

Missionaries Take 2-Week Trek to Reach Indigenous People

The rice terraces of Banaue are known in the Philippines as the Eighth Wonder of the World: spectacular terraces carved out of mountain ranges about 2,000 years ago. Home to many mountain tribal people, most of whom still practice animist traditions and live off farming and hunting, Banaue will host this year's OM Philippines' "Go Extra Mile" outreach from April 9-24.

"Many of the churches in the area are small and struggling," said Jun Diaz, leader of OM Philippines. "We want to support them in evangelism and discipleship. Banaue is also a suitable venue for both national and foreign participants, as the language and cultural practices of the region are so different from the lowlanders. Truly a Go-Extra-Mile attitude is necessary."

Following the five-day conference, participants will divide into seven teams and set off on a two-week trek to bring the love of God to the indigenous people. They will work with local churches in Ifugao Province and Nueva Vizcaya Province, most of which can only be reached by foot.

"Over the past 19 years, we have seen a number of participants committing their lives for missions," said Jun. "Others returned to their home churches with renewed passion for God and His redemptive plan for the world. Their walk with the Lord has never been the same. To mention one, a church that sent four of their youth last year is sending 10 youth this year, for they have seen the transformation in the lives of those four who joined."

Praise God for the impact Go Extra Mile has had on participants and the community over the past 19 years. Pray

for the right people to sign up for the outreach this year, and that they would be challenged to intentionally pray, give or go into missions as a result. Pray for enough finances to subsidise local participants, as well as for safety and good health for all.