

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA WITNESS, INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY DANN & JOJI PANTOJA: AUG 2011 – JAN 2012 REPORT

The primary thrusts for ministry during the past 6 months

1. **THRUST PAR-C:** TO ESTABLISH STRUCTURAL FOUNDATIONS FOR NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION RESOURCING. Serving as the catalyst to organize the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PARC) of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), PBCI is now helping to establish its nationwide constituency building through *PAR 80 BY 2015: A Five-Year Ministry Plan* of PBCI envisioning to establish a Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) Community in each of the 80 provinces in the Philippines by December 31, 2015.
2. **THRUST PAR-CG:** TO ESTABLISH STRUCTURAL FOUNDATIONS FOR PBCI TO BECOME A SELF-SUSTAINING PAR CONSULTING GROUP. By the end of 2015, Mennonite Church Canada's financial support for PBCI programs will expire. To continue funding our national programs, we are starting to re-engineer PBCI to be developed as a Peace and Reconciliation Consulting Group to business corporations, government agencies, non-government organizations, religious institutions, and academic institutions.

Highlights of our Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) activities during the past 6 months

AUGUST 2011: THRUST PAR-C, PAR-CG

25 key Christian leaders—bishops, pastors, local government executives, business people, and civil society organization executives—participated in the First Part of the Peace and Reconciliation Leadership Development Program for Region 10. It was held last 4-5 August 2010 in Ozamiz City, Province of Misamis Occidental.

Region 10 is composed of five (5) provinces in Northern Mindanao—Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Misamis Oriental.

Each of the 25 leaders who participated in this program has agreed to develop a PAR Community in their respective provinces. The Provincial PAR Community, in turn, would develop PAR Teams in their own municipalities.

See details of the above story: <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org/2011/08/par-region-10-completes-first-leaders-training/>

SEPTEMBER 2011: THRUST PAR-CG

PeaceBuilders Community Inc. (PBCI) and Coffee For Peace (CFP) have agreed to work together in a joint ministry with the Unifrutti Group of Companies (UGC), along with their foundations — Unifrutti Foundation Inc. and Hineleban Foundation Inc. (HFI) – to advance Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) initiatives in the Province of Bukidnon. This was documented through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the leaders of both groups last 20 September 2011 at the PeaceBuilders Community office in Davao City, Philippines.

Unifrutti is one of the Philippine's biggest producers and exporters of Cavendish bananas and pineapples and operates in Bukidnon, Lanao del Sur and Davao del Sur. Unifrutti is the mother company of Mount Kitanglad Agricultural Development Corp., Mt. Kitanglad Agri-Venture Corp., Wao Development Corp. and Prinetimes Meadows Development Inc.

See details of the above story: <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org/2011/09/pbci-and-unifrutti-agrees-to-advance-par-together/>

OCTOBER 2011: THRUST PAR-C, PAR-CG

PBCI completed the training facilitation of key Christian leaders in Region 10 who will lead the PAR Commission there.

Bishop Efraim Tendero, National Director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), and Bishop Genesis Udang of PCEC PAR Commission in Mindanao officially installed 18 key leaders from Region 10 who successfully completed the three-month Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) Seminar Series. These monthly seminar sessions were held in three different cities:

- August 04-05, 2011 in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental
- September 01-02, 2011 in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental
- October 10-12, 2011 in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

See details of the above story: <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org/2011/10/region-10-par-commission-officers-installed-by-pcec-bishop/>

NOVEMBER 2011: THRUST PAR-C

Peacebuilders Community, Inc. (PBCI) deployed two teams of Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) Team Organizers in the province of Bukidnon. For one year, each team will organize and train volunteer pastors and church leaders who will be willing to undergo the series of PAR training in their respective areas. The organized teams will be part of the bigger network of PAR Commission in Region 10, which has recently been organized and whose officers were installed by Bishop Efraim Tendero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC).

Rev. Provo Antipasado and Rev. Rodney Sarilla were the provincial coordinators for the province of Bukidnon. They assisted the team in determining the reference people in the areas where the teams were deployed.

See details of the above story: <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org/2011/11/pbci-deploys-bukidnon-team-organizaer/>

DECEMBER 2011: THRUST PAR-C, PAR-CG

The peace networks in Davao City voluntarily requested PBCI to lead them in responding to the disaster caused by Typhoon Sendong (International Code "Washi").

On December 17, Typhoon Sendong brought flash floods in two heavily populated urban centres in Northern Mindanao—Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported a total of 1, 010 dead caused by the typhoon, and a total of 1, 603 people injured.

On December 18-20, Bennette Tenecio (Director of Support Operations), mobilized our local, national, and international networks to raise funds to help the victims of this calamity. The international funds sent by Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee were matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the local and national donors. Bennette also directed the mobilization of volunteers and setting up of all logistical operations—purchasing, repacking, transportation, volunteer care, etc.

On December 21-22, 2011, Kriz Cruzado (Director of Field Operations) and Mei Solocasa (Mindanao PeaceBuilding Coordinator) led a team of relief, medical, and trauma intervention volunteers from our partner organizations — Mindanao Peoples Caucus, VSO Bahaginan, University Peace and Reconciliation, Davao Bible Community Church, Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute, Coffee For Peace, and Hineleban Foundation.

See details of the above story: <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org/2011/12/pbci-network-served-500-families-treated-203-medical-patients-and-provided-trauma-intervention-to-150-children-2/>

JANUARY 2012: THRUST PAR-CG

PBCI officially closed the Relief Phase of its disaster response to Typhoon Sendong survivors. We are now initiating the Rehabilitation Phase.

The Relief Team, led by Kriz Cruzado, Director of Field Operations, packed goods that were donated by several organizations and individuals. Mats, pots and pans, toiletries, rice, and canned goods are some of the stuff that they gave away. They were able to serve a total of 2, 065 families. The Medical Team, led by Mei Solocasa, PBCI Healthcare Specialist, was able to care for a total of 906 patients for both Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities. The Psychosocial Intervention Team, on the other hand, was able to care for 406 traumatized children in the areas. Bennette Tenecio, PBCI Director of Support Operations, led the Psychosocial Intervention Team.

Over all, there were a total of 62 volunteers and partner individuals mobilized to be part of the *Give Love, Save Lives* Team.

We are so grateful for the cash donations from our international partners—Mennonite Church Canada who sent C\$5,000 and Mennonite Central Committee who sent US\$10,000. We are also grateful to our local and national networks—individuals, families, corporations, civil society organizations, and local government units who donated the equivalent of US\$21,000 in cash donations and in goods.

PBCI has committed to participate in the Rehabilitation Phase among Sendong survivors in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan:

- Starting 01 February, we have mobilized 6 healthcare workers (nurses) and 6 psycho-social workers (psychologists and counselors) who will also be equipped in community organizing.
- Starting 01 March, these 12 professionals will be deployed, in coordination with the command centers, to live among the Sendong survivors at the rehabilitation sites for 10 months.
- These 12 professionals will be supervised by a physician-surgeon, a clinical psychologist, and a community development specialist who serves full-time with PeaceBuilders Community.

We're now raising US\$50,000 for this project.

We thank God for your help during the Relief Phase. We'd appreciate your continued support for the Rehabilitation Phase, Restoration Phase, and Reconciliation Phase.

See details of the above story: <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org/2012/01/typhoon-sendong-final-report/>

Some important developments and trends in the Philippine socio-political context

THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES (PCEC) IS NOW ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PEACE PROCESS BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST REBELS AND THE GOVERNMENT

November 7-9, 2011—Midsayap, North Cotabato. PeaceBuilders Community, Inc. (PBCI) staff participated at the Ecumenical Peacebuilding Training conducted by the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP). The Peacebuilding training aimed to analyze the root causes of conflict between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), as well as to provide biblico-theological reflections of peace on the said issues.

On the first day, the Lumad (Indigenous People), Bangsamoro (mostly Muslims), and Migrants (mostly Christians) presented their analysis of the root causes of conflict based on their own perspectives. The Lumads aspire for sovereignty of their ancestral lands, restoration of self-governance, and assertion of their understanding of development based on their right to self-determination. Unless these aspirations are not yet reached, they will continue their struggle to exercise their rights. The Bangsamoro representatives, on the other hand, emphasized that deep structural reforms in the government are needed. They feel that the Bangsamoro people are "heard by the government," but they were "never listened to." The Christians acknowledge their contribution to the root causes of conflict, and are committed to help solve the issues of conflict in a peaceful and non-violent way.

On the second day, the GPH and NDFP Peace Panels updated the public about the current status of the peace talks. The NDFP presented updates and prospects of the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms and Political Reforms (CASER). Both the GPH and NDFP want to continue the peace talks, but the NDFP has a precondition for the GPH to release the thirteen personalities they believe are covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). The GPH, however, stated that they will not submit to this precondition.



Bishop Efraim Tendero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) gave a theological reflection on the Characteristics of the Triune God – God the Father as the Author of Peace, Jesus Christ as the Agent of Peace, and the Holy Spirit as the Advocate of Peace. Rev. Dann Pantoja presented a lecture on biblical peace building and reconciliation. Dr. Muriel Montenegro facilitated a bible study on peace. Several discussions went around the character of God as a just God and at the same time as a God of peace.

In the evening, a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted, and most of the participants aired their emotions and respective sentiments regarding the GPH-NDFP issue. A few hours of discussion was spent in tackling issues of the Lumads, issues of the Bangsamoro people, and the issues of the NDFP and the GPH themselves. PeaceBuilders Community helped in the facilitation of the conversation and in the documentation of the whole FGD.

The FGD ended with a tri-people prayer for peace, recognizing the hope for peace between the GPH and NDFP, and peace for the whole country through the help of the Creator and the Holy Spirit.

See photo album in Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150425330809866.381714.92496934865&type=1>

Standards of performance used to evaluate effectiveness

The activities of the Support Operations Team and the Field Operations Team for the past six months point to the accomplishment of our stated vision, mission, and goals:

VISION:

- :: Harmony with God. *Spiritual Transformation*
- :: Harmony with our Being. *Psycho-Social Transformation*
- :: Harmony with Others. *Social-Political Transformation*
- :: Harmony with the Creation. *Economic-Ecological Transformation*

WE ALWAYS HELP OUR AUDIENCE EXPLAIN, RETAIN, AND SUSTAIN THESE CONCEPTS (30 POINTS)

MISSION:

- :: *To model a peacebuilding community.* We seek to demonstrate in our own lives and in our relationships the kind of harmonious and transformational peace we're hoping for
- :: *To be effective peacebuilding operatives.* We devote the same discipline and self-sacrifice to non-violent peacemaking that armies devote to war.

WE HAVE WEEKLY SHARING OF PERSONAL JOURNEY, WE HAVE WEEKLY TACTICAL OPERATIONS PLANNING, AND WE HAVE MONTHLY COMMUNION (30 POINTS)

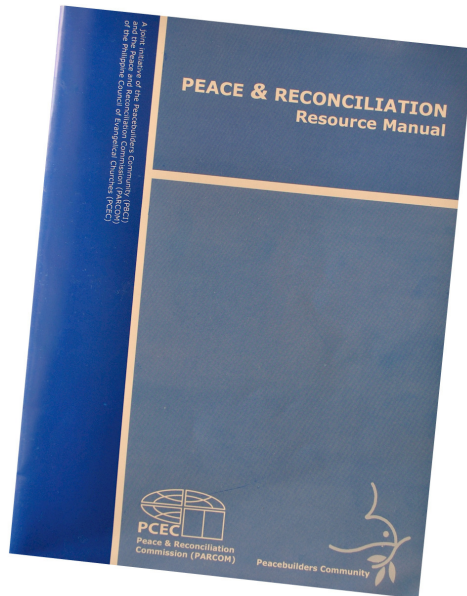
GOALS:

- :: To *train* and multiply effective Peace and Reconciliation Team *Leaders*
- :: To *support* the leaders in organizing and nurturing their respective Peace and Reconciliation *Teams* of volunteers in local conflict zones
- :: To *establish* contextually-relevant Peace and Reconciliation *Communities* as home for local Peace and Reconciliation Teams
- :: To *develop* a *Network* of Peace and Reconciliation Communities that would work together to train more leaders, to organize more teams, and to establish more communities who follow Jesus Christ in all aspects of life—spiritual, psycho-social, socio-political and economic-ecological.

EVERY MONTH, WE REVIEW OUR FIELD RELATIONSHIPS, WE ASSESS THE STATE OF OUR FIELD VOLUNTEERS, WE UPDATE THE MAP OF OUR TARGET AREAS, AND WE TRACK THE STATE OF OUR TASKS (40 POINTS)

A significant activity related to these goals:

PBCI CO-PUBLISHED A *PEACE AND RECONCILIATION RESOURCE MANUAL* WITH PCEC



PeaceBuilders Community Inc (PBCI) and the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PARCOM) of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) have jointly produced this PAR Resource Manual.

To order copies of this Manual, please contact Bennette Grace Tenecio (bennette@peacebuilderscommunity.org), Director of Support Operations, PeaceBuilders Community, Inc.

"This Manual is offered as guide for practical use to churches, pastors, lay people and everyone who would like to develop and hone their gifts on peace and reconciliation, mediation, and peacemaking. This is our modest contribution to our continuing pursuit of shalom and peace in our land."

Bishop Efraim Tendero, D.D., National Director, PCEC

Our relationship to and our role in the local church

Whenever we're in Davao City, we participate in a Bible study group at Davao Bible Community (DBC). We appreciate Rev. Norman Naromal's pastoral ministry among us. We're thankful that Pastor Norman was given a chance to participate in the International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together (IMPACT) last Fall 2010 in British Columbia. He is now one of the Board members of PBCI.

Pastor Norman now serves as Vice President of PBCI Board of Trustees.

Developments in the local church

DBC helped PBCI organize, and recruit students for, the PeaceBuilders School of Theology.

Methods and approaches that are used in our ministry

A good mix of Effective Field Operations and Efficient Support Operations—with lots of action and reflection.

A story that might be an inspiration to the North American church which can also be used for communication purposes

We post stories online every two weeks. Please refer to our websites:

Ministry - <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org>

Personal - <http://waves.ca>.

Description of imaginative ministry dreams and ideas that we would like to include in our Annual Ministry Plan and/or budget for the coming year

PeaceBuilders School of Theology has 10 graduate level students who are key Christian leaders in Davao. Teaching team are: Mariano Apilado (Ph.D. Vanderbilt University); Norman Naromal (M.Div, Asian Theological Seminary); Dann Pantoja (M.A. University of the Philippines; Th.M. Vancouver School of Theology). We are determined to multiply Anabaptist theological and ethical thinkers among Christian leaders in the Philippines. C\$1,000 per student per year includes tuition, books, and classroom rent.

Issues that need attention

We need 10 more interns who have master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, or Conflict Transformation, or AgriBusiness, or Theology, or Social Research. We'll deploy them as consultants to key areas throughout the Philippines.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of February 2012:



L. Daniel Alba Pantoja
Mobile: (+63) 908 888 8017
Email: daniel@peacebuilderscommunity.org