



**The Community of Cabantian:** Cabantian is located in the city of Davao City, Philippines on the island of Mindanao. Davao is a sprawling city with many of its subdivisions located in relatively rural settings where large housing developments are being built. Cabantian is located in one of these areas. Compared to the inner city, the air is fresher and cleaner and life tends to be a little less hectic. The area of Cabantian is slowly becoming more and more populated as the city of Davao grows and expands. Many of the people living in Cabantian are people from squatter areas in the city who have been relocated. While conditions in the relocation area are often better than the area that the people originally came from, the people often feel uprooted from their friends, family, and an area that they call home; as humble as the squatter home may have been. There is a great need for churches to be established in these areas as they grow.

**House of Jubilee Church, Agdao:** House of Jubilee is a children and youth driven congregation. It is located in the heart of Davao City, in the district of Agdao, one of the larger slum and squatter areas in the city. It is pastored by Peter and Ellen Soriano, who have been the pastors since August of 2008. Most of the adults that attend are there because their children or youth have become involved in the ministries of Hope for the Nations Philippines (a Canadian based NGO located in Agdao) and they were hungry to know God and to be discipled. House of Jubilee was and is a truly organic church; it sprung up as people were hungry for the Lord. It began in October of 2004 and has since maintained a strong presence in the community, bringing hope and life to many people and families.

**Members Relocated:** In 2006, several members of House of Jubilee Church here in Agdao were relocated to Cabantian. Several people who were living in squatter homes along one of the major roads (Dacudao) were forced to relocate. Even though the people were moved far away, they continued to be a part of the House of Jubilee Church here in Agdao. They often attended services in Agdao or held bible studies in their homes. The group of believers maintained their community, doing their best to stay connected to their mother church. However, the distance that they had to travel was not always practical because many of them struggled to afford the cost of fare to travel to Agdao. Add to the fact that the group of believers was slowly growing and one begins to see the need for them to have their own fellowship.

House of Jubilee Fellowship Cabantian:  
 o Established in 2009  
 o 30-40 regular attendees  
 o More than 50 children attending Sunday school  
 o Thousands of people in a rapidly growing community.  
 o Davao city population expected to double in 24 years

**A New Gathering:** On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 the first church service of House of Jubilee Fellowship in Cabantian was held. Rather than the people travelling to Agdao every Sunday, they have their own service

and their own church in their own community. The last couple of Sunday's approximately 30-40 people have been attending with at least 50 kids coming out for Sunday school.

**A Need for Expansion:** The community of believers in Cabantian currently meet in a small building they are renting from one of the church members for 300 pesos a month. Although relatively humble and small it has a roof to keep the sun and rain away and the people who attend feel at home. However, as the church grows, this building will become obsolete.



There are three parts to the expansion of the Cabantian Fellowship:

- **Phase 1: Equip/Start-up Fund:**

- This includes providing the church with the required basic items to function such as chairs, benches, electric fans, a whiteboard, bibles, a small sound system and the other items needed to run a pioneering church.
- Estimated amount needed: 20,000 pesos (about 400 USD).

- **Phase 2: Land and Building:**

- While the building currently being rented will probably make due until the end of 2009, there is a need for the purchase of land and the construction of a new church building as the church will no doubt out-grow its current walls. While we are still in the process of researching land values in the area, it is difficult to give an exact estimate of the amount needed. However, we believe it to be in the order of 2 million pesos (about 40,000 USD).

- **Monthly Support:**

- Aside from these two phases, there is also a need for monthly support of the pastors and the monthly costs of operating a church in

this community. Transportation costs, rent, supplies, pastors allowance, etc.

need to be covered because this is a pioneering church in a relatively un-

churched area. We estimate the running costs to be around 5000 pesos a month (that's about 100 USD).



Pastor Peter:

- College graduate in electrical engineering
- Master Electrician
- Extensive experience in trades
- Experience and training as a Sunday school teacher.
- Has lead several men's groups and Bible studies.
- Was the treasurer for Compassion international in Agdao for 7 years.
- Graduated from Calvary Bible Institute in 2000 as valedictorian.
- Has a wealth of experience in the business world and as an elder of Joyful Assembly.
- Pastor Peter exemplifies wisdom, authority, love and compassion.

**A Little Bit More About the Sorianos:** In August of 2008, Peter and Ellen Soriano accepted the opportunity from the Lord to take over the leadership of the House of Jubilee Church located in Agdao, Davao City. House of Jubilee was in a stage in its life where it needed a strong, experienced and seasoned family unit at the helm. The current leaders were young and on fire for God, but they needed the stability and wisdom of mentors who could take them to the next level. They had lots of energy, but it needed direction.

When a person comes to Agdao for the first time, the biggest problem you see at first is poverty. As horrible as poverty is and as deep as the need for sustainable income and resources, there is a deeper issue that has been broken and needs restoration... the family unit. Agdao needs strong, Godly families!

So when Pastor Peter and Ellen took on the challenge our hearts jumped for joy. Pastor Peter and Ellen are passionate about hard work and living a life guided by God's principles. They are an example of what a Philipino family unit is supposed to be. To say they are an answer to prayer is an understatement. They are Godly and experienced and not only bring God's wisdom but practical skills. Pastor Peter is skilled in carpentry, construction, electrical work, welding and in just about anything else. He is always busy working or fixing something while constantly teaching others what he is doing and how to do it. His passion for hard work is inspiring! He is an example of how living by God's principles will bring blessing and God's provision to your life.

On top of all that, they have already been involved in the community working with the local Assemblies of God church. Most of the people in House of



Jubilee already had a great relationship with them as they had been deeply involved in the community already. Pastora Ellen has been working with Compassion International for four years as the parental coordinator, giving her the street credibility and trust of the families in the church and in the ministry.

We are grateful to God for His provision of leadership and dear friends in Pastor Peter and Pastora Ellen. Over the past few months the local congregation and other ministries here at HFTN have been drinking deeply of their God given wisdom, knowledge and passion for God and families.

**A Vision for the Future:** As I have been praying for the ministry over the past few weeks I have really felt that God wants to do something exciting in Agdao for 2009. The past few months have been a time of foundation building and restructuring here at HFTN and there is a sense that we are going to move forward from this towards even greater things. I believe that House of Jubilee is going to play a big part of this. I believe God is going to restore and free many people who are currently living in Agdao and Cabantian. God is going to do a great work of redemption! The expansion to Cabantian has been a spark amongst the members in Agdao as well as the staff in HFTN. It opens our eyes to the fact that we are able to and have the strength and resources to reach out to other communities and make a difference. I will close with the mission and vision statement of House of Jubilee.

- **The Mission Statement of House of Jubilee:** To bring people to the Kingdom of God regardless of who they are through the saving, healing and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **The Vision of House of Jubilee:** House of Jubilee's vision is to evangelize and disciple Filipinos through teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Pastora Ellen:**

- o Trained as a Sunday school teacher and worship leader.
- o Has had missions exposure in Indonesia.
- o Graduated from Calvary Bible Institute (CBI) in 1999.
- o Has taught in CBI campuses in the Philippines and Indonesia
- o Has also been involved in training tribal church leaders.
- o Has had extensive Pastoral experience at Joyful Assemblies of God church in Agdao.
- o Has served with Compassion International for several years in Agdao.
- o Has been a speaker at several conferences including a womens conference in Viet Nam earlier this year.
- o In one sentence... Pastora Ellen is a lively and dynamic woman who can inspire people to live for God!