

Congregations Seeking Partners

Bagong Silang, Don Salvador, Benedicto Negros Occidental, Philippines

Bagong Silang is a village (*barangay*) of the city of Don Salvador, with a population of about 10,000 people. Don Salvador is located about an hour's travel time from the city of Bacolod. Most residents of Don Salvador are farmers, with rice and pineapple as the major crops. Poverty and financial obstacles to education are both significant issues in the community.



The UU Congregation in Bagong Silang has existed for twenty years. For most of that time, the congregation met in the homes of various members, until July 2010, when they inaugurated their formal church building.

Their minister, Rev. Leopoldo Labandero is seminary trained and ordained. The congregation consists of 20 adult members, 13 youth members (ages 12-20 years) and 18 children (ages 11 and below) and is growing. The congregation is involved in projects to benefit the congregation and also share their programs in other congregations in the community. The general attitude about the Unitarian Universalists in the community is "helpful, respectful and loving."

The common languages spoken in the area are Ilonggo and Cebuano, and there is a member who speaks English.

"Our congregation would like to be in congregational partnership so that...we could have partners that would help us in building up church program activities and would inspire us in achieving our goals."

"Our expectation of a partner to another country is that we hope to have a partner who is willing to visit us here. We expect of a partner that they are willing to share experiences, more knowledge about UU faith with us. And a partner that would help us find our ways how to live a better life especially for to our younger generation."

