



January 7th, 2009:

Hello all at New Life Fellowship! The Philippines may be a long way from New Jersey, but consider us neighbors in God's kingdom.

Thank you so much for your prayers and for your support. It is always a blessing to know that there are families, churches, friends and even people whom we have not met yet who are praying for, giving to and thinking of this ministry. We pray that God would bless you for your generosity and love and that God would provide for your needs and honor the seed that you have sown in the lives of the people here. Here is a brief update on some of the highlights and exciting things that have happened here in the Philippines over the last year.

Highlights from 2008:

- **Tabitha: Food for Life**

This program continues to be the heart of all we do here at HFTN. About 70-80 children from the community received a hot healthy meal 5 days a week that they would have otherwise not received. They were taught to and encouraged to practice proper hygiene. There were activities every day ranging from reading books to playing games, all aimed to not only allow kids to be kids but to stimulate their minds and senses. The children are served and loved and mentored by staff and volunteers who have a passion to see them grow up in a safe environment and to one day become godly leaders in this community. We believe that by God's grace and through the unconditional love we show to these children that God will transform this community!



- **Child and College Sponsorship**

We were involved in the sponsorship of 12 young children here in Agdao and there appears to be a growing interest for 2009 as it looks like we have at least 3 new sponsorships coming together. Sponsorship covers educational expenses like school supplies, tuition and exam fees, and school uniforms. The child and their family are given guidance and mentorship by an on site social worker and the parents are given sessions on nutrition and hygiene. Sponsorship also helps cover the cost of providing the children with a hot meal 5 days a week. Finally, sponsorship helps to provide for the medical needs of the child as they arise.



We have a passion to not only sponsor more children, but young men and women of God who have a desire to go to college and earn their degree and give back to their community. This past year we have been involved in providing funding to a handful of university students to allow them to get closer to completing their degree. Joram Lacturan, Lanie Bumaya, Ailyn Cedenio and Janice Soprado were all given financial assistance with their university education and were mentored and disciplined and encouraged by our staff.

- **Tutorial Program**

As our staff and volunteers worked with the children involved in Tabitha: Food for Life and their families, they saw the need to provide one on one tutoring to children in the program. As word of our tutorials grew, families from outside of Tabitha: Food for Life have come to us asking if their children could receive tutoring. During 2008, many children received one on one and group tutoring sessions that not only enhanced their skills in school, but offered a chance for them to be mentored and disciplined and loved.



- **House of Jubilee Church**

One of the most exciting things that happened in 2008 was the hand-over of HOJ to Pastor Peter and Pastora Ellen Soriano. 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 Filipino 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 (such as those already in Tabitha: Food for Life). It appears to be a natural transition from friend and mentor to Pastora.

She is a gifted teacher and preacher. She is able to convey God's truth and wisdom to the congregation and team of staff and volunteers. Between the two of them they bring the perfect combination of spiritual depth and practical skills that are needed in Agdao.

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.

House of Jubilee is a children and youth driven congregation. 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 and they were hungry to know God and to be disciplined. House of Jubilee was and is a truly organic church; it sprung up as people were hungry for the Lord.

- **Outreaches**

This year our staff had the privilege of being involved in several outreaches to other communities. The goal was to bring Christ's love and compassion to these communities and give people a chance to serve others as they have been shown Christ's love. We did outreaches in Cabantian, Landig, Leon Garcia and Lupon. Here are a few highlights from some of those outreaches:

- **CABANTIAN:** About 75 children enjoyed a hot meal, games, a short program and fellowship with our loving staff and volunteers. Over the months leading up to this our staff and volunteers had been expressing a desire to expand Tabitha: Food for Life to other areas of Davao City. Their heart is to reach out and touch others lives as they have been touched. Right now we have the funding to do this about once a month, but our prayer is that one day we would be able to open another Food for Life program in another area.
- **LANDIG:** Our staff and volunteers held another feeding program outreach in a mountainous area called Landig. They fed 55 children two hot lunches over two days and encouraged and built them up. These children live in a very poor tribal area occupied by the Bagobo tribe. This trip was another highlight for our staff and volunteers, many of whom donated some of their own funds to make the trip possible.



As we reach out to other communities and show God's love our prayer is that more and more lives would be changed by Christ. Please join with us in prayer as we seek the Lord's direction in this. There are so many needy children who are not only in need of nutritious food but who desperately need to know the Love of Jesus for them.

- **Other Highlights**

There are many other wonderful things that happened this year... too many to describe them all, but here are a few others worth mentioning.

- Euroclass: A team of 12 youth from Denmark came and served with our ministries for two weeks. One of the highlights was an overnight camp-out with 10-13 year old kids involved in the ministry. It was great for the kids and the staff.
- Sponsorship party: A party was held for the sponsored kids and their families. Many of the kid parents had never attended an event in the church before. They all had a fun filled night and heard the gospel in a short message from Pastora Ellen.
- VBS: Vacation Bible School... who doesn't love that!
- Caroling: Church members went caroling and giving gifts instead of receiving them (the tradition here is to expect to receive gifts when caroling).
- Church Anniversary: HOJ church celebrated its 4th Anniversary this year.

Well that is all there is time and space for. Its my privilege to be able to write this to you and convey what God is doing. The highlight for me this year has been seeing children and youth and adults come to a greater reckoning of who God is and that He has a plan and a purpose for them. To see people make choices to live different and trust the Lord is one of the coolest things I have experienced. It is incredible! All this is because people like you choose to serve and honor God and support this ministry, Thank you!