

# Global Prayer

## Digest

June 2018 • Frontier Ventures • 37:6

A man wearing a light-colored bucket hat, a brown long-sleeved shirt, a light green scarf, and purple pants is riding a large, dark grey water buffalo through a shallow river. The buffalo is carrying a wooden log on its back. The man is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a lush green landscape with hills and a riverbank.

## Is The Philippine Nation At A Turning Point?

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# Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

Every *Global Prayer Digest (GPD)* issue turns out a little different than I originally expected. The leadership of Ethne to Ethne (the prayer network *GPD* works with) and I were thinking about using “violence among the unreached people groups” as the main thrust of our prayers for this month.

Two years ago, we prayed for Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines, and we focused not only on the unreached people groups, but also on the Muslim and communist rebel groups that destroy lives. The day we finished praying, the Philippines inaugurated a new president who, at the time of this writing, has a policy that, according to Human Rights Watch, allows the police to kill on site anyone whom they claim is a drug addict or dealer. The door is wide open for violent abuse in the Philippines

On a different topic, this month we will be covering unreached people groups all over the Philippines. Between our prayers for Mindanao two years ago and this month, we will be covering all the unreached groups listed by the Joshua Project.

Pray on!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Carey".

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

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## June 2018

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(Taiwan)

### WEB SITES

[www.globalprayerdigest.org](http://www.globalprayerdigest.org)

<https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/>

ISSN 1045-9731  
Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2018  
Frontier Ventures  
1605 East Elizabeth Street  
Pasadena, CA 91104

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Cover photo by zabelin.  
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## Pray For

*A Disciple-Making Movement in  
Every People in the Philippines*



## **ARE THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AT A TURNING POINT?**

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— Keith Carey,  
Editor-in-  
chief, *GPD*

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Filipinos may be the easiest people to get along with. Most are even-tempered, friendly, and averse to conflict. However, everyone has their limits. When does someone “snap” and become adversarial or violent?

Unlike our issue from two years ago that featured the Philippine’s southern island of Mindanao, this issue is about unreached people groups in all the Philippine islands. Two years ago we prayed for the conflicts raging throughout the Philippines with communist insurgencies and Muslim rebels fighting to make Mindanao a separate Islamic nation.

The day we finished praying for Mindanao, June 30, 2016, the Philippines inaugurated a new president, Rodrigo Duterte, former mayor of Davao City in Mindanao. He was the first Filipino from Mindanao to become president. Duterte considers drug users and drug dealers to be a menace to his country, and they must be wiped out. The Philippines

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## TURNING POINT

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now has a “shoot to kill” policy for drug offenders. Duterte hopes to kill tens of thousands of drug offenders. They only need to wrap packing tape over the heads and feet of those killed, and no one will be tried for murder.

Most likely, it will not just be drug users killed; such situations throw the doors open for people to kill those they hate with impunity. At the time of this writing (Oct. 2017) the body count of those killed is up to 7,000, according to Human Rights Watch. That same human rights organization claims that Duterte’s war on drugs has extended to killing human rights activists and journalists.

Duterte says he has a list of 1,000 police, local community leaders, and politicians who are linked to the drug trade. Such actions make one think of US senator Joe McCarthy’s accusations of people being communist collaborators in the early 1950s.

His popularity rating is high, and Filipinos affectionately call him “Dirty Harry,” the main character in a movie about a rogue San Francisco cop who took matters into his own hands in a city that was soft on crime. The general public feels threatened by drug dealers and users, and they expect a much safer environment after the “criminals” are killed. However, the “drug war” was suspended on Friday, Oct. 13. But from what the president said, he will probably start it up again.

### **The Violence Will Probably Increase**

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What they don’t understand is that violence begets more violence. There will be retaliation and revenge killings in the years to come. Even the Philippine government has already bombed a mosque in retaliation against Muslim militants in Mindanao that destroyed a cathedral. If this is what the

government will do, how far will criminals take things?

One Muslim separatist group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has made their peace with the Philippine government. But there are at least three Muslim factions that want to fight on until they have their independence.

Obviously the Muslims of Mindanao have been dealt with unfairly. At the time of independence from the US in 1949, they expected their island to be a separate nation. That never happened. Instead, in the coming decades, Roman Catholics from this politically powerful island came to take land

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continued on next page

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## TURNING POINT

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Nathan Allen, iStockPhotos



for their own purposes. Muslims and Roman Catholics in Mindanao formed their own militias, while government forces battled Islamic separatists. The more separatists they kill, the more Muslims see their cause as being justified. That actually helps Islamacists to recruit.

There is no way to stop all the violence; there will always be Islamacists who

are willing to kill and destroy for their cause. But what if the government were willing to act more justly? Could they give Mindanao a degree of independence without it becoming a haven for people who think like ISIS terrorists? Ever since Spanish colonial days, there have been about 10-20 Filipino families who have held almost all the political power. This situation intensified after independence, leaving people looking for other answers. Communist insurgents have offered their answers along with a willingness to use violence in order to achieve them. Though groups like the New People's Army (NPA) are not as active as they were 25 years ago, the Philippines still has to deal with communist insurgents.

There are no definite solutions. Injustice, backed by violence, can easily lead to even more violence and mayhem.

### Let's Pray!

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to show Filipino leaders how to bring justice and peace to their nation.
- Pray for a revival that will cause Jesus to be glorified, and entire communities to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that the Lord will be the comforter for the Filipinos as they face tragedies and bloodshed.
- Pray for every people group on the Philippine Islands to be reached by the love and mercy of the Lord.

“We have the great privilege of being ambassadors to many who know little about our Lord. This book will show us who our new neighbors are, and how to reach out to them with love and grace in a way they will understand. I pray many churches and Christians will respond to this special opportunity.”

– *Larry Phillips, Executive Director/President, Global Grace*

# EthnoLA

Reaching the Nations, Tongues,  
and People of the Greater Los Angeles Metro Area

This book studies the diaspora from the world in the Greater Los Angeles Metro Area (GLAMA). Jerome Hannaman from Frontier Ventures in Pasadena, California, created a database of more than 300 people groups/languages in GLAMA and is the driving force for this publication.

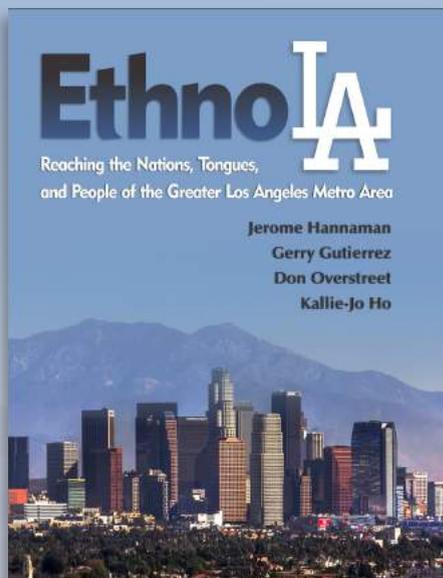
The co-authors of this project, Gerry Gutierrez, Don Overstreet, and Kallie-Jo Ho provide an overview of the life, spirituality, location, and communities of the world living among us. We pray that individual Christians and churches learn about and then reach out to the mission field in our backyard.

The Church is responsible for representing Christ to these people, and the long-time residents of Los Angeles have the privilege of reaching out to love, serve, and witness with open hearts and arms.

ISBN: 978-1-5136-2552-2

192 Pages Paperback

List Price: \$19.95



Available at the Frontier Ventures Bookstore  
or at [ethnola.com](http://ethnola.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY, FRANK LAUBACH

### GAL 1:3, NLT

May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

*Pray that those who hear the gospel in the Philippines will understand that grace and peace are part of the rewards for being part of God's family.*



**W**ould you describe yourself as being more right brained, or left brained? At the risk of over-simplifying things, the left brain handles analytical matters, and the right brain handles creative and emotional matters. Today we are going to read about Frank Laubach, a missionary

to Mindanao who was able to use both sides of his brain in an amazing way. From his left brain, he developed ways to train people in learning how to read. From the right brain, he was a Christian mystic who did all he could to remain in the presence of the Lord.

Frank Laubach was from Pennsylvania and he attended Princeton, Union Theological Seminary, and Columbia University where he earned his PhD in 1915. Under the American Board of Foreign Missions, Frank and his wife, Effa Emaline Seely, went to serve in the Philippines. The couple planted churches on Mindanao, but Laubach recognized that two very important things were missing from his ministry to the unreached Muslim Maranao people he served. After 14 years of ministry, Laubach had revelations about what to do about both of these problems. Read about it tomorrow.

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to today's workers in the Philippines about whatever needs to be changed so that the Kingdom of God may expand and Christ's name may be glorified among the lost.—KC*

## LAUBACH BIOGRAPHY, CONTINUED

DAY

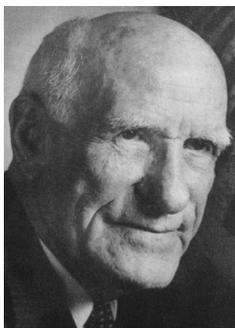
02

Laubach was concerned with the poverty and injustice faced by the Maranaos. How would they excel in the modern world unless they could read? Jobs are always limited for those who are not literate.

So Laubach developed the “Each One Teach One” (I teach you, then you teach someone else, and so on). This program allowed people to learn the essentials of reading in a matter of hours. The program multiplied literacy teachers, since everyone was expected to teach others. The results empowered the Maranao people. In the coming years, Laubach wrote 40 books and toured other parts of the world promoting this means of extending literacy to the masses.

Secondly, he taught a key spiritual insight. Laubach yearned to exist in the presence of God, so he developed “the Game with Minutes,” which challenged all believers to keep God in mind for at least one second of every minute. By doing this, Laubach maintained an attitude of praying without ceasing, which transformed his spiritual character. This made a huge difference with the Muslims he went to; they became much more open to a gospel message which focuses on a relationship with a loving God. What a revolutionary concept for Muslims!

*Pray for missionaries today to extend God’s kingdom through doing good to those who might otherwise dismiss the gospel as foreign.—KC*



Frank Laubach

### 1 THES 5:16-18, NIV

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

*Pray that workers today will have the joy of the Lord, and pray without ceasing. Pray that their countenance will reflect the character of the Lord and draw others to Him.*

## AGTA PEOPLE OF LUZON ISLAND

### NUM 23:19, NET

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a human being, that He should change His mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it happen?

*Pray that the Agta people, who are facing such devastating changes, will cling to the holy God who never changes.*



The old Agta woman showed her granddaughter how to pull back the bow. Everyone knew that women had better success with hunting than men, but everyone also observed that the long-preserved Agta way of life was fading, and this girl could be the last generation of Agta people to hunt.

The Agta or Aeta are an impoverished people who traditionally live in the isolated mountains of Luzon Island. One of the oldest tribes, their way of life had remained unchanged for thousands of years until recently. They are still nomadic, although many are forced into urban resettlement areas. Some still build temporary shelters made of sticks driven into the mountainous ground covered with the palm or banana leaves. The more modernized, settled Agtas live in villages and open spaces. These dark-skinned “Negritos” (or goblins as they are derogatorily referred to) are mostly unskilled laborers who work for or trade with lowland farmers. The change in Agta lifestyle has mirrored the decline in their population, now less than a thousand. Meanwhile the government offers them little protection.

The Agta are monotheistic, and many are even Evangelical due to early missionary efforts. Most are animistic, meaning they believe in the spirits of mountains and other earth elements.

*Pray that the Agta believers will teach the gospel and demonstrate the power of Jesus.—LR*

## FAIRE ATTA PEOPLE

DAY

04

They probably won't survive the 21st century, though they were among the first people to inhabit Luzon Island in the Philippines. This is the Faire Atta people, also known as the Southern Atta. This tribe is described as “negritos,” meaning that they have dark skin and kinky hair like Africans, though their home is in Southeast Asia. They are semi-nomadic, and their land is very good for farming. They use it to grow rice, corn, yams, and tobacco, and their homes are usually made of bamboo and grass.



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### SONG 1:5-6A, NET

I am dark but lovely, O maidens of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Qedar, lovely like the tent curtains of Salmah. Do not stare at me because I am dark, for the sun has burned my skin.

*Pray that the Faire Atta and their neighbors will understand the love God has for all people, even those the world despises.*

This tribe has always been skilled with a bow and arrow, which made it difficult for outsiders to enslave them. Outsiders had better weapons, so eventually they did succeed in enslaving some of these people. Today, the Faire Atta are still threatened, this time by logging and mining interests who want the Faire Atta to move off valuable land.

Each generation becomes smaller because some must move into a world that they are not prepared to face. They have gods to call upon—both good and bad spirits that they believe inhabit the trees and other natural objects around them. But none of these gods can help the Faire Atta people.

*Pray for the Filipino church to send believers, not just to tell them about Jesus, but to help them adjust to rapid changes that threaten to engulf them.—KC*

## MAMANWA PEOPLE

## GEN 3:14, NET

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the wild beasts and all the living creatures of the field! On your belly you will crawl and dust you will eat all the days of your life.”

*Pray that the Mamanwa people will understand the spiritual war they are in, and that they need to follow the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*



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Reticulated Python

The Mamanwas, one of the oldest people groups in the Philippines, consider snake meat a delicacy. Their skilled hunters are capable of killing the world's longest snake, the reticulated python. After a successful hunt, the sound of traditional gongs heralds a feast and an evening of celebration connecting several villages. Though only two percent of the Mamanwa are Christian, the biblical allegory in this tradition is evident. God promises to crush the head of the serpent, representing Satan.

Mamanwa culture honors the unknowable. The Mamanwa worship a collection of spirits under the authority of an all-powerful deity known as Magbabaya. They also deify natural wonders such as the mountains and the moon.

They lead mobile lives, surviving by hunting and gathering in small communities composed of as few as three families. Traditionally, the death of a member of their community is sufficient to cause the Mamanwas to uproot their homes and move, leaving behind memories of death. Their nomadic lifestyle challenges the traditional model of church planting, requiring creative ways to reach people who regularly move from one place to another.

*Pray for the Lord to crush the head of false gods and for the Kingdom of God to come to the Mamanwas. Pray for an effective church planting movement to arise within their nomadic communities.—EC*

# ARABS IN THE PHILIPPINES

DAY

06

*(These events are hypothetical.)*

Telephoning from his apartment in Manila, Hakim had good news for his Saudi cousin.

“Praise Allah, Fadil! The company has requested that you come right away to Manila for your final interview. I’m almost sure you have the new shipping office management job.”



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Flowers are beautiful in the tropics!

Hakim had come to Manila from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to work for the shipping company almost a year before. He was happy to think that a family member might be joining him in the Philippines. He continued, “You will have to join our Saudis Expat group. There is something going on all the time. I went on a trip with them for the Season of Blooming Festival. It was unbelievable! I never knew that there could be so many spectacular flowers as there are in the Philippines. Also, there are fantastic Saudi restaurants, and the Golden Mosque right here in Manila has Qur’anic studies almost every day.”

There are over 31,000 Arab people from various parts of the Middle East, North Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula living in the Philippines. The majority of them are working in jobs related to shipping, trading, the food industry, and small businesses. Most of them are Muslim, although a few have come to the Lord.

*Pray that committed followers of Christ will be prepared to reach out to these Arab Muslims so they will know the true God and the saving grace of Jesus.—PD*

## 2 CHRON 24:20, NET

God’s Spirit energized Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood up before the people and said to them, “This is what God says: ‘Why are you violating the commands of the Lord? You will not be prosperous! Because you have rejected the Lord, He has rejected you!’”

*Pray that the Arabs of the Philippines who have prospered economically will seek and find the spiritual prosperity that only Jesus Christ can offer.*

## SINDHIS IN THE PHILIPPINES

## PROV 12:11, NET

The one who works his field will have plenty of food, but whoever chases daydreams lacks wisdom.

*Pray that the Sindhis, who have made their fortune through hard work, will understand that to find spiritual fulfillment they cannot depend on their work, but only on the grace of Jesus Christ.*

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A Sindhi woman

Sheila, a Sindhi, was letting her father, Vishali, know how she had improved the family's optical business in Manila. "I've computerized the entire office system, so it's faster and more efficient. This month we have had the highest sales ever recorded, and it looks like we will need to hire more people. I heard from Akshy (brother), and he has decided to join the firm." Vishali was pleased. He said, "That's great! I will have much to share with other members at the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce, Inc.) meeting as I introduce you as the third generation of our family to join. We have come a long way since your grandfather arrived here in Manila in 1930 with only enough money to buy a little rice."

The majority of the estimated 29,000 Sindhi people living in the Philippines are Hindu. They have a strong aptitude for trading, business, and professional jobs such as medicine, law, and movie production. They have become a wealthy community in Manila. Sindhi families often send their children to private Philippine Catholic schools, as they feel these schools will provide a higher standard of education.

*Pray that God will open the hearts of the Sindhis to His grace, love, and salvation through His servants. Pray that soon there will be a disciple-making movement among Sindhis in the Philippines.—PD*

## TAGALAG SPEAKING JEWS

*(These events are hypothetical.)*

“Shalom. Aviel, did

Danilo accept our price for the tuna?”

The Israeli businessman was checking with his Jewish partner in Manila

regarding a deal they were making for frozen tuna with a local Philippine trader. Aviel stated, “He accepted our offer, and the timing was perfect! I just heard the market between Israel and the Philippines is going crazy; already it’s up over 20 percent.”



Makati City is a section of Metro Manila (ie, greater Manila) where the majority of the estimated 100 Tagalog speaking Jews reside. (Tagalog is the most common language in the Philippines.) It is the location of the Beth Yaacov Synagogue and a Jewish kosher market. Most of these families can trace their heritage back to WWII when their ancestors escaped the holocaust in Germany by migrating to the Philippines. Increased trading with Israel has improved the lives of these Jewish people. Most Jewish people living in the Philippines are secular, though Judaism is an important part of their identity.

*Pray that God will send His children to befriend these Jewish people and that they will be willing to carry out His instructions as given in Proverbs 16:3, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” Pray that when God’s word is clearly given to these Jewish people they will know Jesus as their messiah. Pray that soon they will disciple others in His ways.—PD*

## EX 12:26-27, NET

When your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’—then you will say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, when he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck Egypt and delivered our households. . . .’

*Pray that the Jewish people in the Philippines will be grateful to the Lord who delivered them from Egypt, and also delivered them in the 20th century. Pray that their gratitude will lead to love for the Lord, and a willingness to obey Him.*

## JAPANESE IN THE PHILIPPINES

### MATT 5:6, NET

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to give Japanese people in the Philippines a hunger for righteousness and spiritual fulfillment.*

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*(These events are hypothetical)*

Tadao, a young Japanese man living in the Philippines, was shocked by the newspaper headline. A Filipino

man had shot two Japanese tourists in Manila and chopped up their bodies. His dad saw him reading the paper at the kitchen table. Tadao spoke. “Dad, why do Filipinos hate the Japanese so much?”

There is a long history behind such feelings for the Japanese. During the century of 1100 AD, Japanese traders sailed to Luzon Island to buy glass jars. In the 1600s, Japanese Catholic converts fled to the Philippines to escape persecution. After the United States took the Philippines from Spain in 1898, many Japanese settled in that land, most of them in Davao City in Mindanao. During World War II many Japanese expatriates aided their countrymen in the invasion of the Philippines. After the Philippines had been liberated from Japanese rule, ten thousand Japanese were massacred. Many others fled or were deported.

More Japanese settled in the Philippines after independence in 1946. Many of these new immigrants worked for Japanese corporations. Today there are 4,300 Japanese living in the Philippines. Most are Buddhists and Shintoists.

*Ask God to lead a mission agency to target the Japanese in the Philippines for outreach. Ask God to break the hold Buddhism and materialism have on this people group.—WK*

# TADYAWAN PEOPLE ON MINDORO ISLAND

DAY

10

*(These events are hypothetical.)*

Kim from South Korea saw the bamboo huts on the island of Mindoro. There were verdant rice fields nearby. He had finally reached a village of the Tadyawan people. Later that day he talked with the village elders. He told them in their language, "Jesus' words are like rice seeds being sown by a farmer. Only those that fall in the rice paddy will bear fruit, not those that fall on the trail. The others will be wasted or eaten by birds." The headman tilted his head in puzzlement and asked, "What does this mean?" Kim replied, "I'm hoping some of you are ready to seriously consider the words I have for you. The words of Jesus can provide all of you an abundant, fruitful life."



The Tadyawan people live in the Philippines on the island of Mindoro. This people group grows rice, sweet potatoes, taro root, and bananas. They worship nature spirits. Only two percent of this group is Christian.

*Ask God to send faithful workers to disciple the Tadyawan people in the ways of Jesus Christ. Pray that a mission agency will begin translating the Bible into the language of this people group. Pray also that the few Tadyawan followers of Jesus Christ would grow in faith and begin sharing the message of salvation with their countrymen.—WK*

## MATT 13:31-32, NET

Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."

*Pray for faith in Christ to grow in a huge way among the Tadyawan people.*

## HANUNAO PEOPLE ON MINDORO ISLAND

### SONG 1:1, NET

Kiss me and kiss me again,  
for your love is sweeter  
than wine.

*Pray that the Hanunao  
people will seek and find the  
intimacy God wants to have  
with them as a people.*

iStockPhotos



*(These events are  
hypothetical.)*

At the Hanunao  
village in Mindoro  
young men sang  
songs of love. The  
young women  
who heard them

responded in song, some accepting the romantic overtures and others rejecting them. Dan, a missionary from America, saw this and knew how to reach out to this people group. Later that day he met with the village elders. He told them, "Jesus is like a man looking for a wife. He calls out to all people everywhere with songs of love." These were words the Hanunao people understood. There were many who accepted Jesus as Lord in the months that followed.

Mindoro, an island just south of Luzon, is the home of the Hanunao people. They have a written language. They grow corn, rice, sugar cane, and beans. Music is highly valued by the Hanunao people, who worship nature spirits. Modern education and medicine are almost unknown among them.

*Ask God to send Christian teachers and doctors to reach out to this people group with the message of salvation. May the Hanunao come to see Jesus Christ as being better than the nature spirits they currently worship. Pray that soon the Hanunao people will take the gospel to others who will share it until all of them have the chance to know what Jesus has to offer their communities.—WK*

# BATUTAUT PEOPLE OF PALAWAN ISLAND

DAY

12

When is a cave man not a cave man? During the dry season, of course, when the Batutaut people live outside their usual caves in wooden open-air housing and tend their crops of sweet potatoes, sugar cane, beans, squash, and pineapple. They supplement these crops with jungle game shot with blowguns or shotguns and by trading forest products or baskets for fish and salt.



## MATT 3:3B, NIV

A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him."

*Pray for many from the Batutaut people to make a place in their hearts for the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Unknown to outsiders until about 20 years ago, this Malay-language-based unreached people group of about 400 people in 100 families lives in a remote corner of Palawan, an island to the west of most of the other Philippine islands. This animistic people, best known for their harvest festival, needs someone to help them adjust to the encroachment of modern Philippine society onto their lands. They need an advocate!

Although the Joshua Project says that they are five percent Christian, such numbers are uncertain, especially since that number includes people who are "Christian" in name only. Nothing in other literature indicates anything but animism as their religion.

*Pray that God would send someone to help them adjust to the outside world. Pray that the church and believers would be their advocates. Pray that belief in spirits will be replaced by faith in Jesus Christ who is greater than the spirits they worship. Ask God to send them a cultural broker and gospel advocate.—TP*

## BROOKE'S POINT PALAWAN

### MATT 3:11, NET

I baptize you with water, for repentance, but the one coming after me is more powerful than I am—I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

*Pray that the Brooke's Point Palawan people will see that Jesus Christ is far greater than they have ever known.*

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A view from Palawan Is.

Today's people group, the highland Brooke's Point Palawan, live in the remote region of Mt. Maruyog on Palawan Island. Due to their isolation, they have managed to retain much of their ancestral way of life. By contrast, the lowlanders have been influenced by outsiders, including missionaries.

The Brooke's Point Palawan would likely enjoy reading about Sampson in the Book of Judges because riddles play a role in their courtship as was the case with Sampson. Furthermore, Brooke's Point elders are called “judges.”

Most of these people engage in dry agriculture, raising rice, roots, beans, and vegetables to complement game. Others trade for a living. Some educated lowlanders work for the government. Most are animists. Others are Roman Catholic, and about 25 percent are Muslim. Christianity has taught the people to value education. Not surprisingly, there are two dialects among the Palawans, one for highlanders and one for the lowlanders. Approximately 10 percent of the people can read their own language, while another 10 percent can also read Tagalog, the main language of the Philippines.

*Pray for unity between lowland and highland Brooke's Point Palawan and for increased literacy. Pray for the believers among them to be good ambassadors for Christ. Pray for an evangelistic outreach among this group and for church growth that will result in a Disciple-Making movement.— TP*

## CENTRAL TAGBANWA PEOPLE

If yesterday's people were divided into highlanders and lowlanders, today's people are divided into east, west, and central regions. However, unlike the unreached



Huts on Palawan Is.

iStockPhotos

people groups we prayed for over the past two days, this group's native language is rapidly disappearing. Newcomers have been arriving since World War II, and the Tagbanwa have adopted the newcomers' language. Since the 1990s, out of an approximately 3,900 Tagbanwa people, fewer than 1,000, still speak the indigenous language. To complicate matters further, the Tagbanwa peoples speak three mutually unintelligible languages. They engage in agriculture, growing rice, sweet potatoes, and collecting honey. To raise money, they sell forest products and honey to outsiders.

Their religion is complicated. The Central Tagbanwa worship four main gods, each with its own individual rituals. They believe the deceased and the living may communicate with each other. Some are culturally Roman Catholic.

*Pray that the few Central Tagbanwa believers will evangelize their people. Pray for the spread of gospel materials. Pray for revival in the Catholic population in the Philippines so that "conversions of convenience" will become a living faith in the living Lord Jesus.—TP*

### MATT 3:16, NET

After Jesus was baptized, just as he was coming up out of the water, the heavens opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my one dear Son; in him I take great delight."

*Pray that the Central Tagbanwa people will soon take delight in the Lord Jesus Christ, and live lives of humble obedience to Him.*

DAY

15

## MOLBOG PEOPLE

### MATT 4:23, NET

Jesus went throughout all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of disease and sickness among the people.

*Pray that the Molbog people will hear of the words and deeds of Jesus Christ, and joyfully become part of His holy family.*

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If you live on a small island, you are probably very accustomed to catching and eating fish. But according to the August 23, 2017 *Manila Bulletin*, the

Molbog people on Palawan Island have reported seeing another type of animal quite frequently, something much larger than fish—crocodiles! Dionisio Lantawan, a teacher on the island, relates that crocodile sightings are very common. Molbog school children are afraid, but adult locals have accepted it as part of their daily lives. Teacher Lantawan even got close enough to a sleeping crocodile to take a selfie with it! A spokesperson for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development explained that the saltwater crocodiles cannot stay long underwater if their habitats are flooded during high tide. He cautioned residents against hunting down the protected wildlife. The saltwater crocodile is the largest of all living reptiles. In the book of Job, God reminds Job that He created Behemoth and Leviathan. He also created the saltwater crocodile!

The Molbog people are 100 percent Muslim, and the community is not welcoming to outsiders who bring "religion."

*Please pray for hearts to be softened towards the gospel. The New Testament is available in the Molbog language; ask God to put it in the hands of students. Pray for the children to take their fears to God.—CMW*

## SOUTHERN SAMA PEOPLE

DAY

16

*(This story is a fictional account to depict the beliefs and practices of this people group.)*



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The Southern Sama boy always dreaded this time of year. His parents routinely made him clean his grandfather's grave, but tomorrow was Shaaban and there was the possibility that Grandfather's spirit would even pay them a visit. The boy wasn't sure what to think about that. He did not remember his grandfather who had died many years ago, so he felt no connection to the person in the grave. In any case, his family would gather by the grave to offer special prayers to Grandfather, even though they are Sunni Muslims. In recent years there have been troublesome Muslim extremists on their island, but for now, they had no time to worry about that threat.

The Southern Sama people live on the Tawi-Tawi islands in the Philippines, just to the southwest of Mindanao. They are fishermen. Since the 1970s much political unrest has disturbed their region. Muslim extremists have robbed the villagers of their once-peaceful existence.

*Pray that the Southern Sama people will hear the gospel and that they will pray to the living Lord Jesus and not to their dead ancestors. The Southern Sama think that their ancestors leave their graves once a year, but Jesus really did leave His grave and He rose victorious and will hear their prayers if they will only call out to Him!—CMW*

### MATT 28:5-6, NET

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised, just as He said. Come and see the place where He was lying.

*Pray that soon the Southern Sama people will hear of Christ's resurrection victory, and make it as their own victory over sin and death.*

DAY

17

## SANGIL PEOPLE

### JN 10:10B, TPT

My desire is to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect—life in its fullness until you overflow!

*Pray for the Sangil people to be transformed through the abundant life that only Jesus gives.*

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Many ethnic minorities live in Mindanao, the southern part of the mainly Catholic Philippines. Several of these ethnic groups

are Muslim, including the Sangil. The Sangil came from Indonesia; they now number over 10,300 people, mainly on Balut Island, just south of Mindanao.

The Sangil depend on fishing as well as farming. Their crops include sweet potatoes, corn, rice, bananas, and coconut. The people also build boats.

Several influences have impacted the Sangil people. Though strongly affected by Islam, they have retained much of their traditional ancestor-based religion, with Sangil ritual specialists acting as intermediaries with the supernatural. In addition, cultural change among the Sangil has taken place along with other coastal people groups.

Christianity has also made inroads into the Sangil. The International Missions Board of the Southern Baptists (IMB) indicates that the Sangil are now a reached people. However, with only two percent of the Sangils considered to be “Christian,” much remains to be done to evangelize and disciple this people group. Bible portions, the JESUS Film, and recordings are all available in the Sangil language.

*Ask God to stir Filipino churches to pray for and go to the Sangil people. Ask that Sangil people would engage with Christian resources in their own language.—CR*

## YAKAN PEOPLE OF BASILAN ISLAND

The statistics on the Yakan people are alarming: 0.00 percent Christian, 100 percent Muslim. They are obviously considered an unreached people group and are in urgent need of strategic mission efforts.



However, the more you learn about them, the more difficult the job of evangelism among them seems. They live on Basilan Island in the Philippine archipelago, and they do not reside in an easily accessible city or even a town. The Yakans are scattered through the interior of the island, living in small settlements that identify with various mosques.

Reaching the Yakans will require traveling far, learning their language, somehow being accepted into their little communities, and then presenting the good news of Christ to countless small villages and families. It seems like an impossible task, which is why the Yakans need our prayers.

*Please pray for the Lord to prepare and send out workers who will make the Yakan people their focus. Ask Him to begin softening their hearts. Pray for a translation organization to complete the Bible in their language. Pray for the Yakan people to hear about Christ through the JESUS Film, online resources, and through radio ministries. Pray for many to put their trust in Christ and begin discipling their people. Pray for a strong, vibrant church to be established that will transform Yakan communities.—CL*

### MATT 10:27, NIV

With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.

*Pray for the Lord to do the impossible and produce obedient disciples among the Yakan people.*

## PANGUTARAN SAMA PEOPLE

## PS 4:2, NIV

How long will you people  
turn my glory into shame?  
How long will you love  
delusions and seek  
false gods?

*Pray for the Pangutaran  
Sama people to seek and  
find truth and spiritual  
liberty in Christ.*

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*(This fictional  
account is intended to  
explain the beliefs of  
this people group.)*

“Why do we have to do this?” the young man complained. “We do this to show honor and respect,” his mother replied, yanking weeds from the lawn by the grave. “Grandmother doesn’t care.” He barely finished this sentence before his mother reached to grasp his wrist. “Do not speak ill of your grandmother!” He mumbled, “She’s dead. She won’t care if there are weeds by her grave.”

Exasperated, the mother responded, “Our prayers and our deeds are seen. Your grandmother is here!” She paused to point at the grave stone. “And during the month of Shaaban...” “Yes, yes, I know. You’ve told me a hundred times: her spirit returns and watches over us in the month of Shaaban.” The mother looked into her son’s eyes. “This is important to me. It is important for our family. It should be important to you.” With a heavy sigh, the boy returned to pulling weeds.

Although the Pangutaran Sama are officially followers of Islam, many continue to worship and appease spirits of their dead ancestors. They live in fear that they will offend them and incur their wrath resulting in bad luck, sickness, and failed crops.

*Pray for the Pangutarn Sama to be set free from the  
bondage of all false religions. Ask God to speak to their  
hearts and draw them into His kingdom.—CL*

## TUBOY SUBANEN PEOPLE

DAY

20

The Tuboy Subanens have long been exploited and victimized by their neighbors, binding them to a pattern of servitude and poverty.

Their physical needs are great, but their spiritual needs are even greater. Most of them have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel. They live on the island of Mindanao, in scattered farm settlements.



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All of the Tuboy Subanens are farmers who practice “slash and burn” agriculture. They raise various types of livestock, including pigs, chickens, cattle, and water buffalo. Their homes are rectangular, raised on stilts, with thatched roofs, situated on hillsides or ridges that overlook family fields. Every three or four years Subanens move to a new location to clear more forest for fields.

The JESUS Film is in their Subanen language. Ninety-eight percent of them cling to their ancient religion with its many gods. They believe that man shares the universe with gods, spirits, demons, and ghosts, and that they have the ability to harm humans and humans have the power to harm them.

*Pray that missionaries will go to their area to live and work among them. Pray that God will reveal Himself to the Tuboy Subanens. Pray that the gospel will be presented to them so they will understand and believe it. Pray that an indigenous Tuboy Subanen church will be planted and flourish.—KH*

### MATT 5:44-45, NET

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

*Pray for these exploited people to become such disciples of Christ that they will obey this command in such a way that the world will take notice.*

## NORTHERN SAMA OF MINDANAO

### GAL 1:11-12, NET

Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.

*Pray for the Northern Sama people to understand that the gospel comes straight from God, and is not based on human reasoning.*



The Northern Sama are 95 percent Sunni Muslim. However, they still retain their traditional ethnic religious beliefs. They believe that the spirits of the dead remain in the vicinity of their graves, requiring expressions of continued concern from the living.

Some graves have reportedly become the sources of miracle working power.

The Northern Sama occupy a number of islands in the Sulu Archipelago and on the Mindanao coast in the Philippines. Sama are a highly fragmented people without political unity.

They are a maritime people and fishing is their major occupation. They also engage in farming copra (dried coconut meat yielding coconut oil). They are known for their traditional dances, songs, percussion and xylophone music, dyed mats, and wood carvings.

Their settlements consist of densely clustered houses situated along well-protected stretches of shoreline. Regardless of where they live, the Northern Sama people all attend the same mosque.

*Ask the Lord to call people willing to go to Mindanao and share Christ with the Northern Sama. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and favor to mission agencies focusing on the Northern Sama. Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will faithfully break up the soil through intercession. Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Northern Sama.—KH*

## KALAGAN PEOPLE

Graceful dancers floated to the rhythmic music of gongs, chimes, and stringed instruments. Bright, vibrant colors mingled like a myriad of butterflies. It was time to celebrate the harvest and thank the spirits.



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Kalagan people were introduced to Islam when Muslim missionaries arrived in the area during the 1500s. Though 97 percent are Islamic, they continue to believe in a variety of spirits. Their language, Kalagan, resembles a number of other languages in the region. Kalagan people are self-sufficient farmers, producing nearly all of their own food. Men do the plowing, tilling, and other heavy farm work. The women do most of the domestic activities, assisted by older children. They have a strong preference for marriage between related families, especially to second cousins. After the wedding, couples usually live in the husband's community, although today young couples may form their own independent households.

Portions of the Bible, Global Recordings Network (GRN) audio, and the JESUS Film are available in the Kalagan language. However, these people, dear to Almighty God, remain unreached.

*Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to minister among the Kalagan. Pray that Christian radio broadcasts will become easily available to them. Ask the Lord to bring forth a triumphant Kalagan church.—KH*

DAY

22

**GAL 1:15, NET**

But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the good news about Jesus to the Gentiles.

*Pray that God will raise up dedicated believers among the Kalagan people who will preach and disciple their people in the ways of Jesus Christ.*

## IRANUN PEOPLE OF MINDANAO

### ROM 5:1, NET

Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. . .

*Pray that many Muslims in the Philippines will soon understand that it's faith in Christ not works that saves them.*

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**I**ranun means “pirates.” They earned their dubious name and reputation by being “defenders” of present day Illana Bay, and by US colonial writers who

called them “Moros, Mohamedans, marauders, pirates, raiders, slave traders, and lords of the eastern seas.” Iranun is an ethno-linguistic tribe on Mindanao Island.

Today, most Iranun people are engaged in fishing, while others raise food crops near Muslim and non-Muslim neighbors. Their lives are governed by traditional and customary laws.

Iranuns are 97 percent Sunni Islam, observing Islamic ways in a relaxed manner. Many animistic rituals rule their already difficult lives. There are many barriers to their understanding the provision made by the creator God for their sins. Iranun people have steadfastly resisted every effort to introduce the gospel to them. Their attitude toward Christianity is marked by indifference. There are no Scripture resources in the Iranun language.

*Pray for Filipino believers to see the need to love, reach out to, and evangelize the Iranun people. Pray that God will provide opportunities for the gospel to be shared with this people. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of Iranuns and turn them to the gospel truth. Pray for one more missionary team to live among and minister to the Iranun.—KH*

## KARAGA MANDAYA PEOPLE

Do you like festivals with drum music? Many people enjoy such a setting, including the 5,700 Karaga Mandaya people of Mindanao Island. They beat a large drum made with deer hide in an attempt to summon the spirits. These spirits are not there to help members of this tribe without a heavy spiritual price.



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They also have a post-harvest festival to celebrate the crops gathered from their cooperative farms. They believe this festival will lead to a good harvest the next year. Unfortunately, they are thanking spirit beings that are in rebellion to the one true God who actually does bless them with their harvest!

Most Karaga Mandaya people live as cultivators and as expert fishermen. Some have survived as traders, bartering goods like their famous metal work and jewelry. Recently they have become part of a cash economy.

The Karaga Mandaya are neither overwhelmingly Christian nor Muslim. Only four percent claim to be Christian, but even this small group still holds to a mixture of previous beliefs, and a form of Christianity that will not allow them to enter into the joy, peace, and blessings of our Lord.

*Pray for Filipino believers to disciple the Karaga Mandaya people in the ways of Christ, so that they will thank Him for all they have. Pray that soon there will be Karaga Mandaya believers taking Christ to other peoples in the Philippines.—KC/LR*

### GAL 2:20, NET

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

*Pray that many members of the Karaga Mandaya tribe will soon understand how central Jesus Christ is for all peoples.*

## MUSLIM WORK IN MINDANAO

## MATT 24:45-46, NIV

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

*Pray for faithfulness and obedience for those working to see God's kingdom expanded to the Muslim peoples of Mindanao.*

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In World War II, US forces and Filipino guerillas waged the Battle of Mindanao as part of the campaign to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese. In 2017 Filipino forces resumed the battle, this time against ISIS.

Over 150,000 refugees are scattered throughout the region. Other forces are at work against humanitarian and spiritual poverty, seeking to rescue the victims of this war. For security purposes, their name and the name of the unreached people group they are reaching must remain anonymous.

One mission agency reports progress in their work with a Muslim tribe. They brought in a dentist who helped over 330 people. “The patients were elated,” they report. “These are forgotten tribes that no one cares for, including the government. They kept asking us when this team would return.” The missionaries pray for a full-time RN with a heart for these tribal people to be in their villages daily caring for them.

On the spiritual front, the team shared the gospel with a Muslim leader, using a solar powered voice recording of *The God Story* in his dialect. Another prominent Muslim leader has been having monthly Bible studies in his home to learn more of the truth about Jesus. He was delighted and eager to share with others in his village.

*Pray for peace in Mindanao, and for open hearts among Muslims who are being reached with the gospel.—AHS*

## GRN WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

DAY

26

After a five hour walk from the nearest road through the steep mountains, the team from Global Recordings Network (GRN)



reached their first destination, a small Kalinga village. The people were amazed to hear stories of Jesus in their own language. GRN field recordists had previously recorded gospel messages and songs in various Kalinga dialects. One Filipino team member said, “A part of me was left in the mountains of Kalinga, captured by those people hungry for the word of God .... The work of GRN sparks a light that will brighten their path to salvation.”

Partnership is an important key. The GRN team identified several recording priorities. A pastor with a passion to reach the same tribes hosted the team and helped them find language helpers and translators. A church in Australia sponsored and prayed for the recording project. As a result, the team was able to proceed. This project has already impacted one of these tribal groups. By the time the recordings were finished the people were ready to form a church!

*Pray for loving, Holy Spirit-driven people to join the GRN team as they reach out to Filipino tribes with the message of salvation in their own languages. Pray that people will respond as they listen to the messages by making their lives a living sacrifice for Jesus Christ.—AHS*

### MATT 24:35, NIV

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

*Thank the Lord that His word will never pass away! Thank Him that there are ways for people to get His word through GRN.*

## 24:14 VENTURES

**MATT 24:14, NET**

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole inhabited earth as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

*Pray that thousands will be inspired to do more to make sure the day of His coming comes soon!*

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**W**e don't know when, but we do know that according to the Bible, many indications of Jesus' return are in place. What can we as believers do to hasten His coming?

A new coalition has been formed, 24:14 Ventures, that has a plan to meet the challenge. It officially launched July 15, 2017. It is a global coalition praying and working together to start a kingdom movement in every unreached people group by 2025. The inspiration for this coalition is Matthew 24:14: And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

24:14 is a partnership of mission organizations, churches, and church planting networks committed to three priorities: 1) In line with Matthew 24:14, finishing the task of bringing the gospel fully to every unreached people and place, 2) Fully reaching them through biblical movements of making disciples and planting churches, and 3) Starting these movements in every unreached people with a wartime urgency by the end of 2025 in the power of the Holy Spirit, no matter what it costs us.

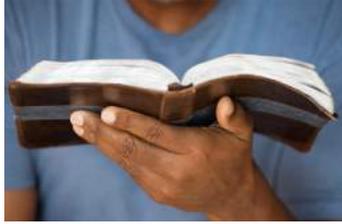
*Pray for wisdom, strength, and perseverance in the pursuit of this vision. Pray for the full armor of God to protect these "warriors" as they prepare for this effort to complete the Great Commission. Pray that you and members of your congregation will do what you can to fulfill the Great Commission.—JS*

## SEASTAR PROJECT

DAY

28

**D**id you ever hear really good news that you just had to share with your friends and family? It's such good news that they want to share it with others. What is that good news? It is the gospel message! Disciple Making Movements (DMM) do just that—they share the gospel with friends who pass on the good news to others who share the gospel as well.



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SeaStar Project seeks to do that very thing—disciple Muslims and Buddhists in Southeast Asia. At present, work is going on in countries where it must be kept hidden from the government to protect new believers. These new believers are being equipped to reach their own people.

For security purposes, we will not name these countries, but the DMM of new believers leads to Discovery Bible Studies. These studies with lost families lead to salvation and house churches being planted in countries that outlaw church activities. The missionaries leading this movement ask particular prayer for two key leaders that are primary church planters, Manny and Ken. They live on very little, yet with the little they have, they are housing 11 orphans.

*Pray for boldness for these two leaders and direction on how to implement the principles they have learned. Pray for all those who were trained to share their faith and begin Discovery Bible Studies. Pray for them to find Buddhists and Muslims that will welcome them into their communities.—JS*

### JN 16:12-13, NIV

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.

*Pray that as new Southeast Asian believers are disciplined, they will be able to clearly hear God's voice and joyfully obey Him.*

## BREAKTHROUGH AMONG THE ROHINGYAS

### EPH 4:26-27, NET

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on the cause of your anger. Do not give the devil an opportunity.

*Pray that these abused and persecuted people will not give way to rage, but instead will allow the Holy Spirit to direct their paths.*

Kim Sorensen



A Rohingya family

The Rohingyas have been driven out of Myanmar and turned away by country after country. Jesus has found these

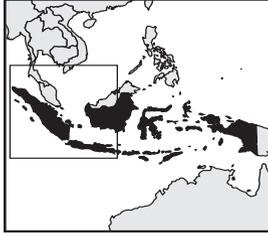
rejected people in Bangladesh, and they are literally flocking to hear about and accept Jesus as their savior! A Global Gateways team joined a Bangladeshi evangelist translator who took them to village after village where Rohingyas live. The team leader told them, “We want to bring a message of peace and the kingdom of God to you.” He shared the gospel with them. When asked if they wanted to follow Jesus, most raised their hands. The team wanted to be sure that the men really understood what following Jesus was about because these were Muslim men, and it meant forsaking the ways of the old. Still, hand after hand was raised. The team then prayed with them and for healing for many who were ill. This scenario was repeated in village after village.

Babu, a Rohingya, eagerly stayed with them the entire time. Babu said, “I want to be baptized today.” Babu was a fisherman. The team told him, “You were a fisher of fish, now with your new life in Christ, you will be a fisher of men.” At the end of the trip, 399 Rohingya Muslims accepted Christ, and 20 reported healings.

*Pray that these new believers will continue to multiply their new found faith by sharing with others.—JS*

## RIAU MALAY WORK IN INDONESIA

The Bible talks about the nations of the earth, and we are admonished to pray for the nations. What constitutes a nation? It really means a specific ethnic group, and the Bible calls these *ethne*. There are many in any given country, especially island nations like the Philippines or Indonesia.



The Riau Malay and the Northern Sumatra Malay are such groups. There is a long history of Christian workers among these peoples, but the challenges have been many. Workers face finding appropriate housing, gaining visas to stay in the country, and more. There is the added stress of spiritual warfare in this Muslim region.

But there has also been encouragement over the years: the increasing number of believers, the study of scriptures, and the appreciation for the workers' presence in the community. "They are good neighbors," said one local chief.

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of Riau Malay people studying the Scriptures to receive the truth they read, and act on it. Pray for an increase of workers, especially in the light of the fact that several long-termers have had to relocate or return home. Pray that new workers will settle quickly, adjust well, and build important rapport with the local people.—JS*

### EPH 3:17B-19, NIV

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

*Pray that new believers among the Riau Malay will be known by their knowledge of God's love and their supernatural ability to share it with others.*

# More than half of the globe's seven billion human beings now live in cities

## REACHING THE CITY (EMS 20)

Reflections on Urban Mission  
for the Twenty-first Century

*Gary Fujino, Timothy R. Sisk, Tereso C. Casio, editors*

Rapid urbanization and globalization processes worldwide have changed the landscape of our times. In Asia and Africa the number of urban dwellers increases by an average of one million per week, according to the United Nations. More than half of the globe's seven billion human beings now live in cities. These realities have far reaching implications for mission in urban contexts at the start of the third millennium. *Reaching the City: Reflections on Urban Mission for the Twenty-first Century* seeks to address the missiological challenges associated with this new world order.

Each author in this collection respectfully builds upon the significant contributions of seminal writers such as Ray Bakke, Jacques Ellul, Basil of Caesarea and others, while making new and creative proposals for urban mission in our world today. Beginning with the bigger picture of the global challenges of urbanization, and moving through theological, historical, and educational perspectives, this volume concludes with a rich bevy of case studies engaging these new realities of both North American and international cities to encourage a missional thrust to reach these communities.

ISBN: 978-0-87808-039-7

WCL | Pages 304

Paperback 2012

**List Price: \$14.99**

**Our Price: \$11.99**



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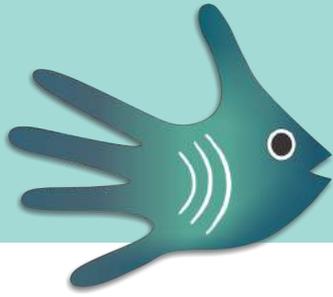


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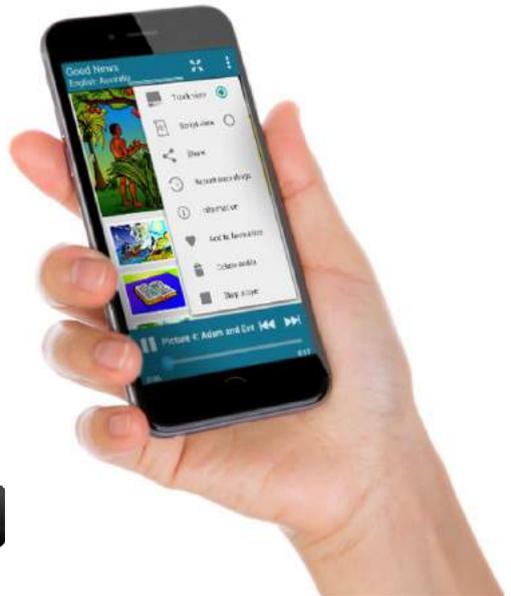
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