love You.

May your blessings continue to flow to every member of the International team.

Father God, our desire is that You be glorified and honoured in all that is done to make You known to the Filipino people.

We pray these words in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

“Come, let us adore Him”

