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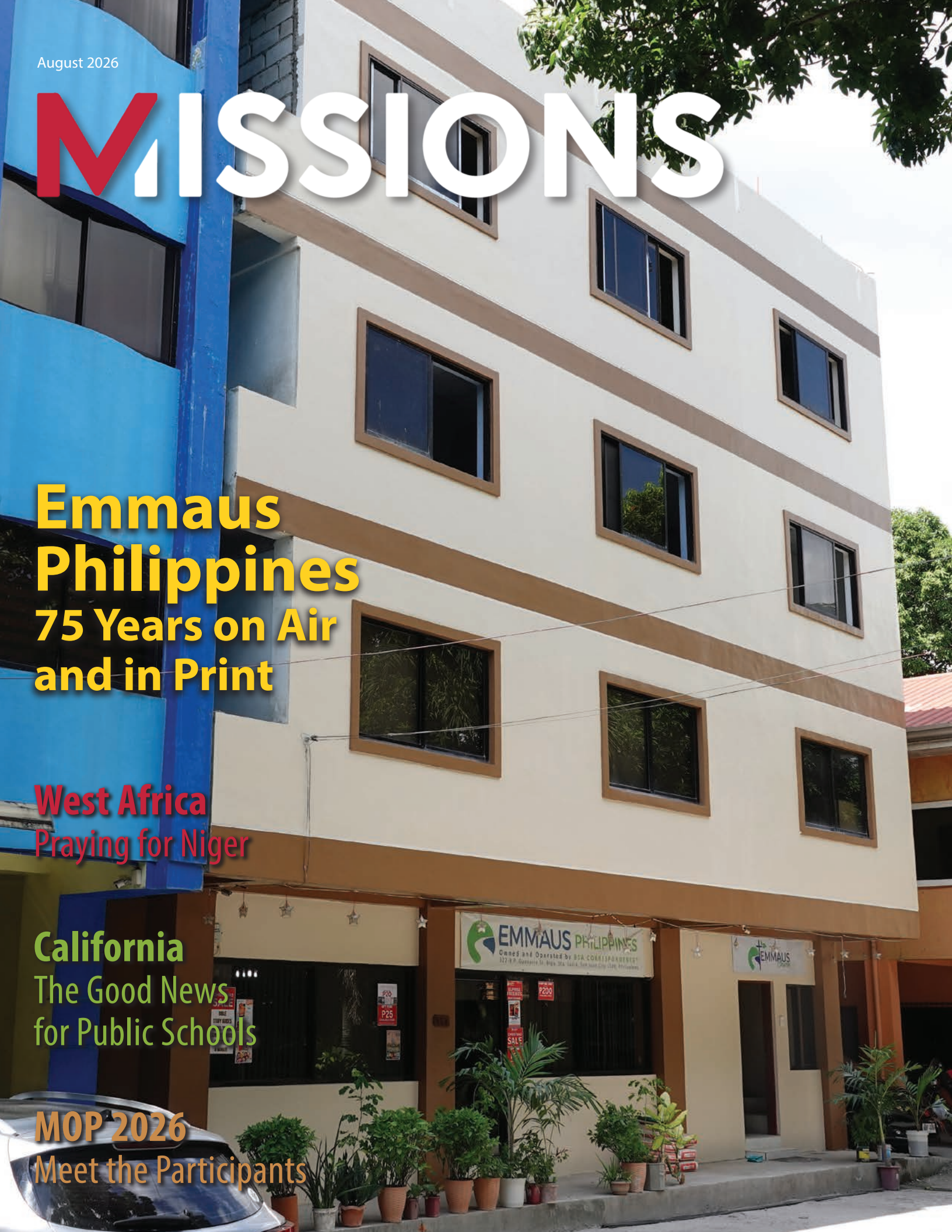
MISSIONS

**Emmaus
Philippines**
75 Years on Air
and in Print

West Africa
Praying for Niger

California
The Good News
for Public Schools

MOP 2026
Meet the Participants





THINKING IT THROUGH

BY ERIC BARTON

The God of All Grace

Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army in the days of the prophet Elisha, was an interesting fellow. In 2 Kings 5, we learn that Naaman was a great, honorable, mighty, and valorous man. Despite these accolades, Naaman had a problem no amount of human prestige could overcome. He had leprosy.

Ultimately, his quest for healing brought him to Samaria, where the man of God prescribed a seemingly simple solution: wash in the Jordan River seven times. Instead of gladly obeying Elisha's instruction, Naaman became furious and departed. Why? Having reasoned within himself, Naaman believed a difficulty so great could never be overcome by an action so small.

Nevertheless, at the urging of his servants, Naaman eventually relented and did exactly as Elisha had instructed. The result was a miraculous healing that exceeded all Naaman had asked for or imagined. But, more importantly, the event brought God much glory and transformed an idolatrous, arrogant, and spiritually ignorant Gentile into a true worshipper of the God of Israel.

While Naaman's story is familiar and the enduring spiritual truths surrounding it are many, the Lord recently encouraged me in two ways concerning His abundant grace. First, I have been saved by grace. This reality is no small thing, and I should never stop marveling at and expressing appreciation for such amazing grace. Like Naaman, I was a Gentile alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and a stranger to God's covenant promises (Ephesians 2:12). My situation was desperate; no amount of riches or human effort could overcome my sin and its consequences. I deserved death, and God would have done me no wrong had He upheld the wages due to me (Romans 6:23).

Fortunately, one source of healing could make me whiter than snow, and the Lord provided for such redemption before laying the world's foundations. While Naaman's source of healing was the water of the Jordan River, mine was the blood of Jesus Christ. So, in an act of rich mercy and great love, the eternal

Son of God became flesh, dwelt among His creation, and laid down His life so I might receive His grace (John 1:16), know it (2 Corinthians 8:9), be saved by it (Ephesians 2:8–9), and grow in it (2 Peter 3:18).

Second, I am sustained by grace and remain in constant need of it. Like my eternal standing, I have no power to change my daily state. As such, I dare not begin by grace and then leave it behind for something else. Just as I was saved by grace alone through faith, so too am I being sanctified thereby. In other words, His grace changes not only my eternal circumstances but also my daily condition.

As the God of all grace (1 Peter 5:10), He fills me with its benefits each day (Psalm 68:19) and supplies all my needs by it (Philippians 4:19). By His grace, "I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10). His grace sustains me in my time of need (Hebrews 4:16). It enables me to press on despite weakness, distress, and persecution (2 Corinthians 12:7–10). It equips me for the work God has given me to do (Romans 12:6; Ephesians 4:7). It teaches me how to live in this present age (Titus 2:11–12). It roots and grounds me in the truth (Hebrews 13:9). And it empowers me to labor more abundantly for Him (1 Corinthians 15:10).

During our pilgrimage, we are sure to fall prey to the same temptation as Naaman. Thankfully, the Lord Jesus is patient and persistent in bringing us to a place where we learn to shed our self-dependence and rely instead on the absolute trustworthiness of His character, wisdom, and Word. And, as we humble ourselves along the way, we make room for the Lord to give us more grace than we ever thought possible (James 4:6). Then, one day, the Lord will bring us home to glory, where we will enjoy the "exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" for all eternity (Ephesians 2:7). Without question, God's grace is all-sufficient and complete. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" of grace (2 Corinthians 9:14–15). ■

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Eric Barton is a CMML director.

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COVER PHOTO: Emmaus Philippines office, Manila—Courtesy of David & Ruth Harvey



75 Years Strong

EMMAUS PHILIPPINES SPREADS THE
GOSPEL BY AIR AND PRINT

BY DAVID & RUTH HARVEY



The Philippines was the first country outside of the USA to start an Emmaus ministry.¹ In 1950, a Christian radio network called Far East Broadcasting Company asked CMML missionary Cyril Brooks to produce a systematic Bible-teaching program for its radio station in Manila. Cyril decided to use Emmaus Bible School's courses in English, which later resulted in radio programs in English and Tagalog. In the early years, thousands of Filipinos responded to these weekly broadcasts—then known as Bible School of the Air.

At the same time, BSA began offering Emmaus correspondence courses. A year after first announcing the program, it had received 1,905 requests, and 458 people had completed the English courses. Today, the ministry has identified students in every Philippine province.

Emmaus Philippines—the new name that complies with Philippine legal requirements—celebrated its 75th anniversary of broadcasting in October 2025. Over 350 people met together for a day of rejoicing over this milestone. It was a special opportunity to praise our God for His faithfulness and provision throughout the years and a time to renew our commitment to seeking His guidance and direction for the future.

Tuning in

For many years, members of the Brooks family—Cyril and his two sons, Ken and Len—and their coworker Ken Engle were involved in using Emmaus courses in the radio ministry with Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC). Eventually, they turned this ministry over to two Filipino commended workers: one believer was responsible for the English program, and the other for the Tagalog broadcast.

In recent years, FEBC initiated a charge for airtime. Since we have seen minimal response to the English program, Emmaus Philippines decided to end the program. The Tagalog program

continues to get a good response, so this broadcast still airs weekly through the efforts of several believers. Today, however, much of Emmaus Philippines's efforts focuses on the correspondence courses.

Working hard

At present, the office, located in Metro Manila, has only one full-time staff member. She functions as our office manager and mainly keeps the financial records up to date for Emmaus Philippines and Christian Missions in the Philippines, a service organization created to assist assembly missionaries and churches in the Philippines. Two part-time workers also serve in the office, while another two are involved in translation work outside the office. Two more promote and sell the courses from satellite offices in other regions of the country.



Studying step by step

The Philippine office offers approximately 100 Emmaus courses in English and more than 50 in Tagalog. In recent years, a Tagalog track was developed to provide a graded approach to God's Word. It consists of four units, each containing 10 courses. We award certificates for each course completed and diplomas for each unit completed. The goal is to encourage our students to continue studying God's Word.

This same track is also available in English, since English is the official business language of the Philippines and all Filipinos learn English throughout their formal education. Outside of the

From top: From this studio, the broadcaster and his assistant present the radio program weekly; Jessa serves full time, while Ringo works part time.

courses in the tracks, many additional English courses still need to be translated into Tagalog and some other Tagalog courses need revision. We look to the Lord to supply additional translators and finances to meet these needs.

Translating nonstop

Currently, we need more native English speakers to become involved in the exegesis of English courses. Exegesis involves the English speaker helping the translator understand the English text. He or she does not necessarily need to be fluent in the translation language or dialect.

At present, one believer translates courses practically full time. Several others assist her by checking her translations, verifying that they are faithful to the English courses and understandable in Tagalog. Please pray that the Lord will supply additional English- and Filipino-speaking personnel to help translate and revise the courses.



Reaching far and wide

Responding to the Syrian civil war and the dispersal of thousands of Syrians, German believers developed a smartphone app that contains Emmaus courses. Through it, the courses may be read, studied, and corrected all free of charge. Available worldwide, this app, as of 2026, offers approximately 640 courses in about 35 languages, and over 395,000 students have enrolled since October 2017. The overall completion rate of these online courses, as of early 2026, stood at 49.5 percent—and Filipinos have contributed to it. At least two new Tagalog courses are added to the app every year.

Growing taller

For about 70 years, the ground floor of one of two Brooks family homes housed the Emmaus office. In 2021, however, construction began for a new Emmaus office building on the same site.

Since land in Metro Manila is extremely expensive, the decision had been made to build a multistory facility that would meet all the needs of a growing ministry without sacrificing parking space. City building restrictions in the area permit four stories, so ours would go as high as permitted. Now, after about five years, this building is nearly complete.

The main Emmaus office and stockroom



are located on the ground floor. The second floor has an auditorium that is used primarily as a conference room. It also includes a small apartment for the family presently working part time for Emmaus. The third floor contains a guest apartment available for workers, missionaries, or foreign visitors passing through Manila. It also has two classrooms that can be used as a venue for training Filipino believers to effectively promote and use Emmaus courses and to impart a passion for studying God's Word. The fourth floor is now almost complete. We are looking for a ministry to rent this floor and thereby provide additional finances that will help support the Emmaus ministry.

Hitting pause

Since the second floor of the office building includes space for a small auditorium, we made an effort, in late 2024, to establish an English-speaking assembly, primarily for foreign visitors and businesspeople desiring to fellowship with local believers. A second reason for this initiative came from a desire to meet the needs of many of our young people. A good number of young couples and college students from the Greater Manila assemblies have left their home fellowships to attend evangelical megachurches that use English as their medium of instruction.

Five assemblies joined us in this church-planting endeavor—each one committed to one Sunday afternoon per month. These assemblies were enthusiastic and faithful, but unfortunately, those who planned to help establish the assembly and be available more regularly found it too difficult to fully commit to this outreach. Despite our efforts to establish this fellowship, it has ceased to function until a full-time ministry partner can be commended.

We are encouraged, however, that a number of new assemblies throughout the country started as the direct result of students studying Emmaus courses. Many assemblies use the courses regularly in prayer meetings, Sunday schools, and outreach programs.

Praying for the future

God's Word is going forth through the literature, radio, and app. Please pray that the Emmaus courses will continue to declare the message of salvation, help bring many into a personal relationship with our Lord, and serve as a valuable tool to help His children grow in their faith and knowledge of God's Word.

Your prayers are also valued for the ongoing needs to translate courses, print them locally, and continue the radio broadcasts. As the Lord provides, we will purchase a copy machine, allowing us to print courses in-house and on demand. This investment will eliminate the problem of overstocking courses; our tropical climate tends to render them useless too quickly.



Opposite page (from top): Consultant Graeme (right), a native English speaker, helps Maila (left) translate a course; The Emmaus office occupies the ground level.

This page (from left): Emmaus students receive a new course and test booklet; Emmaus Philippines hosted a 75th-anniversary celebration in October 2025; This four-story building in Manila houses Emmaus Philippines's various components.



Pray, too, for the completion of the office's fourth floor and for a suitable ministry willing to rent this space.

To all who have supported the ministry of Emmaus Philippines, as well as the Emmaus ministry in countless other countries, through prayer and financial assistance, we are most grateful. Your involvement throughout the past 75 years has truly been a special blessing! May God richly bless you all. ■



David and Ruth Harvey are commended from Grace Gospel Chapel in Erie, Pennsylvania.



¹ Now known as Emmaus Worldwide, this Iowa-based organization produces and distributes Bible study materials, often called correspondence courses, worldwide. Branches exist in many countries.



A Filipino family listens to a Bible School of the Air broadcast (circa 1950).

Looking Back

In July 1950, *The Fields*, a predecessor of *Missions* magazine, reported on the newly started Bible School of the Air. Cyril Brooks wrote:

We have begun our weekly radio program of Bible study, known as the Bible School of the Air. We use the free course prepared by Emmaus Bible School, "What the Bible Teaches." In three weeks' time, we have over 50 in enrollment. The letters received thus far reveal a great need and good interest in such a Bible study. We are on the air Monday evening 8:30–9:00 Manila time.

Seven months later, Cyril spoke about the ministry's impact:

November was our biggest month with the Bible School of the Air so that, now, we have 925 for the English course and 313 for the Tagalog. A young man in a hospital writes that after studying four lessons, he has accepted Christ. A young woman writes that she had no concerns for her soul until she listened to our broadcast.

Ask a Missionary?

Missions work around the world is unique—different from what friends and family at home encounter day to day. So, to learn about life on the field while getting to know our missionaries better, we asked them to share their firsthand experience or advice.

QUESTION: What is your favorite place to visit or thing to do when you need a break?

PERU

Sarah Cenepo-Torres



Since we live on the coast, we will go to a nearby beach town for a few hours. We like to have a delicious fried-fish breakfast and enjoy walking along the beach and collecting rocks. Our girls also love the occasional opportunity to surf while our son builds sandcastles and plays in the water. We will often grab some homemade ice cream before heading home.

JAPAN

Bob Longo



My favorite thing is bird-watching, which I started 51 years ago this August 5. No matter the season or habitat, the birds are always there. They're even in urban habitats, such as downtown Tokyo—and not just pigeons and sparrows at that. The beautiful blue rock thrush has taken up residence in built-up areas in recent decades.

One of the best places is a large park close to us, Sakazu Park. It's an excellent place for winter birds, although any time of year can be great.

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BRAZIL

Jeanne Lipsi



It depends on what kind of break I am contemplating. If it's from routine, I enjoy seeing my children and grandchildren. If I'm really tired, I seek a quiet place—the beach or just a walk in the countryside near home.

One break I try to do consistently is the gym, specifically using the treadmill; it is definitely a need! Energy creates energy. Even if I don't feel like it, I go at least three times per week. Sometimes, I drag myself to the gym after the Bible classes in the schools; I feel much better after.

ECUADOR

Taylor Hollingsworth



There are so many amazingly beautiful hardwoods here in the jungle. I collect broken branches and discarded scraps. Then, when I have time, I enjoy crafting things out of them. I've made a few small bowls, two clocks, and a chess set.

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS! Visit [CMML.us/askamissionary](https://www.CMML.us/askamissionary) to submit your question—it might be selected for a future issue!