

Missions...What comes to mind when you think of missions? I think sacrifice and giving up the comforts of home. I think preaching and teaching what Jesus and the Apostles preached and taught.

Larry Rankin is a modern example of missionaries from the past who literally give up their lives to go live among the people and share the gospel from their hearts, hoping that one more will find the narrow path to life and become a disciple that makes disciples.

Larry shared with me that the strongest thing he has going for himself as a missionary in the Philippines is his personal sacrifice. He lives Matthew 19:16-30. **“If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”** This has been his guide and he has observed that his teaching gets respect because of the personal sacrifice and by truly loving others more than he loves himself.

Many believers in the Philippines model Larry’s sacrifice and volunteer as Bible school teachers on the missionary trips around the countryside.

*These two are 3rd generation Church of God members. Their parents are constantly roaming these mountains teaching also.*



Here is an example of one of their mission trips. They traveled a half day by bus and van and then after lunch they hiked several kilometers up the distant mountain to visit church members in Balangsay, Auto, Ilocos Sur. The disciples in training taught the children while Larry taught the adults.

They slept there and then left at 6 am to hike back down the mountain. The next day they rode a Jeep to another mountain to teach children and adults for two days. The next three days they did the same after a seven-hour ride in a jeep. They love their work and the people they teach. The people wait anxiously for their arrival at each place.





*The start of the hike to Balangsay. Larry's first trip here was 40 years ago. This is the mountain they climbed and the hanging bridge they crossed.*



The work in the Philippines is constant and it is supported financially by Larry and some others from the states who have been there. Larry works approximately six months out of the year in the States so he can minister the other six months in the Philippines.

They have a national youth Seminar for about 125 Filipino youth of the Church of God planned for April 16th through the 20th. They will be meeting in Cagayan De Oro City, Miami's Oriental for five days of classes in doctrine, evangelism training, and music education. The teachers will be mixed American and Filipino and the teaching will be in English.

This is a training seminar for youth who have already chosen to be a part of the Church of God evangelistic work. The students range from 12 to 40 in age and are from a variety of language and cultural backgrounds. There will be about 20 American teachers and youth participating. The intent is that the truth will continue to spread in the country. This type of seminar has been used in the Philippines for 25 years and contributes well. This is just one of the efforts in progress.

To follow Larry and the other missionaries as they minister around the Philippines, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1441557462729433> You will be encouraged by their commitment to sacrifice many physical comforts in order to plant seeds of truth and encourage the brethren around the Philippines, and you will see many lovely photos! You can also find information about the ministry in the Philippines at: <http://kogmissions.com/philippines>

Please pray for Larry. He is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century missionary to the Philippines. He has chosen to sacrifice *his* life and *his* comforts in order to obey the Great Commission and to serve the people in the Philippines.

As you can see, the road is not easy, literally! Although he gets tired, he treads on with the Gospel hoping to encourage others to be disciples and to snatch more people out of the darkness and into the kingdom of light. His joy in seeing people come to salvation and in watching his disciples become true missionaries and making disciples themselves, is what drives him on.

His commitment and his sacrifice are an example to us all. May God continue to give him strength and endurance to keep climbing.

Please also pray that God would raise up native missionaries and leaders willing to sacrifice their lives to continue the mission efforts in the Philippines until Jesus returns!

Thank you for your prayers and if you would like to donate to this ministry, please donate at: <http://kogmissions.com/philippines> .

Rejoicing with our fellow kingdom workers in the Philippines,  
Tracy Zhykhovich (MN Missionary Society President)

