



## TENTMAKERS

A Global Tentmaking Mission

Poverty and lack of opportunities in the land pushed our people to go to other nations where they could earn decent living to augment their families' need. The state of poverty is best seen by the number of people who leave the country to sacrifice their lives for the future of their families. The Philippines boasts of the biggest number of people scattered across the nations – in land and in sea. They were given recognition by our government as our present-day heroes, better known with the famous term OFW's or Overseas Filipino Workers.

Statistics say that up to 3,300 Filipinos depart from the country every day. Approximately 10% of these are born-again Christians. Imagine hundreds of Global Pinoys catapulted daily as blessings to the nations of the world! But this can only happen when the Christians in our land, who are preparing to leave for employment abroad, are trained and equipped to become global missionaries embracing the purpose and title - tentmakers.

### GLOBAL TENTMAKER SEMINAR NARRATIVE

A missionary who served in China for over a year sought counsel for an issue that has greatly troubled her. Her crackling voice and the welling tears from her eyes clearly

reflect the bottled pain inside her heart. No one could have guessed what was tormenting her. It was guilt for being blessed!

This is how it started. On her first months in the mission field, she got a job that paid her very good salary and a fancy condominium unit to stay in. She didn't feel completely happy though for she felt that it was wrong for a missionary to be engaged in work. So, she tried her very best to hide it from everybody but her feeling of guilt grew even stronger. The story may sound like a joke, but it is far from it. The counsel given though sounded more like one. She was told "You seem to have fallen easily to the trap of the enemy. Let's pray for you to be restored."

In Thailand, an OFW who started a church in Bangkok confided that he still feels embarrassed when his members address him as a pastor. He felt that way because he left his country to look for employment opportunities and not for ministry. But since he is so used to bringing people to the Lord, he found himself doing it in his place of work. He led many to the Lord and, from his perspective, "accidentally" planted a church where he served as the pastor. He continues to view himself though as unbecoming and unworthy of the title, for the simple reason that he is gainfully employed.

The two stories clearly indicate the lack of understanding of Tentmaking - a valuable mission platform that have been embraced by believers since the time of Apostle Paul. The Tentmakers mission training intends to introduce and educate the believers on the rightful place of job employment and business in the mission ministry. It aims to provide practical and straight-forward information on the topic. The whole presentation is in a question-and-answer format to directly address the issues that are often raised up by missionaries.

All country's immigration policies are tightening up on the old practice of same day cross border trips simply to renew visas. Most wealthy countries show preference to those who could be part of their nations labor force while there are countries who would only allow other nationalities to come on work related matters. With all these in mind, tentmaking appears to be rising to the top spot in our list of viable and effective approaches to missions.

The items below are incorporated in the Tentmakers one day seminar and will be discussed in greater detail:

1. WHERE DID THE TERM "TENT MAKING" COME FROM?
2. WHAT IS TENTMAKING?
3. WHO IS A TENTMAKER?
4. HOW DOES TENTMAKING FIT IN THE MISSIONS AGENDA?
  - A. THE DESTINY OF THE FILIPINO NATION
  - B. THE FILIPINO DIASPORA

C. THE PROPHECY TO THE PHILIPPINES

D. THE KAIROS MOMENT

5. WHAT MORE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TENTMAKING: Frequently Asked Questions?

- A. What are the advantages of tentmaking?
- B. What are the challenges that tentmakers face?
- C. What type of jobs do mission agencies offer to missionaries?
- D. Can I go out of the country as a tourist and look for jobs out there?
- E. How can I establish a tent making role abroad?
- F. What are the most common and recommended tent making roles?
- G. What are the mistakes committed by some missionaries on the mission field?
- H. How would I know that I am called for tent-making mission?

6. CAN I OPT FOR A RELIGIOUS VISA AND STILL BE EMPLOYED ?

- A. What is a missionary visa?
- B. How can I acquire a missionary visa?
- C. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a missionary visa?
- D. Am I considered as a Tentmaker if I possess a missionary visa?
- E. Can I use the missionary visa for income generating activities?
- F. What offers a better and more effective platform for ministry- Missionary or Working Visa?

7. CAN MISSIONARIES USE BUSINESS FOR THEIR MISSION WORK?

- A. What is Business As Mission?
- B. If I start my own business, will I still be recognized as a tentmaker?
- C. How do I set up a business in the country where I do my Mission work?
- D. What type of visa is used for anyone who wants to run a business?
- E. What are the advantages and disadvantages of owning a business in the mission field?
- F. Are there references on this type of ministry which could provide guidance?

8. HOW DO TENTMAKERS REACH OUT TO THE LOST IN THE MISSION FIELD?

9. IS TENTMAKING AN EFFECTIVE PLATFORM IN BRINGING THE LOST TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

10. I AM CALLED AND I AM DETERMINED TO GO, HOW DO I START?

There will also be testimonial stories on several companies established as Business As Mission entities in China, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines etc. Some companies were set up to address poverty alleviation and bring about community transformation. The others were incorporated to pursue community development and engagement through farming programs, education, etc... There is a seminar fee of P500 per person and is strictly for born-again Christians only. Info sheets will be provided at the start of the seminar and must be filled up and submitted at the end of the seminar.