

the FIN News

Filipino International Network

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Another year has passed and there are many things that FIN is thankful for. Allow us to share some highlights of 2006 with you:

New Horizons for Ministry Training

The Filipino Theological Educators Consultation was held from January 4-6, 2006 at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines. The theme of this consultation was: *Mobilizing Filipinos for Global Missions through Theological Education*. The objectives were (1) to network key educators of traditional theological education for global missions, (2) to examine creative options of equipping and training Diaspora Filipinos for global missions, and (3) to explore various options to collaborate in theological education delivery for the Diaspora Filipinos. Representatives came primarily from theological seminaries and Bible colleges in the Philippines with some from Asia and North America. Several diaspora leaders and ministry practitioners joined them.

As a result the participants have raised *The Baguio Challenge*:

We, the delegates at the Filipino Theological Educators Consultation sponsored by Filipino International Network (FIN), gathered in Baguio City in January 2006, reaffirm the critical role of biblical and theological training for the Church and its global mission.

Our prayerful challenge is five-fold:

1. That the Filipino Church will continue to excel in equipping all Christians for growth and witness, and training leaders for effective ministry globally.
2. That theological institutions especially those in the Philippines will embrace the reality of Filipino Diaspora missions and will include missiological training for all pastors and Christian workers.
3. That region-specific curricula be developed to prepare the Filipino Diaspora Christians to engage in effective and contextualized ministry.
4. That a sustainable multi-delivery system of formal and non-formal theological education be sensitively coordinated and implemented for Diaspora Filipino believers in creative access nations.
5. That networking and partnership be sought with other Diaspora groups and networks to enhance and expand the availability of theological education for all Christians.



"Who will not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed."

-- Revelation 15:4 (NLT)

The last year has been a year full of exciting advancements for the Great Commission. Thank you for your support in prayer, finances, and in practical assistance. May our Kingdom partnership deepen in the months to come.

May you have a Christ-filled time of celebration and may your new year be full of blessing. Maligayang Pasko at manigong Bagong Taon!

On behalf of the FIN regional communities and for the people on the move,
The FIN International Office

Preparations for a systematic and formalized training program for lay-pastors who are presently leading diaspora congregations is underway, and God-willing, will be launched in partnership with several seminaries in 2007.

Filipinos Gathering the Scattered

Invited participants to the Global Diaspora Missiology Consultation discussed the impact of global migration on the future of global missions as well as new missions strategies to be utilized by diaspora followers of Jesus Christ. Participants representing major diaspora groups (i.e. Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Jewish, South Asian, Korean, Brazillian, Hispanic, Nepalese, West African, East African, Arab, Tibetan, Filipino) included missiologists and missions strategists, diaspora leaders, and theologians. The FIN-sponsored and Lausanne-endorsed Global Diaspora Missiology Consultation took place in Edmonton from November 16-18, 2006. It was hosted by Taylor University College and Seminary (Edmonton). Papers presented by the participants at the consultation will be collected and published as a sequel to FIN's first publication, SCATTERED: The Filipino Global Presence (2004). It was an historic event that gathered major diaspora groups together for the specific purpose of partnering for strategic mobilization of diaspora Christians.

Multiplying Disciples

FIN continued to train followers of Jesus Christ to become "multiplying disciples" throughout the year. In 2006, New Life Training Curriculum (NLTC) courses were conducted in Asia and in Limited Access Nations (LAN). Over 200 trainees participated in 2006. NLTC is a curriculum in evangelism and discipleship. Its goal is to produce "multiplying disciples" of Jesus Christ. These NLTC courses are ongoing throughout the year and are conducted by local-based Filipino trainers, Philippine-based trainers, as well as trainers from Europe and North America. This is one of the ways that FIN is mobilizing Filipinos "globally to partner for worldwide mission."

Sharing Jesus

FIN is involved in providing Filipino congregations and Christian organizations with *The Jesus Film* for evangelistic purposes. *The Jesus Film* is the life story of Jesus Christ based on the Gospel of Luke. *The Jesus Film* is available in over 700 languages, and FIN aids in distributing these to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), to the Filipino community, and to friends of the Filipino community. Close to 55,000 copies of *The Jesus Film* have been distributed through FIN.

In 2006, God used FIN to reach the future Philippine police officers! In March, FIN presented each graduate of the Philippine National Police Academy with *The Jesus Film on DVD*. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines was in attendance at the graduation ceremonies and was also a recipient of *The Jesus Film on DVD*. Though the Philippine Police is infamous for massive corruption, it is FIN's prayer that these young officers-to-be and the future "reformers" of the Philippines will be truly reformed by their exposure to the good news of Jesus Christ. FIN also provided *The Jesus Film* for several outreach and missions events.

Looking Forward

Please include these items in your prayer considerations:

1. FIN in partnership with Alliance Graduate School (AGS) in Metro Manila (Philippines), and Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon (USA) will be launching the Institute of Diaspora Studies in the earlier half of 2007. Pray that the Institute of Diaspora Studies will result in the upgrading of lay-pastors who are presently leading diaspora congregations, and that it will contribute to increasing the maturity of their lay leaders.
2. Continue to uphold FIN-sponsored NLTC as we want to see hundreds more learn to effectively share their faith in Christ, and learn to disciple others.
3. Uphold the compilation of the papers presented at the Global Diaspora Missiology Consultation held in November. Pray that the resulting publication will serve as an inspiration to other diaspora Christians to partner and network (like FIN has) for the Great Commission.



Filipino International Network

FIN's Mission Statement: The Filipino International Network (FIN) is a catalytic movement of Christians committed to motivate and mobilize Filipinos globally to partner for worldwide mission.

FIN News is published quarterly by the Filipino International Network. If you would like to receive copies or would like your organization or church to be placed on our mailing list, contact FIN News:

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