

# A Fruitful Field The Philippines

By David Harris

My first visit to the Philippines occurred years ago while we were serving in northern Japan. At a Spiritual Leadership Conference in Manila, I received my first impressions of this needy land. Never did I imagine that subsequent visits would allow me to see all of the ministries where 16 BIMI families serve.

A second trip enabled me to join a stateside pastor who planned to take the Gospel to the Philippines in an unusual way. His church committed to the production and distribution of one million tracts in Manila. Churches throughout the city became excited about the project and committed to a second million. Sixty of his church members passed out the first million tracts in four days. Local churches passed out the second million in one day! Thousands responded by texts, emails, and visits to churches telling of their decisions to turn from their sin to Christ.

From those early trips the Lord opened doors for us to assist our BIMI missionaries as the Assistant Far East Field Director and since April 2012 as the Far East Director, a position that

enables us to care for the missionaries serving with BIMI. One of the ways care is given is to visit our missionaries. When we arrive, our goal is to encourage them, but all they are doing amazes and encourages me.

Schools open their doors to allow values-training, providing opportunities to preach the Gospel and impact young people. Families open their doors and gather others to hear the message from God's Word. Workers go to the homes and neighborhoods holding children's services to get the Gospel to others.

Funerals allow God's people to show the love of Christ and to proclaim His grace to those seeking comfort. Jails and prisons become places for revival services and witnessing. God is blessing the evangelism and church planting efforts in the Philippines in exciting ways!

On one trip I was able to accompany a missionary who went to the field in the late '70s but returned for health reasons. They started several churches and taught their people to reach others. Though the missionary had to leave, those few churches blossomed to over



100 churches that continue to serve the Lord!

On another trip I was privileged to see churches started in what was once considered a very dangerous area, the southern island of Mindanao. Now, five families serve in ministries that reach out all over the island. Besides these, seven families serve in the central or Visayas region and four serve in the northern region called Luzon.

In October 2016 I was invited to Rick Martin's Pastors and Workers Conference in Iloilo. More than 700 pastors and many more workers trained in their ministry were present for a time of preaching and fellowship. In the midst of so many blessings, Brother Martin spoke of 4,000 neighborhoods that needed churches on the island of Panay. He reported there are now 2,000 churches and challenged those present to pray for 1,000 more to be started in the next 10-12 years.

At the same meeting Paul Kingsbury spoke of a desire to see 500 churches begin the Reformers Unanimous (RU) program. This comes at the precise time that the government stepped in to stop the terrible drug trade. Thousands are now seeking rehabilitation from addictions and government leaders are turning to the churches for help.

What a great time it would be to see a great influx of Gospel preaching missionaries heading to the Philippines! Much is being done to preach the Gospel and churches in the Philippines are now sending out missionaries. Yet, there is an urgent need for preachers to go to areas where the Gospel is not yet proclaimed.

We at BIMI continue to pray the Lord of the harvest that He will send laborers into the needy harvest field of the Philippines. Our prayer is for ten new families for the Philippines to help bring in the harvest.

Will you help us pray for laborers for this fruitful field? Will you go to help us reach this fruitful field while the doors are open? Will you pray for the churches in the Philippines to continue to see God's blessings? Pastors, come go with us! You would be blessed to see what God is doing in the Philippines. 

