

Congregations Seeking Partners

Nataban, Negros Occidental, Philippines

Nataban is a village (*barangay*) of 500 households about 1 hour by motorcycle or jeep/bus to San Carlos city. The members of the UU church include 30, adults, 19 teens, and 18 children below the age of 11.



The majority who live here are farmers. They grow corn/rice/sugar cane and root crops. Others are construction workers, teachers, health workers and those in the clerical work.

Poverty is the major concern. Bad weather conditions mean farming does not bring fair income. The barangay needs help in providing pure drinking water and irrigation systems and fixing bad roads.

To go to school, children need to live away from home, 5 and 8 km from their families. For high school or trade schools they have to go to the city. They live there and come home to their families on the weekend.

The villagers are Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostal and Unitarian Universalists. The Founder of the UU Church of the Philippines (UUCP), Rev. Toribio Quimada started the Universalist Faith in Nataban therefore Nataban is historical to the UUs in the Philippines.

The Church was established in 1955. Rev. Quimada arrived in Nataban with his family from Cebu Island and settled down there. He started to preach and had a following for his message of "God is Love." He preached there is no hell fire; all are saved by the love of God for his people.



The congregation would like to be in a relationship with a North American Congregation for the purpose of friendship, mutual benefit, learning of cultures and faith traditions, visits and sharing and deepening life experiences., and would like a partner that could help with student and economic support, visits, youth development and religious education development.

