History of Baptists in the Philippines
In the Beginning...

The Smuggler, the Priest, and the Outcast
Haffenden

“The Smuggler”
Haffenden

* Most well-know British smuggler of Bibles in the Philippines.
* He was an agent for an exporting company stationed in Manila.
* In 1837, he smuggled in Bibles.
Manrique Lallave

“The Priest”
Manrique Lallave

- Spanish Dominican priest in Pangasinan.
- Received a Bible that was perhaps smuggled in by Haffenden.
- Studied the Bible and was converted in the process.
Manrique Lallave

- He preached it and translated most of the NT into the Pangasinan dialect.
- He was caught, defrocked, and ordered to back to Spain to be tried for heresy.
- He somehow escaped and later went to England.
Francisco de P. Castells

“The Outcast”
As a fourteen-year-old boy, he read a gospel literature written by Lund.

He discussed the tracts’ content with his parents and they cast him out of their home!
He came to the Lunds to tell his story, they invited him to live with them, and he was converted.

He later went to London to prepare for the ministry at a Bible institute there.
Eric Lund

“The Missionary”
Eric Lund

- Swedish missionary in Barcelona, Spain beginning in 1877.
- He was an accomplished linguist.
- The American Baptist Missionary Union began supporting him and his wife in 1882 when the Baptists of Sweden were not able to support them.
He had been faithfully shepherding a small Baptist church here and he had met many Filipino seamen during his time.

The missionary union sought Lund to pioneer a work among the Visayan islanders in the Philippines since they supposed that Spanish would be the language of instruction there.
Lallave and Castells

“The Colporteurs”
Lallave and Castells

- *Colporteurs* are peddlers of Christian literature.
- While in England, both Lallave and Castells responded to an advertisement of the British and Foreign Bible Society to be colporteurs in the Philippines.
Lallave and Castells

- They landed in Manila on March 30, 1889.
- They secretly brought Bibles and tracts to Filipinos.
Lallave and Castells

- After some time in the business, they were poisoned, most likely by Spanish priests.
- Lallave died, but Castells survived and recovered.
- Castells continued selling Bibles until he was caught, arrested and deported.
Spanish-American War

“End of the War”
The United States defeated Spain in 1898 to end the Spanish-American War. Spain surrendered the Philippines to America. President William McKinley decided to take over the Philippines as an American commonwealth. One of the reasons: to send Protestant missionaries into the very Catholic country.
The First Missionaries

“Beginning of a New War”
The First Missionaries

- The first Protestant missionaries to arrive in the Philippines were Methodist James M. Thoburn (March 1899) and Presbyterian James B. Rogers (April 1899).
- The Baptists, the United Brethren, the Disciples, and the Congregationalists came early in 1900.
An Evangelical Union was formed in 1901 that devised a plan agreed upon to divide up the territory for their ministry to avoid future conflicts among themselves and their converts.

From 1898 to 1905 there were different Protestant missions agencies joining the agreement.
Map showing the Stations of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and other centers of work on Panay and Negros Islands.
The First Missionaries

- **Methodists** (1898, most of lowland Luzon and north of Manila)
- **Presbyterians** (1899, Bicol, Southern Tagalog area and some parts of Central and Western Visayas)
- **Baptists** (1900, Western Visayas)
- **United Brethren** (1901, Mountain Province and La Union)
- **Disciples of Christ** (1901, Ilocos, Abra, and Tagalog towns)
- **Congregationalists** (1902, Mindanao except for the western end)
- **Christian and Missionary Alliance** (1902, Western Mindanao and Sulu Archipelago)
The First Missionaries

- Manila was opened to all denominations and mission agencies.
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church and Episcopalians did not join because they wanted to go to all parts of the archipelago.
For a short time the agreement worked well, until the situation grew more intricate and splits transpired. (Example: a break from the American Methodist in 1909 founded *Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en las Islas Filipinas* (IEMELIF).

It is furthered agreed that the name *Protestant* should not be used, but that the churches should be known as Evangelical churches.
The First Missionaries

- The first Baptist missionary who arrived later in April 1900 was Eric Lund.
- Lund spoke Spanish and took with him a Filipino as his interpreter.
Eric Lund
&
Braulio Manikan

“Baptist Pioneers”
Braulio Manikan

“The First Filipino Baptist”
Mr. Braulio Manikan
The first Filipino Baptist missionary to his own people.

Picture from American Baptist Archives Center
[Lund's biographical file]
American Baptist Historical Society
Valley Forge, PA
Braulio Manikan

- Braulio Ciriaco Miralles Manikan was born on March 26, 1870 in Unat Ibajay Aklan, from a wealthy family in Panay Island, central Philippines.
- He had been educated for a Roman Catholic priesthood in the best schools of the islands.
- He was twelve years old when he went to a Jesuit school in Manila.
But he became aware of the corruptions of the Church that changed the course of his studies.

He went to Barcelona, Spain in 1892 to study civil engineering.

There he became increasingly interested in the gospel and visited several Protestant missions in Barcelona that influenced him strongly.
He came in contact with Mr. Lund and a Mr. Armstrong, a Baptist, in the process. Manikan was converted during this period and he concluded that immersion was the New Testament mode of baptism. Lund baptized him by immersion but he did not at that time become a member of the Baptist church in Barcelona.
When the Spanish-American War ended in 1898, Manikan decided to return home as soon as his fund comes. In the meantime, Lund asked him to work for him while he was waiting.

Lund found out that Manikan had a good knowledge of both the Spanish and the Visayan, or native Panayan languages.
Braulio Manikan

- Manikan helped Lund learn his native language and so they began the work of translating tracts and Scripture portions into Hiligaynon, a Visayan language.
Manikan wrote, “I desire to work with decision and enthusiasm to evangelize my countrymen. I hope they will not refuse the Lord’s calling, but accept Christ Jesus as the only Savior given to the world. The enterprise will be arduous, because our countrymen have for so long time been deprived of the light through the errors of Catholicism, but the Christian can do anything through Christ, who comforts him, and those who are in Christ’s hands need not fear. I love my countrymen very much; therefore I wish they had the riches that I have.”
Eric Lund

“The Baptist Missionary”
Rev. Eric Lund
Source: ABMU, 1906.
Missions in the Philippines. Boston, 13
Eric Lund

- A Swedish missionary in Barcelona supported by ABMU.
- He studied the Visayan language with the help of Manikan while he trained him for the ministry.
- They started translating Spanish tracts and portion of the New Testament in order for Manikan to bring them back to the Philippines.
After a few months, they had several tracts, five thousand of each, the four Gospels, and other scripture portions translated into Visayan.

When the board decided to call Lund to begin a mission work to the Philippines, he told them about his trained Visayan helper and how they already had prepared thousands of tracts and part of the Scriptures for the Filipinos.
Lund and Manikan had instructed Adriano Reyes Osorio to go ahead of them in order to prepare and open the first mission office in Iloilo, Philippines.

Lund and Manikan arrived at Iloilo in May 3, 1900.
Under the direction of Lund and Manikan, he arrived in Iloilo ahead of them to initially prepare the ground for the Baptist mission in Iloilo, Philippines. He established a good relationship with the people of Iloilo prior to the arrival of Lund and Manikan.
Jaro Evangelical Church

“The First Baptist Church”
By the end of 1900, forty believers in Manikan’s province were baptized.

By February 1901, the first Baptist church in the Philippines, Jaro Evangelical Church, was formally organized.
Visayan Bible

“Hiligaynon”
**Library of the Massachusetts Bible Society**

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LA SANTA BIBLIA

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DAAN NGÀ KATIPAN

SOCIEDAD BIBLICA AMERICA,
MANILA
1912
### The Old Testament in Panayan

**Philippine Agency**
**American Bible Society**
**Bible House Astor Place**
**New York City**

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**Pasunud**

*Biya ng Biyana*

**Tolon-an Sang Daan Ngà Katipan**

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Hiligaynon

- Printing of the Baptist Version
- Most of the vernacular translations were printed jointly for the missions by the Bible societies, but the Baptists gave themselves the pleasure for paying for their own splendid Visayan version, all for the sake of the privilege of translating the word *baptizo* by the word “immerse.”
By 1906 American Baptists reported that 2500 Filipinos had been baptized – in just six years!