

THE NFBS STORY

The outpouring of God's blessings was prayed for by a small and simple group of Bible Teachers and Pastors namely: **Amando A. Suyod, Jr., Patricio M. Magaso, Philip A. Aligarbes, Charles E. Vidal** and **Doris N. Fernandez** together with Rev. **Bernardo N. Escanlar of Binicuil Fellowship Baptist Church**, way back in 1991. During this time, there was a pressing need for Church's workers with the continued to growth of the work in southern part of Negros Island, Philippines. In June of that year, **Fellowship Baptist Seminary (FBS)** was started. Classes were held for the first time at the residential compound of **Dr. Enrique M. Serna, Jr.** at G. Cordova St., Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

Two years later, in 1993, the seminary moved to another location, this time to Vista Alegre, Ilog about 7 kilometers away. The place and facilities were once again provided by **Dr. Enrique M. Serna, Jr.**

The early days of the seminary were difficult and challenging, as putting up a seminary was a gargantuan task. It practically had nothing in terms of material resources, but God Almighty has been gracious in touching the hearts of many faithful believers. The seminary has borne fruits through years of labor amidst inadequate financial support and facilities like classrooms, dormitories, books and other essential materials. FBS continued to provide students with proper training in order to prepare them for the ministry despite those years of hardships and struggles.

After 15 years, in 2005, the seminary has reached a new dawn, a new challenge. The condition of FBS has driven the will and challenged the faith of its leaders. A desire to have a land of its own was conceived.

In July 2005, “My Home, My Own Home,” a Fund Raising Campaign to buy a Land was officially launched. Many churches and individual believers both local and abroad have responded to the appeal for financial support. And through the working of the Holy Spirit, a substantial amount was raised through the program.

During the months of the campaign, **Pastor Charles Vidal** was invited as speaker in Faith Baptist Church, Bulobito-on, Miranda, Hinigaran for their Church Anniversary on the last Sunday of July 2005. At his preaching he took opportunity to share about the “My Home, My Own Home” program. He made an appeal and challenged the church members to give financially to help meet the need to buy a Land for FBS.

Mrs. Conchita Geollegue Gelvoligaya, the wife of **Atty. Jose Gelvoligaya, Jr.** talked to Pastor Vidal responded to this appeal for help and offered a piece of land in Bulobito-on, several meters away from the national high way. The spouses offered **5,000 square meters** to be donated to FBS. With joy and excitement Pastor Vidal together with his team of students went with the Gelvoligayas to see the land in the afternoon of that Sunday.

It was a remarkable and an unforgettable period when God answered the prayer for a particular great need FBS was then facing. **Pastor Vidal** and his team went home with great joy, bringing the good news to fellow faculty members. Praising God for His wonderful provision, as God used the GELVOLIGAYA FAMILY of Pahilanga, Miranda, Hinigaran, Negros Occidental. FBS accepted the generosity of the **Gelvoligaya family** for donating the piece of land as the permanent location for the Fellowship Baptist Seminary, a land that finally Fellowship Baptist Seminary calls her ‘*Own Home.*’

In February 1, 2006 FBS was granted a legal personality by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with **Registration NO. CN20065794** with the approved name: **NEGROS FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST SEMINARY, INC. .**

During summer of 2006 thorough preparation of the facilities were made by students, faculty members, pastors and church workers as well as church members from MBCO, District 5, District 3 and District 2 who joined efforts, spent time and money to prepare the new and permanent site of Negros Fellowship Baptist Seminary (NFBS) for the opening of School Year 2006-2007.

In the year 2006 , classes were not yet officially started at the opening of the school year due to the continuing preparation of the facilities. After three months some structures made of light materials were put up like the residential cottages for ladies and men students, temporary residence for some faculty & staff members; classrooms and the seminary office.

God's wonderful provision was experienced not long after the opening of classes in 2006, because the first permanent building was constructed in the month of July that year- '**The Jordan Library**'. The building was a donation of **Mr. Henry L. Jordan & Family**. The Jordan Library was finished in October 2006.

The location of NFBS in its permanent site has paved the way for many blessings to flow. Members of Addison Street Community Church in Chicago, Illinois sponsored several students. This was done through the endeavors of **Rev. & Mrs. William A. Yee, Sr.** They also facilitated the purchase of a piano through the kindness of **Mr. John Shwan**, a member of the said church. A substantial number of books owned by **Rev. George A. Rice** were added to the seminary library in addition to its volumes from the **D.R. Ayala Resource and Lending Library through Rev. Gil Fernandez.**

In 2010 another building was constructed for additional classrooms. The project was made possible through the kindness of the **Community Missionary Baptist Church in California, USA**, through the effort of **Pastor Samuel Ormeo and its members**.

God's blessings continued flowing for NFBS. Another building was put up in 2012 for **multi-purpose uses as chapel and social hall**. The building is not yet fully finished and unnamed but NFBS recognizes and honors the **Escanlar- Parreño family of Igaras, Iloilo** which was made possible through the effort of **Mr. Ernesto Crisostomo**, a faithful believer in California, USA.

In 2013, the **Men's Dormitory** was built through the kindness of the Christian Young Adults (CYA) organization of Negros Occidental as their project in the leadership of **Mr. Jezril Jordan** being the CYA President.

As time goes by and while NFBS remains on her mission and vision with the unwavering support and partnership of this handful of believers, churches and Christian organizations; and with the abounding grace of our Almighty God, NFBS will continue to flourish. This humble seminary will continue to supply the needed workers in the vineyard of the Lord Jesus Christ in answer of our Lord's plea to, ***"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into his harvest."*** Matthew 9:38.