



# Catanduanes

## The Land of Howling Winds

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### A Time of Questioning

Catanduanes is a land of wind-swept islands, isolated people, and poverty. The constant pounding of typhoons leaves the people weary and with little hope.

Less than 4% of the people are Christians. Animism is the true belief system, overlaid with a thin layer of Roman Catholicism.

The Philippines was occupied by the Spanish for over 333 years. The imprint of this oppression on the culture is deep and long-lasting. But the people of Catanduanes are quickly being modernized. They are beginning to question the beliefs handed down to them from the Spanish.

The Spanish used religion as a means of control over the people. Even today, the Roman Catholic church sometimes wields more power than the local government. Most people are very loyal to the church, even though they consistently practice animistic rituals, fueled by their fear of the spirit world.

God is using this time of questioning to prepare a great harvest.

### Daily Life

Almost everyone depends on subsistence farming to provide for their families, even those with professional jobs.

There are only two exports from Catanduanes: *abaca*, a plant that looks like a banana tree and is harvested for its fiber, and *copra*, a product extracted from coconuts.

The prevailing attitude is, “work today for my needs today.” Unemployment is a crippling 40%. Rampant alcoholism is a symptom of the despair and hopelessness felt by most people.

Kidney-shaped Catanduanes is the twelfth largest island of the Philippines. Located on the country’s eastern most seaboard, Catanduanes is exposed to the Pacific Ocean and hit every year by powerful typhoons.

Devastating winds and waves destroy homes, agriculture, and government facilities. The constant loss of property and inability to rise economically undercuts industrious planning for the future. Why try to get ahead if you will lose it all eventually?

More than 215,000 people call Catanduanes home. 250 of the island’s 315 towns still have no church.

There are two forms of Bicol spoken in addition to the national language, Tagalog.

World Team

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# Join a Multicultural Team!

## World Team on Catanduanes

World Team began ministry on Catanduanes in 1984. The first church was planted in Virac, the capital city. In 1994 the Virac Christian Bible Fellowship sent its first missionaries, Teng and Edna Candelaria, to the remote northern town of Viga. Working on a multinational team of Canadians and Americans, they established the Viga Bible Christian Fellowship.

Afterwards, Teng and Edna led a multinational team of Americans and Filipinos in the town of Panganiban, also in northern Catanduanes until the church was planted there.

Now they are planting churches in San Andres in the south. They use innovative strategies to connect with local residents and share the word of God in dynamic ways. Teng and Edna have worked for years on a multicultural team and would love to work with passionate church planters who have a desire to learn.



## Multicultural Teams

World Team is committed to multicultural teams working together to start church multiplication movements among the least-reached peoples in the Philippines.

The partnership between ABCCOP (a Filipino church organization) and World Team on the island of Catanduanes is just one example of how partnerships enable us to reach the least-reached in the Philippines.

Join the Team!

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## Ministry Overview

People	Filipino
Language	Tagalog and Bicol
Location	The Philippines
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Church planting in San Andres:</i> Join a multinational team already in progress planting a church close to the capital, that has no evangelical witness. Opportunities for college campus ministries.</li><li>• <i>Pioneering church planting in remote northern Catanduanes:</i> Most villages have no evangelical witness and some are accessible only by boat.</li><li>• <i>Mobilize and network with existing churches:</i> Virac, the capital of Catanduanes, has 50 evangelical churches. Use your gifts to encourage unity and train national believers to reach out to nearby towns, remote parts of Catanduanes, and beyond!</li></ul>

*The people of Catanduanes are questioning beliefs handed down to them generations ago. Join us in bringing in the harvest the Lord is preparing! Is God leading you to go or to support this ministry through your prayers and gifts?*

