A Time of Questioning

Catanduanes is a land of wind-swept islands, isolated people, and poverty. The constant pounding of typhoons leaves the people weary and with little hope.

Less than 4% of the people are Christians. Animism is the true belief system, overlaid with a thin layer of Roman Catholicism.

The Philippines was occupied by the Spanish for over 333 years. The imprint of this oppression on the culture is deep and long-lasting. But the people of Catanduanes are quickly being modernized. They are beginning to question the beliefs handed down to them from the Spanish.

The Spanish used religion as a means of control over the people. Even today, the Roman Catholic church sometimes wields more power than the local government. Most people are very loyal to the church, even though they consistently practice animistic rituals, fueled by their fear of the spirit world.

God is using this time of questioning to prepare a great harvest.

Daily Life

Almost everyone depends on subsistence farming to provide for their families, even those with professional jobs.

There are only two exports from Catanduanes: abaca, a plant that looks like a banana tree and is harvested for its fiber, and copra, a product extracted from coconuts.

The prevailing attitude is, “work today for my needs today.” Unemployment is a crippling 40%. Rampant alcoholism is a symptom of the despair and hopelessness felt by most people.
Join a Multicultural Team!

World Team on Catanduanes

World Team began ministry on Catanduanes in 1984. The first church was planted in Virac, the capital city. In 1994 the Virac Christian Bible Fellowship sent its first missionaries, Teng and Edna Candelaria, to the remote northern town of Viga. Working on a multinational team of Canadians and Americans, they established the Viga Bible Christian Fellowship.

Afterwards, Teng and Edna led a multinational team of Americans and Filipinos in the town of Panganiban, also in northern Catanduanes until the church was planted there.

Now they have teamed up with Tom and Kristin and are planting a church in San Andres, in the south. Being a part of a multinational team in a remote unreached area is challenging and exciting. “Our training in Intercultural Studies has been invaluable in helping our team develop contextual approaches to reaching and establishing the church among the Catandungan people.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Filipino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Tagalog and Bicol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • **Church planting in San Andres**: Join a multinational team already in progress planting a church close to the capital, that has no evangelical witness. Opportunities for college campus ministries.
| • **Pioneering church planting in remote northern Catanduanes**: Most villages have no evangelical witness and some are accessible only by boat.
| • **Mobilize and network with existing churches**: Virac, the capital of Catanduanes, has 50 evangelical churches. Use your gifts to encourage unity and train national believers to reach out to nearby towns, remote parts of Catanduanes, and beyond!

Multicultural Teams

World Team is committed to multicultural teams working together to start church multiplication movements among the least-reached peoples in the Philippines.

The partnership between ABCCOP (a Filipino church organization) and World Team on the island of Catanduanes is just one example of how partnerships enable us to reach the least-reached in the Philippines.

The people of Catanduanes are questioning beliefs handed down to them generations ago. Join us in bringing in the harvest the Lord is preparing! Is God leading you to go or to support this ministry through your prayers and gifts?

Join the Team!
worldteam.org.au
wt-australia@worldteam.org.au

Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world.