



A blessed day to all of us, servants of God,

We are missionaries assigned here in Taiwan. We have two children, Charis Dorothy and Chadash Matthew. It is a great opportunity to serve our great God as GM missionaries, and for our lives to be part of ministering to migrant workers, especially to our fellow Filipinos. We would like to present and share with you some of the highlights of what we have accomplished in serving our fellow Filipino Migrant Workers. We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and financial support that you have given for this mission. We consider what you have done to be a holy act for the Lord.

Life Is Tough for Migrant Workers

Life is undeniably tough for migrant workers. Families back home often make the painful decision to let their loved ones leave in search of decent work and the hope of a better, more abundant life. This pursuit often comes at a high cost: becoming absentee parents, spouses, and children. In order to sustain daily needs and chase a brighter future, many are forced into long-term separations, not just for months, but for years.

Migrant workers often anticipate that such separation may negatively affect their families. According to FilipinoTimes.net, "Families of the majority of those who go abroad for work are affected. Family breakdown is one of the social costs of migration. There are those who, according to their spouses, no longer provide financial support." This reality is evident in our mission field, where we have heard the regrets, longings, and emotional struggles of many migrant workers who come to us for help.

I'd like to share the story of one migrant worker who recently came to our community seeking counseling. She is new to working abroad and adjusting to life as a Filipino Migrant Worker. Although our place is primarily a provider of social or emotional services, our ministry offers something just as essential what we call "spiritual upliftment". We believe in helping Filipino migrant workers rediscover their God-given identity and integrity.

As this woman stayed with us, we noticed challenges within her marriage. Her husband, left behind in the Philippines, had become increasingly controlling. Fearing that his wife might fall in love with someone else, he forbade her from making friends or joining community gatherings. She was instructed to go straight to her dormitory after work, with no social interaction. Each time she needed to go out, she was required to ask for his permission.

To make matters worse, her husband maintained the illusion that she was living comfortably abroad, comparing her life to that of others separated from their families.

He had no idea of the harsh reality she faced the loneliness, exhaustion, and the emotional weight of her situation. This Filipino migrant worker is now struggling to work and even sleep, feeling suffocated and emotionally strangled. She longs to return home, to escape this burden and the growing homesickness, but she is trapped by debts and the ongoing needs of her children back home. She knows she must stay for several more years, not just to pay off loans, but to support her family's basic needs.

Our ministry, TAHANAN, exists to address these exact challenges. We offer a home and a sense of family for Filipino migrant workers in Taiwan, giving them a safe space where they can belong, even temporarily. Through intensive spiritual and emotional counseling, seminars, and community support, we help migrant workers navigate the pressures and struggles they face, especially in matters concerning their families.

We also strive to connect with their families back home, assuring them that their loved ones are being cared for and encouraged to grow emotionally and spiritually. We hope churches and even the government will create and support more programs that care for the families of migrant workers, so that the sacrifices of these modern-day heroes are not wasted.

As missionaries in this field, we witness these struggles firsthand. We are committed to walking alongside every migrant worker who comes our way because we believe each one is deeply valued by our Father in heaven. Scripture teaches us to go after the one lost sheep because we know that when separated from the flock, it becomes vulnerable to wolves and wild animals.

Here in TAHANAN, we help Filipino migrant workers grow wholistically, emotionally, spiritually, and relationally through the teachings and training we provide. In fact, there are many who return home transformed, bringing with them the values and principles they learned here, and starting anew with their families. They now pursue a truly abundant life, not just in finances, but in faith, character, and purpose.

Praise be to God for our TAHANAN ministry here in Taiwan.



The SAVE Journey for Filipino Migrant Workers

Our TAHANAN ministry is committed to transforming the lives of migrant workers so they can experience abundant life here on earth—even before reaching heaven. We believe that when a person encounters life transformation through the grace and love of Christ, they are



empowered to soar into the fullness of life. They can overcome life’s challenges because of the support, care, and wisdom they receive from a nurturing community. That’s why our TAHANAN ministry strives to care for and guide Filipino migrant workers under its wings—so they may experience the saving grace of Christ.

Recently, our TAHANAN ministry launched a new program called “SAVE.” This initiative aims to equip Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) with biblical wisdom and practical tools to:

- S – Surrender your life to God**
- A – Align your goals with God’s purpose**
- V – Value generosity and faithfulness (to God)**
- E – Engage in spiritual growth & obedience**

Through this program, we seek to empower Filipino Migrant Workers to **surrender** their worries and plans to God alone; to **align** their goals thru assessment of their current situation and seeking God’s guidance; to **value** consistent stewardship of 3T’s (time,talent,treasure) to honor God; and to engage in prioritizing spiritual practices.

SAVE is not just about financial success of Filipino migrant workers but about their spiritual wholeness in finding joy, purpose, and freedom in Christ even in the busyness of their lives.



Sharing Christ’s Love Through Community Engagement

Our TAHANAN ministry has earned respect and integrity because of the consistent services we offer to our local community. Whenever the migrant workers’ community holds significant events, like the “basketball league” shown in the picture, they always invite us to lead an inspirational talk and prayer. The migrant workers recognize TAHANAN as the ministry that advocates for their well-being. They see TAHANAN as a safe refuge, especially in times of abuse and oppression. We have built this reputation through our committed and active presence among them. This basketball league, which typically lasts 4 to 6 months, brings a sense of joy and relief to the Filipino migrant workers. It

helps ease their homesickness and loneliness, giving them moments of happiness despite being far from their families

Pausing with Purpose & Encountering God in the Still Moments

Ash Wednesday in the UMC marks the start of Lent, a season of repentance, prayer, and reflection. The ashes remind us of our mortality (“from dust you came, to dust you shall return”) and our need for God’s grace. It’s a time to turn from sin, renew our faith, and walk closely with Christ as we prepare for Easter.

As we see in the picture, our TAHANAN ministry observes this tradition as part of our belief and practice. We encourage migrant workers, despite their busy schedules, to pause even for a moment, to reflect on their lives through the eyes of the Lord. To pause is to take a breath, to recognize and appreciate the goodness, grace, and love of God, who is always present with us, especially in times of crisis.





Continuing the Mission in Nurturing Migrant Workers for Christ Amid Transition

We want you to see the vibrant community of TAHANAN in these pictures. We captured these moments during special events that reflect the heart of our ministry. Looking at the pictures, it may seem like TAHANAN is thriving with a large crowd. However, the sad reality is that many of our members have left. Some have returned home to the Philippines for good, while others have migrated to countries like Canada in search of better opportunities to secure their families’ future. As missionaries here, it’s painful to see the people we’ve nurtured, taught, and cared for eventually leave. Each time a migrant worker decides to return to their family, it brings a deep sadness. But our consolation lies in knowing that they have been impacted and nurtured by our community,

TAHANAN. We are forever grateful that we had a part in their journey and growth in Christ.

Now, TAHANAN is ready to continue its mission of caring for and nurturing new migrant workers, helping them grow in their relationship with Christ. We must not grow weary in this mission, as God has entrusted us as missionaries to serve migrant workers here in Taiwan.

We give thanks to God for the gift of life, hope, and love that you bring to our journey in migrant ministry. Truly, you are the answer to our prayers. Despite the financial and emotional challenges, you may face, you continue to stand strong in your commitment to Christ’s mission. We are constantly lifting you up in prayer, asking that God empowers you to keep touching lives in His service. We would like to invite you to join us in prayer for the missionary work with Filipino Migrant Workers in Taiwan. Walk with us in this journey, lifting up prayers that our ministry would be an instrument of God’s love and blessing to many. We also humbly ask for your generous support of Global Ministries by helping with our salary support. Your assistance allows us to remain faithful to the Lord’s calling on our lives.

For financial contributions, you can:

1. Visit the Global Ministries website: www.umcmmission.org to donate. Scroll to the “Missionaries” section, find our names on the page, and you will see a link to make an online donation at the bottom of our profiles.
2. Send a check through your local church or conference office. Please write “for Alma J. Navarro # 3022029, and Richard B. Navarro # 3022030” on the memo line.

If you are not sending through a United Methodist Church, you may mail your check to:
Advance GCFA P.O. Box 9068 New York, NY 10087-9068.

We cannot express enough how grateful we are for your faithful support.

Your prayers and generosity mean the world to us.

With deep appreciation,

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