

# Pastor Peter and Pastora Ellen Soriano (and Jedidiah)



**Accepted the Challenge:** 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, Philippines.

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.

#### House of Jubilee Church:

- o Established in 2004
- o 50-70 regular attendees
- o Most members from the squatter district Agdao
- o 100,000 people in surrounding community; most are youth and children
- o Davao city population expected to double in 24 years

#### 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 women's 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!

**The Need for Leadership:** 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.

**The Needs of Agdao:** 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 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.

**Pastor Peter:**

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

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.

**Financial Need:** Even though House of Jubilee has been functioning for almost four years, it is still in the pioneering stage and is in need of support, both financially and through prayer. It is our hope that you will join us in prayer or through financial giving to ensure that House of Jubilee has all it needs to grow and to be a part of bringing lasting change to Agdao. If you are interested in supporting the church or would like more information, please contact us and we would be happy to help.

**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. God is going to do a great work of redemption! I close with the mission and vision statement of House of Jubilee. The church core values are attached as an appendix. Thanks and God bless!

- **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.

## Appendix: The House of Jubilee Core Values

- 1. We are an agent of evangelism and transformation:** We recognize the urgency of this task and are committed to take the whole Gospel to the people until the Great Commission is Fulfilled.
- 2. Priority of Worship:** We recognize worship as the primary ministry of all believers, and through the life nourishing power of worship, evangelism and other ministries come forth. Therefore, we shall equip its members to live a lifestyle of worship.
- 3. Discipleship and Training:** We are called to not only evangelize the lost, but to disciple and equip believers for effective and fruitful service. We shall provide various training programs empowered by the Spirit, through the Word of God and the five-fold ascension gifts in Ephesians 4, the members are prepared to function in their grace and giftings.
- 4. The Authority of the Bible:** We believe the Bible is God's word and we acknowledge its absolute authority upon our lives and the church. We shall endeavour to pattern all its conduct, practices and ministries according to scripture principles.
- 5. Primacy of Prayer- Intercession:** We shall equip and release the members to be prayer warriors and intercessors, because we believe that through prayer and intercession we tap into God's inexhaustible resources and destroy the works of Satan, thereby establishing God's rulership over all spheres of life.
- 6. Leadership Integrity:** Every leader shall endeavor to live a life pleasing to the Lord and must always conduct themselves with purity, integrity- a life consecrated to the Lord manifesting the righteousness of God and the fruit of the Spirit.
- 7. Church Membership:** Members are a vital part of fulfilling the mission and vision of the church. They shall endeavor to develop and utilize their God-given gifts for His service through the ministries of the church, faithful attendance, prayer, and tithes and offerings.
- 8. Family:** The family as a covenantal institution ordained by God is the foundation and validation of the ministry, therefore, the church is committed to equip families to secure strong units of society where each member is functioning according to his/her Biblical role and responsibility. The church shall uphold the sanctity of marriage and appose any attempt to destroy it by any person or group.
- 9. Compassion Ministry:** We believe that the church is to share God's compassion to the poor, distressed and oppressed. The church shall establish ministries that shall be concrete expressions of God's love and mercy to the marginalized members of society.
- 10. Stewardship:** We believe that the church must handle its finances and other resources as good stewards with the utmost integrity, according to highly ethical monetary practices and always in a manner that honors the Lord. The church recognizes that all tithes and offerings are from God and must always be spent wisely and appropriately for the ministry.

