

Dear Fellow Servants of God,

Greetings from the ministry among migrant workers here in Taiwan!

We are Richard B. Navarro and Alma Jumuad-Navarro, serving as Global Ministries missionaries assigned to minister to Filipino migrant workers in Taiwan. We are blessed with two children, Charis and Matthew. We are deeply grateful to God for His abundant blessings, and we also thank everyone who has supported us in this ministry. Your partnership makes it possible to fulfill God’s mission among Filipino migrant workers.

We would like to share with you the highlights from this quarter of our ministry, celebrating what God has done through your prayers and support.

“Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NRSV)



The Plight of Migrant Workers After Twelve Years in Taiwan

It is very challenging for migrant workers who have stayed in Taiwan for twelve years for work. During that time, they have adopted the culture, food, environment, and especially the impressive and affordable health system of Taiwan.

However, after twelve years, the law requires them to return to their home country for good because Taiwan only allows migrant workers to stay for a maximum of twelve years. Recently, there have been provisions in the law allowing companies or employers to request an extension for workers who have already completed twelve years. The employer must directly apply to the government for approval of this extension.

Many companies find it difficult to hire new workers because training newcomers requires more time and money. Employers prefer well trained and experienced workers who are already familiar with the job. Because of this, brokers or recruitment agencies often act as mediators between employers and the government.

Unfortunately, many brokers have developed a strategy to keep workers beyond twelve years. They require the migrant worker to return home temporarily for a few months to process new papers through an agency in their home country. In this process, the workers are forced to pay large sums of money to expedite the documents, not including additional payments secretly

demanded by some brokers. This blatant exploitation drains the hard-earned money of migrant workers.

Sometimes, document processing can be done inside Taiwan with only minimal payment. But when workers are sent back to their home country, the cost is excessively high. Despite this, many workers are willing to pay again because they desperately want to continue working to provide for their families.

The situation becomes worse because after paying agencies and brokers in their home country, they are also required to pay the brokers in Taiwan again when they return. Many workers remain silent about these abuses because they need their jobs to support their families and give them a better life.

When we discover this kind of abuse, oppression, and extortion, as missionaries we are filled with anger and compassion. We try our best to find ways to help these workers who are being exploited by agencies and brokers both in the Philippines and in Taiwan. We ask them if they have receipts or any proof to file a complaint with higher authorities. Sadly, most of them do not have receipts or documents, only their testimonies.

We encourage them, saying that even without receipts, their testimonies are enough to file a case against these abusers. However, many hesitate because they fear that complaining will cost them their jobs and their families will suffer even more. They would rather sacrifice themselves than let their loved one's experience hunger or poverty.

Our hearts are heavy and deeply burdened to see these so-called martyr sacrifices of our migrant workers all around the world. As missionaries in our place of assignment, we do our best to comfort and help these people of God who experience massive, severe, and unbearable abuse and extortion.

In the past twelve years, we have witnessed and helped many workers in cases of abuse and exploitation. By God's grace, we have seen success stories. However, we also discovered that some workers we helped were unable to renew their contracts because their brokers retaliated against them after our ministry intervened. Because of that experience, we have become more careful in how we help, so that their jobs will not be put at risk.

It is indeed challenging for us as missionaries to address such injustices toward Overseas Filipino Workers. At times, we must take a step back, not because we are withdrawing our help, but because we want to ensure that our ministry can continue to support them in ways that will not jeopardize their employment. We remain present for them, ready to serve, comfort, and help them find healing both emotionally and spiritually.

We continue to pray and seek ways to address this new form of abuse that affects OFWs who wish to continue working beyond twelve years. We will not give up or turn our backs on them.

As missionaries and servants of Christ, we know there will be pain and disappointment, but we believe that Christ will strengthen us to continue this mission of hope and justice.

Our TAHANAN Ministry Recognized in Taoyuan

Our TAHANAN Ministry has been invited to a special dinner with the Mayor of Taoyuan. It is a great honor and privilege to receive this invitation. Among the entire migrant worker and



immigrant community in the city, we are the only ministry, or what they may call a church, invited to this important occasion.

The city has recognized us as a partner in mitigating flood control concerns. Every quarter, our ministry volunteers to clean the entire stretch of Chenggong Road in our area. Because of this, Filipino migrant workers in our community have become known as people who care deeply for the environment and for God’s creation.

In the past, Overseas Filipino Workers were often suspected of being the ones responsible for littering in the area. However, when TAHANAN Ministry launched a program called “Clean Up Drive,” the community’s perception gradually changed. After months and years of consistent

efforts, the first impression of the Taiwanese that Filipinos were the ones who littered has been transformed. Now, they say that Filipinos care more for the environment than some locals, even though they are not citizens of the town.

TAHANAN has embraced this ministry because we are passionate about God’s mandate to be good stewards of His creation. We also believe that cleanliness reflects the holiness of God, for truly, cleanliness is next to godliness.

Saluting Single Moms, Breadwinners, and OFWs This Father’s Day

Father’s Day is a celebration of strength, sacrifice, and love, values that are not limited to fathers alone. It is also a day to honor single mothers and breadwinners, especially those working overseas, who courageously carry the roles of both mother and father.

In TAHANAN Ministry, we have a unique way of celebrating Father’s Day. We not only honor fathers but also extend appreciation to single mothers, breadwinners, and Overseas Filipino Workers who embody the same strength, resilience, and love that this day represents.

Many single mothers leave their homes as Overseas Filipino Workers, enduring loneliness and hardship just to give their children a better future. They are not only the nurturing heart of the family but also its provider and protector. Their sacrifices, missing birthdays, school events, and milestones, reflect a love that is deep, selfless, and enduring.

The same is true for single breadwinners who tirelessly provide for their families. They may not hold the title of “father,” but they live out the very essence of what Father’s Day celebrates: leadership, resilience, and unconditional love.

This Father’s Day, TAHANAN Ministry held a heartfelt celebration to honor these silent heroes. The program included words of encouragement, special prayers of blessing, and meaningful messages that uplifted their spirits. Tokens of appreciation were given to recognize their sacrifices, and moments of fellowship reminded them that they are valued and loved by God and by the community.

Through this special celebration, we honor single mothers, breadwinners, and OFWs whose hard work and sacrifices make families stronger and keep hope alive.

Love Beyond Distance Bringing Hope to Bereaved Families of OFWs

We were surprised and amazed because we never imagined that TAHANAN would be recognized in such a meaningful way. This opportunity came when a Filipino-Taiwanese local citizen called to request our ministry’s service. They asked us to officiate a funeral for their loved one. They were not members of our ministry and lived quite far from our area.

We later found out that someone had recommended them to contact TAHANAN for this kind of service because they knew our ministry is known for serving with genuine care and compassion.

The other funeral service we conducted was for an Overseas Filipino Worker who died in her sleep. When I asked her sibling about the cause of death, they suspected it was due to overwork. According to them, their loved one was very hardworking and did not know how to rest. Even if she had only one hour in a day, she would find a way to earn or make money.



The reality here in Taiwan is that many migrant workers are tempted to take part-time jobs after their regular 8 to 12 hours of work. We cannot blame them because they only want to give their families back home a decent life.

During the funeral service, the atmosphere was deeply emotional. The loved ones of the deceased could not fly from the Philippines to Taiwan due to the high cost of travel and other expenses. They could only join through a Facebook Messenger call to witness and attend the funeral virtually.

While we were conducting the service, we could hear the mourning and sobbing of the bereaved family over the call. It was a truly heartbreaking and touching moment for us.

Yet what brings comfort is that our TAHANAN Ministry is able to offer this kind of service out of love for migrant workers, especially our fellow Overseas Filipino Workers. We are deeply grateful to God for allowing us to serve in this way.



TAHANAN Creation and Conversation – A Nature Walk of Healing and Stewardship for OFWs



Living and working abroad as an Overseas Filipino Worker is never easy. Being far from home often brings loneliness and homesickness, and the weight of responsibility for loved ones back home can feel overwhelming. Yet even in a foreign land, God provides ways to comfort our hearts and remind us of His presence. One of these is through the beauty of His creation.

The TAHANAN Creation and Conversation Nature Walk is more than just a simple walk in the park. It is a moment to pause from the busyness of work and the demands of life and to allow God's handiwork in nature to speak to your soul. As you walk along the quiet paths, surrounded by trees, fresh air, and the songs of birds, you are reminded that God's creation is His gift, not only to care for but also to bring peace to a weary heart.

Even though you are far from your family, God has entrusted you with the sacred responsibility to be a good steward of His creation wherever you are. Caring for the environment, even in small ways, is an act of worship and gratitude to the Creator. And as you take care of the world around you, you also allow nature to take care of you, soothing your loneliness, calming your thoughts, and refreshing your spirit.

The walk ends with a simple yet meaningful time of worship and reflection. Together, we read Scripture, sing songs of praise, and share how God has spoken through the stillness and beauty of nature. In that moment, you are reminded that even in a foreign land, you are never truly alone. God is with you, and His creation is a gentle reminder of His love and faithfulness.

Through this experience, OFWs are encouraged not only to find healing and comfort in nature but also to live as faithful stewards of the earth, caring for it, protecting it, and honoring the Creator through their actions.

So even as you work hard to provide for your family back home, take time to care for the world around you and let God’s creation care for your heart. It is a simple but powerful way to sustain your soul as you continue your journey as an OFW.

**TAHANAN Kaagapay sa Pagkalinga sa Kalikasan
— Caring for Creation as OFWs**

Being an Overseas Filipino Worker means facing many challenges far from home. Yet even while working abroad, OFWs can live out their faith in powerful ways that honor God and bless the community around them. One meaningful way TAHANAN Ministry supports this is through our monthly environmental cleanup outreach called “Kaagapay sa Pagkalinga sa Kalikasan” or “Companion in Creation Care.”

Together with local flood control agencies, Filipino workers and volunteers gather regularly to clean up flood prone areas, parks, and riversides. This is not just about picking up trash. It is about caring for God’s creation, showing Christian discipleship through practical acts of stewardship.



By participating, OFWs demonstrate faith in action. Their work reduces pollution, helps prevent floods, and contributes to the health and safety of the community. More than that, it builds

bridges between migrants, local residents, and government partners, showing that Filipinos are valuable and committed members of the community even far from home.

This cleanup outreach reminds us that serving others and caring for the environment go hand in hand. It is an expression of Christlike love that transcends borders and speaks of God’s heart for creation. As OFWs, we may be separated from our families, but through creation care, we continue to serve God and neighbor faithfully wherever we are.

Through “Kaagapay sa Pagkalinga sa Kalikasan,” TAHANAN encourages every migrant worker to embrace the call to be good stewards of the earth. In small acts of care, we honor God’s creation and witness His love to the world around us.

We would like to invite you to pray for missionary work with Migrant Filipino Workers in Taiwan. We invite you to walk with us in a missionary journey and pray for us in the ministry of Migrant Workers in Taiwan. Pray that our ministry can be an instrument to be a blessing of God's love.

We are humbly knocking to your generous heart to support Global Ministries by assisting with our salary support through the advance #s so we can remain faithful to the call the Lord made on our life.

For financial contributions, you may:

1. Use Global Ministries' website: www.umcmmission.org to send a donation for my salary support. At the bottom of the page, click on "Missionaries". Scroll to our name on the missionaries' page and our profile will appear. At the bottom of our profile is a link to make an online donation.
2. Through mailing a check to your local church or conference office. Write “for Alma J. Navarro # 3022029, and Richard B. Navarro # 3022030” on the memo line of your check.

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

We end with words to say thank you and we appreciate so much for your faithful support!

Sincerely,

Richard & Alma Navarro
RNavarro@umcmmission.org
ANavarro@umcmmission.org