

So Why Start a Filipino Service in Tagalog?

Beginning in August, here in the North Congregation we will be launching a weekly Filipino Service in Tagalog that will run for 9 consecutive weeks from August 5 to September 30. The service will be led by Rick Barreyro and the Filipino Ministry team and will be held at 10:15AM in the Greenhouse, simultaneous with the regular North Sunday service. We are very excited for this development, and want to take this opportunity to further clarify the mission, vision and goals of this new Sunday service. For answers to some Frequently Asked Questions, please read on below!

So why start a Filipino service in Tagalog?

- **Because we take Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) to make disciples of all nations very seriously.** As we read scripture we see God empowering his church with unique opportunities and gifts to share and live out the Gospel. We see that God has led SDCF to develop a process of intentional, 1-on-1 **discipleship** via the Kingdom of God Chronicles (which has recently been translated into Tagalog) as part of our core identity as a church. We also see that God has given many who serve in our congregation the gift of being able to connect with people through **Filipino culture** and **language**.

We see the launching of a Filipino service in Tagalog as being good stewards of the gifts God has given us. The purpose is to reach Filipinos with the Gospel who might not be as effectively reached in an English service, introduce them to God's Word, and present them with an opportunity to be discipled in their primary language.

- **Because it's in the DNA of our church.**

Our *mission* is to see people refreshed in Christ and empowered by the Spirit to draw others into God's Kingdom. Our *vision* is to **multiply congregations** of SDCF and to raise leaders to serve in all its congregations in order to impact San Diego County for Christ. This will be done by winning the lost through enfolding, training, and sending the found. (*SDCF Constitution*, Article I "Identity," Section 5 & 6)

In line with SDCF's mission and vision, our aim for the Filipino Service in Tagalog is not just to have a weekly service, but to ultimately develop and launch a new and unique SDCF **Congregation**. 12 years ago was the first full realization of that mission and vision when the North and South SDCF congregations were born. Within these 9 Sunday services we will evaluate the progress of the ministry and prayerfully consider the appropriate next phase.

But aren't we already a "Filipino" church?

- If you've been to our Newcomer's Reception you will have heard that "We are a church...that happens to have a lot of Filipinos in it." By that, we mean that while we have a lot of ethnic Filipinos in our church, there is nothing that we do on a Sunday morning that is intentionally "Filipino" in orientation.
- By contrast, this Filipino service in Tagalog, and the eventual congregation, will be intentionally and unapologetically Filipino in its language, orientation, and approach. The goal is to minister to Filipinos who might not otherwise be fully connected in our other services, enabling them to worship and have an opportunity to be discipled in their heart language.

I'm Filipino! Should I go?

- **Maybe! Or not necessarily.** The questions we would encourage you to ask yourself and pray through are these: [Do you feel led to join this ministry, and eventually, this new congregation when it leaves the North location? Do you have a burning in your heart to reach Tagalog speakers for Christ and see them come to repentance and faith? Are you a Tagalog speaker yourself who wants to grow in Christ, but has found the language barrier to be a significant challenge?](#) If, yes, then those are great reasons to leave the North Congregation and serve and participate in the Filipino Service.
- For those who are part of the North church family or members of the church team, we would encourage you not to consider the Filipino Service as another social gathering – i.e. attend the service because your friends are going. We would encourage you to see it as a ministry opportunity with the goal of reaching other Tagalog speakers.

Is the service only for older folks? *Ito ba ay para sa mga matatanda lamang?*

- Absolutely not! Again it's for people of all ages who are on a mission to reach Tagalog speakers!

What will happen to the North congregation?

- Quite simply, we will continue to pursue the Gospel-centered mission and vision of our church and support, serve and celebrate with all SDCF congregations as one body. We will continue to faithfully study His Word, worship, pray, and love our neighbors together. We will continue to move forward as we walk the road of discipleship together, learning from and loving one another in this beautiful multi-generational, multi-cultural family that we call SDCF North.