

How you can help: Enroll or sponsor a student

The 45 unit Master of Arts and 30 unit Diploma in Transformational Urban Leadership include:

- Bible and theology courses focused on urban poverty
- Core courses addressing urban spirituality, urban poor church planting, community transformation and economics and leadership in urban movements
- Practical courses on serving marginalized peoples, developing educational centers, entrepreneurial and organizational leadership, primary health care, and advocacy and the urban environment
- Extensive field supervision courses
- Research and integration courses
- Language and culture acquisition for foreign students

Student Profiles



Lito and his five siblings grew up in the slum of Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila. Most of Balic-Balic's 20,000 people live in shanties built alongside the Philippine National Railroad tracks. His father passed away and his mother barely provided for their six children (Lito is the 5th child) by doing laundry. Under significant financial pressure, Lito persevered and finished an A.B. in Mathematics.

As a child, he regularly attended outreach classes and became a believer and a member of the Balic-Balic Christian Church. Taking a

an interest in local church activities, he saw the reality of God in the lives of the members and began attending training programs and became a church outreach volunteer.

Little did Lito realize that God was preparing him to serve among the urban poor. Today, he oversees a weekly Bible study with 15 families and serves as the youth coordinator. He senses a call to minister among the urban poor. In preparing for that task, he is now an MA-Transformational Urban Leadership student at the Asian Theological Seminary.



Melita Español, or Pastora Milet as she is fondly called by her congregation, has been involved in church pioneering work since she was a Commerce student in Olongapo City. Sensing a call to ministry she entered a Bible college and earned a B.A. in Christian Education. Later she married, raised three children and worked as a bookkeeper with the Salvation Army. When the family transferred to Imus, Cavite in 2002, the Lord led her to a church pioneering work in their subdivision and eventually became Associate Pastor.

After three years of ministry among middle-class families, Pastora Milet found herself burdened for the underprivileged families nearby. She visited the barangay, distributed tracts and eventually started a Bible study among her contacts. Melita and her husband, Philip, bid farewell to their middle-class church to pursue church planting in the slums. Using her own resources she started a preschool and serves as the only teacher. She also leads weekly Bible studies. As a student Melita sees the MATUL program as a way to strengthen her ministry skills among the urban poor to transform communities to reflect a bit of God's Kingdom.

Holistic Development: Head, Heart & Hands

We recognize that ministry among the urban poor is something that cannot be learned only in the classroom. As seen in the courses below we emphasize experiential learning by connecting the classroom to marginalized urban peoples.

- Urban Poor Church Planting
- Urban Spirituality
- Urban Reality and Theology
- Serviced to the Marginalized
- Theology and Practice of Community Development
- Entrepreneurial and Organizational Leadership
- Primary Health Care