

**AMP 10-4-15 | 9:00 - 9:30am**

**Today's Service**

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service and into his kingdom. Pray especially for those that reached by Robert's tract ministry.
- That Pastor Jon would preach in God's power as he is preaching a new series, Community & Diversity at Christ's Church in Queens, on how we function as a church.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the goodness, power, and love of God.

**RPC Outreach**

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.

**Regional Church**

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

**Philippines | Basic Country Facts:**

**Operation World Denomination Statistics**



Christians	Deno ms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
<b>Protestant</b>	102	6.2	5,803,000	1.6%
<b>Independent</b>	345	7.09	6,636,000	1.9%
<b>Anglican</b>	1	0.14	135,000	1.6%
<b>Catholic</b>	1	76.86	71,950,000	1.6%
<b>Marginal</b>	43	5.40	5,055,000	2.1%
<b>Unaffiliated</b>		0.80	711,200	16.1 %
<b>Doubly affiliated</b>		-4.20	-3,930,000	0.0%

**Ethnic Breakdown:** Tagalog 28.1%, Cebuano 13.1%, Ilocano 9%, Bisaya/Binisaya 7.6%, Hiligaynon Ilonggo 7.5%, Bikol 6%, Waray 3.4%, other 25.3% (2000 census)

**Major Languages:** Filipino (official; based on Tagalog) and English (official); eight major dialects - Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan

**Religion:** Catholic 82.9% (Roman Catholic 80.9%, Aglipayan 2%), Muslim 5%, Evangelical 2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo 2.3%, other Christian 4.5%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.6%, none 0.1% (2000 census)

**Population:** 100,998,376 (July 2015 est.)

**Life Expectancy:** male: 65.47 years female: 72.62 years (2015 est.)

**Government:** republic

**Economic Conditions:** The economy has weathered global economic shocks better than its regional peers due to less exposure to troubled international securities, lower dependence on exports, relatively resilient domestic consumption, large remittances from four- to five-million overseas Filipino workers, and a rapidly expanding outsourcing industry. Efforts to improve tax administration and management of expenditures have helped ease the Philippines' tight fiscal situation and reduce debt levels. Nevertheless, government taxation and spending remain weak. Unemployment has remained high, hovering at around 7% of the population, and underemployment is nearly 20%. At least 40% of the employed work in the informal sector and poverty afflicts about a quarter of the population. The AQUINO administration has been working to boost expenditures for education, health, transfers to the poor, and other social spending programs. Infrastructure remains underfunded and the government is relying on the private sector to help with major projects under its Public-Private Partnership program. Other long term challenges include reforming governance, the judicial system, and the regulatory environment, and improving the ease of doing business. The Philippine Constitution and other laws restrict foreign ownership in important activities/sectors - such as land ownership and public utilities.

**GDP Per Capita:** \$7,000 (2014 est.)

**GDP - composition, by sector of origin:** agriculture: 11.3% industry: 31.2% services: 57.4% (2014 est.)

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**Education:** The Philippines has a simple literacy rate of 95.6%, with 95.1% for males and 96.1% for females. The Philippines has a functional literacy rate of 86.45%, with 84.2% for males and 88.7% for females in 2008. (wiki)

**State of the Church:** The Philippines is a secular state. In 2013, Catholic Church data in the Philippines showed that about 79% of the population professed in Catholicism. Roughly 37% of Catholics regularly hear Mass and 29% consider themselves very religious. Protestants are estimated to be more than 4% of the total population. More than 3% of the total population are members of Iglesia ni Cristo and the Philippine Independent Church form less than 3%.

Islam comprises more than 10% of the total population according to the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) in 2011 and a majority of whom live in the Bangsamoro region. Most of them practice Sunni Islam under the Shafi'i school. An unknown number of Filipinos are irreligious but may form as high as 10% of the population. About 9.2% of Catholics think of leaving the church. An estimated 2% of the total population practice Philippine traditional religions. Buddhism is practiced by around 1%. The remaining 2% of the population is divided between a number of religious groups including Hindus, Jews, and Baha'is. (wiki)

**Prayer Points:**

- Philippines' great economic and political potential is not yet realized despite a wealth of natural resources, deeply democratic sentiment and a well-educated population. Failures by successive governments to deal with serious economic and social issues hold back development, accelerate unsustainable urbanization and keep half the population in poverty. Pray specifically for:
  - a) A government that actively pursues justice and righteousness. Increasingly, committed Christians take major posts of leadership; pray that they may decisively influence the nation for good. Pray for the Fellowship of Christians in Government, which promotes biblical standards in state structures and among Christian public servants.
  - b) The end of corruption and graft, which has robbed the country of \$48 billion in the last 20 years. A flawed political system helps maintain endemic greed and cronyism and keeps the country's elite in power and wealth. The fact that the Philippines is Asia's most Christianized nation – yet is the fourth most corrupt – is scandalous.
  - e) Peace in Mindanao among the marginalized, resentful Muslim (Moro) population, the government and the local "Christian" majority. Islamist factions, such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, will not compromise. They claim four provinces, two with Muslim minorities, for an Islamic state. Pray for a fair, workable solution that ends the cycle of military presence, violence, kidnappings and suffering. Pray also that centuries of perceived "Christian" oppression might end with freedom and respect for the gospel. (OW 1)
- Spiritual vitality does not always equate to biblical truth. Philippines is awash with sects and cults that blend Christian ideas with all manner of false teachings. Some of these are schisms from Catholicism, some are independent groups that sprang from Protestant contexts, some are effectively neo-pagan religions with a Christian veneer. Most feature highly controlling and manipulative leadership and teachings. Pray for all lies to be exposed, and pray for effective Christian apologetics and ministry to the millions caught within these groups. (OW 4)
- Metro Manila is a mega-city of 11 million, with the Greater Manila area totalling up to 20 million. It faces enormous challenges, but God is working greatly here. As many as 15% of the population are linked to an evangelical church, but a big proportion come from outside Metro Manila. Pray specifically for:
  - a) The poor. Modern ministry to the urban poor was pioneered in Manila. One-third of the NCR live in 1,000 or more slums and squatter communities – the kind devastated by the storms of 2009. Of these, nearly 50% still have no evangelical church. Many slums are built on the city's dumps, since over 4,000 tons of garbage are produced in Greater Manila every day. Many living in these areas are very receptive to the gospel, but most evangelical churches are in the more affluent areas.
  - b) Those who minister to the poor. Many cooperative efforts linking national and international agencies and churches have sprung up, such as the National Coalition for Urban Transformation (NCUT) which links denominations to facilitate urban improvement. The Alliance of Christian Transformational Agencies and Mission Ministries Philippines are interagency networks aiming at innovative ministries for the poor. Special mention must be made of the ministries of AI, Servants to Asia's Urban Poor and IT. Pray for discernment for effective ministry, for eternal fruit and for viable churches that impact the city.
  - c) The rich. Manila is home to those who control most of the nation's wealth. Possibly over 75% of the GDP lies under the thumb of the elite who congregate in Greater Manila's wealthiest neighbourhoods. They are isolated from the gripping poverty of millions of their neighbours. But they have the potential to transform not only Manila but also the entire nation. Pray for the gospel to impact these wealthy elite and for them to use their formidable resources to build God's Kingdom in the Philippines. (OW 9)