5x5x5 Prayer: Five Minutes, Five Days, Five Topics

The People of the Philippines

We invite you to pray for the people of the Philippines, for just five minutes a day, for five days, for FIVE STRATEGIC AREAS. Jesus promised, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).

The Philippines consists of 7,641 islands. Its 117 million people speak more than 180 languages. So, a variety of approaches to evangelism, discipling, and leadership training are required to serve this cultural and linguistic diversity fruitfully.

Filipinos highly value religion. Catholicism, in some places mixed with traditional animistic beliefs and practices, is the dominant religion. An estimated 14% of the population identify as evangelical Christians.

Join us in praying for the Philippines. Intercede for this country and its people that they might hear, respond to, and become rooted in the gospel. Pray that churches be bodies of disciples doing life together, making disciples together, and bringing lasting change to their families and communities.

Millions join the annual Black Nazarene procession in Manila on January 9, marching through the streets with an effigy of Jesus.





Day One

BEARING MUCH FRUIT

By the end of 2033, the church in the Philippines wants 1) to have planted a church in the remaining 20,000 communities that lack one, 2) to have 300,000 congregations, and 3) to have 30 million believers. This will require churches to start churches that start churches, and disciples to make disciples who make disciples.

Lord, thank you for the fruit of the past fifty years and for the many churches and ministries that have been established. Unite them as they work together on these huge goals and may it result in lasting life transformation.

Lord, guide those who are stewarding this huge vision for the Church in the Philippines. Give them wisdom, patience, and creativity.

Lord, show OMF the work you want them to do towards these goals. As they carry it out, may they model abiding in Christ, keeping your commandments, and being full of joy. Continue to send them the workers they need to partner well with the maturing church.

Day Two

EQUIPPING

OMF helps equip the church through seminary education. They also help equip believers through church-based training, skills training, coaching, mentoring, and consulting. They facilitate collaboration to speed up equipping by sharing resources and skills.

Lord, thank you for how the church in the Philippines is maturing and has taken responsibility for much of the ministry.

Lord, help leaders of churches continue to grow in character, skills, the working out of their vision and mission, the doing of leadership training, and the equipping of the church.

May OMF missionaries work humbly alongside leaders of churches, assisting and encouraging them, and speaking up prophetically when needed.

Jesus said,

>>> I am the vine;
you are the branches.

- John 15:5a



Day Three

EASTERN VISAYAS

The Eastern Visayas is geographically separated from other regions, regularly affected by typhoons, and culturally different from those nearby. Many of its communities lack evangelical churches and examples of mature faith.

Lord, many appear to know you but are deeply fearful, being held captive by various powers. May your word free them from cycles of abuse, poverty, and idolatry, and enable them to live in your grace.

Lord, thank you for those who serve as pastors. Give them a desire to grow so that they can feed your people well. Help them support their families while serving your church.

Lord, may young people from rural areas come to know you while studying at university, grow deep roots in Christ, and then find employment in their communities so that they can spread your message of hope.



Day Four

CROSS-CULTURAL FILIPINOS

The OMF Philippine Home Council partners with Filipino churches to create awareness of the needs in East Asia and to facilitate strategic and sacrificial involvement in mission, including the sending of Filipinos to serve cross-culturally.

Lord, thank you for a steady number of workers sent from the Philippines to serve locally and in other parts of East Asia. Thank you that so many Filipinos are willing to serve you.

Lord, grant strength, perseverance, and provision to those who respond to the call to mission but face challenges such as training needs, financial support, an unwilling or non-understanding church, and obligations to family.

Lord, use the OMF Philippine Home Council to build relationships between ministries serving in the Philippines and throughout East Asia. Give them a shared vision of how they can serve you together.

This is to my Father's glory,

>> *that you bear much fruit*

showing yourselves to be my disciples

- John 15:8





Day Five

MUSLIM PEOPLES

Eight percent of the population in the Philippines is Muslim, in fact the religion has been present in the Philippines since the 13th century. For Muslim Filipinos, a minority who have a strong sense of their religious and cultural identity, living in a "Christian country" can be very difficult.

Lord, bless the Muslim people of the Philippines. We pray that they would have opportunities to learn more about the love of Jesus.

Lord, please be working in the hearts of Filipino believers, may they feel your love for the Muslim people of the Philippines and live it out and bless the Muslims around them.

Lord, raise up people who are committed to learning Muslim languages, culture and worldview so they may be able to build relationships with Muslim communities.

My command is this:

LOVE EACH OTHER
as I have loved you.

- John 15:12

NEXT STEPS

There are many ways to continue your involvement with ministries in the Philippines! You could:

PRAY. Partner with God's work in the Philippines *through prayer. Visit omf.org.ph for more information and prayer resources.*

LEARN. Enjoy learning about rich Filipino cultures and languages in urban and remote areas. Learn how churches are started and grow. Share what you learn with others in your social group.

PARTNER. Mobilize your community to join God's work in the Philippines. Encourage them to discover ways to pray and serve.

WELCOME. Are there Filipinos in your community who you can welcome into your home and share your love for Jesus with? Jesus said that when we welcome others, we welcome him! (Matt 25:35)

SEND. Share your finances with those who are serving the poor or minority groups. Enable others to go and share Jesus' love. (Rom 10:15)

GO. Consider serving for weeks, months or over a year. There is a place for your skills, profession, and calling to work alongside, and encourage others. Visit omf.org.ph to explore opportunities.

What resonates in your heart? How would you enjoy getting involved? Explore omf.org or talk to your local OMF center for more information.