

Giving Thanks in the Philippines

In the Philippines there are many fiestas to celebrate the important occasions in the life of a village. On Negros Island (the location of most UU churches in the Philippines) there is a "Tawo-Tawo" festival that was created to honor scarecrows. This celebration takes place in Bayawan City, the agricultural capital of the province of Negros Oriental. In this rice growing region, the scarecrow is thanked for driving away the pesky little birds (crows) that feed on the ripening rice grains. To the beat of drums and other musical instruments, the native dancers play out the roles of the farmers, crows (called Maya by the native people), scarecrows and water buffalo.

In the Philippines fiestas are celebrated with lots of food cooked and shared with anybody who visits the village homes during the fiesta.