



Christian Reformed World Missions – Philippines Pentecost 2011

You will receive power ... Acts 1:8

“Where there is great responsibility, there is great power.”

So said Dr. Timoteo Gener at his installation as the new president of ATS on June 4, flashing his devotional notebook with the Spiderman cover. As a twist of “Where there is great power, there is great responsibility” (popularized in the 2002 *Spiderman* movie), the words seemed almost to be a blunder. The twist was deliberate. The well-known proverb focuses on human integrity, but the adapted version was presented as a statement of faith, focusing on God.

In the Great Commission – Jesus’ final words before ascending to heaven (Matthew 28:18-20) – Jesus entrusted to his disciples the great responsibility to make disciples of all nations. 10 days later, while they were obediently waiting and praying, the Holy Spirit gave them the great power to fulfill Jesus’ assignment.

The Great Commission is still the Church’s great responsibility. And the Spirit of Pentecost still gives the Church the great power for this calling.

Asian Theological Seminary –

ATS participates in fulfilling the Great Commission by equipping leaders for Biblical transformation in over 40 countries (see the map, below). Dr. Gener recognized the magnitude of his new responsibility to lead ATS. He shared his vision to expand the impact of ATS by enlarging the current facility (the lot next to the campus has already been acquired), developing online education, reaching out to Muslims. With joy and hope Dr. Gener affirmed that the calling, the vision and the power are entirely from the Lord.



Myanmar –

Although his official field service with CRWM will end June 30, Dwayne has been invited to lead Timothy Leadership Training in Myanmar, July 11-16. As a retired volunteer, the opportunity to equip Christian leaders for more fruitful service in a country with often oppressive leadership is a great responsibility. Many from Myanmar who come to the training in Yangon not only face difficult travel to get there but also risk being identified by threatening forces. Pray for safety for all who will travel to the training and for a rich outpouring of the Spirit's great power to mobilize the Church for ministry and growth.

Red HAT –

The Church's calling to respond to the brokenness and suffering around her in a Christ-like way is a great responsibility. Red HAT focuses on responding to the challenges of HIV and AIDS. In the Philippines, the spread of HIV is associated with "immoral" behavior but there are always "innocent victims" as well. Stigmatizing and excluding people does not follow the example of Jesus. Red HAT will host workshops about HIV, Stigma and the Church during the first week of July. Pray for wisdom and love – great power for the church to be part of the solution.



Tacloban –

Responsibility and power have been usurped in the church in Tacloban, resulting in the near demise of the church. Please pray for the Spirit to call and empower his people in Tacloban to reclaim their church as their place of prayer and teaching, fellowship and sharing. Most of the former members have left the church. May the Spirit of God empower those who are seeking the Lord and overwhelm those who have abused power.

Dwayne and Gladys Thielke
P.O. Box 433
4031 UP College
Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

Email: dwayne@thielke.com
gladysthielke@gmail.com