

Danny and Rita Ballard

Philippines

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Facebook: Disciple Making in the Philippines

Danny and Rita Ballard serve in the Luzon Island region of the Philippines, residing in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, about 70 kilometers south of Metro Manila. Their ministry extends across various communities, focusing on church planting, discipleship, and outreach.

The Ballards are engaged in a multi-faceted ministry, partnering with ChangeMaker Vincent Ferrer to support five established mission churches and actively exploring two additional locations for future church planting. Their work includes:

- Children's Ministry
- Bible Study & Discipleship
- Cancer Support Ministry
- BTCP Training (Biblical Training Center for Pastors)
- Relief Ministry



Goals and Vision

The Ballards are committed to church planting and discipleship, particularly among those who are economically disadvantaged. Their vision includes developing a model for urban church planting, as most of their efforts have been in rural areas where costs are lower and outreach is more accessible.

The People They Serve

The Ballards primarily minister to the less fortunate, many of whom have limited education and struggle daily to meet basic needs. God has placed these individuals on their hearts, and they find deep connections in serving and relating to them.

Challenges

One of the most significant obstacles in their mission is the deep-rooted Catholic background of the Filipino people. Many view their Catholic identity as synonymous with being Christian, making it difficult to introduce biblical salvation apart from religious traditions. The desire to please foreigners can also present challenges, as some individuals may superficially agree to salvation without a genuine heart change. However, the Ballards have found that studying Scripture together allows the Holy Spirit to work, leading people to ask questions and seek truth on their own.

Religious Landscape

The religious environment in Sto. Tomas reflects the broader religious demographics of the Philippines:

- Roman Catholicism – 78.8%
- Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) – 4.2% (A non-Trinitarian group with strict doctrinal views)
- Philippine Independent Church – 1.4%
- Seventh-day Adventist Church – 1.3%
- Other Christian groups – 3.8%
- Islam – 6.4%

While there are approximately 14 Baptist churches in the area, doctrinal beliefs vary, making biblical clarity and sound teaching essential. Many people claim to be Christian simply because they are Catholic, highlighting the need for genuine gospel-centered discipleship.

Prayer Requests

- The Ballards ask for prayer in the following areas:
- The growth and impact of their ministry.
- Financial provision to sustain and expand their work.
- More laborers in the ministry, particularly pastors.
- Strength, wisdom, and encouragement for their family and friends.