

A Three-fold Cord No One Can Break

In 1976, Cecil Williamson joined a team of shortterm missionaries to work with the Evangelical Methodist Church in the Philippines. While in Ozamiz City, two young women, cousins Elvie and Lite Go, invited the team for a feast of traditional Filipino foods. A friendship was forged between Elvie and Cecil Williamson that resulted in literally 10's of 1000's of souls being won into the Kingdom. Read about how the Happy Church became the Church That Burns.



Pastor Elvie Go and
Rev. Cecil Williamson in 2008

Fire almost destroyed it...

The church that started with 2 young women sharing the Gospel in college dormitories and grew to over 10,000 members in less than 30 years, was destroyed by fire in January, 2009. For all of her years and tremendous growth, this powerful ministry had continued to meet in an old coconut warehouse, still in its original, humble state. The entire population of Ozamiz City and thousands of friends from around the world mourned the loss of this center of **God's praise. But all have rejoiced at the miraculous provision of a beautiful new church building, nearing completion in less than two years, Spring, 2010.**



The original sanctuary burns,
January 2009



New building nearing
completion, March 2010

The Happy Church Ozamiz City Philippines



Church on Fire

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Christian World Missions



It began with just a spark...and burst into a flame!

Elvie Go, a law student from the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, was actively sharing the Gospel with local college students in 1976 when she first met Rev. Cecil Williamson. In the early '80's, she was led to start a church and invited the Cecil Williamson Ministry in Evangelism to join their team.

Immediately, she began to send messages: **"We are building benches for new believers."** A month later: **"We need to build 20 more benches for the all the people who are coming to Christ!"**

It seemed that every few weeks the church was doubling in size. Cecil and his team made annual trips to the church, helping with evangelistic outreach. In 1987, Cecil's daughter, Lee Ann, under the auspices of her own ministry, Grace & Gladness, began making regular trips, as well, focusing on reaching women and youth.



Preschool children and a weekday ministry for the elderly, meeting together benefits both!

Today, with more than 10,000 members and dozens of daughter churches, the partnership continues. Our primary involvement is in providing financial support for Christian workers.

Evangelistic Outreach

Much of the growth of the Happy Church has come through evangelistic meetings held in barrios, neighborhoods, and public markets. With a fantastic music ministry program and clear preaching of the Gospel, many souls are won to Christ. Christian Workers then establish Bible studies (called "outreaches") in each location,



Outdoor worship — an established outreach

in which they teach the Word of God and begin the ministry of the Body of Christ. In distant locations, those groups become churches and several are now planting their own daughter churches!

Caring for Widows and Orphans

From the start, the Happy Church was committed to meeting not only the spiritual needs of people, but also addressing their urgent physical and material needs. For many years, the church has had staff nurses and a medical clinic, small group homes for orphans, and food distribution programs.

Today, there is also a home for the elderly



Happy Village Resettlement Project for Slum Residents

called Happy Haven Ministries; a collection of simple, new homes for Christian Workers called The Happy Village; and the long-established Bethesda House, which shelters the Christian Worker Bible School, a preschool, the medical clinic, and several other on-going ministries.



Happy Haven Ministries Home for the Elderly

Training Christian Workers

The financial support provided by Christian World Missions is targeted for monthly salaries of the Christian Workers. They receive training in the Happy Church Bible school and serve as lay pastors of new outreaches. Every new believer is expected to memorize scripture, share their testimony, and give public witness to the good things God is doing in their lives. In this way, many lay persons become full- and part-time workers, enabling the church to continue to grow exponentially.



Training program for Christian Workers