

EUGENE GUZON

Superintendent for Asia / Manila, Philippines

Background:

How do you serve in GCI? I currently serve GCI as the Superintendent for Asia. My work involves overseeing churches, brethren, and affiliates in the Philippines and Northeast Asia, including Japan and China. I serve with a team of two regional directors, serving Southeast Asia, Singapore, India, the Indian Subcontinent, and some members in UAE in the Middle East. In addition to administration, my ministry also involves equipping, pastoral care, network building, and resource mobilization. It is a blessing to participate in this ministry together with Regional Director Wong Mein Kong for Southeast Asia, and Regional Director Danny Zachariah for India and the subcontinent. They are capable, wonderful people and they serve as part of my Community of Practice for Asia. / **How did you connect with GCI?** My sophomore year in college was a milestone in my growth as a Christian. Still fresh in my mind are memories of late afternoon small group Bible studies under the shade of trees on campus through my friends at State Varsity Christian Fellowship. It was on one of those afternoons when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. It was also in college when I got hold of the Plain Truth magazine owned by a classmate. He was the one who first invited me to worship with him in one of the bigger Worldwide Church of God services in Manila. The rest is history! / **How has your ministry developed?** This year I am celebrating my 42nd year of being in WCG and now GCI, since being baptized in May 1977. That was the start of my journey and it has been quite a ride! In 1990, I was ordained and became an assistant pastor. In 1993, I also assumed the role of business manager for our national office. In 1998, I started serving as an area superintendent, until my appointment as National Director for the Philippines in 2002. In 2004, I was blessed to help start Ambassador School for Children, a kindergarten and elementary school which up to now is making a modest contribution to Christian education in our community. In 2007, I was given an added responsibility as Mission Developer for the region that included China, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates. In 2018, I was given the privilege of serving as Superintendent for all of Asia. Praise God for His faithfulness and for using me as an instrument in this corner of GCI! This work and this part of the Body is definitely worth investing life in. / **Who invested in you for your ministry?** My family, first and foremost. My parents who nurtured me and set the example of love and selfless service, even before I knew what those were of Christ. My wife and daughter, who have allowed me to pursue ministry and who continue to encourage me, extend grace, and provide wisdom and support both at the frontlines and behind the scenes. They are my life's best treasures, which I feel so blessed about. My mentors at the home office, including Dr. Joe Tkach and Dr. Greg Williams, whom I respect and consider not just as professional colleagues, but as brothers in ministry. I also appreciate the trust and empowerment that I received from our friends Mr. and Mrs. William Sidney, who used to be our Regional Director and who also encouraged me to pursue my doctorate degree. Also, Bermie Dizon, who was one of my first pastors in my early days and who remains a lifelong friend, as well as the many teachers, brethren, and co-laborers along the way. If I were to sum up my life journey in a song, I would sing "Amazing Grace!"



Get to Know Eugene

I am thankful for my team in the Philippines and am inspired by our local pastors and ministry workers - mostly bivocational, and many in advanced age - who put in so much love and work to minister to our almost 80 churches and 30 Bible study groups.

1.

I live in a country of over 7000 islands with beautiful people. A fun fact is that we have some of the best beaches in the world. In my country, one unique thing would be the demographic of the population. We have more than 100 million people, and at any point, around 10% of them are overseas working across sectors such as shipping, tourism, healthcare, and engineering, among others. The diaspora also holds a special opportunity for missions work. Almost half of the population are under 25. The churches are close to that demographic.

2.

I was born and raised in an orchard in a province, with one of my favorite memories being mentoring sessions by my dad on growing different fruit trees, raising Holstein and Brown Swiss dairy cows, and poultry.

3.

One of my greatest accomplishments is finally earning my Doctorate at 63 years old. It's grace really, and not just to my credit alone, since I was also mentored and supported by wonderful people to bring that to completion.

4.

I am fascinated by classic and functional cars; when I have a little spare time, I sometimes spend it going around secondhand car showrooms (just looking!). Many years ago, while I was still working outside ministry and courting my wife, I would drive to her home in an old 4x4 Land Rover Defender.

5.

I am most grateful for my family, through whom I experience God's love and joy, and with whom I experience life's great adventures. We are together in ministry and together in fun. We love to travel together when we can, and since we are all working, synchronizing our busy schedules is a bit of a challenge. Our motto, which is beside the door of our house, is Joshua 24:15 – "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

6.

A perfect day would be making good progress on a project, participating in an encouraging meeting or coaching session, or helping loved ones out with things that matter to them, and then being able to go home at the end of the day to share the joy with my family over a meal.

I really am grateful for the trust, mentoring, and belief in me by the Home Office team over the years. Another thing that keeps me excited about being in GCI is the talented and energized group of young people, more and more of whom are serving in key ministry roles. The future is bright.