

the FIN News

Filipino International Network

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Keep Praying

With over 10 million Filipinos living overseas (outside the Philippines), the Filipino diaspora is the third largest Asian diaspora group, next to the Chinese and the Indian. Imagine that approximately 7% of this 10 million overseas Filipinos are devoted disciples of Jesus Christ; that is approximately 700,000 potential witnesses for Jesus Christ overseas!

The *Filipino International Network* (FIN) is a catalytic movement of Christians with the mission to “motivate, equip, and mobilize Filipinos to partner for global missions.” FIN is modern history’s second ethnic missions movement to be global in scope, second to the Chinese diaspora missions movement, the *Chinese Congress on World Evangelization* (CCOWE) that started in 1976.

FIN’s task is to initiate, organize, and coordinate strategic prayer and training events throughout the year and throughout the globe, and to provide Filipinos living and working overseas and Filipinos in the Philippines about to be deployed overseas, as well as other international expatriate groups closely partnering with expatriate Filipinos, with resources for effective evangelism and discipleship. This includes planning and organizing Prayer Advance gatherings (a prayer gathering of Filipino Pastors and lay-leaders) in cities around the world for the purpose of corporately praying for the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and to further expose participants to God’s work among and through the Filipino diaspora. FIN also conducts regular training seminars world-wide to give Filipinos and other expatriates tools to help them effectively share their faith, and to help them continue being “multiplying disciples.” The training is supplemented by resources made available by FIN including the Jesus Film, the widely viewed film based on the Lukan account of the life of Jesus Christ. FIN also sponsors and conducts a series of Family Life conferences that invite married couples to discover God’s wonderful plan for their lives. FIN has played a key role in deploying career field workers in regions that have been difficult to penetrate with traditional missionary methods. These FIN initiatives have been effective in reaching many Filipinos and other nationals with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and they have resulted in the training and mobilizing of a significant “tentmaking” force existing in thousands globally, and present in almost every country of the world.

In every issue we include some Points to Pray for. In this issue, please prayerfully consider the following listed items as “Points to Always Pray for”:

- Each day, flights leaving the Philippines carry hundreds of Filipinos to overseas destinations. Most of these passengers are headed for jobs as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), many are leaving with the intent on permanent residence in other countries, and some others leave for temporary assignments as foreign students, military and government personnel, etc. Pray that the believers leaving the Philippines will come to realize their divine purpose as modern-day Nehemiahs in their host communities and that they would be equipped, and mobilized to be effective tentmakers.
- FIN has regional committees in several major geographical regions (i.e. Asia, Gulf, etc.), pray for wisdom as these committees plan evangelism and discipleship training, as well as outreach events, and Prayer Advances. Also pray for the FIN Global Committee as they seek God’s direction for strategic consultations.
- FIN is a non-profit organization that operates primarily charitable donations. All FIN initiatives are sponsored by FIN friends and partners. Pray for God’s abundant provision and FIN plans ahead and goes forward in faith.
- For further Prayer Items and details, please visit the FIN website at fin-online.org.



“The hope of all the ends of the earth ... where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy”

– The Psalmist 65:5-8

Greetings from the FIN Office!

In this issue, we would like to focus on praying for FIN. We have listed some prayer items that are constant points for prayer that we would ask you to remember through all seasons, and through the entire year. We have also featured two of FIN’s long-time prayer partners.

Again, thank you for your partnership with us. Your prayer support is vital to our ministry.

We would like to take this opportunity to greet you a Happy Easter -- He is risen! He is risen indeed!

-The FIN Staff

Interview with FIN Supporters

Joy Cuison, Esther Tebia, and Mervil Valencia are nurses and businesswomen from Alberta, Canada. Busy career-women as they are, they are passionate about missions and have embraced FIN's message. They hope to encourage other people to be involved particularly in the areas of prayer and giving.

Q. What is your current involvement with FIN?

A. Esther – I am a prayer and financial supporter. I pray especially for FIN initiatives and the travel of trainers. As a financial supporter, I donate towards FIN evangelism and discipleship training seminars called New Life Training Curriculum (NLTC), and FIN trainers' travel. I am also a FIN trainer, and I continue to pray for opportunities for me to participate and to encourage people to embrace the message and mission of FIN.

Mervil – I am also involved in prayer meetings at our local church where we pray for our missionaries regularly. For the past few years, I have also been giving financial support to two FIN missionaries whose passion for missions greatly encourages me. On some occasions I have participated in NLTC as a trainer.

Joy – I too give and I pray. Twice a week I meet with a prayer group from church and among other things, we really pray for missionaries, and missions, including FIN. Also I have traveled for FIN and have participated in FIN-sponsored/initiated short-term missions trips and NLTC.

Q. You say that you would like to encourage people to embrace FIN's message – what to you is significant about that message?

A. Esther – Missions should be part of every church, and FIN has the mission to “motivate, equip, and mobilize Filipinos to partner for global missions”, and not just Filipinos! Recently FIN invited Christian workers and missiologists from major diaspora groups to gather and consult on how the FIN mission could be extended to other diaspora Christians!

Q. But there are so many groups to support. Why do you choose to support FIN?

A. Esther – Because FIN is ours! FIN's roots are with our local church – First Filipino Alliance Church (FFAC) in Edmonton (Alberta, Canada)! FFAC is a founding partner of FIN. I support other groups and organizations involved in global missions, but FIN is our very own.

Mervil – I came to know the Lord when someone shared the love of Jesus Christ through a little booklet; and the NLTC training I attended helped me know more about God and helped me love Him more. I have seen how FIN, through training, has helped lay people and ministers become more passionate for God and more compassionate for the lost. I get encouraged when I hear stories of changed hearts and lives.

Joy – I also took NLTC during my first years as a Christian. NLTC strengthened my faith. I think everyone should go through the curriculum. As a result of my early exposure to NLTC, I really believe in the urgent need for evangelism and discipleship, the need for Christians to be equipped to effectively evangelise and disciple – FIN does that.

Q. You are all very busy at your jobs as registered nurses and also as businesswomen. Also, you are not what they call “career missionaries”; how is it that you try to “practically” participate in missions?

A. Mervil – We can never out-give God with all that we have. There are so many ways to get involved in God's work. We can pray. We can support financially, or we can actively participate by getting trained to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and later train others to do the same.

Joy – Yes, nurses can be prayer supporters as well as tentmakers. They can also be involved in short-term missions. I try to be involved in the short-term missions opportunities presented to me. My training and experience as a nurse always comes in handy for medical missions for example. (continued to the right column)

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Esther – I used to not really have a burden for mission, but I prayed for the compassion of Jesus and I think as an answer to my prayer, I was given opportunities to travel and see the world through Jesus' eyes. My heart for the world grew along with my exposure. The more I was exposed to the people of the world, the more God gave me compassion.

Joy – If there's a missionary in town, visit them and encourage them. Support them in prayer and in practical ways like finances. Because we are often caught up in our own world here, we need to get ideas from visiting missionaries. A lot of missionaries really have to put their lives on the line, so it helps for us to see their commitment to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Esther – To be more involved in missions, you really have to have a heart for it – and that comes with being exposed. This heart for missions isn't natural. It has to be developed.



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.

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