

The Truth About Who We Are



Part 5: Jesus & the
Filipino Experience

Goals for This LG Series

1. See the evidence of Jesus transforming humanity
2. Help us better understand one another

Christian Faith in the Philippines

- 1521 AD. Ferdinand Magellan lands at the Philippines, introduces both Spanish rule and Roman Catholic faith
 - **KEY QUESTION: Is Christianity for the oppressor or the oppressed? What is the truth about the Christian 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.

Christian Faith in the Philippines

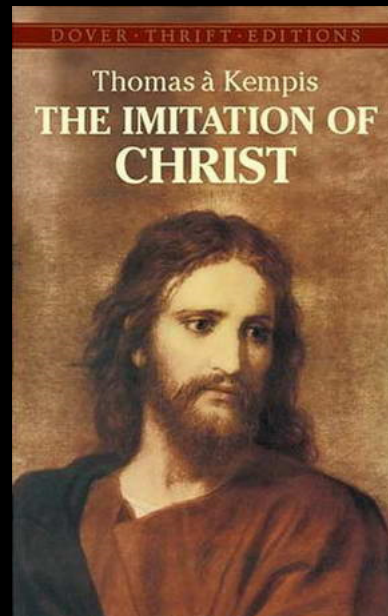
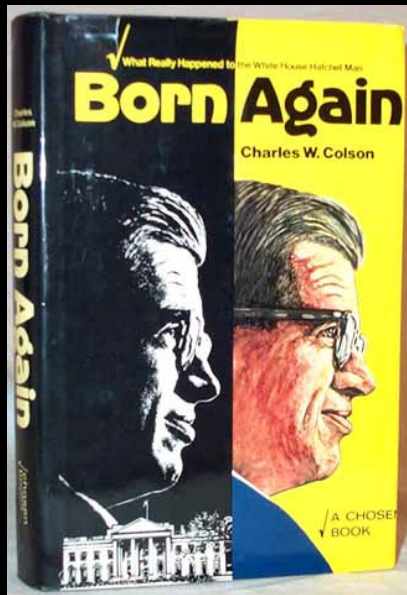
- 1896 – 1898. Failed revolution: Anti-Spanish Philippine patriots call their short-lived government ‘the most democratic Republic of Asia’ and ‘the first Christian Republic in the Orient.’
- 1898. The U.S. gains the Philippines from Spain for \$20 million after the Spanish-American War. Also, the YMCA 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.

Christian Faith in the Philippines

- 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.

Christian Faith in the Philippines

- Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino



Christian Faith in the Philippines

- “It is true, one can fight hatred with a greater hatred, but...it is more effective to fight hatred with greater Christian love...I have decided to pursue my freedom struggle through the path of nonviolence, fully cognizant that this may be the longer and the more arduous road...Only I will suffer solitary confinement once again, and possibly death...But by taking the road of revolution, how many lives, other than mine, will have to be sacrificed?”
 - Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino

Christian Faith in the Philippines



Christian Faith in the Philippines



Christian Faith in the Philippines



Christian Faith in the Philippines

- Present.
 - ~80 % Catholic
 - 5 – 10% Protestant or Independent
 - 5 – 10% are Muslim, Buddhist, tribal or other religion.

Christian Faith in Filipino-America

- 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. The ministry focuses on guidance of young men.
- 1920 – 1929. Second major wave of immigration, to California: 31,092 admitted to CA, a majority come from HI.

Christian Faith in Filipino-America

- 1920. The Archdiocese of San Francisco, CA established a Filipino Catholic Center in 1920
 - Involved a boarding house and recreation facilities, again to address the issue of guidance of young men.
- 1928. In Los Angeles Filipino Town, Silvestre Morales, a Filipino evangelist, met with Royal and Eve Dye to launch the L.A. Filipino Christian Fellowship
 - Offered Sunday worship services, band music, drama, native songs, forum discussions, community meeting space, games, and educational lectures to the whole Filipino community.
 - It affiliated with the Filipino Students' Christian Movement in NY and sponsored clubs: Debating, Athletic, Drama, Choir, and the Jurisprudence Society.

Christian Faith in Filipino-America

- 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. Multi-ethnic mission. 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 became a spiritual home to Navajo, Spanish Americans, Mexicans, Portuguese, Koreans, Anglos, and African-Americans. A multi-ethnic congregation was very unusual for the U.S. in this time!

Christian Faith in Filipino-America

- 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.

Christian Faith in Filipino-America

- September 8, 1965. The Delano grape strike began. Mostly Filipino farm workers walked off farms of grape growers, demanding federal minimum wage. They were joined by the predominantly Mexican-American National Farmworkers Association, led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. They were strengthened by the California Migrant Ministry.

Philip Vera Cruz

A Personal
History of Filipino
Immigrants and the
Farmworkers
Movement

By
Craig Scharlin
and Lilia V. Villanueva

With an Introduction by
John Silva



Discussion Questions

1. What's the truth about Christian faith? What does Jesus save us from?
 1. From getting bad grades?
 2. From guilty feelings?
 3. From our own sinfulness and evil?

Discussion Questions

1. What's the truth about Christian faith? What does Jesus save us from?
 1. From getting bad grades?
 2. From guilty feelings?
 3. From our own sinfulness and evil?
2. The Filipino experience demonstrates the truth about the Christian faith: Even when it comes from the oppressor, it cannot be maintained that way because Jesus saves us from human evil. Hence, he is on the side of the poor, levels the playing field, and brings reconciliation, justice, and love.

