

# PHILIPPINES

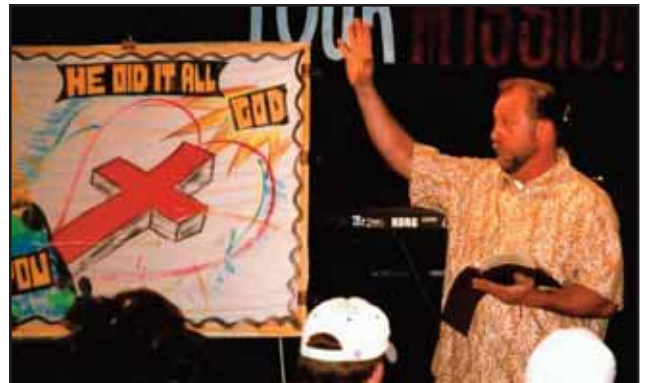
From the very beginning of the OAC ministry, it has been an ongoing desire of both the Australian and New Zealand branches of OAC to reach out to their Asian neighbors. An opportunity arose in the 1960s when Greg Tingson, a successful evangelist in the Philippines, heard of OAC and was led to contact George Bremner, the New Zealand director. A team, which included Muri Thompson, an evangelist called to bring the Gospel to the Māori (the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand), led a successful crusade in the islands. It was agreed at the 1963 OAC International



SOWERS MANUALS

conference that a joint effort should be made to reach the islands for Christ. Evan Squires (New Zealand) moved with his family to Manila to start the work with a van supplied by Australia. Evan returned to New Zealand due to a serious illness, and after a few shifts of personnel, Barry Tetley (New Zealand) felt God leading him to continue the work, but in a new direction by catering more toward the local culture. This type of outreach program was developed, and in 1975, it officially became Sowers International, headquartered in New Zealand. Training manuals were designed and printed both in English and Tagalog to reflect this bent toward local culture. The “Sowers Platform” was

invented as an inexpensive, yet mobile method to disseminate the Gospel out to the community. Since locals could not afford vans, a light, square platform was also developed, which incorporated a sketchboard and could be carried on poles by four men, allowing for quick set up in any location for open-air meetings. Sowers seminars were held in various parts of the country where this inexpensive, yet effective, method of evangelism could be presented to local pastors. Quite a number of new churches were planted as a direct result of the Sowers program. Ken Rout (New Zealand) was part of the “Sowers” staff, and he spread the idea to other countries, such as Thailand and Ghana. Edgar Asuela (a national) joined the staff as well.



FRED KORNIS

In 1984, having served in the Baltimore-Washington DC branch of OAC-USA staff for nine years, Fred Kornis conducted evangelism in the Philippines from 1984 to 1986. In recent years, Korky &



ANNI DAVEY HELPING TO TRAIN AND EQUIP FILIPINOS

Anni Davey (Britain), Rob George (Australia), and others have traveled to the Philippines to evangelize the lost and train believers in conducting effective open-air evangelism. The attempt to, once again, set up a permanent OAC branch with local leadership has not yet taken place, but the good news is that work in the Philippines has never stopped and continues to take place.