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SOWING & REAPING

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ISSUE FOCUS

BJMBC PHILIPPINES





FROM THE **DIRECTOR'S DESK**

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The fulfillment of the Great Commission is always seen at its best when nationals on a field not only come to Christ but are also prepared for and become active participants in the Gospel ministry. The missionary initiates the work through evangelism and church planting. Then ideally he identifies, trains, and turns the work over to national leadership. Without qualified, gifted, and trained national workers, the multiplication of nationalized churches becomes a difficult if not an impossible task on any field. Therefore, the training of national believers for the work of the ministry must be kept at the heart of the missionary's task.

The development of national leadership on our fields is a strong emphasis of GFA's. Our missionaries are urged to teach to believers not only the Word of God but also the work of God. The expansion of the Gospel's influence explodes where we have effective programs for developing national leaders. Now some of our missionaries are experiencing the fruits of their labors as those they have trained are themselves evangelizing and planting churches in their own homelands. Beyond this, national believers in obedience to the Great Commission have begun targeting fields abroad to which they can take that same Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Mark Batory

**MARK BATORY
DIRECTOR OF GFA MISSIONS**

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Reaching the
BILLIONS
of Asia



By Phil Kamibayashi

Whenever I teach a master of ministry module class in one of the Philippine provinces, I am humbled by the pastors' sacrifice to become more effective in ministering God's Word. Some travel four to eight hours by bus or ride their 150cc motorcycles. All sacrifice to spend five days, six hours a day, eagerly listening to God's Word. They typically study until midnight each night to finish their assignments. The "beds" are the bare wooden pews, the platform floor, or sheets of plywood covering the concrete floor. By Friday, they talk of how they will make some class content into a sermon series or Sunday school lessons or lectures at the Bible institute where they teach. This is multiplying oneself through faithful men!

At Bob Jones Memorial Bible College, we have over 150 students on site, besides the 40 to 50 men taking modules in the province. When BJMBC was founded as a Bible institute 30 years ago, it started with 12 students. Although the Philippines already had many Bible institutes, many lacked careful, in-depth exposition of the Scriptures and careful practice of holiness in all areas. BJMBC's desire has been to supply these emphases while maintaining a burden for souls and vision for church planting and missions.

The growth of our student body shows that God still gives people a hunger for the exposition of His Word, separation unto Christ, and the salvation of souls. God led us to expand our programs from three Bible degrees in 1985 to today's five Bible degrees, two music degrees, and three seminary degrees.

God is using BJMBC graduates in foreign fields. One couple is church planting in one of the world's largest Muslim cities and training others for ministry to Muslims. One young graduate has taken biblical fundamentalist beliefs and practice back to his Buddhist country. A Filipino graduate resigned from pastoring his prospering church to fulfill the Great Commission in a Communist country. He and his family face daily challenges with the language, culture, and restrictions. Their desire is to evangelize, make disciples, plant churches, and train national pastors.

Filipinos are missionaries in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Congo, East Timor, Ethiopia, Haiti, Ghana, Taiwan, Mongolia, and at least 20 other countries. A 2010 report by the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary listed the Philippines as one of the top 15 missionary sending nations in the world and the third in Asia (behind South Korea and India). The Philippines has the second highest percentage of Bible-believing Christians (12.2%) in Asia, the world's most populated but least evangelized continent (2.8%).

God has gifted Filipinos to be effective missionaries. They grow up speaking multiple languages and find it easier than Americans to learn new languages. Most are used to little money, washing clothes by hand, and enduring tropical heat, thus adjusting well to difficult circumstances. Many doors open to Filipinos because they are Asian in culture and appearance, speak English well, are not from a powerful country, and generally have outgoing personalities.

Above all, however, God uses His truth through surrendered hearts. Among our seminary graduates is an older pastor in Sultan Kudarat who mentors and holds seminars for younger pastors in that Muslim region. Some graduates hike the tropical forests and mountains of Palawan Island to reach tribes that have not yet heard the Gospel. Last year, one graduate led his church to hold evangelistic meetings for 25 days straight. Thirteen hundred visitors attended nightly Gospel services, and hundreds made professions of faith.

BJMBC's almost 250 graduates are like arrows that advance God's truth to places and people we Americans cannot reach and with greater linguistic and cultural precision than we could ever hope to have. Both our Filipino and foreign students are potentially some of God's choicest servants to reach their generation. In March 2015, 25 more students are scheduled to become the newest BJMBC graduates. Please pray for the Lord to do a purging and reviving work at BJMBC so that our alumni and every new group of students will be God's light of the glory of Jesus Christ to the billions in Asia. 🙏





PRAYING BIBLICALLY

for Your Missionary

Written by Alan Patterson

Before we consider the matter of how to pray biblically for missionaries, let us think about why we should do that, laying the foundation for our considerations with the concept of indebtedness. Paying a debt by praying seems odd, so let me explain the connection. Paul stated that he was a “debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise” (Rom. 1:14). In other words, he was a debtor to all men. He elaborates in the next verse that what he owed to every person in the world was not money, access to health care, educational opportunity, agricultural advice, or safe drinking water. No, rather he owed the glorious Gospel of Christ. A natural question at this point is, “Do you and I have this same debt?” The answer is, absolutely!

The next question is “How do I pay such a staggering debt?” One way, of course, is to witness directly to a lost person. However, that clearly has its limitations, especially when we contemplate that there are currently 7 billion “wise” and “unwise” people inhabiting this world. Another way to pay the debt is to give to support missionaries as they go to the far and near corners of the earth. But again, my pocketbook has its serious limitations, and thus I still find myself able to pay only a fraction of my debt to the world. So what other options exist for paying this debt? Maybe you have anticipated where I am going with this and have thought, “I can pray for missionaries, and there is no limit to how far those prayers can reach.” Exactly right! Maybe the most effective way for us to meet our obligation to the world is to pray for missionaries. So, how should we pray?

Over the years I have read many suggestions on how to pray for missionaries. Those lists are helpful, but they are also usually practical suggestions that may or may not have a biblical basis or emphasis. There is a way, however, for us to derive directly from Scripture how we should pray for missionaries, and that is what we want to consider in this section for the next several editions of *Sowing & Reaping*.

Nothing is better than knowing God’s mind on a subject, so we will search the New Testament for texts where Paul, unquestionably an exemplary missionary, asked prayer specifically for himself and his missionary team. Paul gives several examples and exhortations about how Christians should pray generally, but in only a few texts does he say “pray for me/us that ...” It is these texts where he asks prayer for himself AND where he actually tells us what to pray that we want to milk for all the truth we can get about this topic. Though such references are few, they provide a beautifully balanced and amazingly thorough list of vital prayer topics related to missionary life and work. As we will see, even the progression of the texts follows a divinely-guided pattern. If you want to get a head start on the next issue, why don’t you start looking for those texts yourself? In the next article we will begin an in-depth study of these points, so get your Bible out and stay tuned.



BOB JONES MEMORIAL BIBLE COLLEGE

WOULD YOU CONSIDER BEING AN ELIASHIB

& help further the cause of Christ in Asia?



Written by Doug Bachorik

Bob Jones Memorial Bible Institute began in 1985, meeting in the home of a GFA missionary. Over the course of its history, the ministry (now a college) has moved from a garage to rented rooms in a technical college, to its current space in a church building. God has graciously given BJMBC exactly what was needed to carry its mission of training men and women to further the Gospel in Asia. After 18 years in the Gospel Light Baptist Church building, in space originally intended for 60 or so students, the Lord is now preparing us for an “exodus.”

BJMBC’s student body has grown to over 150 students. The number of faculty teaching in any given semester has tripled. And we have added a music program. At the moment, the Bible college officially has two classrooms (each seating about 30 students), a small library, an even smaller office space, and four practice rooms. Gospel Light graciously allows us to use the sanctuary and any other spaces available in the building at various times of the day. You can well imagine how difficult it is to accommodate students, staff, and programs for several undergraduate Bible degrees, a seminary program, and music degrees.

In 2017, BJMBC’s 20-year agreement with Gospel Light Baptist Church will end. Although we have a wonderful relationship with the church, it is a growing ministry with an expanding Christian school. It needs the space BJMBC now occupies.

Not only have the Bible college programs and student body expanded numerically, but also the Lord has multiplied us geographically. In the past, our student body was made up almost exclusively of metro Manila-based students or older students who moved in from the province. Now the majority of students are coming at a much younger age (16 to 17 years old), and a growing number are coming from the far reaches of the Philippines. From Pagudpud in the extreme north to Davao in the south, the Lord is bringing students who need dormitory housing. Also, a significant number of students need housing during the week because their commutes are too long or expensive to travel each class day.

The Lord has also expanded BJMBC internationally—in recent years we have had students from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the USA. Currently, we have students from two restricted access nations (in addition to the RAN

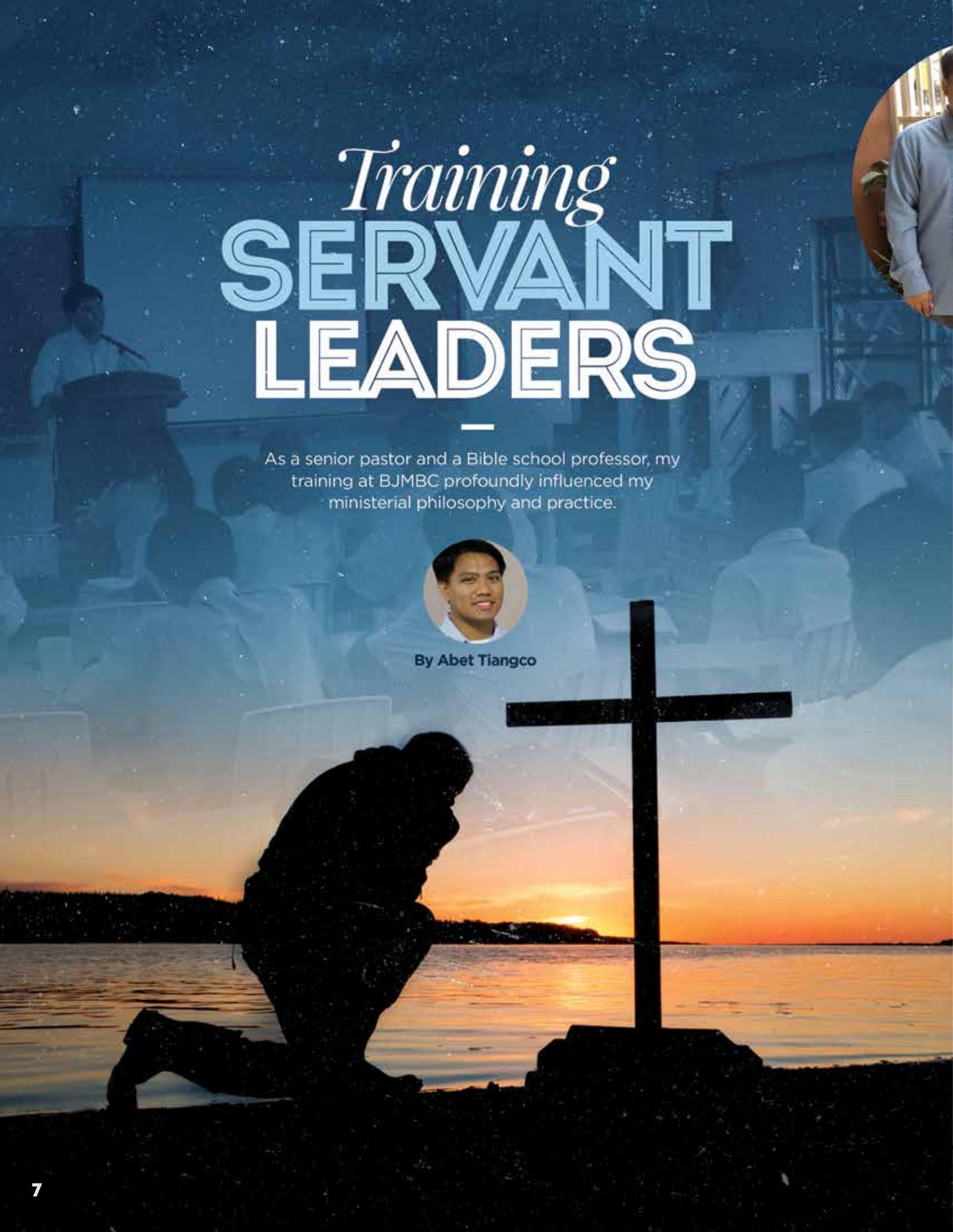
men in a six-month modular course). To accommodate these needs, we have been renting small houses in the area around the Bible college. This has been a sufficient stopgap measure, but the cost of renting, the frequent relocation, and the difficulty in overseeing students has made such arrangements untenable for the long run. BJMBC is uniquely situated to become a ministry serving churches and church planting throughout East Asia, but we need the facilities to carry out this mission.

In 2010, the Lord allowed us to buy an old house on a 6,700-square-foot lot on the same street as the college’s current location as the site for the future home of BJMBC. As the Lord wills, we plan to build a four-story building with a covered roof deck. The building will house all the instructional space, chapel, library, offices, practice rooms, and student areas needed now and for the foreseeable future. In addition, the building will include dormitory space for ladies. We will continue to rent space for the men’s dorm but are praying that the Lord will allow us to buy another house and lot nearby. We plan to break ground in November 2015.



Since the college already owns the lot, debt free, we are seeking the Lord’s provision for the cost of construction and outfitting. The cost is approximately \$800,000. The Lord has already provided over 30% through the kindness of believers and churches in the USA, the Philippines, and other countries in Southeast Asia. We are spreading the word via social media, brochures, and presentations in local churches. In January, we presented a large fundraising concert that featured music written and arranged by our own students, alumni, and faculty as well as the Asian premiere of a wonderful work by the American composer Dan Forrest. Although we are actively seeking funds for the new building, mostly we are praying—seeking the Lord’s supply for His plan.

In the book of Nehemiah, at least 44 different groups of people are listed as contributing to the repair and construction of the walls around Jerusalem. Would you consider being an Eliashib, a Rephaiah, a Binnui, or Pedaiah and help BJMBC further the cause of Christ in Asia by helping us build a home for BJMBC? Your prayers and financial gifts will allow BJMBC to more effectively carry out its mission. “So built we the wall...for the people had a mind to work” (Neh. 4:6). 🙏

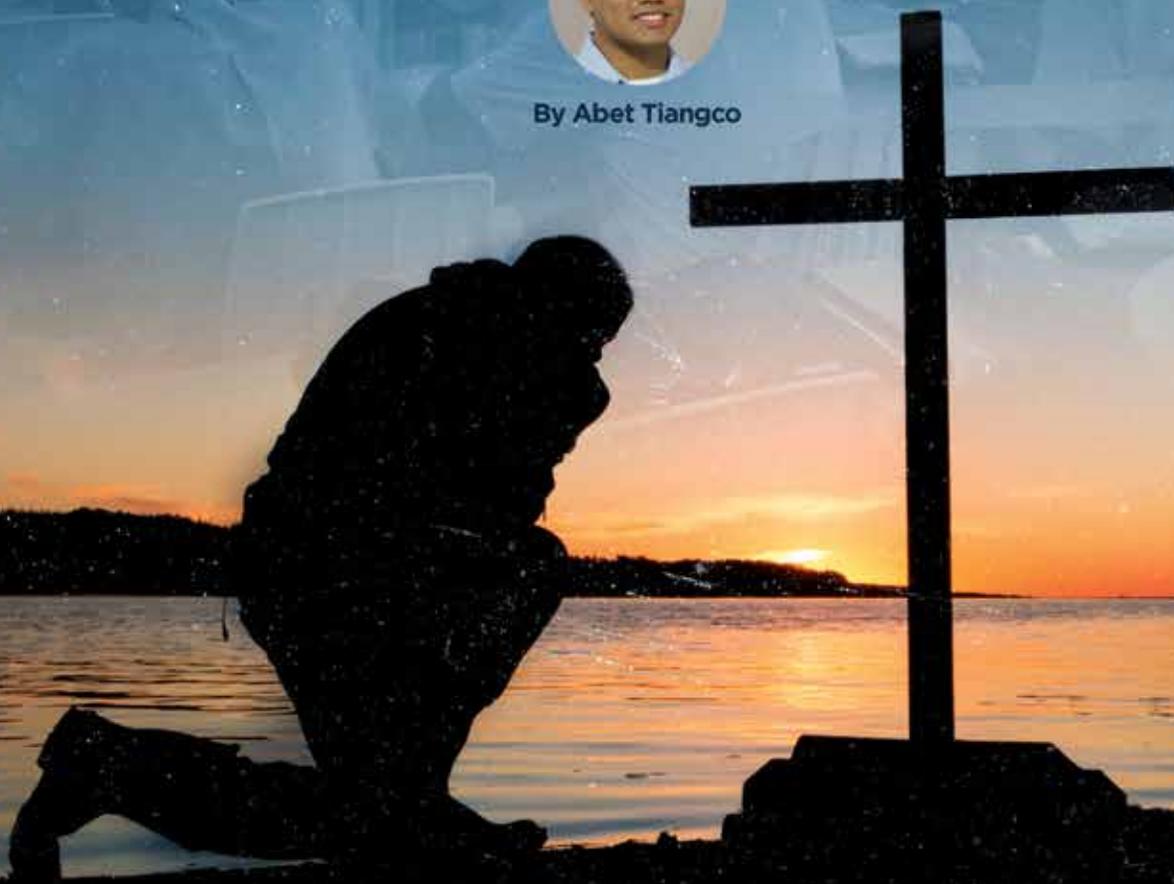


Training **SERVANT LEADERS**

As a senior pastor and a Bible school professor, my training at BJMBC profoundly influenced my ministerial philosophy and practice.



By Abet Tiangco





The
TIANGCO
FAMILY

I graduated with the bachelor of divinity degree, which is the most extensive Bible degree that the college offers. The balance between thorough academic preparation and fervent emphasis on spiritual devotion to God makes BJMBC one of the best—if not the best—place to train for the ministry in the Philippines.

Specifically speaking, there are four invaluable emphases in my BJMBC experience that shaped my life as a Christian and as a minister of the Word.

First, I appreciate very much the emphasis on careful and accurate handling of God's Word.

The underlying conviction behind this emphasis is that, along with prayer, ministering the Scriptures is central to ministerial work (Acts 6:4). The Bible is the God-ordained, sufficient means for converting sinners and effecting spiritual change and producing maturity in the lives of the believers (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Perhaps the single most important truth that BJMBC advocates about handling God's Word is the idea that the primary responsibility of those who preach the Bible is to say what the text says. This simple statement defines my preaching philosophy as it has captivated my conscience. A preacher truly honors God and helps others when he proclaims exactly what God has revealed in the Scriptures.

BJMBC training also includes instructions that delineate the methods for carrying out the college's stated preaching philosophy. The four Bible exposition classes teach the proper handling of the different portions and genres of the Bible. The two-year undergraduate Greek program and the two semesters of Hebrew grammar aim to promote accuracy in interpreting Scripture. The Old and New Testament introductory classes, together with the individual in-depth study of each book of the Bible, provide the framework necessary for proper exegesis.

The second BJMBC emphasis that has influenced my life and ministry is the emphasis on biblical separation or simply the doctrine of holiness. Prior to my BJMBC

attendance, our church practiced some form of separation. But the Lord used the systematized presentation of biblical truths to grow our church with respect to discernment regarding associations. By God's grace, our congregation is able to avoid ministerial working relationships that do not honor Christ.

The doctrine of separation also affects the music that we allow in our church. We used to accept almost any music that had "Jesus" in it. But now we strive to use music that honors the holiness of God and seek to reject anything that is tainted by the world. Finally, the solid and balanced teaching regarding church discipline has enabled me to guide believers in biblically dealing with sin in our church.

The third emphasis that has impacted me is the emphasis on humility and servanthood. The pastoral theology class highlights the biblical qualities for pastors. This class impressed in my heart the importance of humility and having a servant's heart for those who will lead God's people. Pastors are not lords but servants. Ministers must be humble in order to receive the grace they need for effective service. Also instilled in my heart is the important truth that all learning must be used, not to exalt self, but to serve others.

Perhaps the twin qualities of humility and servanthood became such an integral part of my life and ministry because I saw them vividly and genuinely exemplified in the lives of my professors. We students were surrounded with gifted people who were not proud and who ultimately pointed us to the Lord and not to themselves nor to ourselves. As a senior pastor ministering to different people who face different challenges and exhibit responses, I cannot be more thankful to the Lord for showing me the value of having a humble servant's heart when I was a student at BJMBC.

Last but definitely not the least emphasis is the priority of loving God and the ultimate goal of glorifying Him. These were underscored in different classes and in various chapel messages. By God's grace, I endeavor to make these two motives paramount in all that I do in my life and ministry. The training I received from BJMBC prepared me for my present ministry by helping me form my ministry philosophy and methods that are biblically sound and practically effective. 🙌

Abet
Tiangco currently
serves as the senior
pastor of Promised
Land Baptist Church in
Metro Manila. He also is
the director of the
ministerial students at
BJMBC.



THE COFFEE HOUSE

COUNTRY: EURASIA

I met Bee in the grocery store, a smartly dressed lady with intense eyes. I was talking to my English-speaking friend, and Bee approached me.

“Oh, you speak English. Where are you from?” And thus began our friendship. Bee wanted help in English, I needed her help in her language desperately, and she was my reason for being here...a soul.

We began slowly and roughly trying to talk. We spent half the time in her language and half the time in English. Bee’s English was far superior to my poor attempts to practice greetings, answer questions about where I live, list how many children I have, and explain what I did this week. But we enjoyed each other’s company. We met every week over the next few months.

One day, sipping tea at our usual table, I asked her if she minded if we talked about religion. “No. I would be glad to discuss it with you.” And she gave me a short summary of her beliefs. Her country is almost one hundred percent Muslim. I was expecting to hear what the Quran had to say. Instead she gave me a lengthy description of a religion that unites one with a Supreme Being, becoming one with the forces of the universe.

“Bee, have you ever read the Bible?” I gave her my testimony of being saved and personally knowing God as my Savior. “I’ve never met a Christian before,” was her response. So at the coffee house, our discussions will continue, not only with Bee but also with other friends I have met there.

One day the owner came and took my arm as I was leaving. “We have other people here who speak English,” he said taking my arm and guiding me to another table. “Sit down, sit down,” everyone at the table said. I was offered peanuts, and we all introduced ourselves. Now I have Aldi, Hazor, and Rea as my new friends. “Come join us every day at three. We are always here at that time.”

Is there anything to match the excitement of opening a door to new friends and sharing with them the Way, the Truth, and the Life? I don’t think it can be equaled. To people who have never met a Christian, I will gladly go.



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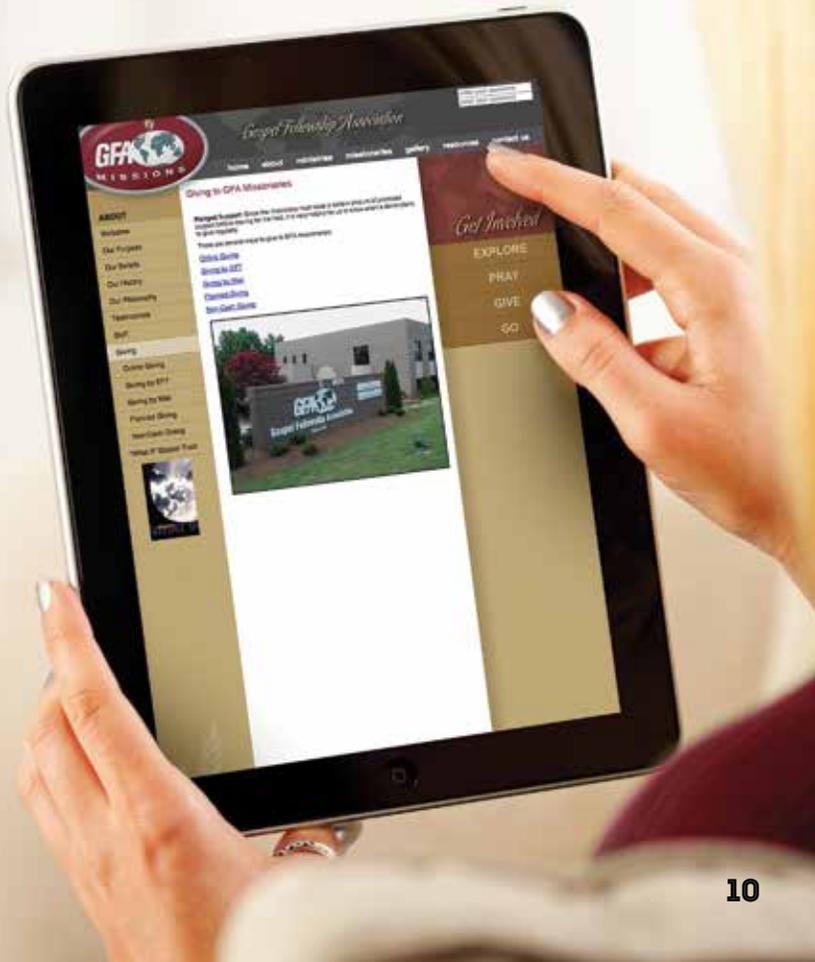
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