PAME

Philippine

American

Ministry

Enhancement

Purpose

Fulfill the third part of the “Great Commission” which we neglected in our past:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:” Matthew 28:20

Work with Dr. Nono and other Filipino preachers to enhance the ministries of less well trained Filipinos

Providing training and materials to Filipinos who are zealous for the Lord but lack the things needed

Teach sound doctrine and enable Filipinos to correct doctrinal error that exists

Enable Filipinos to fight the spread of cults

Help doctrinally sound Filipinos reach areas that they can reach in ways that Americans can’t

Teach diligence in ministry reporting

Connect American ministries to Filipino ministries in a way which keeps the connection no matter what happens

Provide independent checking and reporting on existing ministries within the Philippines

Why

The Philippines received most of their doctrine from American missionaries. American missionaries were told to: win souls, start a church, train a pastor to take over the work, go elsewhere. As a result, there are many Filipino churches and pastors which lack training beyond the basics of soul-winning. They have no access to the “mother church” in America. Neither do they have access to any other ministry or help for further doctrinal help. Most have NOTHING but a Bible and love for the Lord.

Most American missionaries who refused this plan, and tried to teach more, were starved off the field.

A few, like Rick Martin, stayed at their original church and sent out Filipinos to start new churches.

They have the most successful mission ministries today but they were supported by people willing to break with American traditions. They provide ongoing support for “daughter churches” where mission churches which were “turned over” lost their contact with the American “mother churches”.

Many of the churches that were “turned over” died within a few years of losing American support for a variety of reasons. This is evident by Africa, Philippines and other places still being mission fields after many years of missionary effort.

Some of these “daughter churches” survived and even sent out missionaries but had a constant struggle.

Many of those missionaries only had a Bible, a zeal for souls and $5-$50/month support. Many of these pastors do not know doctrines that most Americans take for granted as being taught within a church.

In Acts 15:36 we read “And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they do.” All the rest of Acts tells us about ministering to existing churches.

All of the epistles were written to minister to existing churches.

The only identified “gospel tract” that we have from the early church is the Gospel of John (John 20:31).

From this evidence we can say that the early church concentrated on doing the third part of the “Great Commission”. With the emphasis on “winning souls” we forced missionaries to neglect the third part of the “Great Commission”

Almost all Filipino messages are about salvation because they have not been taught the other doctrines and have no study material to learn those doctrines and have no access to those materials.

For example, most Filipinos live hand-to-mouth because they have not been taught God’s way to handle money. Even lost Americans are taught these principals as part of our culture while the Filipino teaches ways that keep them hand-to-mouth.

Cults are flourishing in the Philippines because they teach what American sent missionaries neglected only they teach it with doctrinal error mixed in.

Some American missionaries going to the Philippines do a better job now, but they are reaching the lost and neglecting the existing saved people and ministries.

Existing saved people and ministries which are struggling because they were never taught more than basics of salvation, have no one trying to teach them, and have no access to the study material required for them to learn.

With a little help, these ministries will produce more spiritual results, at a far lower cost, than send more American missionaries.

In addition, Americans are watched everywhere they go in Asia and will have problems from others when Filipinos are ignored and able to spread the gospel without such interference. In addition, their life-styles are far less costly so the Filipino can go where the American can’t, can work with less problems and be more cost effective.

God gave us a brain, a Bible and instructions so that we can make wise spiritual investments.

Needs

Americans who will love the saved Filipinos and churches which are struggling and who will prove their love by helping.

Americans who will be responsible for the churches which are “poor relatives” in the Philippines and that are the spiritual descendants of American missionary efforts.

Care, concern and help for missionaries who work in areas with no electricity, who have nothing more than a Bible, a grass hut with a dirt floor, and a bed made from bamboo. Many have no medicine for their children. Many work for about $1/day to support their families while they start the church. Many are doing the ministry with zeal but lack basics of life and don’t even know God’s way for providing those basics.

Basic teaching aids for “mountain preachers” such as Sunday School lessons, lessons on doctrines and basic tools such as a way to search their Bible.

Someone who will not only “teach them to fish” but “give them a fish” long enough for them to learn how to fish.

Someone who will partner with those who have the zeal necessary to become missionaries. The partners need to be sure that they are completely trained before sending them to the mission field.

Someone who will partner with existing ministries which are sending out missionaries but don’t really have the ability to properly train or support them. The missionaries need to have their physically and spiritual needs met so that they can concentrate on the ministry.

Someone who will partner with tested and verified missionaries who can go where Americans can’t, be more effective than Americans and require only 10% of the support that an American missionary needs.

Advantages

American missionaries can’t blend into Asian cultures like Filipinos can. When I was in Vietnam everyone noticed and watched me because I am white. The Filipino missionary that I support, who has up to 60 attending his underground church, is able to do so because most Vietnamese think he is also Vietnamese.

Filipinos from Rick Martin’s church go as missionaries to Africa, and similar places, where there is no electricity, food is gathered daily and cooked over a fire on the ground, they live in grass huts and sleep on a mat on the ground. The Filipino wives grew up in similar conditions and can accept this way of life which is too hard for most American women.

Filipinos are used to less and, therefore, have no problem with living on less in order to start a ministry.

Filipinos grow up learning at least 3 languages. Ask any language expert and they will tell you that this is a major advantage when it comes to learning a new language as required on most mission fields.

One of the main exports from the Philippines is people. They have a major federal department set up to support their Oversea Worker because they have so many workers around the world including places like the Middle East. One more Filipino family is not even noticed anywhere while Americans are noticed anywhere outside of Europe, Canada and the U.S. When governments are suspicious or opposed to missionary efforts, the Filipino avoids scrutiny and problems that Americans cannot avoid.

The Philippines is said to be the most Americanized of Eastern cultures, but it is still an Eastern culture. People forget this critical truth and cause offenses, without meaning to, due to cultural differences. Filipinos who understand Americans can represent American missionary efforts while avoiding offenses caused by cultural differences.

Bottom line: you get some of the most zealous missionaries who are also some of the most adaptable people at about 10% of the cost of an American missionary.

In addition, the Bible teaches that one job of the non-preacher is to go to other ministries without being noticed. They are to report what is actually happening there. Most American preachers cannot do this because they are so noticeable. Our failure to use this Biblical method of verifying claims that are in missionary letters is why so many “moochanaries” are supported by good churches.

Ministry Plan:

* Provide training and training materials to existing Filipino ministries. Provide these to all that will accept them but test their actual spiritual growth before providing further aid. Create a pattern which can be used for creating similar ministries in other parts of the world. Recognize cultural differences, cultural strengths and culturally based special needs. Have different, but similar, ministries dealing with different cultures so that these critical aspects are not ignored.

For example, there is a current ministry which supports starting new Filipino churches. They provide decreasing financial support for three years. In a culture like America where people are taught to save from when they are children, three years can be enough time for a church to become self-supporting. However, in a hand-to-mouth culture where even the preacher does not know basic Biblical teaching on money and sees no need for saving, for record keeping and related things, the church often fails shortly after losing ongoing support.

* Use existing spiritually mature preachers and churches who are also used to dealing with Americans and who do not get offended by cultural differences. Partner with them and support their reaching others within their culture who may be offended by American cultural differences.
* Provide internet access to training material and American ministries who provide doctrinally sound ministry aids.
* Teach these preachers to use the internet which they can access even if with difficulty. Books are expensive to provide and ship, are destroyed by humidity, bugs and other environmental conditions. Filipino preachers can access and print out lessons and other material as often as they need if they go to an internet café. However, they need to know what sites to access and how to access those sites.
* Filipinos, in general, skipped writing letters and went from waiting until they could physically visit friends to texting. A similar jump from no ministry helps to accessing ministry helps on the internet is possible. When we consider the millions and billions of Asians there are, providing printed material for all of them is not a fiscally sound idea.
* Where possible, provide contact between American ministries and Filipino ministries when the Americans are willing to provide direct support such as shipping Bibles, gospel tracts and training materials.
* As possible, help visiting representatives of American ministries to meet these people that are in need.
* Help Filipinos learn the record keeping and reporting which is required to be supported through a mission board. When desired, help them to get set-up with a mission board so that Americans can support them using existing methods of ministry support.
* Provide a “second witness” that is completely separate from the mission board structure as it currently exists. There must be no involvement in any financial support or regular reporting by missionaries. However, Godly Filipinos can visit and report what the missionary and mission ministry are actually doing without people realizing they are being reported on. This is Biblical. Where people “put their best foot forward” for the visiting American, they treat other Filipinos with no special consideration.

Results from the first 6 Months of PAME

* About 40 pastors were trained in an “Iron sharpeneth iron” 6-month training.
* Many testified of being encouraged.
* At least one preacher who was actively looking for a job so he could quit the ministry returned to it “fired up”.
* At least one preacher who had quit returned to the ministry.
* All were shown how to interpret their KJV 1611 with NO errors. All were shown how to test competing doctrines and separate truth from error. All were shown Biblical ways to find the error in doctrines taught by cults.
* All were taught by senior pastors critical doctrines which they did not know. They were taught soul winning, church history, the doctrine of the church, Biblical authority, getting protection and provision from God and more.
* At least 6 pastors took what they were taught by senior pastors, compared it to the Bible using the method they were taught for verifying doctrine and compared those results to their doing the same with the traditions which they were raised with. As a result 6 churches converted to being Baptist and, as needed, pastors and church members were baptized.
* Many pastors reported changing the doctrine that they preach because they now know how to verify doctrine against what the Bible actually says.
* Several preachers report using the new way to study their Bible and have greater understanding as a result.
* Several pastors report using the material they were given to teach their church members.
* One pastor who was explaining the method of soul winning he was taught led his wife to salvation.
* One “medical mission” to a mountain church resulted in:
* 85 children seen by a doctor for the first time in their life
* People receiving basic vitamins and other medicines that they never had access to before
* About 30 Bible School students and staff taking church members on soul winning training
* 120 professions
* Pastor, church and all involved encouraged and ready to do more in the ministry
* Several missions received help from visiting speakers with professions, baptisms and dedications to the Lord as a result.
* Bible Students received “hands on” training in mission work.
* New doors were opened such as two mission trips, one to see existing Filipino mission ministries and one to survey a field for a future mission work.