



CHANGE COMES FROM SMALL DEEDS



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Mission & Evangelism Committee

HISTORY OF THE PHILIPPINES



Pre-1500- Native people, and Malay migrants, Muslim migrants to Mindanao, Chinese form a merchant class.

1500's- Spanish came, Chief Lapu-Lapu kills the Portuguese world explorer Ferdinand Magellan in a battle. Spanish eventually colonize Philippines; bring in the Hacienda plantation economy, influence Philippine architecture and cultural society. Many Filipinos are educated in Spain and will form the ruling culture society. Spanish rule also brings in the Catholic Church, which is still the main church today influencing both education and cultural development.

Late 1800's- Sporadic Nationalist influencing movements for independence from Spain, including the Kagalanggalangan, Katapangtapangan, Kalayaan (KKK translated to Honor, Bravery and Freedom) and Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal, a Filipino doctor, educated in Spain, who wrote the novels : “El Filibusterismo”, The Fillibuster and “The Noli Me Tangere”-Touch Me Not, which raised awareness of Spanish colonialism and oppression. Rizal was executed in December 30, 1896 for treason.

1898- Spanish American War, while most of South America, Central America threw off Spanish rule by 1840's, Spain still had colonies in Cuba, Puerto Rico and Philippines. When America defeats Spain, including one naval battle in Manila De Bay, these three territories become American “Protectorates” or colonies.

Since the Philippines already had a Nationalist Movement ready to take over at Spain defeat, there is friction between US authorities and Filipino Nationalists, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo. Open war breaks out in 1899. Senior American military officers, veterans of the 1880's Plains Indian wars, use



similar brutal tactics to subdue hidden guerrilla armies of Philippine Nationalists, with brutal atrocities with racial overtones in the far flung provinces. Almost one million civilians die. The Nationalists are eventually subdued or brought into the government by 1910.



1910-1940-American Period- where parliamentary government and attempts at universal education are brought in. Many Filipinos immigrate to Hawaii and California for agricultural work (earliest Filipino immigrants to the US were probably deck hands for Spanish Galleons in the 1600's,

who jumped ship and settled in New Orleans when it was still Spanish territory.) Filipinos also served on Spanish ships in Mexico and South America. Since Philippines was a US territory, Philippines immigrant's stopover in Angel Island was extremely brief, unlike Chinese immigrants, Filipinos in California did face horrendous racism in the US, with some stores having "NO DOGS, NO FILIPINOS" signs outside as well as beatings and discrimination. Filipino agricultural workers in California were some of the earliest supporters of Cesar Chavez in the Farm Workers Union.

December 08, 1941-Japan, already at war with China since the 1930s, declares war, bombing Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and US bases in the Philippines, the day after. A Japanese invasion drives out Americans by May 1942. Remains of the Philippine Army, loyal to the US, continue to send intelligence to US and fight a guerilla war for 2 ½ years against Japan. Japan fights back by killing whole families of sympathizers, as well as Chinese members of the Philippine Society, who they've been at war with for almost 10 years.

October 1944-Island hopping, the US moves north returning to the Philippines on the way to invade Japan. Manila is heavily damaged in the Liberation and is rebuilt after the war.



1946-Philippines, with US style Parliamentary government, is granted independence. The US does retain US Military bases at Clark Airfield and Subic Bay, as a base of power in the Pacific, later a major base for the Vietnam War of 1960-1975. The bases are finally returned to the Philippine government in 1991-1992. Heavily contaminated by toxic war

materials, a comprehensive plan for their conversion to economic use is still being formulated. The surrounding area in Subic Bay has much higher rates of birth defects than other areas of the Philippines.



1966- Ferdinand Marcos, a possible “hero” in the war with Japan, is elected President. He enjoys heavy US support. In 1972, after a series of mysterious bombings blamed on subversives, Marcos declared “Martial Law to restore order”, a condition to last another 14 years. During these times political opponents are imprisoned or assassinated. War against New People’s Army (NPA) in the North and Muslim separatists in South continues. To bolster the Philippine’s image abroad, the then First Lady, Imelda Marcos “the shoe lady”, embarks on large scale cultural endeavors, such as state of the art hospitals, convention centers and concert halls. The masses of Philippines continue to live in poverty, untouched by such undertakings. Meanwhile money is drained from the economy as the Marcos acquired a huge fortune, including pricey New York City real estate. Friends and relatives of the Marcos also accumulate fortunes through bribes and corruptions. The US government supports Marcos because we need a strong man and bases to counter China and Soviet Union in the Pacific.



People Power- Benigno Aquino, a Congressman and Presidential candidate was imprisoned by Marcos in the late 70’s so he could not run. He got medical release in the 80’s to get heart surgery in the US .While free he publicized the wrongs and atrocities of the Martial Law. Meanwhile under pressure, President Ferdinand Marcos agrees to hold elections. In 1983, Congressman Benigno Aquino flies back to Manila with dozens of supporters on the plane, promising to run in the 1986 election. Government security forces keep Aquino followers on the plane, while Congressman Aquino is escorted off the plane by government troops. On the airport tarmac, Congressman Benigno Aquino and “an assassin” are both gunned down, leaving no impartial witnesses. Most people believe the people with most to gain are the Marcoses.

Congressman Aquino’s widow, Corazon Aquino, makes an alliance with the leading political opposition to run for President in her husband’s stead. A citizen’s body NAMFREL strives to ensure a fair election. Ballot boxes are guarded with volunteers sitting on boxes, so soldiers cannot take them. In the middle of the vote count, government computer technicians walk off their jobs

and at a press conference, declare that the vote count is being manipulated. Nevertheless, Marcos declares himself the winner. Chaos ensues.

In all this, two Army Generals, loyal to Marcos for years, General Ponce Enrile and General Fidel Ramos, rebel and their Camp Crame in Quezon City become the resistance bases. Marcos sends tanks and troops to crush the minority army bases. The Catholic Church's Cardinal Sin puts out a call for people to take to the streets to finally defy the government. Fed up by years of Martial Law and corruption, hundreds of thousands crowd the streets. People surround the army bases to protect the rebel Generals and stop the tanks. People plead with the soldiers not to support the dictatorship. Army helicopters are sent by Marcos' General Fabian Ver to bomb the bases. Instead the helicopter land on the bases and their officers declare their defection to the people's movement. Commercial merchants send aid to the military bases including water and food. For 5 days the streets are blocked in stalemate. In the midst of all this, US Ambassador informs Marcos he no longer has US support. With supporters deserting, Marcos and family flee into exile to Hawaii. Marcos dies of renal failure a year later. Legal battles to regain looted wealth from their family end inconclusively.



Corazon Aquino serves as President of the Philippines for 6 years. Also General Fidel Ramos, the hero of the people revolution, also serves as first elected Protestant President after. While there are some reforms, poverty persists for 60% of the population. Over population because of Catholic social teachings against birth control are one part. Immigration to Australia,

Middle East countries and USA, by both college educated and common laborers, continues as people search for a better life and remittances from abroad from about 25% of Philippine economy thus keeping whole families going.



A Filipino doctor, going to US and taking the nurses board examination, can still make more in the US as a nurse than serving as doctor back home. Construction crews in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia & Iraq are heavily Filipinos. Cruise ships and merchant seamen are often 50% Filipinos.

We will see on our trip both rich historical and cultural influences of the Philippines, the natural beauty and the effects of underdevelopment.

Mabuhay!

Pipit Fund Inc's Mission Growth

"change comes from small deeds"



After visiting Nicaragua and the Salvadoran-Honduran border in the 1980's, I knew I wanted to do something deeper. When I met Eunice in 1991 her background of United Church of Christ minister dad and high school principal mom was like an answer to my prayer. When she remarked that her and her mother's schools didn't have the basics of encyclopedias or atlas, that sent us to Green Apple used book store on Clement. For Filipino-Americans there's a thriving shipping business as people box toys, clothes, American food stuffs and remittances for back home. Shipping companies charge per box, regardless of weight which suits our boxes of books, first to the school, then the church and also the "Barangay" neighborhood councils so their children's day care centers could also be libraries. In 1993 we found the Friends of the Public Library giant sale at Fort Mason, and were told the last two hours they give away books to non- profits. We didn't incorporate until 2003, however, Rev. Cal Chinn got four Elders to sponsor us as a part of Presbyterian Church in Chinatown for the books giveaway.

We've been called to evolve by community needs and we've felt the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown's support throughout. When we made our 1995 wedding a fundraiser for Books for the Barrios, who shipped books by the 16 ton container vessel, that benefitted 65 schools in Laguna, it was our Presbyterian Church in Chinatown wedding guests and friends who made it possible. Also in 1995, we shipped 10 sewing machines so the high school would have a vocational program. We found that unlike toys and books, there's a 40% import tax on electronics shipment. Presbyterian Church in Chinatown again supported us by adopting the shipment as a charitable donation. The church has always supported the Christmas Toy Drive for the UCCP Christmas Party since 1992, where neighborhood kids who would get festive foods but few gifts are treated to a party with our new and used toys, growing from 50 to over 250 kids.

And so it continues, with scholarships for high school and college. With Eunice's experience with seniors losing quality of life through a simple fall and broken hip led us to a vitamin and calcium distribution for over 100 seniors in two towns of Calamba and General Nakar. For two areas with large unemployment and few resources, a "microcredit association" and "save and loan" for small loans to start food vending, pig and chicken raising and other



ventures got start-up capital of \$2000 plus leadership by our college educated pastor partner who also oversees our scholarships, library and vitamins. We seem to be led forward as the pastors finish their 3 year terms, and are assigned to the Pacific Coast or the south. We'll be able to maintain contact and found micro

credits or libraries wherever they are, God willing.

In March 17-29 of 2011, the joint Presbyterian Church In Chinatown and Cameron House trip will be going to the Philippines, Pipit Fund Inc and United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) will be hosting the delegation as we explore how God wants us to be in the world and learn.



Pipit Fund Inc. is named for the small Filipino sparrow "pipit", spotted by the water buffalo Carabao on a dark rainy day. The pipit lay on it's back in the rice paddy, it's legs extended up. Carabao asked what he was doing, and pipit replied he'd "heard the sky was falling today". Carabao asked skeptically "and

you think your spindly legs can hold up the sky?" Pipit replied "one does what one can". (With story inspiration from Chicken Soup for the Soul- D'ette Corona)



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