



**Word of Life**



# PHILIPPINES

EXPERIENCE YOUR FAITH



## THE VANPROOYEN FAMILY

Mike, Pretty, John and Hannah

Missionaries in the Philippines and Indo-Pacific Region



**Word of Life**  
International Ministries



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# Dear Friend in the Ministry,

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the ministry of Word of Life Philippines. As you turn the pages of this book, you will see the many ways in which God is using this ministry to reach the youth of today with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

From the very beginning, our desire has been reaching youth whose needs constantly change, with Biblical truth that never changes. As we look back throughout the many years of God's faithfulness, we can see how God has been at work. Currently, Word of Life Philippines is ministering to more than 50,000 people a year through Camps, Local Church Ministries, Campus Ministry, and the Bible Institute.

As we look forward, the future is very bright! God continues to give us open doors for expanded ministry and influence in the lives of Filipino young people and even beyond into South East Asia. As you learn more about this ministry, it is my prayer that God would show you how you could be more involved with us in making an impact for Christ on the next generation.



**Rev. Mike VanProoyen**

*Executive Director*

Word of Life Philippines

*Regional Director*

Word of Life Indo-Pacific Region



*Mike & Pretty VanProoyen*

*JM & Hannah*



# ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

## Did You Know?



**7,600+**  
Islands make up the Philippines



**10 Million+**  
Overseas Filipino Workers around the world hold jobs such as doctors, nurses, seamen, caregivers, nannies, and domestic helpers



**2** Official languages in the Philippines:  
**FILIPINO & ENGLISH**



**Resilience**  
A trait that is known among Filipinos for their ability to laugh even when things are tough, especially in the face of disaster.



**100 Million+**  
People call the Philippines their home



**83% CATHOLIC** population  
**5% MUSLIM** population

In spite of the country's deep religious history, there is a great need for truth. Countless people know the name Jesus Christ but millions still don't understand that they can have a personal relationship with Him. People need to hear that there is hope not because of anything they can do, but because of God's grace!



Since 1973, Word of Life Philippines has been committed to reaching Filipino youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping them to lead their generation toward Christlikeness. Our commitment is to adapt to the constantly changing needs of the youth with Biblical truth that never changes.

## Our History

**1973**

Rev. Ernie Hautala and his family arrived in the Philippines and began an evangelistic Bible Basketball program with the motto:  
*No Bible, No Basketball.*

**1981**

Word of Life Bible Institute began under the leadership of Rev. Joe Mauk.

**1997**

Rev. Mike Foster became the director of Word of Life Philippines.

**2002**

As the lease on the first camp property expired, the new 40-acre Calauan, Laguna Camp property was dedicated with Word of Life co-founder Harry Bollback.



**1977**

Word of Life Philippines was given a 19-acre coconut plantation in Rizal, Laguna for 25 years at no cost. This became the first youth camp property. Ernie liked to say,  
*0 + 0 = miracle.*  
We had no money but it cost no money, a miracle.

**1991**

Word of Life Philippines' ministries expanded to the island of Mindanao through the acquisition of Seaside Bible Camp under the leadership of Rev. Keith Ebrahim.

**1999**

A three-year program was added to Word of Life Bible Institute.

**2009**

The new Bible Institute building was dedicated with former Word of Life Fellowship Executive Director, George Theis.

**2015**

Rev. Michael VanProoyen became the director of Word of Life Philippines.

**2020**

Word of Life Philippines makes a shift to online ministries during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**2006**

Campus Ministry at the University of the Philippines Los Baños started.

**2014**

Local Church Ministries' Intense Discipleship is for Me was launched.

**2019**

An 11.8-acre property beside the Calauan Camp was purchased after more than 20 years of praying.

Seaside celebrated its 50th year in the ministry.



## Word of Life Philippines



### Local Church Ministries

Provides resources, training, curriculum, and youth events to equip local churches for evangelism and discipleship.



### Bible Institute

One-year and three-year program that trains men and women in the knowledge of the Word of God so they can live its truth in their lives.



### Campus Ministry

Engaging college students of the University of the Philippines Los Baños with the Gospel and discipling those who come to know Christ.



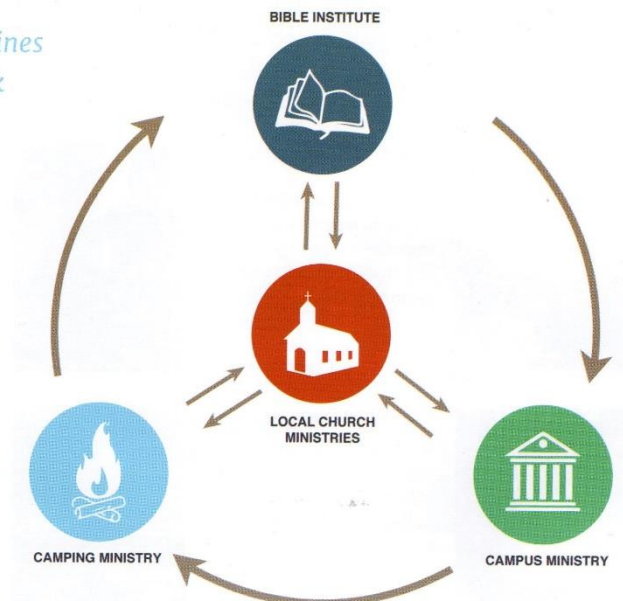
### Camps & Retreats

Fun and relaxing camp programs designed to meet the spiritual needs of different age groups, families, churches, and organizations.



## Word of Life Philippines Ministry Framework

All of Word of Life Philippines' ministries operate in collaboration with local churches, to help equip local churches for evangelism and discipleship.



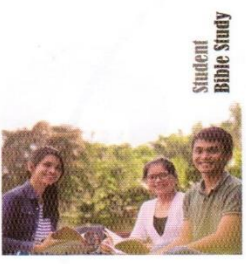


# Local Church Ministries

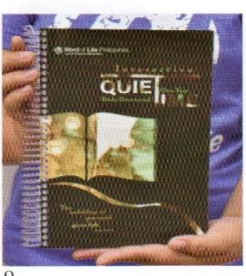
*Grow Your Faith*

The Local Church Ministries (LCM) exists to equip local churches in developing their youth ministry through evangelism and discipleship. LCM provides resources, training, and youth events to achieve their goals.

## Resources

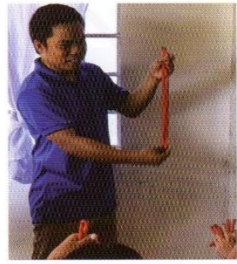


**Student Bible Study**  
Provides youth ministries with engaging lessons that bring students to a point of decision and challenge them to practice the truth of God's Word.

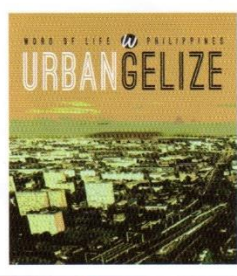


**Quiet Time Diary**  
Helps teens get into God's Word through an interactive daily devotional which includes a prayer journal and Bible reading plan.

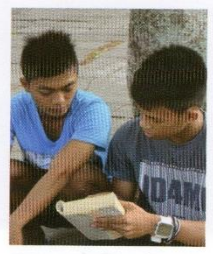
## Training



**STORM (Sending Teens Out to Reach the Masses)**  
Training local churches to share the Gospel within their own community.



**Urbangelize**  
Evangelistic training in the context of heavily populated/urban areas.



**ID4ME (Intense Discipleship is for Me)**  
A 10-day fast-track leadership training for youth workers who desire to grow their youth ministry in theory and practice.



**Core Training**  
A youth event facilitated to help local churches get started on leading the youth through a structured program.



**TEAM Meeting (Teaching, Encouragement, Accountability, Motivation)**  
Weekly online meetings with youth leaders in partner churches to help them stay motivated in the youth ministry.



## Our Team



**Jonel Arcedera**  
National Director



**Ezra Rico**  
Missionary to Laguna



**Barry Maique**  
Missionary to Mindanao



**Charito Corporal**  
Missionary to Mindanao



**Marjorie Bendal**  
Ministry Secretary



# Bible Institute

*Deepen Your Faith*

The Bible Institute (WOLBI) offers a one-year or three-year program for men and women who desire to learn more about God's Word and apply its truth to their lives. WOLBI provides students a rigorous academic environment, an encouraging Biblical community, and hands-on ministry experience.

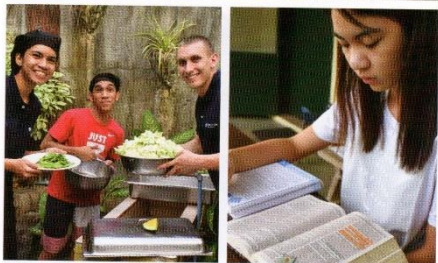


## School of Biblical Studies

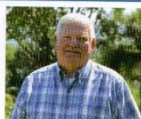
A one-year program designed to train students to be deeply rooted in God's Word. Students are taught how to look at Scripture in context; apply God's truth to their lives through spiritual disciplines, discipleship, and service work; and share God's Word through a variety of ministry experiences.

## School of Ministerial Studies

A three-year continuation of the SBS program designed to equip students to study God's Word in-depth, provide them practical tools and leadership training, and prepare them for full-time work through different ministry experiences.



### Our Team



**Mike Foster**  
*Chancellor*



**Mike VanProoyen**  
*President*



**Gerry Tolentino**  
*Executive Dean*



**Mikhail Tolentino**  
*Associate Dean*



**John Mark Fodra**  
*Dean of Ministries*



**Jesil Butihen**  
*Dean of Students*



**Patrick Borbor**  
*Dean of Men*



**Janice Torres**  
*Dean of Women*



**Morgan Bennett**  
*Head of Admissions*



**Liezel Duremdes**  
*Ministry Secretary*





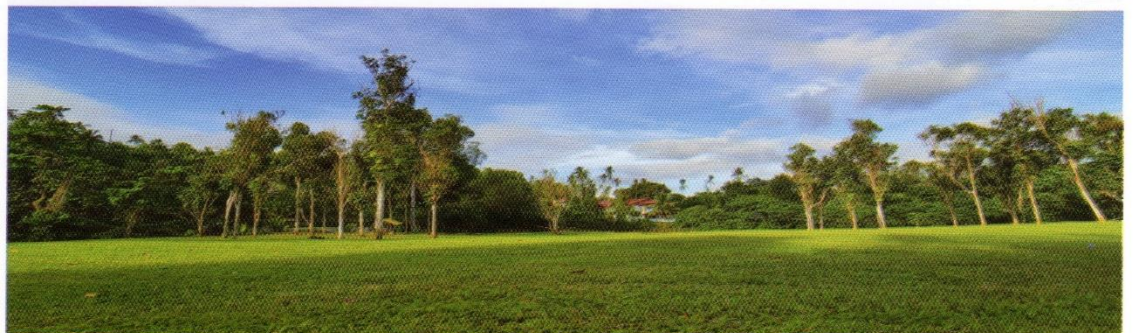
## The Riverside Property

God has recently answered a prayer of almost 20 years! In 2019, we were able to acquire 11.8 acres of property which connects our current Laguna Camp across the river. With more than 18,000 campers coming through the Laguna Camp in 2019, the Riverside Property perfectly fits the needs of our growing ministry! We are looking forward to expanding the camping experience, welcoming more guests, and reaching out to more young people with the Gospel.



In September 2019, our staff family started clearing the brush and jungle at the Riverside Property. The property is now ready for tent camping and other recreational activities!

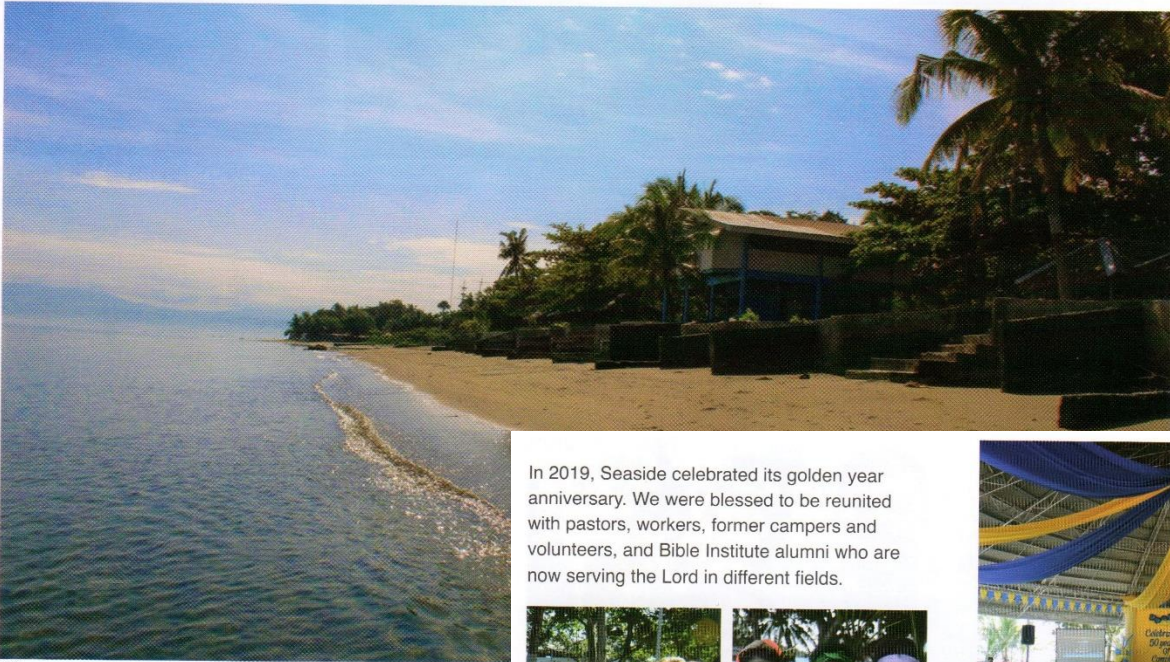
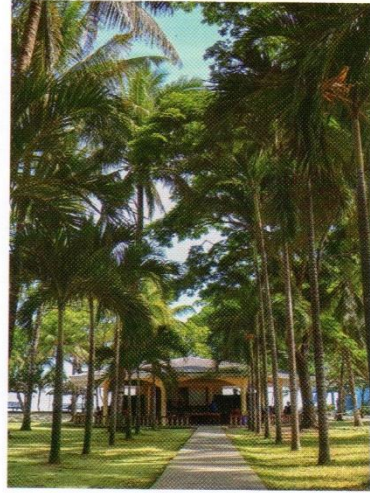
Word of Life Philippines has always been a ministry which relies on faith, prayers, and the financial gifts of many people who have a heart for the Filipino youth. Acquiring and developing the Riverside property would not be possible if it were not for the generous gifts of people like you. We are grateful for your continuous partnership with us!



# Seaside

Word of Life Seaside, located on the Southern island of Mindanao, has a long history of God working in amazing ways. This campsite has seen hundreds of thousands of young people come through, with countless trusting Christ as their Savior. Some of these campers have gone on to study at the Bible Institute with a few now serving as missionaries with Word of Life.

Seaside's picturesque beachfront facility is ideal for fun and relaxing retreats. Like our Laguna Camp, Seaside holds Summer Camps and annual exclusive events for young people, pastors and workers, students, senior citizens, and families. They also hold Island Camps in Mindanao and Visayas provinces.



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In 2019, Seaside celebrated its golden year anniversary. We were blessed to be reunited with pastors, workers, former campers and volunteers, and Bible Institute alumni who are now serving the Lord in different fields.



## Our Team



**Bing Echem**  
*Seaside Manager*



**Wadie & Sherwin Kinontao**  
*Ministry Operations Manager*



**Melo & Joyce Echem**  
*Missionary*



**Jerry Fe Waslo**  
*Camp Director*



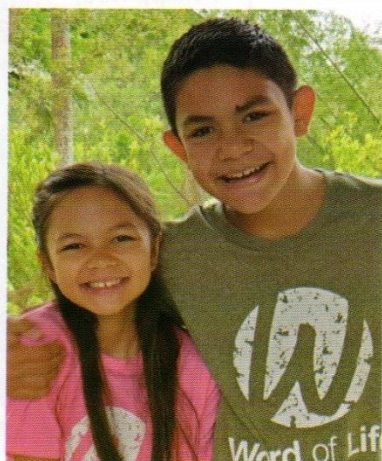
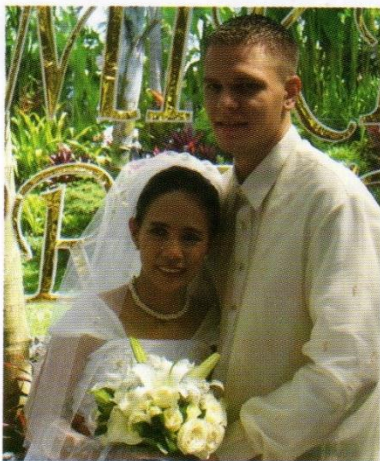
## Mike and Pretty VanProoyen

Our journey of God leading us to serve with Word of Life Philippines in one of seeing God work in many ways. Pretty attended the Bible Institute in 2002 after being encouraged by her sister who was already serving with WOL. After her graduation, God lead her to Malaysia as a teacher to serve Muslim young people. After a year serving there, God brought her back to Word of Life Philippines where she started serving in the Laguna Camp ministry.

In 2004, God first led me to Word of Life through work teams which were being sent by local churches in Lansing, IL. On my third trip in 2006, God began working in my heart and gave me the desire to study at the Bible Institute. That same year, I returned 3 months later to the Philippines and began to study.

Pretty and I were married in November of 2006 and our first ministry was serving in the University Campus. During that time, our first child, John, was born. We spent one year as short-term Missionaries here before making the change to full time in 2009. We spent 14 months in the US raising support and preparing to return to the Philippines. In 2010, our second child, Hannah, was born.

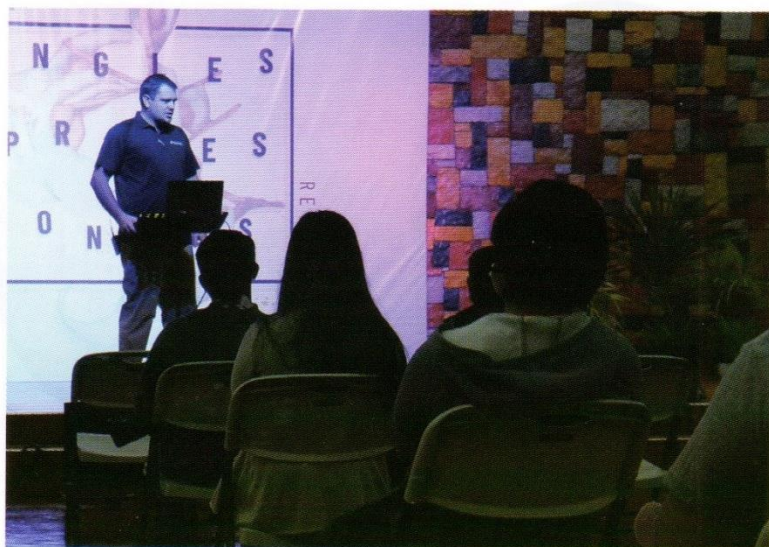
After returning to the Philippines, God lead me to join our Evangelism Department. We worked with organizing ministries on the weekend for Bible Institute Students as well as doing sports ministry trips throughout the country. These were amazing years of seeing many people come to Christ and learning much about what it was to be a missionary.



In 2013, God gave me the new responsibility of serving as the Youth Ministry Director. The role began to teach me much about leadership and working with other leaders such as the ministry directors of the Camp, Campus and Local Church Ministries.

In January of 2015, I was given the responsibility of leading the entire ministry of WOL Philippines. This put Pretty and me into a position to see God work in ways we could never have imagined. We were blessed to inherit a ministry on fire for the Lord and making an impact throughout the country. We began to see ways to expand and develop this great ministry.

To this day, we continue to serve as the Field Director of WOL Philippines. This is a team of more than 90 missionaries serving throughout the Philippines. In addition to this role, in October of 2020, God asked me to expand my vision and serve as the Indo-Pacific Regional Director serving 12 fields of WOL and 250 Missionaries. Please pray as we desire to grow this stewardship of God into many new fields for WOL Ministry.



**2005**  
Pretty serves as Laguna Camp Coordinator.

**2006**  
Mike enters the Bible Institute.

**2007-2008**  
Short-term missionaries with Campus Ministry at the University of the Philippines.

**2009-2013**  
Evangelism and Sports Ministry

**2013-2014**  
Youth Ministry Director working with Camps, LCM, and Campus Ministry

**2015**  
We begin serving as Executive Director of WOL Philippines, serving 90 full-time staff.

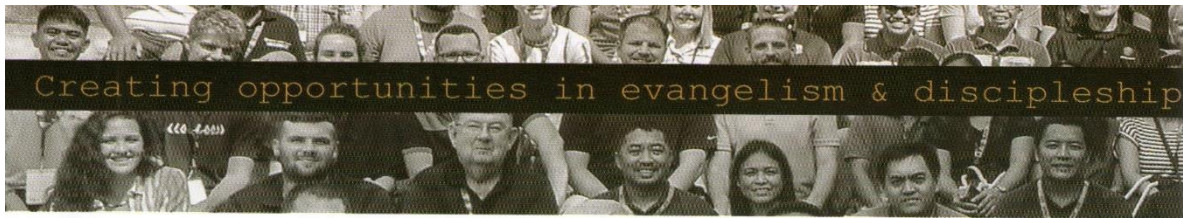
**2020**  
We begin serving as Regional Director of the Indo-Pacific Region, serving 12 WOL countries and counting.

**Word of Life**  
Indo-Pacific Region

Word of Life Philippines sits strategically at the gateway to Southeast Asia.

- Philippines
- Non-WOL countries in the Indo-Pacific Region
- WOL countries in the Indo-Pacific Region:
  - Australia
  - Fiji
  - Japan
  - New Zealand
  - Papua New Guinea
  - South Korea
  - Taiwan
  - Thailand

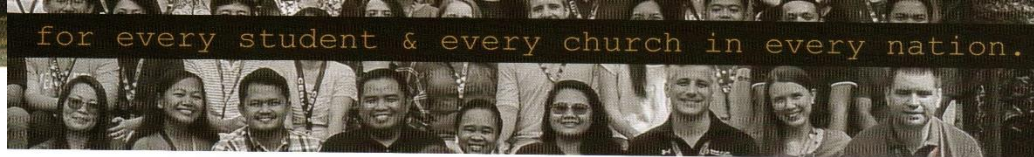
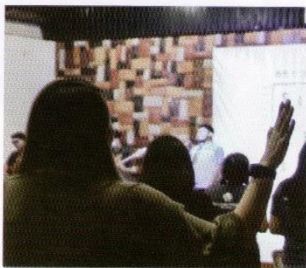
\*3 restricted access WOL countries are not highlighted in this map for security purposes.



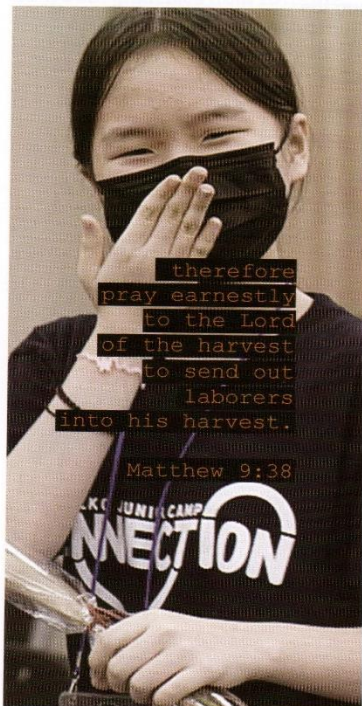
Word of Life Philippines has a rich history of reaching young people throughout the Philippines with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have consistently seen countless lives changed through our vibrant Camping ministry, Bible Institute and Local Church Ministries.

In addition to reaching the Philippines, God has been asking us how we can reach beyond the Philippines and impact even more lives for Christ. Word of Life Philippines sits strategically at the gateway to Southeast Asia. This provides us with a unique opportunity to serve as a training ground for young men and women who are from our region and want to serve in our region. Our Bible Institute serves as the perfect discipleship and training center for young people to be equipped to serve God in a full-time capacity.

**Please pray as we begin training more and more international students who will return to their home countries eager to start Word of Life Ministries and impact their nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**



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In addition to serving as the Field Director for Word of Life Philippines, I also serve as the Regional Director for the Indo-Pacific. This vast region of the world is home to more than half of the world's population and geography. Needless to say, the opportunities are huge, the challenge is great, but our God is able to work through us until every person is reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Currently, Word of Life has active ministries in 12 of these countries with more than 250 missionaries. In a region of the world with more than 3 billion people, more missionaries are needed to take the Gospel into areas where there is no understanding of the Gospel.

**Please pray with us that God would open doors for ministry, raise up more missionaries and provide the resources necessary to see a movement take place in the lives of young people throughout every country in the Indo-Pacific.**



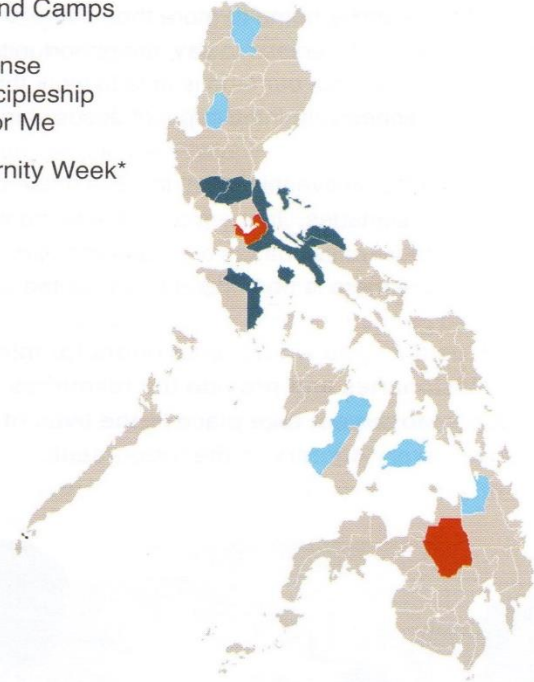
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# Word of Life Philippines




## Ministry Impact Illustrated (2016-2020)

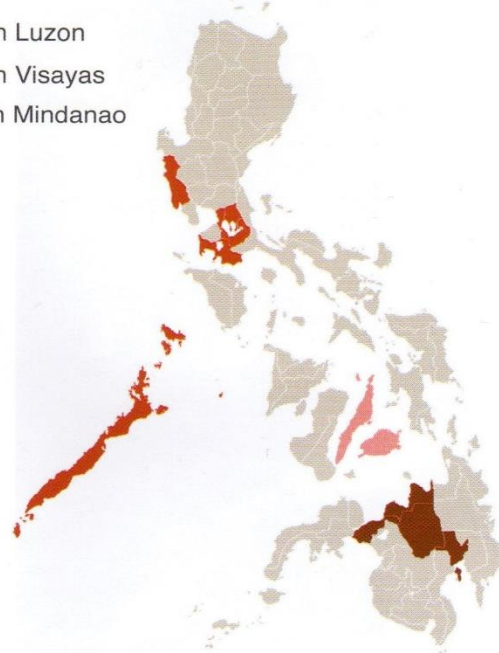
### Provinces where people heard the Gospel through:

-  Island Camps
-  Intense Discipleship is for Me
-  Eternity Week\*



### Location of 35 partner churches using the Bible Club Curriculum

-  21 in Luzon
-  3 in Visayas
-  11 in Mindanao



\*A week of intensive evangelism in selected locations held annually with WOLBI students

### Province/Country of Origin of 93 WOLBI graduates from 2016-2020

#### Foreign Countries:

-  Indonesia
-  Myanmar
-  Vietnam
-  South Korea
-  United States



**Five** of these students are Campus Ministry alumni,

**three** of whom are now Word of Life missionaries

### Philippine Provinces:





## PARTNER WITH US!

Help reach Filipino youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through giving.

### Project Giving

**Word of Life site:**  
[give.wol.org/07043C](http://give.wol.org/07043C)



or scan the QR code

**Mail check to:**

Word of Life Fellowship  
 P.O. Box 600  
 Schroon Lake, NY 12870  
 \*Designate Philippines 07043C

### BI Scholarships

**Word of Life site:**  
[give.wol.org/07028C](http://give.wol.org/07028C)



or scan the QR code

**Mail check to:**

Word of Life Fellowship  
 P.O. Box 600  
 Schroon Lake, NY 12870  
 \*Designate Philippines 07028C

### General Giving

**Word of Life site:**  
[give.wol.org/07002C](http://give.wol.org/07002C)



or scan the QR code

**Mail check to:**

Word of Life Fellowship  
 P.O. Box 600  
 Schroon Lake, NY 12870  
 \*Designate Philippines 07002C

### VanProoyen Support

**Word of Life site:**  
[give.wol.org/090M6S](http://give.wol.org/090M6S)



or scan the QR code

**Mail check to:**

Word of Life Fellowship  
 P.O. Box 600  
 Schroon Lake, NY 12870  
 \*Designate Philippines 090M6S





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Philippines 4012

[wolphilippines.org](http://wolphilippines.org)