

Chapter 30

Philippines



From the very beginning of this ministry, both the Australian and New Zealand branches of Open Air Campaigners (OAC) have had an ongoing desire 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 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 eventually returned to New Zealand due to a serious illness. After a few personnel shifts, Barry Tetley (New Zealand) felt God leading him to

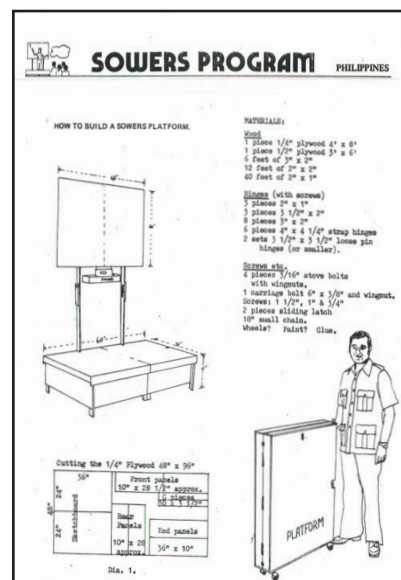


continue the work, but in a new direction, catering more to the local culture. This type of outreach program was developed, and in 1975, it officially became Sowers International, headquartered in New Zealand. Barry was active in this capacity for 18 years before joining the faculty of Laidlaw College in New Zealand.



SOWERS MANUALS

During Barry's time at Sowers, specialized training manuals were designed and printed in both English and Tagalog to reflect this bent toward local culture. The "Sowers Platform" was invented as an inexpensive, yet mobile, method for disseminating the gospel to the community. Since locals could not afford vans, a light, square platform was also developed. It incorporated a sketchboard and could be carried on poles by four men, allowing quick setup at 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, from New Zealand,



played a significant role in the Sowers ministry. He expanded this work into Thailand, Ghana, and 15 other countries. A native Filipino, Edgar Asuela, joined the staff and served on the team for several years.

Having served in the Baltimore-Washington, DC, branch of OAC-USA for 9 years, Fred Kornis conducted evangelism in the Philippines from 1984 to 1986. In recent years, Korky & Anni Davey (Britain), Rob George (Australia), Steve Stokes (Australia), and others have traveled to the Philippines several times to evangelize the lost and train believers to conduct 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 this day.



ANNI DAVEY HELPING TO TRAIN AND EQUIP FILIPINOS



FRED KORNIS FROM USA MINISTERING THE WORD