

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

13 April 2022

## Asia-Pacific Region



## Philippines

The Church of the Nazarene began work in the Republic of the Philippines in 1946 and will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on 8 May 2022. The Philippines is a country in Southeast Asia that is situated in the western Pacific Ocean. It consists of about 7,641 islands that are broadly categorized under three main geographical divisions from north to south: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The country has a population of approximately 110,000 million at present. The official languages are Filipino and English. It is also the home of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) with graduates serving around the world. Click [here](#) to read more about APNTS.



29,260 Members



361 Fully Organized Churches  
38 Not Yet Organized Churches



193 District Licensed and  
253 Ordained Ministers

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## PRAYER



- Pray for God's financial, physical, and spiritual provision as well as God's guidance for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene in the Philippines.
- Pray for the Asia-Pacific Region 12-hour Prayer Chain that will be held 22-23 April as they pray for national and international leaders, missionaries and the missions field, and institutions around the region.
- Pray for the outgoing district superintendents to receive God's guidance as they continue to minister as local church pastors and for the new district superintendents as they begin this new ministry.



## PRAISE

- We thank God that in the midst of the pandemic, the Palawan District, located in the southern part of the Philippines, was organized.
- We thank God that the Philippines Micronesia Field is sending Rev. Brandino and Dr. Carolyn Bestre to serve in Papua New Guinea as missionaries.
- We thank God that district-wide prayer and fasting events have been rekindled.



## Philippines Work & Witness team ministers to local Nazarenes



In February 2022, the first post-pandemic field Work & Witness team from the Philippines journeyed to serve churches on the Negros District. The team consisted of 10 passionate young people from 6 districts. They were led by the field youth coordinator, Elsid Paragas.

There were many challenges throughout the planning and preparations for the trip. The team was originally scheduled to go serve in December of 2021 but had to postpone following Typhoon Odette. Thankfully, with much prayer and help from the field and district leaders, the team was finally able to make the missions trip possible.

The team was hosted by District Superintendent Nemie Babao and his wife, Pastor Ana. They spent six days working and ministering to the local Nazarene churches in the district. They started their work by worshipping, serving, and preaching in three different congregations on their first Sunday in the district. The team also fellowshiped with local volunteers from Enclaro Church of the Nazarene.

During the week, the team worked on four local churches, Enclaro, Grace, Binalbagan, and Marina, all of which were damaged by Typhoon Odette. They worked on repairing the walls, replacing metal roofing and fencing. They also painted the churches' exterior and interior and cleaned up other debris and fallen trees. The team was able to partner with local young people who volunteered to help them with all the work.

Kevin Wilkins, the Work & Witness team coordinator described the team as being energetic and hardworking, and went on to say, “we sensed God growing their passion for missions.”

The manual labor was a grueling task; however, the team remained energized and ready to do all the work that needed to be done.

One of the most exciting experiences for the team was the opportunity to minister to the children at the local churches. They had a wonderful time of ministering through dancing, singing, and telling stories about Jesus.

On the last night of their trip, all seven local churches in the Negros District gathered to celebrate what the team and local volunteers had accomplished during the week. The night was filled with appreciation and heartfelt worship. Pastor Elsid preached a message that evening with the appropriate testimony that “The Lord is glorified when great things are done through us.”

By Asia-Pacific Region Church of the Nazarene

### **Testimony from an attender of a new church-type mission**

I grew up in another faith and have been very active in it. For the last half of 2021, I realized that I am active, but my faith is empty. I only went to church because this is what my whole family did, but when I came out of church, I didn't remember or internalize the lessons. When I prayed, I was crying, and after I prayed, I was still crying because my heart was still heavy.

Now that I'm attending our church, I always look forward to Sunday because I want to hear the lessons. When I heard our pastor pray, I thought I would give it a try. The first time I tried to pray, nothing came out of my mouth. I was just in tears, and even though I didn't say anything to Him, He knew immediately what I wanted to say. I feel His presence, and I know He can hear me. I realize I want to be close to Him.

I have also shared with my family what I have learned and changes in my faith since I embraced the Christian faith. At first, I was afraid they might get angry, but my pastor said "even if there is an obstacle, even if they don't believe, go ahead" and I was blessed because they are very supportive of me. They may not join me in worshipping but at least they are giving an ear to listen to what I am picking up. Thank you for initiating the services here.

Is God calling you to serve in the Philippines? Click [here](#) to learn more.



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



17001 Prairie Star Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

