



*"Music is well said to be the speech of angels; in fact, nothing among the utterances allowed to man is felt to be so divine. It brings us near to the infinite." - Thomas Carlyle*

This is an unofficial credo of The Spiritual Image, a Filipino musical show choir of South Hayward UMC (from former Melrose UMC in Oakland), whose main goal is to express the gifts the Filipino culture brings to society and to the Church. Music and songs are, for Filipinos, effective ways of bringing out their gifts of faith and culture, as well as of joy and celebration. Using these gifts have become not only a true blessing, but have enriched each member's lives as well as the lives of those who have seen and heard The Spiritual Image perform.

The calling of The Spiritual Image began 15 years ago, November 1993 to be exact. From humble beginnings with a small group of seven and small performances blossomed a musical powerhouse that has now toured internationally. With well over 28 active members, including youth and young adults, The Spiritual Image is an education unto itself, teaching the values of patience, fortitude, and love to all involved. Through the years, The Spiritual Image has performed for upwards of thousands of people in dozens of venues, for various causes.

In 1996, Angie Bacho-Manalili, an internationally accomplished choir director, soloist, choral arranger and pianist, with a bachelor of music degree from the University of the Philippines and former member of the world-renowned University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers, became the music director of The Spiritual Image.

The Spiritual Image is not only a musical show choir to sing and to perform, but a ministry designed to educate and to evangelize through music. The group continues to be persistent to preserve and to share the traditions and culture of Filipino people as well as use music and drama as medium for evangelization. For the past 15 years, the group has been evangelizing through music and helping churches and church-related organizations raise funds. Their ministry has taken them all over the United States and to third world countries.

The group traveled across the world in 2004 to participate in Knox UMC's 106<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary and to help them raise funds for their new startup church, Lemery UMC in Batangas. Note that Lemery UMC is now self-sustaining. The group hopped to Lower Myanmar to respond to Bishop Zothan Mawia's invitation to help them celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of Methodism in Lower Myanmar (former Burma).

The group was invited back to the Philippines in December 2006 by Mary Johnston Hospital (a United Methodist hospital) to participate in their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration and to help raise funds for their new cancer facility. They performed at AFP Theater in Quezon City. The group did two additional benefit concerts to help raise funds to support continued development of church congregation in Batangas and construction of a new church in Pampanga. The group's third mission trip to the Philippines in January 2008 helped raise money to complete a new building of a local church in Pampanga.

The Spiritual Image was invited to sing at the 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, during one of the Worship Services and performed at one of the spotlight concerts. The group was the first ever Filipino-American choir to be selected amongst 260+ applicants. They performed with roughly 60 other groups. The group was invited back again to sing at the 2008 General Conference in Forth Worth, TX.

Although this group has performed overseas and in countless venues in California and other states, every performance is important to them. From a one-song performance to a full-blown concert, The Spiritual Image consistently gives 100% in proclaiming the word of the Lord through song and dance.

To learn more about The Spiritual Image, visit <http://thespiritualimage.org>. To invite the group and/or for more information, e-mail [laddieg@thespiritualimage.org](mailto:laddieg@thespiritualimage.org) or call (510) 396-2347.