


“Houses of Hope”



NINETYNINETOONE
www.ninety-nine.org

A photograph of a bright blue sky filled with soft, white, fluffy clouds. The clouds are scattered across the frame, with some larger, more prominent ones in the upper left and lower left, and smaller, wispy ones towards the bottom right. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

“Let there be space
between the waters
to separate water
from water... this
will be called sky”

“Houses of Hope”

During their visit to the Philippines in April and November 2004 and again in February 2006, Frank and Merci were invited to visit the folk who were living in one of the poorest areas of the town of Lapas, Tarlac, central Luzon in the Philippines. Both Frank and Merci were deeply touched by the great need of the people who lived in this squatter area. There was very poor sanitation and drainage. The people struggle from day to day, trying to eke out a living and provide some kind of shelter for themselves and their families.



There is a very high rate of sickness, disease and malnutrition coupled with high unemployment. When you become elderly and frail daily life becomes harder. One such situation is an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Buan, who live alone in a house that is barely standing. It is constructed of old corrugated steel sheets and cardboard fixed to bamboo and old rotting timbers.

When you attempt to enter their house with its rickety bamboo steps, the whole house sways from side to side. The house straddles an open sewer which floods several times a year causing raw sewage and other effluent to flood into their home. As you can see the house was open to the elements and is not a place that those that are elderly and frail should be living in.

There are many more homes similar to Mr and



Mrs. Buans house in Lapas and the other villages near-by.

Ninety Nine To One have a vision to see these slum areas improved and the towns and villages seeing the love of God in a very practical way. We made the decision to ask Mr. and Mrs. Buan if they would like to be part of a pilot project called “Houses of Hope” whereby Ninety Nine To One would find a piece of land close to where they are and build a new house with electricity, water and sanitation and offer it to them as a new home.

They could live in the house rent free for as long as they wish. The house would remain the property of Ninety Nine To One so that, should they leave for any reason, someone else could benefit from it. Mr & Mrs. Buan were very excited and happy to take up the offer and so work began in November



2006. The building was built by a local team of men, thus providing employment and income for the families of the builders. By the end of 2006 the first “House of Hope” was completed and Mr. & Mrs Buan moved in.

Our long term hope and desire is to obtain a large piece of land where, with the help of other folk on the squatter ares, Ninety Nine To One would build a small community of homes that would be in a village setting consisting of a group of approximately 12 - 15 houses and a community building that would be available for the use of those living in the “Village of Hope” and the local church that would be helping to administer the project in their area. At the moment it is costing as little as £750 to build each house. These houses are not luxury homes but have all of the necessary things



that we in the west take so much for granted such as, electricity, water and sanitation. And would be set in a clean and safe environment.

If you would like to be involved in supporting “Houses and Villages of Hope” please let us know and we will pass on, as with any financial help that is given to Ninety Nine To One, 100% of your donation to the project.