



From **STUCK** to **Multiplying** in the Philippines

For 19 years, Pastor Edgar Garcia has faithfully led his church in Mindanao, the second-largest island in the Philippines. His congregation was committed to evangelism, discipleship and even church planting. Yet something felt missing. “We sensed there was something wrong, but we could not pinpoint where the problem lay,” he admits. “We were stuck.”

When Harvesters introduced our six-step church planting methodology earlier this year, Edgar describes it as an awakening. “Our eyes were opened. Step two – evangelize and immediately plant – was revolutionary. It gave us the clear, systematic process we lacked. It’s very liberating for us.”

But Edgar identified a second challenge: discipleship. Over the years, his church tried countless materials, even writing their own, but still struggled to lay solid foundations. That changed with Harvesters’ training. “When we saw this material, we laughed and said, ‘Why didn’t this come when we started the church?’ I’m sure it will revolutionize the church.”

He has recently completed Phase A, which equips believers with assurance of salvation and 15 key spiritual disciplines – transforming them from disciples into disciple-makers. Edgar believes this will create “strong, vibrant congregations passionate for the Great Commission.”

Already, the results are visible. In just six months, new churches are being planted across the region. What was once frustration has become fruitfulness. As Edgar and fellow leaders press forward, hope is rising in the Philippines: churches with strong foundations, multiplying rapidly and carrying the Gospel to unreached communities. 📖



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A New Chapter for Harvesters Ministries

It all began with a quiet prayer, spoken over the villages of Malawi from a tiny airplane above. “Lord, give us that village... and that village...” From that moment, God birthed a vision too vast for one man to carry alone: plant one million churches, train one million pastors, and see one hundred million souls come to salvation and discipleship.

When Harvesters’ founder, Steven Loots, obeyed God’s call more than 27 years ago, he could not have imagined how far the Lord would take this vision. From the first 27 churches planted in Malawi and Zambia, Harvesters has now grown into a global movement — active in more than half the world’s countries, training pastors in 74 languages, with more than 147,000 churches planted and millions of new disciples made.

Behind this growth has stood a servant leader who gave his life to the task of expanding God’s Kingdom.

HONORING STEVEN LOOTS’ LEADERSHIP

We honor Steven for his faithfulness, obedience, consistency and leadership. He has never sought his own glory, but always the glory of Christ. His life and ministry are a living testimony of what God can do through one person who simply says yes.

In December 2024, Steven was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. While he has continued to serve with remarkable courage and vision, it became clear that the handover to a new leader needed to be accelerated. This was always part of the plan, but in God’s sovereignty, the transition has come earlier than expected.

On the evening of the handover gala in July, Steven said with gratitude:

“As I look over this group, I see folks from different areas of ministry. People who have, in the past 25+ years, helped, ministered, supported, prayed, given, gone and done incredible things. One of the earliest prayers that we still pray is, Lord, send the right people. And I can honestly say, we have an incredible team.”

“Francois Rauch became our head of church planting. Much of what we see today is directly linked to his ministry. He has been with the ministry a long time. Knows it back to front. One of the joys for me, and one of the reasons I go with a good heart tonight, is that Francois is a visionary and he’s a manager, so he can take what we’ve done until now and go further. And I expect him to do that. He loves Jesus dearly. He has a passion to see the Gospel preached globally. He has the ability to communicate the Gospel and the vision in extraordinary ways. Handing over to Francois, it’s not just handing over to him; it’s handing over to him who has a team who is capable, dedicated. These are men and women of God.”

“My prayer goes with you, my brother, that you would experience the blessing of the Lord that I have experienced and the support of people that I have enjoyed. And may the Lord use you in a mighty way.”

To follow Steven’s cancer journey in his own words, check out his YouTube channel, ‘Faithful to the End’.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@StevenFaithfulToTheEnd>

WELCOMING FRANCOIS RAUCH

We are deeply grateful to God for providing a faithful leader in Francois Rauch, who officially assumed the role of CEO on August 1, 2025. Francois has been part of Harvesters' story for more than a decade, serving as head of global church planting. He has traveled the nations, preached the Gospel in some of the hardest-to-reach places, and overseen the planting of churches in jungles, deserts, cities and villages around the world.

Francois carries the same heart and passion for the lost that has always defined this ministry. As he said on the evening of the handover:

"We love God dearly and believe everybody should have the right to hear the Gospel. This is what Harvesters is. We love the church. We believe the church is the hope of the world. And we love pastors, we truly love pastors. And we love the lost. To plant a church in every single corner of the globe – every village, every tribe, every nation, every language – that's what God has called us for."

"Harvesters is in good hands. Not because it's in mine. And I thank you Steven for trusting me. But because Harvesters is in the hands of a living, wonderful, miraculous God that brought salvation through Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I believe we're in for a very fast, tough, adventurous ride."

He also honored those who labor on the frontlines of mission:

"These are the generals of God; I call them the Christian barbarians of God, because that's how they live and that's what they do. And there's never a no – ever. If God has said yes, that's the yes. And I salute you."

Francois has already begun guiding Harvesters into a new season of growth, pressing forward towards the vision of planting 1 million churches by 2030. Under his leadership, new strategies are emerging — always rooted in evangelism, discipleship and equipping indigenous pastors to shepherd their own communities.

LOOKING AHEAD

The gala evenings in Cape Town and Johannesburg were not just a celebration of Steven's remarkable legacy, but a joyful commissioning of Francois and the whole Harvesters family for the road ahead.

As Francois reminded us:

"Sometimes you absolutely have to leave the 99 sheep for that one lost one. Do for one that you wish you could do for everyone, and you might just change the world."

We thank God for Steven's obedience, for Francois's faithfulness, and above all, for our Lord's sovereign hand over this ministry. The mission continues, stronger than ever: to plant churches, train pastors and disciple believers until every tribe and tongue has heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Along with the support of friends like you, we are opening the way for the world to know Jesus. 📧



Training Sparks Transformation



In Nyandarua County in central Kenya, Harvesters' work is already bearing fruit. Just eight months after training began, nine new churches have been planted, and local leaders are being deeply transformed by the program.

Pastor Daniel Ndung'u Wagura, one of the participants, shared how the comprehensive training has addressed vital needs for pastors in ministry. "This training is a blessing to us. We have not had this kind of training before. It addresses the gray areas that a pastor or a church needs to address, and the materials are far more exhaustive than anything we have received," he said.

The impact is already visible. Pastors are sharing the truths they learn with their congregations, strengthening believers and transforming leadership. "It has really changed us," Daniel explained. "We are [becoming] better Christians, and God is truly working through Harvesters in our lives and our churches." ✉

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Disciple Makers

We launched a new version of our successful Disciple Makers Course, designed to support churches with discipleship and growth. We praise God for this success. Drawing on twenty-five years of experience and success with our evangelism, church planting, pastoral training, and discipleship strategies in over 100 countries, this course gets back to the biblical basics. The focus is on the message and methodology of Jesus for reaching the world with the gospel.

If you want to learn more about the Disciple Makers Course or invite us to come and present it at your church, get in touch today!



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