



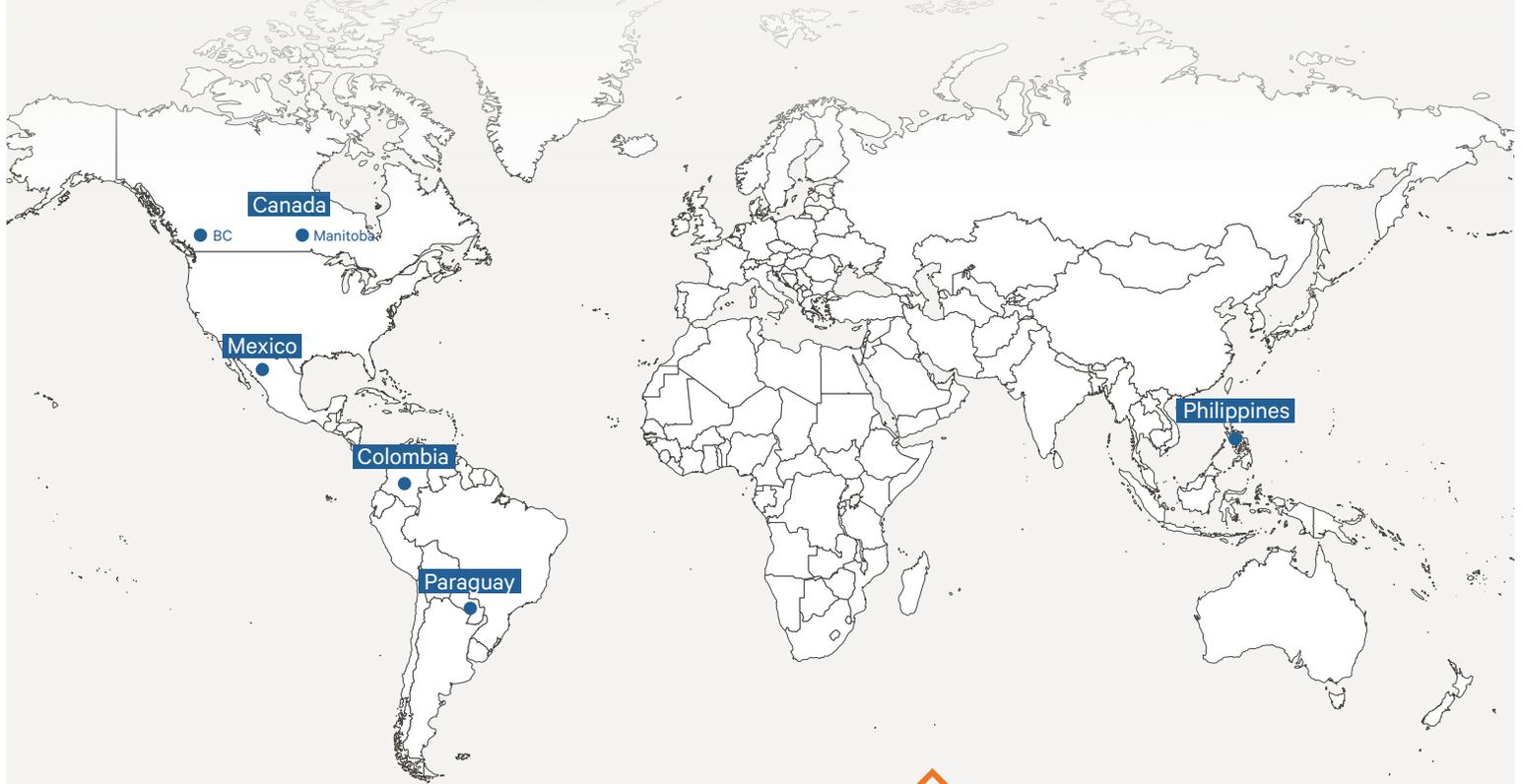
Disciple Making International (DMI) Report 2019-20



multiply

together that the world may know

2019/20 Assignment Locations & Partners



DMI Mission and Values

Disciple Making International (DMI) is a 2-3 week evangelistic ministry program that equips and sends smaller groups into cross-cultural situations. These groups include members from the local host church and “missionaries” from other places. They share their testimonies, present the Gospel by using a culturally relevant format and invite people to respond. The program includes a church-based follow-up strategy for discipleship.

It is amazing to see people accept Christ daily. For many participants, it is the first time they have experienced the adventure of helping people into the family of God, which revitalizes their own lives. Where a group has gone out from the same church, the rewards are spread through the entire congregation. In time, DMI has directly contributed to the planting and flourishing of local churches.

We evaluate the effectiveness of the program in two ways: first, we carefully track the number of people who engage with our outreach teams and require follow-up; second, we look for life transformation in the participants and build into them for ongoing confidence to share their faith and to train others to do likewise.

Together that the world may know

Dear friends of the DMI ministry,

Well, we had a lovely plan. Imagine the large gathering room at King Road MB Church in late April filled with tables of eager guests (many former DMI participants) settling in to enjoy an evening of testimonies from recent outreaches as well as our very special guest speaker, Sam Arcano, from the MB Conference in the Philippines. And don't forget to look at the dessert table, such a nice array of sweet treats and fresh fruit ready to be enjoyed!

While we cannot meet, we still want to invite you to the table to be encouraged. Please pour yourself a nice hot beverage, find a treat and settle in to enjoy this "virtual dessert evening" program. There are some wonderful stories to share from outreaches in Colombia, Mexico and the Philippines. We also have included a feature on the way that DMI offers a unique evangelism practicum to select Bible College students from Paraguay. As we missed the chance to hear from Sam Arcano in person, we have included a recent interview that I did with him to catch you up on some exciting developments there.

Looking ahead, we have outreaches planned, Lord willing, for later in 2020 that you can help to make happen with your financial gifts. We have included an envelope to make things easier. In the meantime, pray for the seeds sown through these ministries within hundreds of homes through dozens of local churches. This present crisis is waking people up to the fragility of life and the need to be certain about where true hope can be found. Dear friend, we pray that you know this hope and are sharing it (with appropriate physical distance) to your family and friends, for His glory.

On behalf of the DMI Planning Team [pictured below],

Greg Laing, Director



Greg Laing



Ernst Thielmann



Arthur Loewen



Liz Nickel



Jose & Esperanza Prada,
DMI Colombia
national coordinators

DMI Colombia 2019 Ministry Report

by Ernst Thielmann,
DMI Latin America Coordinator

As for several years, we had another successful and blessed DMI campaign in Colombia from October 19 - November 3, 2019. We worked in Ibagué, Colombia (pictured above) and our team consisted of Ingrid Drocholl, Heinz Plett, Cornelia Schmidt and myself as team leader.

The DMI Coordinator for Colombia is Jose Manuel Prada together with his wife Esperanza. They did a very good job of organizing the campaign. Thirty-six churches from the city of Ibagué and surrounding towns had signed up to be involved, with an average of five volunteers per church.

The team of visiting missionaries consisted of four people from Canada, six from Paraguay (students from two Bible Colleges) and ten Colombians, including Jose and Esperanza Prada.

Each church, with their volunteers, was assigned two days during the campaign. On the last Saturday (November 2) at Iglesia Para las Naciones we had a great celebration of praise and thanking God for the total of about 1150 names registered that had received salvation or were willing for follow-up visits.

Ministry Highlights:



Partnered with:
36 churches



People who prayed for faith or who engaged in a Gospel conversation: 1150

People who joined the evangelism teams



Paraguay Bible College Students: 6



Colombian missionaries from MB churches: 10



Canadian participants: 4

Family Comes to Faith

by Ernst Thielmann

Centro Misionero Bethesda Church in Chicoral, a neighbouring town of Ibagué, is the first church where our group of three missionaries started the campaign. Pastor Eugenia Rojas had come to Ibagué to accompany us. After a one-hour comfortable bus ride, we arrived at the church at 9am where the volunteers were waiting for us.

It is common in these towns that shopkeepers spend time on shady sidewalks relaxing while waiting for customers. We approached an elderly man sitting under a big mango tree. He declined politely to listen to my testimony, but directed us to go inside through the open door. Inside we found a friendly lady sitting beside her mother who was laying on a cot. She was fanning her mother and in between attending to school children coming to buy snacks in her shop. The mother, due to a stroke, was unable to speak but was responsive. When agreeing to questions she slightly raised her hand. Both she and her daughter were willing to listen to my testimony. It was an emotional encounter when volunteer Ricardo offered to pray the prayer of repentance on her behalf and at the end she raised her hand. At the end, when my volunteer, Trinidad, prayed for the mother's physical health the husband got off his chair and came to join us. Then we asked him if he also believed in what we had shared and he nodded.



After Sunday service in a park in Ibagué. From left to right Carmen Fabiola from Bogota, Ernst Thielmann, Franklin from Chocó, Colombia, Ismael from IBA (he had preached), Marion from IBA and Ingrid Drocholl from BC.



Victor Davila,
DMI Mexico
national coordinator

DMI Mexico 2019 Ministry Report

DMI brought missionaries from Canada (Ramon Martinez, Greg Laing and Ernst Thielmann, team leader) and the Mexico City MB Church alongside Bible College students from Paraguay to train and serve outreach teams from 20 local churches in Chalco, Mexico City (pictured above). The collective outreach lasted two weeks; the churches were organized in groups of five for maximum effectiveness. Each local church mapped out their immediate neighbourhood so that each street was canvassed and prayed for. MB Pastor Victor Davila from Mexico City, DMI Representative for Mexico, has organized outreaches in many parts of the country since 2002. Accompanying Victor was his associate pastor who is a graduate of Multiply's Matthew Training Centre in Guadalajara. As with all Multiply programs, the team gathered each evening after dinner for a time of worship and debrief to share testimonies, challenges and to pray for each other.

Ministry Highlights:



Partnered with:
20 churches



People who prayed for faith or who engaged in a Gospel conversation: **1014**

People who joined the evangelism teams



Paraguay Bible College Students: **6**



Mexican missionaries from MB churches: **5**



Canadian participants: **3**

Testimony of Transformation

by Greg Laing

It was a great joy to meet Roberto (pictured below) and see him flourish as he shared his faith. For several years he had hoped to learn how to be an evangelist but his church leaders told him to just serve in the church. Things changed when he became part of a church plant that invited DMI to train them in outreach. Roberto willingly led a small team of three or four others who went door to door, following our program. Astonished at the interest of people in his neighbourhood to talk about matters of faith, he quickly became an emboldened ambassador for Christ. By the time the three-day outreach completed, I witnessed Roberto and his team personally pray with at least fifteen people to have confidence in Christ.

The local church (one of twenty involved in the outreach) directly benefited from the outreach training in some remarkable ways. We learned that the experience of going out to serve together led them to realize that they had some issues of unforgiveness and tension to resolve. They discovered that they needed to “clean” their spiritual house before being able to genuinely invite their neighbours. The times of prayer before and after the outreach were robust and established a new degree of expectancy of what the Lord would do and how he would speak, even prophetically, to their church and neighbourhood. The church planting pastor, Jorge, wept with joy when he learned of neighbours giving their lives to Christ. Following the outreach, they hastily doubled the size of the meeting space to accommodate the growth.





Our team consisted of John Klassen, Margaret Peters, Madeline McPherson, Arthur Loewen, Ely & Nathan Costes, national coordinators.

DMI Philippines 2020 Ministry Report

by Arthur Loewen,
DMI Philippines Coordinator

This year our ministry took place on Romblon Island which included a nine-hour ferry ride from Manila. We had excellent hotel accommodations with space to have meals and team meetings. Nathan Costes, our national coordinator, cooked many of our breakfasts and some evening meals as well, which we really appreciated!

We worked with fifteen churches. We had 271 people pray to receive Jesus and they are being followed-up by very enthusiastic church members. We also had the privilege of presenting the message of salvation to many school students. The teachers of these classes attend the churches we worked with and are committed to doing the follow-up.

Testimony by Ely Costes

“I have been with DMI for the past six campaigns, since 2015. I have observed the zealously of the teams and the simplicity of the presentation of the Gospel. I thank God for the leadership of Brother Arthur. Morning devotions, prayer and sharing times are much appreciated as well. To God be all the glory!!”

Ministry Highlights:



Partnered with:
15 churches



People who prayed for faith or who engaged in a Gospel conversation: **271**

People who joined the evangelism teams



Volunteers from national churches: **50**



Canadian participants: **4**



Students Come to Christ

by John Klassen

I had the opportunity to share my testimony with over one hundred grade 12 students. As I began to share, I noticed how focused and attentive they all were as I shared with them how Jesus had changed my life and how he could do the same for each one of them if they would be willing to accept the free gift of salvation that Jesus was offering them. When the invitation was given, fifty-four students made the decision to follow Jesus. What a harvest! We give God all the glory for the great things he has done.

A Story of Healing

by Arthur Loewen

Over thirty people had gathered waiting for our arrival, including many from the church that had come to support this outreach ministry. As we sat on chairs and logs in the shade of the trees, I shared my testimony and proceeded to talk to the people about how much God loves them and wants to be part of their lives.

When I gave the invitation to accept Jesus as their Savior, eight people prayed to receive Jesus into their lives, to forgive their sins and take control of their lives. One of these new believers came to me with her ten-year-old son (woman pictured below in gray shirt with son in red shirt behind her) and asked for prayer. He had a blood disorder from birth and had to get shots regularly to increase his compromised immune system. His arm looked mutilated from the many vaccine shots he had been receiving. I prayed a simple prayer requesting the Lord to bring healing to his blood and comfort to his mother. We told her that she and her son were in God's hands and she needed to trust him to restore her son's health. Eight days later, as we were on the ferry heading back to Manila, Nathan received a text message telling us the boy had been healed. The mother had taken him to the doctor to confirm the healing. The doctor did all the tests necessary to determine actual healing. His blood disorder was gone! Praise the Lord!



DMI AND THE MB MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Interview with Samuel Arcano by Greg Laing



Greg: Tell us a bit about yourself and your ministry in the Philippines.

Sam: After graduation from Febias College of Bible in 1978, I worked with Grace Bible Church for two years as a campus missionary, pastor and teacher. I resigned in May of 1980 to focus on my studies at Asian Theological Seminary where I received my Master's in Theological Studies in 1982. My wife, Evelyn, and I then were commissioned by our church, Community Evangelical Church, to pioneer and plant a church in Francisco Homes, San Jose Del Monte, province of Bulacan. After seven years of fruitful ministry I took a leave and became an itinerant preacher until 1999 when I responded to a call to pastor Floridablanca Christian Church in Floridablanca, province of Pampanga. During my pastorate there, my wife and I were able to build the church and extended its ministry through the Floridablanca Christian Academy. My wife and I served the church until October 2003.

Greg: What has the Lord accomplished through the DMI ministry since it started? How has it led to planting MB churches?

Sam: The MB work in the Philippines is in a real sense of the word, the fruit of the missionary efforts of the Disciple Making International (DMI). The growth of our churches has also been sustained by the annual visits, support (both moral and material), and training provided by MB Mission (Multiply) through its global and regional leaders.

In the 1999 Campaign, Arthur Loewen (from Broadway MB Church, Chilliwack, BC) came as one of the volunteers who took the lead of the team and worked with Pastor Nathaniel Costes (DMI Philippines Coordinator) for the duration of the campaign. But God has been laying in Art's heart the possibility of establishing an MB work in the country. At the 2004 Malolos, Bulacan DMI campaign, I presented to Brother Art Loewen what I felt God is leading me to. In June of the same year, we opened Baguio Youth Center (BYC) which, after three years, gave birth to the Redeemed in Christ Community Fellowship International Inc., the first duly organized MB congregation in northern Philippines. By 2010, another local congregation in Baguio was formed in Balacbac, Santo Tomas Proper Bagangay. Erick Patricio pioneered a house church in Camp 7 Barangay. The house

church transferred from one place to another and finally settled in Lower Lourdes Barangay and was named Forever Blessed church.

From 2009, the work began to spread in other parts of the country. Jonathan Arcano was commissioned in Dipolog City, northern Mindanao, after the DMI campaign. A year later, he started the work in Tagusao Shore, Brooke's Point, Palawan. A DMI team from Broadway Church, came to assist in August of 2010 and a thriving congregation was formed after that.

Meanwhile, the work in Nueva Vizcaya was being established with Pastor Nathan working with Pastor Cezar Dipanyo and Pastor Alex Bascasas. DMI revisited Solano and Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya in 2011 and laid the groundwork for the MB work there.

The visit of Multiply leader Victor Wiens to the Philippines in October of 2012, challenged us to begin thinking in the direction of establishing a Filipino MB conference. The church planting work was growing, and local congregations were being established and we felt that it was time to organize ourselves into a conference of MB churches.

So, in 2015, we agreed to register our organization and then held our first conference in Baguio City with Multiply Regional Leaders, Bob Davis and Andy Owen, as our speakers. Our name is: KAPATIRANG MENONITA NG PILIPINAS INC (KAMPI) and there are eight member churches.

Greg: We have heard about the vision of starting a Philippines Regional Ministry Center, which will also serve as housing for the DMI training and other events. Tell us about the idea and how people could help it to become reality?

Sam: For most of these years of ministry, our congregations, particularly those in Baguio, have been meeting at some rented places and cramped houses. However, in the last six years, we held our Sunday worship at a private basketball court in Balacbac, and the Ambiong congregation currently meets at Bayan Park. Though we are free to use these, we were at the mercy of the elements, so we began praying for and started saving for a church lot and building (pictured below). The anticipated purchase price for this property is Php 13,500,000 (approx. \$265,000 USD), of which we have already been able to raise Php 200,000 (approx. \$4,000 USD).

Once the property is secured, the plan is to develop it in three phases: conversion of the third floor; moving into the facility; completing the fourth floor.

Phase One: Conversion of third floor (3230 sq. ft.) will require approximately Php 1,000,000 (approx. \$20,000 USD). These initial renovations include:

- > Plastering and painting of walls
- > Laying of floor tiles
- > Relocation of washrooms and plumbing
- > Construction of stage
- > Electrical work and stage lighting
- > Repainting of the roof and the three apartments
- > Refurbishing of the three apartments

This capital campaign has been approved by the Multiply Board. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a gift to this Philippines Regional Ministry Center by donating to Multiply Project C0338 “Philippines Church Planting” with a notation of “Ministry Center.”

Considering the prevailing costs of real estate in Baguio, we know we have a long way to go but we continue to save, pray, and hope for a place to call our own.

On top of this, as a growing community of MB churches in the Philippines, we felt the need for suitable facilities that will enable us to respond to the increasing demand of preparing future leaders, church planters and workers to the Gospel ministry under the MB global strategy to reach the least reached in the Philippines. Towards this end, we are seeking God’s direction and provision for a multi-functional facility to host the worship centre for the local MB congregations, a venue for conferences, a hub for the MB work and a training centre for church planters and pastors. We hope to establish a DMI Institute to train believers in evangelism and discipleship.

We also envisioned that such a facility should be sustainable and self-supporting at the outset, if not, at least, in the shortest time possible.



“ICOMB assesses emerging conferences and seeks to build into them with three core values in mind. The center would make a significant contribution to each of these values of community, identity and mission. Every family needs a home.”

Vic Wiens, Multiply ICOMB Liaison



Did you know...

A unique aspect of the DMI ministry in Latin America is that there is a long-time partnership with two Bible Colleges in Paraguay, Instituto Bíblico Asunción (IBA) and Centro Evangélica Mennonita de Teología Asunción (CEMTA). Each year, these schools identify groups of six students who are invited to participate in the DMI outreach program as part of their educational experience. The entire cost of this evangelism practicum is covered by donations to DMI; it is the first international cross-cultural exposure for many of the students. This mission experience has a double impact: as individuals and as a team. Each individual has learning outcomes that are reported on their Ministry Experience report. As a team, the shared experience deepens their spiritual friendships and re-frames their perspective and expectancy about personal evangelism, which can have a powerful impact when the team returns to their college and local church in Paraguay.

The student group is integrated with local churches and the DMI missionaries to create a distinct multi-cultural discipleship-on-mission experience for all involved. Spanish speaking DMI leaders disciple the Paraguay students with the aim of sending them back home with both skills in sharing their faith and also a refreshed heart for the mission of God that is more bold and outward facing.



Testimonies

Iris Meaurio,
student from CEMTA:

"DMI helped me to overcome my fears. I think of myself as an introvert, so it was an experience that helped me to grow in that sense because it forced me to go out of my comfort zone and learn to be brave. It was really nice to see how God touched the hardest hearts. I am thankful to God for using our testimony to touch lives. I pray that God will continue his work in Mexico. Praise the Lord!"

Carolina Rodriguez Brizuela,
student from IBA:

"I think of DMI as one of the best experiences so far for me. It moved me to be a witness of the Gospel again. I will go back to my country really excited to share the Gospel there with the tools I have learned here. These two weeks have been a huge blessing to me. It was a privilege to live like a missionary. I can only say I received more than I gave. Praise God."