

Our Vision and Mission

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Question: Anyone here knows what God's "vision" for the Filipino-American Christian Church's ministry is? Ans. "Drawing Filipinos to Light."

A quick distinction between vision and mission.

Mission is "given" -- to evangelize the whole world. Mission is a mandate for every Christian to submit to the Great Commission -- "18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, 20And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20). **FACCs Mission Statement:** "To commit to the 'Great Commandment,' and 'Great Commission' for building and growing a 'Great Church.' Mat 22:37-40

The responsible party to evangelize the world are the Christians (you and me). The scope of the mission is broad. . .to go to all Nations. Acts 1:8 puts it. . .to the utmost part of the world. To accomplish our mission effectively and efficiently, by us Christians, is a big task, a big question, a big responsibility. So, who and how are we going to effectively evangelize, to teach, to make disciples, and to baptize. What is the Filipino-American Christian Church's role to the larger task (mission) to evangelize the whole world? Not all of us can go reach the Malaysians, Hawaiians, Indonesians, Nigerians etc. . . This is where the VISION STATEMENT become critically important. Proverbs 29:18 KJV says, - "Where there is no vision, the people will perish." Vision is more specific and detailed in direction than mission is. Vision cannot be copied from others because vision for a ministry has its own unique way of accomplishing that vision. Vision is strategic. "Vision for ministry is a clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants and is based upon an accurate understanding of God, self (your weaknesses thus your need of others) and circumstances." George Barna. The components of this definition will be best understood later when I give the brief historical background of FACC.

Once God's vision for our ministry is defined, it becomes a critical guide and basis in defining strategies of evangelizing or reaching out. God's vision for our ministry is "to reach Filipinos/Filipino-Americans or people of Filipino affinity." This is the FACC's **part**, our part as a church in accomplishing the larger responsibility of evangelizing the whole world (our mission). We can't be everyone to every people. Evangelizing the whole world is every Christian's mission. Reaching to the Filipinos in the local community is our vision.

God's vision for FACC's ministry is well stated in our vision statement. Our Vision Statement is: "DRAWING FILIPINOS TO LIGHT" -- "Panghihikayat ng mga Pilipino sa



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Liwanag.” Why is this God’s vision for this church? There’s no doubt that God’s will is to reachout to very people of every little corner of the world. The Filipinos themselves would be the most effective people to reachout to the Filipinos. If we the Filipinos don’t make effort to reach out to the Filipinos, who will? Our mother church (GCC) themselves say that they can’t reachout to the Filipinos as effective as we would, or vice-versa. That’s why “*To Draw Filipinos to Light*” is God’s for FACC’s ministry.

Let me give you a more meaningful and substantial information why “Drawing Filipinos to Light” is God’s vision for this church ministry is.

Setting: Greenwood Chistian Church

Background:

Pre-1980: There were only two family units at Greenwood Christian Church.

Early 1980: The family units grew from two to seven family units. This happened when a Filipino worship service with Filipino pastor existed.

Approx. 1984: Filipino work was dicontinued.

Mid 1980: Some Filipino family units moved to other churches (Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, Eastside), however, Filipino numbers at GCC increased through marriage.

1985 - 1995: There were seven to nine family units. For more than ten years, these family units were stagnant, almost the same. No growth in numbers.

Note that in early 1980’s, Greenwood Christian Church has the most Filipino attendance because there use to be a Filipino service and a Filipino pastor working purposely for Filipino work. However, the Filipino work was discontinued. One reason was financial. Filipino growth was mostly biological then, when there was no emphasis on the Filipino work. This is a brief background of the Filipino work at GCC.

In connection to this more than 10-year status of Filipinos existence at GCC, Wayne Long, one of the speakers of the Ethnic church Planting Seminar, most of the Filipino Ministry Planning Team attended said, **“We can be doing a lot of good work, but if souls are not being won, if lives are not being transformed, if people are not turning from the world to Christ we are not achieving our purposes.”** **“Christians who transfer in from other churches are a blessing. No one is turned away. However, our Kingdom growth comes from baptism from the world.”** **“When it grows we ask what are we doing that God is blessing. When it declines we ask what need to be changed, altered, or improved.”** The Filipino group at GCC was stagnant or declining. So, the challenge I asked the planning team in our very first meeting was -- ***what change or improvement do we need to do?*** Are we satisfied just seeing the same face Sunday after Sunday? I didn’t think this is what God calls us to be and to do. So, what can we do to go beyond ourselves? These question led us to



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come up to a “VISION STATEMENT.” [Have attended and learned from seminars how to do/prepare a vision statement].

Without going to further detail in the process, a very important process in coming up to a vision statement, “Drawing Filipinos to Light,” the planning team identified four primary ministries to effectively accomplish the vision. We identified:

- 1st, The need of a Filipino Celebration/Worship Service
- 2nd A Filipino Bible Fellowship
- 3rd An Evangelism Program conducted by the Filipinos themselves
- 4th A Filipino Sunday School

Today, a “Filipino-American Christian Church” exist. We have a pastor(shares the same vision), a much needed manpower if we are to effectively reach out. At present, there at least thirty (9/16/00), twenty (4/24/99), ten (1998) and eight (4/97) family units, added to the church in addition to the initial seven family units since it started in 3//96. [Compare the 7-family units for 10 years vs. 10 family units for about three years]. OR, use the graph from the NACC 2010 workshop.

One may ask, “Why focus on Filipinos?” Why not everyone? In his book, “Dying for Change” Leith Anderson said, “Most churches must either target people like themselves or go where other people are. The more people are alike, the easier they are to reach; the more people are different, the harder they are to reach. When we target everyone, *we usually hit no one.*” This is the reason why the focus is on Filipinos. It is most efficient for Filipinos to target Filipinos, however, the church will welcome everyone who is interested and responsive to the gospel message. Even if the main target are the Filipinos, the church welcomes all. It’s very unlikely that a Caucasian couple will attend unless they are a mission minded, gifted people desiring to reach to the Filipinos or other ethnic groups.

Leith Anderson also said “. . .the concepts of learning and reaching the market are deeply rooted in the New Testament. Jesus focus His ministry on Jews not Gentiles. Although He intended His gospel message to be universally offered, He began with a target market -- the Jews of Israel.” In Romans 1:16, Paul’s preaching started first for the Jew, then to Gentile. He followed his priority in his work. Paul is aware that people are reached in different way because Jews were not like Gentiles (Filipinos are not like Chinese, nor Caucasians, nor Koreans or vise-versa). Like Paul, churches reached in different way, because each **vision driven church** have different target group of people because of different ways and culture. The Filipino culture differs in many ways from other cultures. That’s why the outreach of this church is generally in the context of Filipino, Filipino-American culture. Thus, God’s vision for the ministry of the Filipino-American Christian Church is “**Drawing Filipinos to Light.**” Now, how are we going to accomplish the vision. Pastor Rolly will tell us that.



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