

REGIONAL NEWS

EAST-WEST CENTER FOR MISSIONS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The new Board of Trustees for the East West Center for Missions Research and Development was elected on its meeting held Dec. 18, 2021. The following are the new set of leaders for the EWC mrd:

- **Dr. Steve Eom**, *International President; Chairman of the Board*
- **Dr. Seok-Won Yoon**, *General Secretary*
- **Dr. Jae-Suk Lee**, *USA Director*
- **Dr. Chris Yong-Guk Sung**, *Asia Director*
- **Elder Byeong-Ha Jeon**, *Secretary*
- **Elder Sung-Gon Kang**, *Treasurer*
- **Pastor Soon-Ok Park**, *Auditor*
- **Ms. Ae-deok Jeon**, *Auditor*

Please pray for the new EWCmrd officers! We thank the Lord for the lives of these men who are willing to serve the Lord in the frontline of Asian missions and beyond!

INDIA MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

Warm greetings from the office of India Missions Association, Hyderabad. The world has changed drastically with the onslaught of COVID-19 pandemic and so has our perception about life and the way we do missions. Mission challenges in the past few months have been quite intense and the changing scenario has been a nightmare for many on the mission fields and otherwise. Nevertheless, God is good and faithful till the end, and in His grace and mercy we are attempting to progress in the 'new normal'.

IMA initiated some programs during the lockdown, which is continuing till date.

- Covid Relief packages were distributed in the neighbourhood of IMA campus as well as some selected localities in the city.
- Covid Care Initiative and Trauma Healing Workshop is an ongoing program of IMA seeking to assist victims of COVID-19 by counselling as well as financial support.
- Women Empowerment programs are going on with a view to encourage and mobilize women for greater participation in the ministry.
- Online Training for Pastors (Rural) against the shift from traditional to digital platform.

- Documentation of some missionaries who have been in the field for many years and have made an impact. We are hoping to bring it in a print format in the next few months.

IMA hopes to continue the programs as mentioned above along with other proposed programs in the New Year 2022.

- Non-Formal Training for Church Planting
- Advance Missions Leadership Training (AMLT)
- Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills (SYIS)
- Stations of Generosity (SOG)
- Neighbour Ministry National Meet
- Bandhu Seva ToT

PHILIPPINE MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

DECADE OF DISCIPLE-MAKING (2020-2030)

PMA 2021 and Beyond: Committed to the Discipleship of the Nations

"Multiplying Movements for the Completion of the Great Commission in the Philippines and Beyond"

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

People Groups are a group of individuals who share a common history and heritage as well as ethnic, linguistic, and cultural traits.

Reached People Groups - A people group is considered "reached" if it has a viable, indigenous, reproducing church movement in its midst. This includes strong churches pastored by indigenous leaders, in their own language, actively evangelizing their own people, and planting churches within their community/region.

Unreached People Group (UPG) by definition have less than 2% Evangelicals or People group within which there is no viable indigenous church that can reach and disciple its own people, no real or very limited access to hear about Jesus.

There are 17,000+ People Groups throughout the world, 7,000+ are still considered Unreached. Missiologists categorized them into 5 major religious blocks using the acronym THUMB. Others call them the five mega-spheres. They have the greatest need for the gospel.

THUMB - Each people group requires a contextualized, strategic plan for evangelism.

1. Tribals-Animists (Indigenous Peoples)
2. Hindus
3. Un-Religious (Secular Humanist, Communist, Atheist, Socialist)
4. Muslims
5. Buddhists

Our Lord Jesus Christ mandated us to make disciples of all nations. Countries are politically defined geographical territories while nations (Ethne - where we get the English word Ethnic) in the scriptures and in the language of missions means ethnic groups, tribes, people groups or nations.

MUSLIMS

There are 175 ethno-linguistic groups, tribes or nations in the Philippines, 14 tribes (nations) still remain unreached. These are the 14 Muslim Unreached People Groups (MUPGs). We want to see the Great Commission completed in the Philippines (all the 175 nations reached very soon). That is the reason why PMA is advocating for Intentional Adoption of the 14 Filipino MUPGs. We are praying that every Muslim Community will be adopted soon. We have 88,000 churches now in the Philippines but only around 2,000 are involved in ministry among these MUPGs.

PMA encourages believers and churches will **INTENTIONALLY ADOPT** at least 1 of the 14 Filipino MUPGs. Our strategy is adoption of a Muslim Community with the ultimate goal of multiplying disciples (Disciple-Making Movement or DMM) that will result in the multiplication of churches (Church Planting Movement or CPM) among them. Creative platforms and community projects that are transformational development in nature are necessary to be able to strategically connect and engage in Muslim communities.

In April 2021, Greater Metro Manila now have at least 148 mosques and estimated around 2-million Muslims from Southern Philippines have migrated to study, work or do business. The mission field has come to the doorsteps of the churches in Metro Manila. However, it is sad that churches are not aware of their presence or are passive because of their prejudices. Filipino MUPGs are not only in Metro Manila but are scattered in key cities all over the country. That is the reason why, it is very strategic to mobilize churches to adopt the Muslim community near them. These Muslims are far from God but are near their churches so the church can naturally be used by God as instruments for them to hear the good news of the gospel.

Adoption is "Caring for someone until they can care for themselves"

For a Local Church, adoption means, "Caring about the eternal destiny of at least one UPG or a UPG community and serving them until they come to know

the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ."

UPG Adoption is a commitment to **PRAY** for, **FINANCIALLY** support and **PARTICIPATE** in the action of sending missionaries to plant churches and make disciples among an UPG until that UPG has a sustaining, self-propagating churches multiplying in their midst and are sending missionaries to other UPGs.

HINDUS

There are now 1.2 billion Hindus worldwide (15% of the world's population). Before the Pandemic, according to the Indian Embassy in Manila, there are almost 1-million Indians in the Philippines that are here to study Medicine, work as IT Expats, Businessmen & Diplomats. It is estimated that more than 90% of them are Hindu.

Our objective is for Christians/Churches to learn more about Hindus in the Philippines & globally so that we can pray more specifically and trust God that many of them will become Christ followers.

Our prayer is that believers and churches will **INTENTIONALLY ADOPT** a Campus where Indian Medical students are enrolled, Dormitories where they stay, Call Centers where they are working, Business Centers run by Indians and Indian Communities around the country with the same intention to see them reached with the gospel, multiply disciples and also multiply churches among them.

This is a very strategic move in terms of impacting India and the Hindu world with the gospel. These medical students will be going back to India as medical doctors. Imagine the influence they have in their own families, circle of friends and the patients and community they will be serving. If they can be reached, discipled and trained while studying here, they can be instruments, missionaries to their own country, to their own people.

BUDDHISTS

There are now 1.29 billion Buddhists worldwide (16% of the world's population). In the Philippines, there are 1 million Filipino Buddhists and estimated 400,000 Buddhists from Mainland China that are here for various reasons but mostly to do business.

There are several countries that have a very high proportion of Buddhism followers. Cambodia is the highest, then Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Laos & Mongolia. Other countries with many Buddhists are Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Macau, Vietnam, HongKong & Nepal. Many from these countries are also here in the Philippines. God is indeed making missions easier for us.

PRAYER MOVEMENTS

The Philippine Missions Association (PMA) is

catalyzing Prayer Movements for the Unreached. We believe that the incredible gift of PRAYER lends us the opportunity to co-labor with God in bringing the gospel to the Unreached People Groups.

We have organized and been hosting virtual prayer gatherings - United Prayer for Muslims (UPM), United Prayer for Hindus (UPH), United Prayer for Buddhists (UPB) and United Prayer for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP/Tribes).

PMA encourages believers and churches to passionately and persistently pray for world evangelization— to incorporate prayer for UPGs in their prayer meetings, worship services, small groups, Sunday schools, personal and family devotions.

SCHEDULE OF UNITED PRAYER GATHERINGS

- United Prayer for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) every 7th of the month at 6:30pm-8:30pm
- United Prayer for Muslims (UPM) every Friday Morning at 5am-6:30am.
- United Prayer for Muslims (UPM) every 14th of the month at 6:30pm-8:30pm
- United Prayer for Hindus (UPH) in the Philippines and the Hindu World every 21st of the month at 6:30pm-8:30pm
- United Prayer for the Buddhists in the Philippine and the Buddhist World every 28th of the month at 7pm-8:30pm.

All virtual prayer gatherings are via Zoom.

KOREA WORLD MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

INTRODUCTION TO KWMA

The Korea World Missions Association (KWMA) was established on June 25, 1990. We began with the vision of completing the remaining tasks of missionary work through cooperation and alliance. To complete this vision, Korean churches, mission boards of denominations, and missionary organizations, along with churches around the world, promote cooperation in all fields, including mission information, missional movements, mission policy and administration, and mission strategy development. Currently, 15 denomination missionaries and 147 mission organizations have joined as members of KWMA.

THE KEY MINISTRIES IN 2021

The Korea World Missions Association (KWMA) is making every effort to manage the missionary crisis in response to the urgent COVID-19 situation. At the same time, it is a migrant refugee ministry based on Information technology (IT), an online evangelical missionary movement, and a next-generation missionary

ministry. There are four key ministries as follows:

First, due to COVID-19, the barriers to entering the mission site are increasing. In the existing trend of involuntary withdrawal from forwarding development areas such as India and China, exclusive feelings toward other peoples and protectionism of their own country are added, making it more difficult for missionaries to enter the country. Accordingly, the Korean mission community is focusing on migrants, refugees, multicultural families, and international students who have already entered Korea. In Korea, 2.5 million migrants have already come to live together in front of the country for reasons such as marriage, work, and studying abroad, and missionary eyes have been opened for them.

Secondly, our forum was held in Pyeongchang, Gangwon-do last summer. We focus on four areas as follows: foreign workers, multicultural families, foreign students, refugees, and how to move those people toward the gospel. About 200 missionaries and pastors participated and pledged to prepare for the newly opened door of the gospel. As the door to enter the mission site has narrowed, research on how to preach the gospel online is now active, and new missions are being opened with those methods. Currently, KWMA is preparing for missionary work both offline and online. The space of the KWMA was created in the metaverse, and several channels were created to present the gospel. In addition, by introducing to missionaries how to preach the gospel through SNS and YouTube channels, everyone is opening ways to preach the gospel from place to place.

Third, the KWMA is carrying out a campaign to mobilize missionary resources for laypeople. On October 14, 50 representative pastors from 12 denominations gathered to discuss how to utilize laypeople resources as a new mission movement. This is the principle of establishing a Christian volunteer system and connects the talent and time of laymen with the needs of missionaries. On January 19, 2022, the secretary-general of each denomination will gather to form more in-depth discussions and organizations. Finally, the Korean mission has achieved rapid development and revival over the past 30 years when KWMA was established. There were periods in which the number of missionaries increased by more than 1,000 every year. However, now the missionary movement of the younger generation is weakening. Therefore, the KWMA is creating a new revival by meeting with young pastors and missionaries leading the Korean church to create a missionary movement for the next generation and inherit missionary ties.