

Missouri's Southeast Region

Acts 1:8 Partnership

The nine associations that comprise the southeast region of the Missouri Baptist Convention, are partnering in a people group focused Acts 1:8 partnership. As we looked at who God had already placed among our associations and who is already located in areas of ministry that we are already engaged in, we have chosen to develop a Filipino focused partnership. We seek to engage in taking the gospel to Filipinos in fulfillment of an Acts 1:8 strategy: our Jerusalem, our Judea, our Samaria and our Uttermost.

Our Jerusalem

For the purpose of our partnership, we are defining our Jerusalem as the area of southeast Missouri encompassed by all nine associations.

We desire to partner to plant churches that have an emphasis or focus on Filipinos. At the present time, the Church Planting Center of SEMO employees Ednor Seabag as a church planting catalyst. He currently lives in a church mission house in one association and has established church plants in 2 other associations, with a request to come a work in a 4th association. The DOM of a 5th association is a retired IMB missionary who served over 30 years in the Philippines. These factors played a significant role in our decision to choose a Filipino partnership.

Our Judea

For the purposes of our partnership, we are defining our Judea as the area around southeast Missouri that can be reach in an 8 to 12 hour drive.

We desire to partner with Filipino churches and church plants in our Judea to further their work in reaching Filipinos with the gospel. We view this as a true partnership with the Filipino churches. We realize that there are ways that they can serve us as well as our serving them and we hope that they will join with us to work in other areas of this partnership.

Our Samaria

For the purposes of our partnership, we are defining our Samaria as North America (US and Canada) that is greater than an 8 to 12 hour drive from southeast Missouri.

We desire to partner with Filipino churches and church plants in our Samaria to further their work in reaching Filipinos with the gospel. We view this as a true partnership with the Filipino churches. We realize that there are ways that they can serve us as well as our serving them and we hope that we will join with us to work in other areas of this partnership.

A couple of our associations are already partnering in the Alberta province of Canada. We have learned that there are nearing 200,000 Filipinos in the province, with most being in Calgary and Edmonton, both of which are NAMB Send Cities. We have also learned that Filipinos are the second largest minority group in Canada and the fastest growing minority group. This makes working with Filipinos in our Samaria a very strategic kingdom focus. There are other provinces of Canada and other NAMB Send Cities in Canada with large populations of Filipinos that we would also like to engage.

Our Uttermost

For the purposes of our partnership, we are defining our uttermost as the Philippines. We recognize that there are Filipinos all over the world and we have the opportunity to engage in other places, but at this time we are only focused on starting a work in the Philippines.

We are partnering with the IMB to facilitate partnership work in the Philippines. At the suggestion of IMB leadership, we seeking to adopt an unreached island. We will be taking on the task of developing and implementing a strategy to plant churches that will reach the island with the gospel. In conjunction with IMB leadership, we have chosen the island of Camiguin. We understand that there are 3 Southern Baptist churches on the island, along with several other evangelical churches of other denominations, but that the island is only about 1.3% evangelical Christian. It will be our desire to develop a partnership with the Southern Baptist churches and cooperation with other churches where possible.

It is our hope and desire that Filipino churches that we are partnered with in other areas of this partnership will join with us in the work to reach this island with the gospel and to move it from unreached to reached.

Partnership Launch

We plan to launch this partnership effort on April 24, 2021 with an Acts 1:8 missions conference. We hope to have participants and partners from all of our Acts 1:8 areas at the conference to promote their work and our partnership. We are trusting that God is going to build this partnership and bless our efforts in taking the gospel to Filipinos around the world