

the FIN News

Filipino International Network

Volume 10

Issue 2

Summer 2008

Missions in Action in the 21st Century

The landscape and ministry context in the 21st Century is markedly different from the last century. Notably present are the socio-cultural forces of globalization, postmodernism, terrorism, and international migration. In the midst of great changes, followers of Jesus Christ who are in diaspora or are "scattered" continue to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ around the world. We have seen the diaspora Christians mobilized to become multiplying Kingdom workers through the faithful partnerships and strategic investments of godly and visionary individuals.

In the Christian and Missionary Alliance, two couples stand out – Horatio and Hope McCombs, and Jack and Carol Klemke. The McCombs and Klemkes have been instrumental in global missions and they continue to empower diaspora Kingdom workers in Canada and abroad.

To celebrate God's work through diaspora Kingdom workers, and to express our gratitude to the McCombs and Klemkes, the Filipino International Network (FIN) in collaboration with the Institute for Diaspora Studies (IDS) produced a book entitled *Missions in Action in the 21st Century*. This book is a collection of writings by various contributors addressing various issues in the ministry context of the 21st Century. It was designed and is dedicated to recognize and honour the McCombs and Klemkes. Also included in the book are personal tributes to the two godly couples.

The book will be published by William Carey Library in late 2008, but 1,000 pre-publication copies were produced especially for the delegates to the Christian & Missionary Alliance -- Canada's General Assembly 2008, free of charge. The complimentary distribution of the book was made possible by the partnership and generous sponsorship of several individuals, congregations, and institutions. Delegates at General Assembly 2008 expressed their gratitude for the complimentary copies of the book, and honoured the McCombs and Klemkes. (A detailed donors list is available on the FIN website: www.fin-online.org.)*

A launching and appreciation gathering for Missions in Action in the 21st Century is being planned to take place in August 2008, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

*As published in checkpoint, General Assembly July 3, 2008.



"...I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

Isaiah 56:8

FIN makes it a priority to train Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and collaborates with various partners to train Filipino diaspora Kingdom workers, particularly in regions traditionally closed to the Gospel. Take for example the country of Bahrain that is currently opening up to Christians. Due to the region's needs for labourers, foreign workers now represent 35% of Bahrain's residents. In addition, it is 60% in Kuwait and 80% in the United Arab Emirates. Many of them originate from "Christian" areas such as the Philippines. Consequently, Christians now constitute approximately 9% of Bahrain's population.* In this issue, we feature two of our partners – The Apollos Project and Seamen's Christian Friends Society. Please read their updates and remember them in your prayers.

We are also introducing the book *Missions in Action in the 21st Century*.

Finally, by the time this issue reaches you, the FIN office will have done a little "shuffling." Please note that we have moved from our old address. FIN may now be contacted at the following:

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*<http://www.newsweek.com/id/147705>
accessed July 30, 2008.



The Apollos Project

In the summer of 2007*, we featured FIN partner, The Apollos Project. The Apollos Project is committed to training pastors in the Philippines and overseas to minister, and properly communicate the message of Jesus Christ to Filipinos, fellow OFWs and other diaspora communities. The Apollos Project seminars are for pastors and lay leaders who desire to be trained in the development and delivery of expository sermons. Focus is on hermeneutics and homiletics. They are conducted in South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Europe, and Japan. Dr. Roy Versoza, a noted Filipino preacher and founder and instructor for The Apollos Project, sent FIN an update:

Dear Ministry Partners and Friends,

Please join us in praising God for the successful Apollos Project seminars in [LANs (Limited Access Nations)] from April 6 - May 12. Close to 500 pastors and lay leaders were trained in how to study the Bible accurately and preach it adequately...

I'm now back in Cebu and getting ready for our June schedule (June 6-7 Bulacan; June 20-21 Tagbilaran, Bohol; June 30-July 1 will be in Cebu City). Plans are now underway for me to go to [other LANs] in October. Please also pray for the possibility to minister to the Filipino pastors and lay workers in Europe in November.

Thank you so much for your partnership. May God continue to use all of us in ways beyond our expectations to help build His Church.

Please refer to The Apollos Project website at: <http://theapollosproject.org>.

*FIN News Volume 9, Issue 2.

Filipino Seafarers Kingdom-Building

According to the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), "Filipinos now comprise over 28 percent of all seafarers manning 51,000 of the world's ocean-going vessels."* In 2006, the POEA deployed 274,497 seafarers. If the estimated 7%** of these OFWs are committed followers of Jesus Christ, there are conceivably over 19,000 witnesses for Jesus Christ on-board ocean going vessels! And they are building the Kingdom on the seas.

Here's a report from "Ireneo" while anchored in Castellon, Spain (July 7, 2008), written to Mr. Martin Otto of Seamens Christian Friends Society (SCFS) and Church at Sea Alliance (CASA):

"...God's love is real and is always available. Before and after Rotterdam, the Lord has done wonderful things on board. God led us to gather in prayer in Captain Lopez' office for 2 consecutive days last week. During Sunday fellowship on June 29 after sailing from Rotterdam, God answered our petition. [Two Indonesian crew who are not followers of Jesus Christ] – the buson & new chief cook attended the Sunday fellowship. Last Friday 4th of July, 3 Indonesian crew joined us in studying the word of God. As 2 of our Christian brothers from Indonesia have their Indonesian bibles, it was used and read by guests. God is so good. We are using 3 languages in reading each verse in the bible, English, Tagalog & Indonesian. And the Lord blesses His word every time it is read over by every attendee. And the presence of God's Holy Spirit is powerfully moving in the life of all on board. To God be the glory and may the wonderful name of JESUS CHRIST our Lord & King be exalted on high."

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FIN is a partner of the Church at Sea Alliance (CASA). Other CASA partners include Seamen's Christian Friends Society, Campus Crusade for Christ-Philippines (CCC-P), Alliance Graduate School (AGS), and Operation Mobilisation. Realising that the diaspora Filipinos are not only stationed in different lands but are also scattered across the seas, CASA intends to train thousands of Christian Filipino seafarers to share their faith and establish churches at sea for seafarers on board ships. CASA also provides seafarers with evangelistic resources such as the Jesus Film in the different languages represented by the seafarers around the world. CASA leaders will meet in the last week of July in Mosbach, Germany to plan for the next training session in Manila. The first training session was in April 2008.

For more information about SCFS, visit their website at: <http://www.scfs.org>

*POEA, <http://www.poea.gov.ph/about/moving.htm>, accessed July 12, 2008.

**Dr. Sadiri Tira, FIN International Coordinator.



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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