

THERE IS HOPE!

Bgy. Cagmanaba & Badian, Oas, Albay



PROJ: PATH TO LIFE

Based on government funded research, the poorest of the poor in the Philippines are copra farmers residing in rural areas that are in very remote areas far from the more urbanized locations. The community that we are helping fits exactly that description. Bgy. Cagmanaba is home to around seven hundred families whose main survival depends on copra farming. For many decades they have suffered from abuses committed by middle men who profited greatly from the hard labor of these farmers. With all their hard work, the only thing they gained in life was survival on a hand to mouth existence.

On the initial year of our ministry there, we constantly hear them voice out the desperation and hopelessness of their situation. "We have long been forgotten by the government, by our countrymen and by GOD Himself." It was a challenge to the followers of Jesus Christ to prove them wrong.

We recognize that they were tied to copra farming because they never saw an opportunity to try out other economic options. It appears that copra farming was passed on from one generation to the next simply because their children never had the opportunity to learn new trades. It was the lack of education that drove them to the ground. That clear



Ptr. Boying & Nats Mabilangan moved from Keningau, Malaysia to Oas, Albay to minister to the people of Bgy Cagmanaba. They assist families in establishing livelihood projects and small business ventures as they share the love of Jesus to all.

need defined our ways of helping the poor community. We realized that the best gift that we could give the community is to provide them with opportunities to learn new trades and skills to enable them to try out possibilities outside copra farming. We adhere to the saying “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” We aim to help them navigate the path to life.

GOAL

Proj: Path To Life aims to provide short term livelihood and technical skills training to enable the people to discover and develop their special skills with the hope that they will be able to find better employment opportunities, locally or overseas, that could lead to a better future for their families and the community.



Some of the livelihood programs implemented in the community.

TRAIN Program 1: LIVELIHOOD & TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING

We are tapping into IT Phils missionary population and supporting churches for believers willing to contribute to this endeavor their time and knowledge on their field of expertise to train and mentor those who will be part of this program. We envision the roll out of scholarship programs under the name of each missionary or church benefactors.

TESDA was created by our government for the exact same reason as we are basing our projects on. That is to provide our people with the opportunity to learn and acquire skills that could give them an advantage in their search for employment opportunities - here or abroad. They have envisioned to bring their services to our countrymen in the provinces. But up to this time they have not been able to serve those who are in the more remote locations such as Bgy Cagmanaba and Badian. We would like to tap into their programs through our missionaries who worked as accreditors and officers of that institution.

We will be starting soon though with the Path To Life program even on a small scale and a handful of skills offering in order to ensure that there will be no delay



TRAIN Program 2: CENTER FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

When we started Dignity Products and Services, a business as mission endeavor, in this location eight (8) years ago, hundreds of residents saw a huge window of opportunity and heavenly blessings opened up to them. They were hired to play roles in the construction of factory buildings and the best part is that even though majority of them don't really have the construction and technical skills they were trained on the job and mentored by IT missionaries; former engineers and construction managers, who chose to take part in the dream of seeing the factory set up in that impoverished location for the benefit of the community. The construction jobs enabled hundreds of them to earn good salaries and bring good food to their respective homes.

From that time on to the present, hundreds of families continue to benefit from their current jobs in the factory. We saw major improvement happen in the lives of many and saw clear positive transformation in the community. But still we see the need to cover more grounds in order to benefit more.

Since we have envisioned, even at the very start of the business, that more companies will be sprouting up in the future, we know the demand for good workforce will rise. That is a major reason why we are determined to embark on this training program. We want this former poor community to be recognized in the future as the best source not just of quality coconut products but of the best skilled human resources all across the province.

We believe that we would have a strategic center in the future that would handle the training programs and job placement for the valued people of God in Bgys. Cagmanaba and Badian.



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



A. VOLUNTEER

- Choose your preferred date when the Path To Life events will be held.
- Fill up the Online Registration Form.
- Attend the online pre-departure briefing.
- Join the team bound for Bicol on the prescribed date and time.

B. DONATE (suggested items to contribute)

- Equipment to be used for technical skills training such as: welding machines, carpentry tools, service tools for electronics & appliance repair, sewing machines etc.
- Vehicles or heavy equipment for driving lessons
- Financial gifts to be used for training related matters
- *Time & expertise in your field of specialization*

C. CHAMPION

- Serve as an emotionally invested spokesperson for the ministry.
- Set up and lead a prayer group committed to intercede for the community.
- Mobilize for the ministry by inviting other believers to join.
- Challenge the people of God to support the initiative through their donations. Rally the believers to contribute either in cash or in kind.

**International
Teams**
PHILIPPINES

DIGNITY

THERE IS HOPE! *is a joint endeavor of International Teams Phils. and Dignity Products & Services, Inc.*