

A blessed day to all of us, servants of God,



We are missionaries assigned here in Taiwan. We have two children, Charis Dorothy and Chadash Matthew. It is a great opportunity to serve our great God as GM missionaries, and for our lives to be part of ministering to migrant workers, especially to our fellow Filipinos. We would like to present and share with you some of the highlights of what we have accomplished in serving our fellow OFWs. We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and financial support that you have given for this mission. We consider what you have done to be a holy act for the Lord.

HELPING OFWS NAVIGATE LONELINESS AND FINANCIAL STRUGGLES DURING THE “BER” MONTHS

September is the onset of long Christmas celebration. As the “ber” months begin in September, many Filipino migrant workers feel increased loneliness and homesickness. They often become anxious to see their families, especially when they hear Christmas songs. During this time, feelings of sadness and isolation can become overwhelming, making it hard for them during family reunions, particularly at Christmas.

Many Filipino migrant workers plan vacations during these months and compete to be the first to request time off. Some even break their contracts because their desire to see their families is so strong. Others invite their families to visit them to share special moments.

To help with these emotional struggles, our TAHANAN ministry has created programs to support our community. These include outdoor gatherings, movie nights, afternoon get-togethers after Sunday services, karaoke events, and other activities. Our ministry is well-prepared to support our community, especially during the “ber” months.

For newcomers, the longing to see family is often mixed with the pressure of financial obligations. Many have large debts from placement fees, broker fees, medical expenses, and other costs, which can take months or even years to pay off. In their urgency to become debt-free, they adopt strict budgeting practices, like reheating food from the company canteen to save money. Unfortunately, many newcomers also take part-time jobs, which are illegal in Taiwan. If caught by the police, they can be sent home immediately. In these cases, our ministry can only provide counseling and prayer as they prepare for their next steps.

To help Overseas Filipino Workers become debt-free, TAHANAN has developed a program specifically aimed at these financial challenges. Our intensive training, called “Saving Grace: Migrant Workers Financial Mastery,” has proven to be effective and has helped many participants.

Reports from NGOs and research organizations often highlight the financial difficulties that Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) face. Estimates suggest that only 10-20% achieve significant financial success. We are proud to say that our TAHANAN ministry has contributed to this success.

Many lives have been changed through our mission. God continues to guide us in helping Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) grow and develop. As global missionaries, we also face personal challenges, but we remain strong because we know we have a clear calling from Christ. Our goal is to equip and transform people and places for God’s mission around the world. This is why we, as Global Missionaries of our beloved UMC, work hard to contribute to this purpose. We give all praise and thanks to God in Christ Jesus for allowing us to be part of His vision and mission.

Breathes Fresh Air

In the face of the long hours of work and the emotional toll that OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) experience daily, TAHANAN is committed to providing much-needed support through its outdoor fellowship program. This initiative is designed to offer moments of joy, relief, and renewal in the midst of the fatigue, challenges, sacrifices, and loneliness that OFWs face while being away from their loved ones. The outdoor fellowship seeks to create a safe space where OFWs can momentarily step away from their demanding routines and find rest and peace. TAHANAN organizes outings to refreshing and scenic locations, allowing participants to reconnect with nature, experience relaxation, and uplift their spirits. Whether through a walk in a beautiful park, a day by the sea, or an excursion to a peaceful retreat, the goal is to rejuvenate the body, mind, and soul.



This activity has proven to renew energy, strengthen resilience, and refresh the mind, enabling OFWs to return to their work with a sense of renewal and hope. More than just a break from work, it provides an opportunity to build a supportive community among fellow OFWs, strengthening bonds that offer emotional support and spiritual encouragement. In these

brief but meaningful moments, OFWs are reminded that they are not alone in their struggles and that TAHANAN is a place where they can find solace and strength. The outdoor fellowship is a testament to the importance of caring for one’s well-being, allowing participants to return to their daily challenges with renewed strength, a positive outlook, and a deeper sense of purpose. Ultimately, this initiative helps OFWs not just to sustain their work but also to live with a sense of hope and fulfillment, even in difficult circumstances. Through this program, TAHANAN reaffirms its mission of providing a home away from home for OFWs, reminding them that no matter how far they may be, there is a community that supports them in every aspect of their journey.

Faith in Action as Stewards of God’s Creation



The Tahanan community is answering God’s call to take care of His creation through our Clean-up Drive. By helping the environment, we show our faith and love for God in practical ways. This work has gone beyond just cleaning—it has helped us build stronger relationships with the local community as we work together for a cleaner and healthier place to live. The local community has noticed and appreciated our efforts, and they now see Tahanan as a reliable partner in taking care of the environment. Through this drive, we are fulfilling God’s command and sharing His love in ways people can see and feel. Together, we are making a difference—one clean-up drive at a time.

Taipei Wesley Methodist Church Strengthens English Worship Service

The English Worship Service (EWS) in Taipei has partnered with the Tahanan Ministry to create a special opportunity for people from different cultures to come together. Once a month, Rev. Alma Navarro visits the EWS to lead communion and share inspiring messages from the Bible. The EWS includes people from many nationalities, such as migrant workers, expats, international students, and local residents. This mix of cultures makes the worship experience

unique and welcoming. One migrant worker said, “Being part of the EWS makes me feel at home in a foreign land. It’s not just about worship; it’s about belonging to a community that cares.” This partnership helps the Tahanan Ministry reach more people from different backgrounds in Taiwan. The ministry hopes to continue growing and supporting international communities. With the leadership of Rev. Alma Navarro, this partnership aims to build strong spiritual connections and provide care for everyone involved, creating a friendly and inclusive worship environment in Taipei.



Tahanan Collective Prayer Gathering Kindles Hope and Connection In the midst of the demanding lives of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)

The Tahanan Ministry is excited to introduce the Monthly Prayer Meeting—a vital initiative designed to nurture spiritual growth and community support.

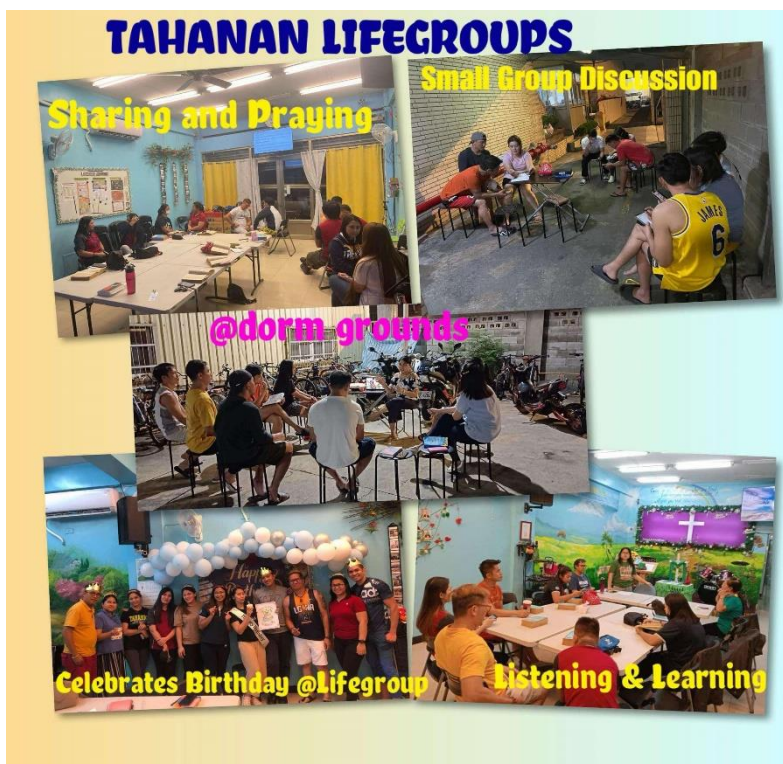


We understand the challenges of long work hours and the busy pace of life that often leave little room for connection with God and one another. While our weekly Life Groups provide a space for sharing and studying the Word, the Monthly Prayer Meeting offers an opportunity to come together as a larger family in Christ. This gathering is not just another event; it is a sanctuary where you can lay down your burdens and connect deeply with God and fellow believers. Here, you will find a warm and welcoming environment to express your struggles, share your joys, and seek spiritual renewal through heartfelt prayer. Imagine a space filled with hope, where every prayer lifts the weight of everyday challenges and every voice is heard in unity. This is a chance

to experience the transformative power of collective prayer and to grow together in faith.

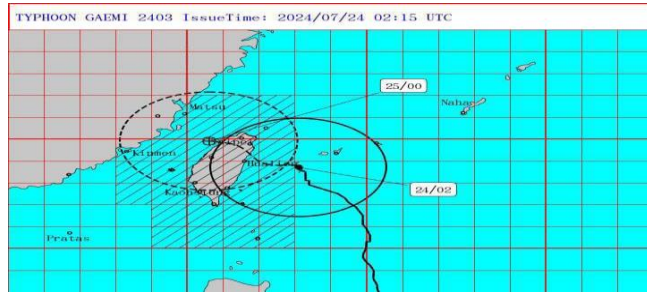
Creating a Sanctuary of Strength and Support for OFWs

TAHANAN Lifegroups have been growing and helping people for many years. They are an important part of our ministry and make a big difference in the lives of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who join. These groups are more than just for spiritual growth—they are a place where OFWs can find new energy and inspiration by sharing their personal challenges and victories. In the lifegroups, members feel free to talk about their thoughts and feelings, and they get strength from hearing each other’s stories. This support helps them deal with the many struggles of living and working far from home. TAHANAN ministry is dedicated to keeping these lifegroups strong because they give us a way to really understand the needs and problems of OFWs. Through the groups, we offer both spiritual guidance and practical lessons that help them in their daily lives. Lifegroups are a safe space where people can grow in their faith and find encouragement, while also learning useful skills to handle the challenges of life abroad. By creating this supportive environment, TAHANAN Lifegroups continue to be a source of hope, strength, and community for OFWs.



The Reality of OFWs’ Lives During Typhoons

One of the difficult realities faced by OFWs in Taiwan is being required to work even during typhoons. Despite government declarations of no-work days for safety, some factories and companies still expect OFWs to report to work. While local citizens are able to follow the government’s orders to stay home, many OFWs are quietly instructed to go in, putting their safety at risk. In some cases, companies offer extra benefits to encourage them to work through the storm. Those who have gone through this situation often feel they have no choice, as their companies hold control over their jobs. They simply follow what they are told, knowing that if they refuse to work during a typhoon, they might lose the opportunity for overtime pay in the



future. It's heartbreaking to see that some employers prioritize profit over the safety and well-being of their workers, treating them as expendable rather than valuable individuals. This behavior reflects a form of abuse, where employers use their power to exploit workers, forcing them into dangerous

situations for the sake of the company's gain. The TAHANAN ministry strongly condemns this type of exploitation and will continue to seek ways to connect with authorities who genuinely care about the safety and rights of OFWs.



We give thanks to God for the gift of life, hope, and love that you bring to our journey in migrant ministry. Truly, you are the answer to our prayers. Despite the financial and emotional challenges, you may face, you continue to stand strong in your commitment to Christ's mission. We are constantly lifting you up in prayer, asking that God empowers you to keep touching lives in His service. We would like to invite you to join us in prayer for the missionary work with Filipino Migrant Workers in Taiwan. Walk with us in this journey, lifting up prayers that our ministry would be an instrument of God's love and blessing to many. We also humbly ask for your generous support of Global Ministries by helping with our salary support. Your assistance allows us to remain faithful to the Lord's calling on our lives.

For financial contributions, you can:

1. Visit the Global Ministries website: www.umcmmission.org to donate. Scroll to the "Missionaries" section, find our names on the page, and you will see a link to make an online donation at the bottom of our profiles.
2. Send a check through your local church or conference office. Please write "for Alma J. Navarro # 3022029, and Richard B. Navarro # 3022030" on the memo line.

If you are not sending through a United Methodist Church, you may mail your check to: Advance GCFA P.O. Box 9068 New York, NY 10087-9068.

We cannot express enough how grateful we are for your faithful support.

Your prayers and generosity mean the world to us.

With deep appreciation,

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