

**Indochina
Mission
Partnership**

A Partnership
Between
Reach Ministries
International
and
REACH, Inc.
in the Philippines

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF GOD'S GOODNESS

Making Disciples in Indochina

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

– Matthew 28:19,20

Casting Our Nets in Indochina



Mission orientation in Thailand before an exposure trip. Each participant laid her hands on the country she wanted to claim.

This was the challenge that inspired the Resources Employment and Community Horizons, (REACH) Inc. in the Philippines to articulate its vision for world missions in 2004. The vision is to be a missionary-sending organization and deploy teams to establish holistic, infiltrative, contextualized, and transformational multiplying disciple-making ministries in Asia.

Mission is the central theme of Scripture descriptive of God’s purpose in human history, redeeming His creation.

By God’s calling, Dr. Paul Pasicolan, a professor at Isabela State University, Cabagan, Isabela, decided to leave his tenured job in February 2005 without the certainty of another position. Two months after saying YES to missions without conditions, God opened an international assignment for him at the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute in Vientiane, Laos, from June 2005 to March 2007 as a forestry advisor.

In November 2006, he organized a seven-day Indochina mission exposure trip for three Filipina disciple-makers and two Lao Christian ladies. They traveled to China by train from Laos, then by plane to Cambodia and Thailand, and back to Laos and the Philippines.

Laos: A Staging Ground for Missions

Strategically located at the heart of the Mekong River, Vientiane was envisioned to become the staging ground for other countries in the region.

At first, fear gripped Paul’s heart to enter the land, knowing it to be an *Iron Curtain* country where Buddhism is the state religion. But God’s assurance in Isaiah 45:2,3 prevailed, “I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.”

Venturing into the unknown enables us to experience God on a higher plain.



Countries of the Mekong Subregion.

First Worker to Cross the Line with God by Faith

Abel responded to God's call to service in February 2007. She left a lucrative job though due for promotion as an administrative officer at an agricultural research and extension office in the northern Philippines.

She was the first REACH worker to dare to cross the line with God and venture into the unknown. As a tentmaker, she worked as

“God arranges everything, so we will be there at the right time and place according to HIS perfect purpose in us.”

a confidential secretary for a former Philippine ambassador to Laos from March 2007 to January 2009. The ambassador, a committed servant of the Lord, partnered in the outreach.

Abel joined a private college as a volunteer English teacher from 2009 to 2016. Her aim was to reach out and disciple her students. She started a girls' apartment in 2009 that served as a Bible study and fellowship center for

12-15 youth while training three Lao ladies.

Abel left Laos in June 2018. She was succeeded by one of her young professional contacts, Tui, who worked on a national committee, and her niece, Lavlie, a nurse at a secondary school in Vientiane.



Sim Pasicolan (left) ushered Abel (center) to the Philippine Embassy at Vientiane, Laos to pay a courtesy visit to the ambassador (right) on February 9, 2007.

Investing in the Youth

Abel believed in the strategic significance of the youth in transforming and redeeming Lao society for Christ. As such, her ministry focused mainly on reaching out to the youth while also ministering to her young professional contacts.

Besides weekly Bible study and fellowship, there is a yearly Youth Equipping Seminar and group outing to strengthen the sense of family kinship among believers.

Tui and Lavlie tandem together to sustain the youth ministry Abel started.



Youth Equipping Seminar attended by 11 youngsters at Abel's apartment with Tim Pasicolan (top left middle) and Daisy Miguel (back center) as resource people in June 2015. They took up the BASICS of the Christian life and stewardship in the two-day seminar.



Joint REACH, Inc.-RMI board meeting in Los Angeles on April 10, 2010 for the founding of the Indochina Mission Partnership. Present are: (front row) George Caudle; Cal Milnes; Gene Tabor, founder of both REACH, Inc. and RMI and his wife – Helen; Maria Ricoy, Glo Camarao; (back row) Daisy Miguel; Guy Chiattello; Ed Jimenez; Oyay Jimenez; Cathy Frederick, Sim Pasicolan; Paul Pasicolan, and Carlos Ricoy; (third row) Jane Caudle and Dale Igo, Katy Milnes was not in the picture.

Birth of the Indochina Mission Partnership

REACH Philippines’ disciple-making model developed into an indigenous, holistic, and contextualized multiplying fellowship that slowly weaned away from foreign leadership.

Three decades of fruitful collaboration between REACH Philippines and Reach Ministries International (RMI), called for a review of the long-standing partnership. A meeting was held in Los Angeles on May 10, 2010.

Over the years, the two organizations engaged in discipleship and socioeconomic projects (Social Implications of the Gospel) in the Philippines. On top of this, they aimed to craft a new partnership.

Three proposals were presented by the Philippine delegates: 1) a multi-purpose ministry building, 2) a discipleship and leadership training center, and 3) an Indochina Mission Partnership (IMP).

RMI favored the IMP proposal for three reasons:

- It was close to their hearts, considering its global scope and urgency,
- The word, Indochina, resonated in the minds of many Americans because of the Vietnam War in the 60s and 70s, and
- Notably, it was an opportunity to replicate the fruitful, holistic ministry established by Gene and Helen Tabor in the Philippines that developed into a viable, indigenous movement establishing intergenerational fellowships growing and expanding on their own without the oversight of *foreign* leadership.

A memorandum of understanding between REACH

and RMI was signed on October 10, 2010, creating a separate management board consisting of two Americans and three Filipinos.

This development came at a perfect time when REACH had no system in place for sending workers overseas for cross-cultural missions.

After the IMP was created, the work in Indochina became more professionalized. As such, full financial assistance included salary, medical allowance, and a retirement package for overseas Filipino field staff. This also included a care team to provide counseling, mentoring, and personal visits.

For sustainability there is a need to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send more laborers into the harvest field.

Ministry Among the Cantonese in Guangzhou, China

Mercy, a veteran disciple-maker from Cabagan, Isabela, retired early from government service in 1998 and went to Marawi City, Lanao del Sur to minister to college students. After more than six years in the Muslim majority area, she moved to Capiz State University in Roxas



A warm welcome for Mercy (lower center) by a teacher and her students during a visit in October 2013.

“The price of obedience requires dying to self, to include the pain of leaving one’s home country, family, and friends.”

She banked on God’s promise in Isaiah 41:10, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Mercy is retired now but still makes disciples in Cabagan.

City (2005-2012) to support its growing campus ministry.

During 14 years as a local field worker in the Philippines, she visited Guangzhou and Hong Kong several times for exposure to China with JoAnn Ray — her RMI friend.

On October 28, 2013, the IMP deployed her to Guangzhou as a tentmaker. She taught part-time in a secondary school and became the school’s youth spiritual mentor and coordinator.

Mercy desired to equip potential, teachable, and available contacts for

Focusing on the Few, But Ministering to the Many

With her demonstrated commitment to nurture and lead ladies in their walk with God, Mercy invested most of her time in two sisters.

The BASICS of the Christian life (the Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Witnessing, and Lordship) became regular topics of conversation and study as they shared the same apartment.

She also took the time to visit her contacts’ parents in the province. The indicator of her imprint on the ladies’ lives is their growing burden to share the Gospel with their parents and friends.

At the school, she had classes varying in ages from seven to 15 years old, totaling over 60 students.

Mercy established a good track record being loved not only by her students but also by her co-employees and school administrators because of her jolly personality. So after her departure in March 2018, the school administrator assured her of two teaching positions for REACH members as her replacement. Now, one of her disciples from Mindanao, Den, a Philippine Science High School teacher, will fill one slot.



Mercy (center) and the two sisters in her training apartment.



Upper grade students (ages 15-16 years old) with Mercy (center) in a class photo.

The Kingdom of Wonders: Cambodia



Cha posed with the Sunday school kids at Solid Rock Baptist Church as a volunteer staff on call at Kampong Thom.



Latest batch of Khmer lady students staying at the ministry training apartment with Cha.



Phally, Cha, and Srey Em teaming up as they divide the class of kids into three levels.

Cynthia Ubiña (Cha), like Abel and Mercy, left her lucrative job as a researcher in a government institution and became a full-time field worker of REACH from 1997 until now.

She was first deployed in Davao City to disciple college students in two universities from 1998 to 2004. Then in 2005, she transferred to revive the undergrad ministry at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB) until 2012. Her seven years of labor in the Lord at UPLB resulted in a new group of committed young disciples in the ministry.

In 2013, she responded to God's call to missions in Cambodia. Her vision was "seeing the youth giving their hearts to God, growing active in their faith, and reaching out to their generation, parents, and other people."

Cha foresaw the difficulty of going into cross-cultural missions. But Matthew 17:20 assured her when Jesus said to His disciples, "If you have faith... nothing will be impossible for you." Faith and prayers are her main capital assets for the Lord's work in the Kingdom of Wonders.

Apartment Discipleship

After a one-and-a-half-years stay in an Anglican dorm, Cha opened a training apartment for Khmer lady students. All of them worked, so they were only available in the evenings for Bible studies.

Cha started with four ladies to disciple. Except for the first two older ladies, all started in their first year of college. Most did not know Jesus. So it took time for them to believe and embrace Jesus in their lives.

Srey Em and Phally, among the first group, captured the vision of spiritual multiplication after a year of Bible study with Cha. The two ladies now lead a kids' ministry in Kandal outside Phnom Penh. They travel by motorbike to and from the village for three hours a week to teach over 30 kids.

Kandal Kids' Ministry: Off-Shoot of Discipleship Mentoring

Phally, studying B.S. Education, dreamed of opening a school. Both she and Srey Em had a burden to help their village. With much prayer and consultation with Cha, they decided on a kids' tutorial class. They teach English and Bible stories and plan to reach out to the kids' parents and families.

"Children's ministry as a strategy to reach out to the entire community for Christ."

Investing in Friendship as a Mission Strategy in Myanmar



A pose with Pastor Peng and wife (center) with Abel (left) and Daisy (right) at the house church.



The Peng family.

Family Discipleship: The Target for Intervention

The Myanmar ministry started in April 2015 when Ms. Ivy Peng — a Christian Media Hub coordinator from Yangon — attended training in Vientiane, Laos. By God’s appointment, Abel, who was part of the training team, hosted her for three nights in her apartment. A friendship began that led to meeting Ivy’s family on June 26-30, 2017 in Yangon, by Abel and Daisy Miguel — the IMP comptroller.

Passing on the template of discipleship to a strategic family in the host country with personalized follow-up minimizes the need to send full-time missionaries.

Two children are pastors, and the rest work in Christian non-govern-

ment organizations.

The Pengs share a tight family bond and are active Christians. Therefore, the IMP is focusing on a kinship approach to discipleship training that the Pengs can replicate.

On August 13-16, 2019, Daisy and Weng and Letty Irizari conducted the first family discipleship lecture series. The *Bridge* and *Wheel* illustrations were the main topics.

The Nucleus of Community Transformation: A Village House Church

Pastor Peng and his family lead a house church in a depressed village on the outskirts of Yangon. The church emerged in obedience to God’s prompting of the couple to help typhoon victims in the area.

A junior pastor assists Pastor Peng in the house church of about 15-20 regular members who meet weekly.



Group photo of the post-workshop on the BASICs and the children’s feeding program conducted by Daisy, Weng, and Letty at the house church on Aug 15, 2019. Attended by over 110 participants, including children.

Ministering at the Border of Thailand and Myanmar



Faith House dormitory kids with the three volunteer staff as caretakers (Abel, Gigi, and Grace).

Since 2014, Abel prayed for Myanmar as her next assignment. She read the sad stories about the situation in the country, and her heart bled for the poor and oppressed children, displaced by constant conflict between the government and rebels.

During a furlough, she undertook an exploratory visit to the

“A hug or a kiss are luxuries for less fortunate kids. It’s God’s loving touch that binds wounds and heals their painful past.”

Faith House Ministry in Mae Sot, Thailand, at the border of Myanmar in February 2018. It is a shelter run by Filipinas for Myanmar children at risk. Their vision moved Abel to partner with them, “Every child is given hope, transformed, and empowered.”

She claims Isaiah 61:1,2 as God’s mandate for her: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.”

Children of Broken and Painful Beginnings

After her furlough, Abel joined Faith House in Mae Sot in June 2018. The ministry cares for 22 Burmese students, ages 11-20, most of whom are orphans, abandoned by parents, or victims of child trafficking. Faith House provides free shelter, food, a learning

center, and transportation to and from school for the children. This is besides the spiritual

nurturing, counseling, mentoring, and character training it gives.

Apartment Setting: Creating Space to Focus and Multiply

In August 2019, Abel transferred to her own ministry apartment.

With her are three young girls to nurture and train in discipleship. Embracing the *Timothy Principle* (2 Timothy 2:2), her vision is that the young women she is mentoring may grow in their faith and become disciple makers in their own families and communities some day.

The challenge is great, given the painful beginning of the girls. But God’s promise of healing in Psalm 34:18 assures Abel, “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”



Abel (center) with girls from Faith House whom she serves as a foster mom.



Abel’s two-room ministry apartment not fully furnished as of August 2019.

Connecting to Key Leaders to Win their Kind and Multiply

One of IMP's objectives is to collaborate with existing local Christian groups for greater Kingdom-building impact.

The strategy is to form a core team of committed local pastors and Christian leaders to disciple in the BASICS of the Christian life, following the *Timothy Principle* (2 Timothy 2:2).

IMP has already distributed relief goods at one church, and conducted a one-day seminar attended by 17 participants, most of whom are pastors and Christian NGO heads in Cambodia.



Partnership meeting with Pastor Sin Somnang (left), Paul Pasicolan -IMP Director (center) and Pastor Pengkhorn Sem (right) on June 20, 2014 at Tonle Sap Lake View, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



IMP Board members and staff: Cal Milnes (IMP board chairman), Rely Miguel, Tess Lozada, Cathy Frederick, Daisy Miguel (comptroller), Sim Pasicolan (recording secretary), and Paul Pasicolan (IMP director).

Meet the IMP Board Members and Staff

Cal Milnes

Cal is the IMP board chairman, CEO and president of Reach Ministries International (RMI). He and his wife, Katy, have traveled worldwide engaged in global mission initiatives. They have been married 46 years.

Rely Miguel

Rely is a CPA and is retired from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. He serves on the board of directors of the Resources Development Cooperative (an affiliate of REACH, Inc.). He also is an elder at the Bread From Heaven Christian Fellowship and heads the Salt and Light ministry for members 60 years and above.

Tess Lozada

Tess is a director of Abba's Child Science School, Davao City and a resource person on early childhood education and basic elementary education. She is also an educational therapist for children with learning disabilities and ADHD. In REACH, Inc., she is a member of the core group in REACH-Davao.

Cathy Frederick

Cathy is a realtor at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties. She worked for The Navigators and later in an administrative role for RMI in 1983 until asked by her church to lead their disciple-making ministry. She

serves on the RMI board and continues to make disciples.

Daisy Miguel

Daisy is the IMP comptroller and a board member and treasurer of REACH, Inc. She is an internal auditor of Resources Development Cooperative and is the Christian Education coordinator at Bread From Heaven Christian Fellowship.

Sim Pasicolan

Sim is the recording secretary and a member of the IMP missionary care team that visits, nurtures, and encourages the IMP missionaries and their contacts. She is the division chief of the Urban Research & Development Division of

the Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau under the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources. She has expertise in wetlands ecology, biodiversity and migratory birds studies.

Paul Pasicolan

Paul is the IMP director, with oversight role and spearheads the planning, strategizing, partnership building, and mobilizing of human resources to advance the Lord's work in Indochina. He is an international environmental safeguard and planning specialist for the Indochina Subregion.

From the IMP Board Chairman's Desk

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. – Isaiah 43:19



Cal Milnes (IMP board chairman) and Paul Pasicolan (IMP director).

I first met Paul Pasicolan at a REACH Family Conference in Cebu City, Philippines, over 10 years ago. He was serving as the national ministry director for REACH Philippines. I had just been appointed as the director of Reach Ministries International.

We met at a small pool where there were giant reptiles of some kind swimming beneath the table we were sitting. It was just Paul and I and the reptiles. I asked him what the greatest need was for the national ministry movement. He said it needed financial and organizational help for an embryonic cross-cultural ministry initiative in Indochina. I simply asked him how much. He gave me a modest number to help support a current worker in Laos.

After returning to the U.S., I met with our board of directors and informed them of the request. Board member James North (now with the Lord) said, "Of course, let's give more if we can." All the board was in vocal agreement. Board members at that time included Gene Tabor, Dale Igo, Dwight Carlson, Guy Chiattello, Carlos Ricoy, Cathy Frederick and George Caudle. Along with Jim North, Gene and Dale are with the Lord and Carlos directs a ministry in Mexico.

A few months later, we met with senior leadership from the

Philippines in Los Angeles and developed a memorandum of understanding which guides the Indochina initiative today.

I tell you this background because the vision, commitment and enthusiasm of each of these named people is a testimony to their understanding of what it means to 'Go and make disciples.' This is the Lord's work. We are blessed and privileged to be part of it.

We have been blessed and continue to be blessed by those wonderful, selfless workers on the front lines laboring in difficult circumstances. We are blessed by our brothers and sisters who pray faithfully and give sacrificially to this cause which is bearing eternal fruit.

We are blessed with an IMP director, Paul Pasicolan, whose tireless efforts, passion and commitment to the ancient path (Jeremiah 6:16) set a standard of excellence which challenges all of us.

As we continue to forge ahead in cultures and contexts uncharted for us as a ministry, we continue to experience and observe the elegance and magnificence of the Lord transforming hearts and minds.

The board of directors of the IMP thank all of our partners for their friendship, their financial gifts and their prayers. We look forward to another ten years of God's grace and mercy in these undertakings. Let us all continue to strive to do what is right, to show mercy to all people, and to walk humbly before the Living God.

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Cal serves as chairman of the Indochina Mission Partnership board of directors and is chief executive officer of Reach Ministries International.