



A MONTHLY PRAYER LETTER PUBLISHED BY DANN & JOJI PANTOJA, MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA WITNESS WORKERS  
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## PBCI EXPLORES THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW PAR TEAM

On 20 September 2010, the PBCI Field Operations Team went to the Municipality of Opol, province of Misamis Oriental, to explore the possibility of organizing a Peace and Reconciliation Team there, which will specialize in Community-Based Health Care. The team was welcomed by the Municipal Administrator, and a tour guide was assigned to travel with them to where the Ancestral Domain of the Higaonon Tribe is located.

The drive from the municipal hall to the Higaonon hinterland took two hours, wherein they trekked through rugged terrain and crossed five rivers. The chieftain of the tribe received the team and gave blessings to start PAR Team organizing among them.

Mei Solocasa, our Mindanao PAR Team organizer, will be the one who will train them to become Community Health Care Volunteers. During this trip, PBCI team was backed-up by our Director of Support Operations, Bennette Grace Tenecio, and her team (Joy, Arjay, and Freddie) who are based in Davao City.



**Top:** PBCI Field Operations team during the visit at the Ancestral Domain of the Higaonon tribe.

**Bottom left:** PBCI Team's courtesy call at the Municipality of Opol

**Bottom right:** During the meeting with Cagayan de Oro City Christian Leaders

[Continued on page 2]



**Top:** Kolambugan PAR Team, induction of officers  
**Bottom:** Kolambugan PAR Team member, while checking blood pressure

## VISITING THE PAR TEAMS IN MINDANAO

PBCI's Field Operations Team visited Mei Solocasa's PAR Teams in the municipalities of Kolambugan and Poona Piagapo in the province of Lanao del Norte. The PAR Teams in these areas have been trained for the past ten months in Community Health Care.

During the visit in Kolambugan, the PBCI team witnessed the induction of officers of the PAR team. The volunteers also checked the blood pressure of PBCI team members, as a sign of their enthusiasm in being Community Health Care workers.

In Poona Piagapo, PBCI team was impressed about their perspective on peace and reconciliation.

[Continued on page 2]

## PRAY FOR THE PBCI STAFF

**Bennette Tenecio** handles the University PAR Team. Pray for the Coloring Book Project in partnership with Kublai Millan, training on PAR Book 2 & 3, and wisdom for the University PAR members who are doing their theses. As the Director of Support Operations, she prays for good health of the staff and wisdom in doing their tasks and responsibilities. \*\*\*

**Kriz Cruzado** wisdom and strength as she performs her task as interim Director of Field Operations. \*\*\*

**Mei Solocasa** prays for the leadership development of the 11 Maranao Health Volunteers in Poona Piagapo and 25 Health Volunteers in Kolambugan. She is also praying for God's favor as they start the ministry in Opol, as well as wisdom, strength and enthusiasm for her. \*\*\*

**Regina Mondex** prays for the on-going development of the PAR team in Nueva Ecija, and God's guidance as she continues to expand her network in Central Luzon. Also pray for her health, wisdom, and safety. \*\*\*

**Arjay Freg Balabag** wisdom and creativity as he does the information and communication technology stuff in the office. \*\*\*

**Joy Betios** strength, patience, and understanding as she does most of the clerical tasks in the office. \*\*\*

**Fred Abelitado** wisdom and understanding as he performs his task of fixing almost everything in the office. \*\*\*

## PBCI EXPLORES...

From page 1

After visiting the Higaonon tribe, PBCI Field Operations Team met with the Christian leaders in Cagayan de Oro City to talk about the Evangelical role in Mindanao Peace Process. They have been discussing among themselves a new way of demonstrating how to follow Jesus by loving God, loving our neighbors, and even loving our enemies. This is embraced by the term Peace and Reconciliation (PAR), which caught the interest of the Christian Leaders. They were also excited about the new Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PARCom) of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC).

The team was so much encouraged as they listened to the Christian leaders. In fact, pastors and Christian Leaders in Cagayan de Oro City and the surrounding municipalities will meet in the coming months for an Evangelical Consultation on Peace Building.

PeaceBuilders Community, Inc. will present a biblical-theological framework for Peace and Reconciliation ministries. Various Christian ministries will present practical models. The government's Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) will present the new administration's peace policy.

We are looking forward for more developments in CDO in the months to come.

## VISITING THE PAR TEAMS...

From page 1

The big media usually portrays a negative image about Poona Piagapo. Contrary to what the big media says, however, Poona Piagapo is a very peaceful community. PBCI has been sending medical teams in the area for the past two years, and we haven't yet experienced a problem. Proper coordination with the government and rebel forces made sure that the teams are cared for and secured by the local community.

During our visit, we have learned that the big media only creates division among our people. Local and national investors become afraid of the area due to security reasons, and yet the big multinational corporations, under the protection of their private armies or armed groups, freely exploit the land that belongs to the Moros and Indigenous People of Mindanao.

Mayor Liza Palawan expressed her appreciation and cooperation with Peacebuilders Community, Inc. In fact, she even invited the Poona Piagapo PAR Team of Community-based Health Care Volunteers to assist in the provincial Medical Mission of Lanao del Norte in their town.

For more information, visit our website at [www.peacebuilderscommunity.org](http://www.peacebuilderscommunity.org)



Mei Solocasa prays with her PAR Team in Kolambugan

During the visit in Kolambugan



PBCI Field Operations Team visits Poona Piagapo PAR Team



A Maranao-designed display banner given by Mayor Ana Liza Palawan of Poona Piagapo, as an expression of her appreciation and cooperation with PBCI