



New Christian Religions in Asia: Iglesia ni Cristo, the Local Churches and their Founders

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THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Charles W. Andrews (active c.1855-1865)
LAGUNA DE BAY, PHILIPPINES



The Philippines in 1898: Revolution & Economic Change

Escolta Street, Manila, July 4, 1898.

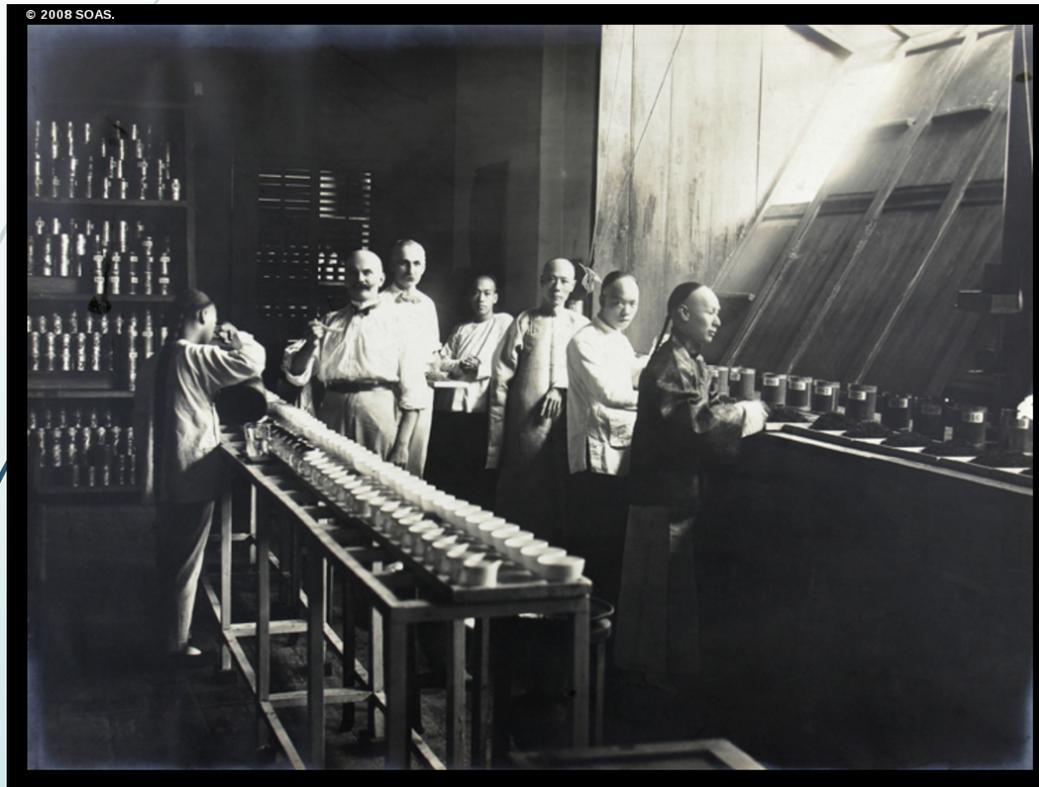


General Gregorio del Pilar and his troops around 1898
(Philippine-American War).



“John Charles Oswald in a tea-tasting room, Foochow, 1890s”

A View of Foochow





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THE RELIGIONS

Overview-1

	Iglesia ni Cristo	Local Churches
Founder	Felix Manalo (1886-1963)	Watchman Ni (1903-1972)
Founding	July 27, 1914, Manila	1927, Haroon Rd., Shanghai
Major Leaders	Eraño Manalo (1925-2009) Eduardo Manalo (1955-)	Witness Lee (1905-1997)
Number of Congregations	6272 congregations	2000-3000 congregations or: "more than 4000 outside China"
Organizational Structure	Hierarchical, Chief Executive Minister, Council of 17 tagubulin (circulars) with instructions Obedience "even if it goes against your personal wishes"	Decentralized in theory "There are no 'headquarters' or formal affiliation."
Size/Active Presence	Philippines; US; Greece, Mexico, England Nigeria, etc.; 114 nations 7.5-8.5 million members (est.) 2.45% of Philippine population	65 countries 1.5-2 million globally

Overview-2

Major Influences	Catholicism Colorum Movement Methodist Episcopal Church Christian Mission Group (Church of Christ) Seventh Day Adventism	Methodism Chinese Evangelism Presbyterianism Plymouth Brethren (Exclusive) Keswick Theology Dispensationalism Mysticism
Bible Version	Various: George Lamsa, Moffat, 66 Books Protestant, MAGANDANG BALITA BIBLIA (Revised Tagalog Version), New King James V., Rotterdam Emphasized Bible, Revised English, Today's English V., New King James Version, Revised Standard V.	New International (Chinese Union version 1919 retranslated by Witness Lee)

Overview-3

Major Doctrines

27 Lessons of Doctrine of Manalo

1. Sugo, God's Final Messenger (the "Angel from the East") (lesson 11)
2. Denial of the Trinity (lesson 2 & 14)
3. Salvation only through INC (lesson 3)
4. No receipts for contributions (6)
5. Mandatory Contributions (19)
6. Abstain from food cooked with blood (21)
7. No marriage outside the church (21)
8. "Each member should submit to the Administration placed by God in the Church" (24)
9. Only INC ministers hold the seal to interpret the Bible
10. Soul Sleep

Revelations

1. "the church is an organism, the Body of Christ..."
2. universal priesthood
3. proper baptism
4. head covering & laying on of hands
5. living a life of faith in God: not being hired by anyone
6. divine healing
7. truth of the indwelling Spirit
8. outpouring of the Holy Spirit: =baptism of the Holy Spirit; e.g. tongues
9. tripartite man
10. sanctification by faith: sanctification through position; sanctification also dispositional: "the Lord saturates us with Himself:
11. The Rapture
12. Spiritual Warfare

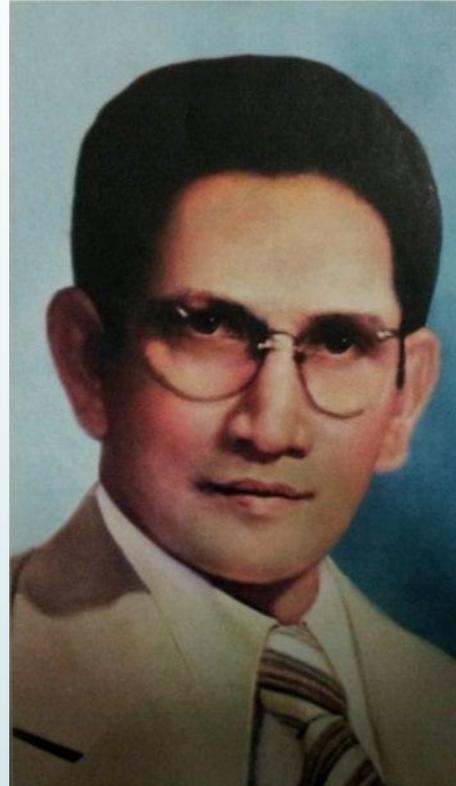


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THE FOUNDERS

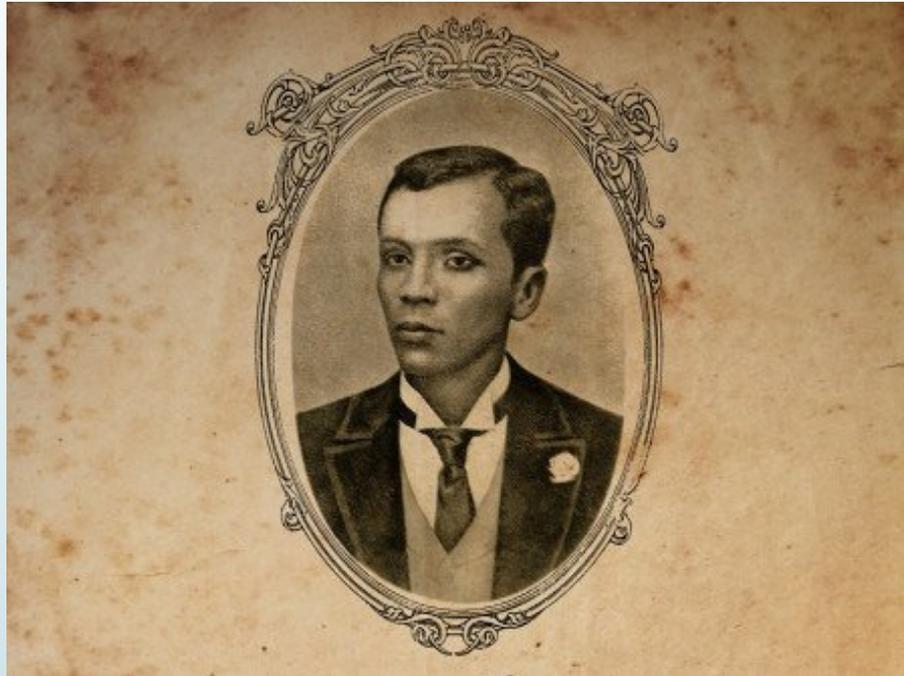
Felix Y. Manalo

1886-1963



The Colorum Movement

Hermano Pule
(aka Apolinario d la Cruz,
1815-1841)



Mr. Cristóbal and Mt.
Banahaw



Early Congregation: “Iglesia ni Kristo”



And Now, The Movie:
Felix Manalo, The Last Messenger (2015)





<http://www.philstar.com> e-mail: feedback@philstar.net.ph

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

VOL. XXII NO. 66 • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007 • 5 SECTIONS, 46 PAGES P18 MM

INC members beat up Pentecostal preachers

What was supposed to be an enlightening religious debate in Tondo turned violent as members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) beat up three preachers from the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (PMCC), the Manila Police District (MPD) said yesterday.

Police said some PMCC and INC members had gathered for a scheduled religious debate at the corner of Quiricada and Almeda streets.

According to the police, the violence started when INC minister Felix Mangalabnan allegedly grabbed a videocamera held by PMCC preacher Allen Albambra, 34, who was taking footages of the debate. PMCC preachers Luz Esto, 49, and Rodolfo Catarroja, 50, joined in the struggle over the videocamera.

It was then that INC member Joseph Salombre and his companions joined the fray and beat up the PMCC preachers. Mangalabnan even reportedly hit Esto on the forehead with the videocamera before walking away.

Police officers arrested Salombre after the PMCC preachers identified him as among those who beat them up and stole the video equipment that belonged to their church.

For future religious debates, the MPD suggested to let cooler heads prevail.

"These debates should be done in public places like the plazas and they should avoid violence. They should appoint a moderator and clarify the rules of the debate if they should allow the video recording," the police said.

— Evelyn Macairan

INC Seal and Flag



A Visible Competition:
Central Temple, Quezon City;
Consecrated July, 1984;
Seats 7000

“While in the past the Catholic churches dominated for skyline in large population centers, now the huge Cathedral chapels of the Iglesia ni Cristo have risen to challenge, so to speak, the dominance of the Catholic churches. Architecturally well-designed, solidity built, painted, with manicured lawns and always looking clean, they dramatically contrast with the ancient, still strong but drab-looking Catholic Churches. ”

(Manila: history, people and culture, p.93)

De La Salle University Press; Later printing edition (1989) VILLACORTA (Wilfredo V.) et al editors



INC and Political Activism

Felix Y. Manalo (**Iglesia Ni Cristo**) with some politicians



Felix Manalo with President Ramon Magsaysay



President Carlos P. Garcia, Felix Manalo,
Senator Eulogio Rodriguez Sr.



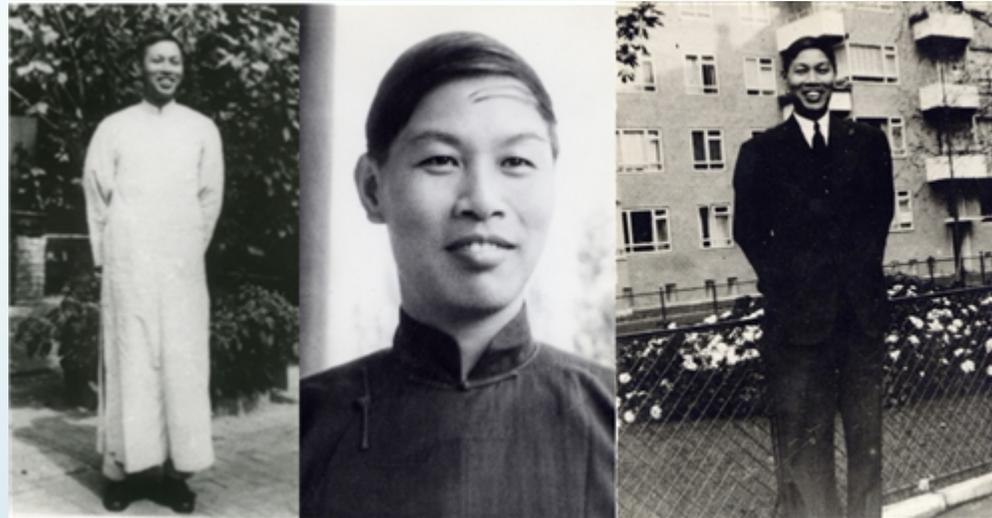
Felix Manalo, Alejo Santos (Tanggulang Pambansa)
and President Carlos P. Garcia



Felix Manalo and Senator Fernando Lopez

* Pasugo May 1964

Nee Tuosheng (Watchman Nee) 1903-1972



http://www.c-f-p.com/Watchman_Nee_s/1819.htm

Dora Yu Cidu 余慈度 (1873-1931)





“God,” Nee declared, “does not care for outward things...for the empty tabernacle.”

Margaret Emma Barker
(1966-1930)





“By faith shall you stand.”

The China Episode: Watchman Nee is "Expelled"

"We recoil from your ...suggestion that we should now set aside assembly principles and order, ...and thus surrender the holy heritage which has been recovered in divine mercy in these last days for the whole assembly."

"We are unable to walk with you, or to receive from or commend to you. This, of course, applies also to all those maintaining links of fellowship with you."

Letter from Exclusive Brethren to the Shanghai congregations, August 31, 1935.



Nee with T. Austin-Sparks
of the Christian Fellowship Centre,
Honor Oak,, UK, 1932



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THEOLOGICAL INFLUENCES



INC Theological Influences

- Methodism
- Presbyterianism
- Adventism
- Indigenous Religion—the Colorums
- Catholicism...?
- Manalo is God's Last Messenger on Earth
- Infallibility of the Bible
- Definitive interpretation of the Bible by trained ministers
- Omnipotent and unity God
- Jesus as mediator
- INC is preordained Church of Christ

Nee's Theology: Elements

➤ Brethren Theology	Guidance of the Holy Spirit Word of God is the foundation Signs of the true church	J. Nelson Darby C.A. Coated
➤ Holiness & Keswick	Consecration through complete identification with Christ on the cross; baptism of the Holy Spirit	Charles Finney, Andrew Murray, F.B.Meyer, Evan Roberts
➤ Mysticism	Tripart model of body, soul, spirit Mystical union through indwelling of the Holy Spirit	Jessie Penn-Lewis
➤ Quietism	Non-resistance & passive prayer Complete submission to God's will	Miguel de Molinos, Jeanne Guyon, Fraçois Fénelon
➤ Dispensationalism	2 dispensations, pretribulational rapture	J.N. Darby
➤ Nationalism	Three-Self Concept: Self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating	Henry Venn and Rufus Anderson



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COMPARISONS



Manalo and Nee: The similarities...

- ▶ Era of imperialism
- ▶ Inflow of Protestantism
- ▶ Rapid economic development
- ▶ Both born into Christian families
- ▶ Both survived the anti-Japanese war well
- ▶ Both focused on ministerial/apostle training
- ▶ Both underwent spiritual crises
- ▶ Both experienced constant heavy criticisms
- ▶ Both were involved in business



The dissimilarities...

- ▶ Manalo maintained control, Nee lost control
- ▶ Nee became a martyr
- ▶ Nee's spiritual writings
- ▶ Nee's heavy mystical bent
- ▶ INC's unorthodox theology

Thank You!

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