

## **Jesus in the Filipino Experience**

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### **Interaction between Christianity and Filipino national independence/justice movements**

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| 1521        | Ferdinand Magellan arrives at the Philippines and introduces both Spanish rule and Roman Catholic faith.  |
| 1862 – 1875 | Pedro Pelaez, Jose Burgoz, and Archbishop Martinez champion cause of Filipino priests.  |
| 1872        | Martyrdom of Filipino priests Burgoz, Gomez, Zamora, ‘for treason.’ Jose Rizal begins Propaganda Movement for Philippine liberties.   |
| 1896 – 1898 | Failed revolution: Anti-Spanish Philippine patriots call their short-lived government ‘the most democratic Republic of Asia’ and ‘the first Christian Republic in the Orient.’                          |
| 1898        | The U.S. gains the Philippines from Spain for \$20 million after the Spanish-American War. Also, the YMCA establishes first Protestant presence.  |
| 1899        | The First Philippine Republic formed in January, declares war on the U.S. The fighting lasts until 1913, claiming the lives of about 1 million Filipinos.   |
| 1946        | The U.S. gives independence to the Philippines on paper.  |
| 1966        | Ferdinand Marcos, backed by the U.S. because of U.S. military and economic interests in the Pacific, becomes President of the Philippines.  |
| 1986        | Philippine ‘People Power’ movement, made up largely of Filipino Catholics, ousts Marcos. Corazon Aquino elected President of the Philippines.   |
| 2007        | According to varying estimates, 83% – 94% of Filipinos are Christians (roughly 80% Catholic, 10% Independent or Protestant). Roughly 5% are Muslim, and 5% practice Buddhism, tribal or other religion. |

## Christian Activity and Filipino Immigration to the U.S.

- 1906 – 1910     **First** major wave of immigration, to Hawaii: 2,915 Filipino contract workers arrived in 1910. Simon Ygloria, Jose Alba, and Pedro Royola become some of the first Filipino missionaries and ministers in Hawaii.<sup>1</sup> The ministry focuses on moral guidance of young men.
- 1920 – 1929     **Second** major wave of immigration, to California: 31,092 admitted to CA, a majority come from HI.
- 1920             The Archdiocese of San Francisco, CA established a Filipino Catholic Center in 1920, consisting of a boarding house and recreation facilities, again to address the issue of moral guidance of young men.
- 1928             In Los Angeles, CA's Filipino Town, Silvestre Morales, a Filipino evangelist, met with Royal and Eve Dye to launch the Filipino Christian Fellowship. Along with Sunday worship services, it offered band music, drama, native songs, forum discussions, community meeting space, games, and educational lectures to the whole Filipino community. It also affiliated with the Filipino Students' Christian Movement in NY and sponsored clubs: Debating, Athletic, Drama, Choir, and the Jurisprudence Society.
- 1931             In Stockton, CA's Little Manila, Rev. Vicente Zambra established the Filipino Christian Fellowship out of an earlier organization, the Lighthouse Mission. The ministry offered dormitories to students and single men from farms.
- 1942             Trinity Presbyterian Church founded in Stockton, CA. Though the church was primarily commissioned to work among Filipinos, it operated with open doors to all peoples. Trinity becomes a spiritual home to Navajo, Spanish Americans, Mexicans, Portuguese, Koreans, Anglos, and African-Americans.<sup>2</sup>
- 1965             **Third** major wave of immigration, after the U.S. passed the Hart- Cellar Immigration Reform Act. By 1980, the Philippines replaced all European countries as the leading foreign provider of accountants, engineers, nurses, physicians, dentists, teachers, and technical workers.

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<sup>1</sup> Steffi San Buenaventura, 'Filipino Religion at Home and Abroad', in *Religions in Asian America: Building Faith Communities*, edited by Pyong Gap Min and Jung Ha Kim (Altamira Press: Walnut Creek, CA: 2002), p.162

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p.163