

## 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.

## Doug and Diane Lee

Philippines

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Doug and Diane Lee serve in Talisay City on Negros Island, Philippines, where they are dedicated to equipping future Christian leaders through theological education, church planting, and community outreach. Their ministry plays a role in training pastors, teachers, and church workers who will spread the gospel throughout the Philippines and beyond.

### BMA Bible College

Dr. Doug Lee is the Director and President of BMA Bible College, the central hub for theological education and ministry training in the region. The college saw record-breaking enrollment in the 2024-25 school year, with 97 students, far exceeding the capacity of the dorms—a challenge they consider a blessing!



Accredited by the Philippine government, the college offers degrees in Theology, Christian Education, and Church Music. Both Doug and Diane serve as instructors, investing deeply in the spiritual and academic growth of their students.

Beyond the classroom, they are involved in Bible studies and church planting efforts in four different areas, expanding their reach in the community and strengthening local churches.

### The People They Serve

The Filipino people are warm, hospitable, and receptive to the gospel. While the majority identify as Roman Catholic, many do so in name only, without active church involvement. The country has a wide economic gap, with most people being either extremely poor or extremely rich, though a growing middle class is emerging.

### Prayer Requests

- Continued financial support for their personal needs and for the Bible College.
- Health and safety for themselves, the staff, faculty, and students.
- Funding for solar panels to reduce high electricity costs.
- Expansion of online theology classes to pastors in Kenya.
- Financial stability of the Darlene Carey Christian Academy.

### Praises

- Completion of staff housing updates, dorm expansion, and kitchen renovations.
- A growing student body of 97 future church leaders eager to serve.
- The faithfulness of supporters who make this work possible.
- Continued government accreditation through CHED (Commission on Higher Education).
- A growing impact in the community through evangelism, children's outreach, and soul-winning efforts.
- Over 700 people have come to Christ through students' weekend mission work and church internships!

Through their commitment to theological education, church planting, and discipleship, the Lees continue to make a lasting impact in the Philippines and beyond.