

New Dormitory for Deaf Students in the Philippines

a project by



Deaf Ministries International - 2003



BACKGROUND

Deaf Ministries International has launched a fund raising effort for the construction of new facilities for deaf students who are dependent on close to school accommodation, moving them from the currently rented premises which are overcrowded and flood prone and also a fire trap.

Deaf people in the Philippines have generally been overlooked

and ignored especially in rural areas and in the provinces away from Manila. Up until recent times schools for the deaf could only be found in the Manila area. Deaf people elsewhere had no means of education. Employment opportunities have been and still are very scarce so as a result deaf people in that country are economically very disadvantaged.

Davao is the capital City of Mindanao



Deaf Ministries International's Work in the Philippines

Deaf Ministries International (DMI), Philippines commenced in Ligao in the Albay Province some 500 kilometers south of Manila with the opening of a school for deaf children in that

area in 1981. There are now two schools in operation, a farming project, rice mill, a centre for the deaf, hearing clinic and three churches.

Some of the 60 children and young students staying at the present dormitory in Davao.



DMI's Work in Mindanao

The only governmental school for the deaf on the island of Mindanao, other than a few deaf units scattered here and there, is found in the city of Davao. No accommodation is provided. When DMI workers Joshua and Jocelyn Asuela arrived in Davao in 1992, they saw the need for a dorm and commenced with 8 deaf children in 1993. In the following years more and more children were added. At the beginning of the school year of 2003 they have 60 students living with them. The purpose of their ministry was and is to provide a Christ Centered home for deaf students in a culturally appropriate setting with daily use of sign language enabling the students to study in the large government school for the deaf near by. Daily Bible studies, weekly fellowships and prayer meetings, Sunday services and camps help provide for the spiritual needs of the students.

Because the use of sign language is better established in the public

deaf school in Davao, than in the more remote governmental deaf educational units, the number of deaf students from the countryside is ever increasing. This situation puts more pressure on the DMI dorm to accommodate for more deaf students, so the waiting list is long.

In addition to the services mentioned the DMI dorm provides counseling for both children and parents of deaf children. Interpreting services are available. Deaf people in need often turn to our staff for help and the authorities ask for assistance when they need help in dealing with deaf people.

The dorm also serves as a missionary outreach centre to the deaf communities of the island of Mindanao. A church for the deaf is established with 4 more deaf churches commenced in different parts of the island. The Davao church sees some 100 deaf meeting each Sunday for worship and fellowship.

The old Dormitory is long due for a makeover.





Sleep is important

Joycelyn and Joshua Asuela



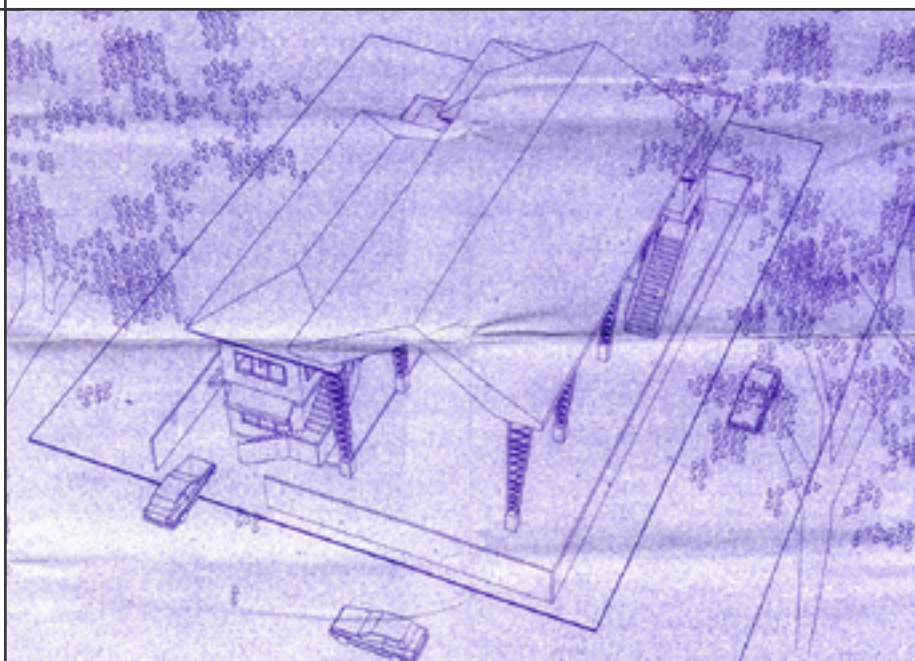
FUND RAISING AND THE NEW FACILITIES

This flourishing ministry is in desperate need of new facilities. A building is proposed which will provide accommodation for almost 100 children and staff and which will also contain an office, dispensary or sick room and kitchen Toilet and shower facilities will be in each room. A roof covered open sided multi-purpose area will serve as dining hall, church, play and recreational area.

Land has been purchased in the same street as the Government

School for the deaf so children can walk to school in about 5 minutes. This block of land is a 600 square meter above the flood level, is on a dead end street so there is no through traffic and in all is a very safe and quiet place to be. Neighbors consist of a Christian Missionary Alliance church opposite, an empty block of land to the west with the rest of the street being made up of private homes. The land is fully owned by Deaf Ministries International, Philippines.

The new site, not far from the old dormitory.

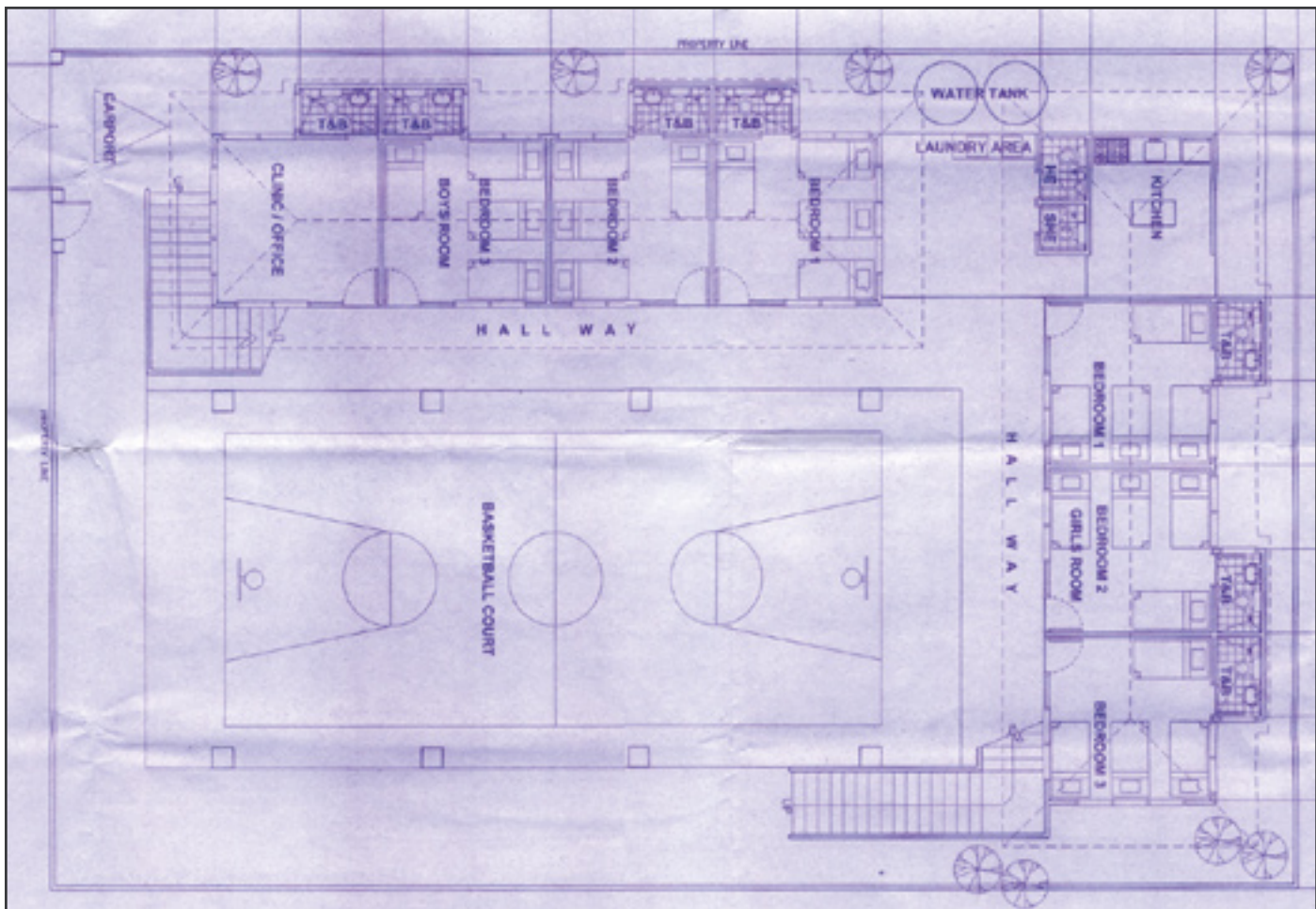


The New Building

The cost of the building is estimated to about \$US129,000. Money for the first building phase of \$US42,000 has been raised and sent to the Philippines for the building commencement. The remaining amount of \$US87,000 needs to be raised as soon as possible so that the building project may continue without delays. The plan is to build in 3 phases as money becomes available. The first two phases will be the dormitory sections. Fences need

to be built first for security reasons, then the ground prepared and some filling carried out before the foundations is laid in cement. The crucial point is that construction work is not delayed because of insufficient funds and the students not stranded in makeshift accommodation over a long period of time.

The facility will utilize the whole property to its fullest, the floor space being almost 600 square



The drawings of the new dormitory.

meters. That includes the covered and cemented outdoor multipurpose area. The dormitory will be in two double story sections with a total of about 430 square meters. One section will be a boy's dorm, the other a girl's dorm. Kitchen,

laundry, dispensary, and staff rooms will also be housed within these two sections. The third phase will be the outdoor multipurpose area. The building process is estimated to take about 12 – 14 months before completion.

More Information

Help us give them a new start.



Lill and Neville Muir have written a description of the project that gives more detailed information about the building and the future use of it. For interested parties it may be received upon request. The progress of the building procedures will be posted on our web page, www.deafmin.org We will also send out information through our monthly newsletters

and our frequent e-mails through the DMI Updates.

We in Deaf Ministries International would like to thank all who show interest and support for this unique ministry in Davao, Philippines!

Neville Muir
International Director

