



peace and reconciliation journal

A MONTHLY PRAYER LETTER PUBLISHED BY DANN & JOJI PANTOJA
International Partnership Workers, Mennonite Church Canada
Working with PeaceBuilders Community, Inc., Republic of the Philippines



Mennonite Church Canada
WITNESS

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PAR NUEVA ECIJA RESPONDS TO DISASTER VICTIMS

The Peace and Reconciliation Community in the Province of Nueva Ecija (PAR NE) actively responded to the disaster victims after the onslaught of typhoons Pedring (Nesat) and Quiel (Nalgae).

Bishop John Tayoto, former Chairman of Peace and Reconciliation Nueva Ecija (PAR NE), and currently the Chairman of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PARCOM) of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), reported how they responded to the disaster victims in their province.

The current Chairman of PAR NE, Rev. Joy S. Gabasa, initiated the Disaster Relief Operations. They were able to raise and distribute relief bags consisting of canned goods, noodles, and other basic survival items. A total of 183 bags worth Php 250.00 each, was distributed to four municipalities, namely: Bongabon, Licab, Pamaldan, and Cabanatuan. These municipalities are located in the first, second, and third districts of the province.

[continued on page 3]



PAR NE members help in distributing relief goods to typhoon victims during the recent series of floods in Central Luzon

PCEC BISHOP INSTALLS REGION 10 PAR COMMISSION OFFICERS



Region 10 PAR Community members with Bishop Efraim Tendero (PCEC); and some PBCI staff

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

[continued on page 2]

PCEC BISHOP INSTALLS...

From page 1

The graduation ceremony and commissioning service were held last Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 1900H in Malaybalay City.

The new officers of PCEC's Region 10 PAR Commission are as follows:

Regional Director: Rev. Alex Eduave
 Secretary: Pastora Mayrle Jean Roa
 Treasurer: Pastor Cezar Egano
 Transporter: Pastor Pancho Faburada

Provincial & City Directors:

- Cagayan de Oro City – Pastor Fernando Supangan
- Gingoog City – Pastor Enrique Guevarra
- Ozamiz City – Pastor Birt Isaias Roa
- Tangub City – Pastor Brigido Pasok, Jr.
- Iligan City – Pastor Bayani Areola
- Malaybalay & Valencia Cities – Pastor Rodney Sarilla
- Oroquieta City – Pastor Lucesio Alaban
- Bukidnon Province - Pastor Provo Antipasado
- Misamis Oriental - Pastor Jerome Degamon

Speakers' Bureau:

- Pastor Nasali Silva – Head
- Pastor Christopher Florita
- Pastor Fernando Supangan
- Pastor Enrique Guevarra
- Pastor Carlos Gallur



PeaceBuilders Community, Inc. (PBCI) facilitated the training of these PAR Leaders, who would, in turn, train and organize PAR Communities in their respective provinces, cities, and municipalities.

The PBCI PAR Training Consultants were:

- Rev. L. Daniel Pantoja, PeaceTheology & PeaceBuilding
- Joji Felicitas Pantoja, Fair Trade and Economic Sustainability
- Bennette Grace Tenecio, Trauma Healing
- Kriz Cruzado, Conflict Transformation
- Mei Solocasa, CrossCultural Communication

This PAR training and regional organization is a part of a wider vision: By December 31st, 2015, each of our 80 provinces will have a circle of God-fearing, justice-and-peace-oriented leaders called *PAR Communities*, who will organize, nurture, and oversee various *PAR Teams*, who will, in turn, implement just-peace oriented *PAR Programs* in their local contexts. This five-year plan governs all the current activities of PeaceBuilders Community as indicated in our Field Operations Map. 🌱

We welcome your contributions for our support and invite you to send these to:

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA,
 600 SHAFTESBURY BLVD.,
 WINNIPEG, MB R3P 0M4

Please designate to:
 Dann & Joji Pantoja,
 PeaceBuilders Community, Inc., Philippines

PAR NUEVA ECIJA RESPONDS...

From page 1

They were also able to share seven sacks of assorted canned goods, noodles, and other items to the pastors of the 4th District of the province. This group of pastors then re-packed and distributed the items to their constituencies.

Bishop Tayoto said, “we praise the Lord for the immediate sacrificial giving of the churches and individuals in Nueva Ecija who responded to the needs of their ‘*kababayans*’ (fellow citizens) given that they were also victims of the same typhoon.

Last year, PAR NE was organized after they finished a three-session course on Disaster Risk Management, facilitated by *PeaceBuilders Community, Inc.* (PBCI) in partnership with the *Mennonite Central Committee* (MCC) and the *Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches* (PCEC). The pastors and church leaders,

coming from the different towns of Nueva Ecija actively participated and shared their personal experiences about Disaster Response. PAR NE embraces the same Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) Core Values of PBCI and PCEC. The member pastors and church leaders actively shared the PAR Values to their local churches. Some of the church leaders also organized Disaster Relief Fund Allocation for their local church.

On September 24, 2011, Typhoon Nesat (local name: Pedring) entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility and moved out of the country on September 28. It had maximum sustained winds of 150 kph.

According to the report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), typhoon Nesat affected 35 provinces of the country, in nine regions around Luzon.

[continued on page 4]

ATE EDNA AND HER PAINS

Feature Story

Meet Ate Edna. She’s a 50-year old mother of 2 daughters (who are both already married), and a wife to a driver of a rented tricycle in the Municipality of Kolambugan. Ate Edna used to be a dressmaker using an old sewing machine in her home until she started feeling the excruciating pain in her hip down to her legs last December, 2010.

It was February of 2011 that she was admitted to the hospital for 6 days and diagnostic results say that she has Hip Dislocation related to Osteoporosis. April of 2011, her hip started to have the symptoms of inflammation—redness, swollen, pain and warm that led Ate Edna to be lying on her bed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

With the meager amount of income as a tricycle driver, her husband couldn’t support for the pain medications of Ate Edna. She then only does her best to keep the pains by herself, unconscious that her husband felt helpless and was also conscious of the pains she is going through. The limited resources of the couple is not enough even to support a nutritious meal for Ate Edna 3 times a day, and leave behind the needed vitamin supplements and pain medications.

August 26, 2011 when the Peace and Reconciliation HealthCare Volunteers (PAR-HCV) of Kolambugan reported this case to me and together we responded with a home-visit to Ate Edna and were able to source out a used wheelchair for Ate Edna’s mobility. During the home-visit, I saw a Bible on the bed of Ate Edna and asked her if she’s reading it and she said that she hopes to but her eyeglasses broke and she cannot read the letters. I offered reading the Cebuano Bible with the passage of Jeremiah 29:11-13. Ate Edna shed tears upon hearing that God has plans for her life and plans to prosper her. We prayed together for healing, for provision, for hope, for salvation.

The PAR-HCV organized a fund-raising in the village where Ate Edna lives and with the amount raised she was again sent to the hospital and this time the doctor said that she needs an operation but the surgery might cost her life with a chance of 50%. Ate Edna and her husband went home then. I will visit Ate Edna in few days and will hear in person the details of her diagnosis and prognosis.

This story is shared to you with permission from Ate Edna and her husband. I am sharing to you to ask for your prayers. For God is a healing God. Please pause for a prayer for Ate Edna. 🌿

Reported by Mei Solocasa

PAR NUEVA ECIJA...

From page 3

The typhoon left 83 dead, 91 injured, 20 missing, and 135 rescued survivors. The typhoon damages cost Php14,964,489,302.72 total on infrastructure and agriculture. Several schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, crops, livestock, and fisheries were destroyed.

During the onslaught of the typhoon, storm signal no. 2 was raised in the province of Nueva Ecija. It was declared under State of Calamity on 11 October 2011. According to the NDRRMC, 13, 041 families or 57, 308 individuals from 75 barangays (villages) in the entire province were affected. More than 6, 000 families stayed at 43 evacuation centers. An estimated total of Php 7, 325, 000.00 worth of damages on infrastructure and crops were lost.

Shortly after typhoon Nesat, another typhoon, Nalgae (local name: Quiel), immediately followed and affected the Philippines. Because of the previous typhoon, the soil can no longer absorb more water, so there were reports of incidents of landslides and flooding. It affected 17 provinces, which were mostly affected by the previous typhoon Nesat. It left a total of 19 dead, 12 injured, 7 missing, and 11 rescued survivors. The province of Nueva Ecija was once again affected. There were 21, 106 families affected in the ten municipalities of the province.

As the rice granary of the Philippines, Nueva Ecija lost an estimated Php 3.63 billion worth of rice produce. The two typhoons hit during the vulnerable stages of the rice plants; thus, allowing unfilled or half-filled rice grains. Because they would weigh less, the farmers will lose almost all their capital.

While PAR NE was able to help in some ways, they still express a great need to be able to help more affected families. They are praying for people who will help them respond to the requests of the victims of the calamity on the medium and long-term rehabilitation.

PAR NE encourages our brothers and sisters around the world to continue to pray for God's grace, not only for the people of Nueva Ecija, but also for the people in Visayas and Mindanao. 🌱

Reported by Regina Mondez

PRAY FOR THE PBCI STAFF



Dann Pantoja. Pray for the energy of the Spirit as we engage new strategic areas to advance Peace and Reconciliation through our seminars and organizing efforts. New PAR areas to be opened in the next 6 months: Regions 10 & 13. New PAR areas to be opened in 2012: Region 5.



Joji Pantoja. Please pray for PBCI and CFP staff who were affected by the flash flood in Davao City. Please pray that we may raise Php 40, 000.00 to help some of the staff rebuild their homes which were washed away by the flood.



Bennette Tenecio. Please pray for good health; wisdom and discernment in her work especially in evaluating and assessing applicants for the new ministry in Bukidnon; for the Coloring Books to be published and launched. That through these coloring books, many people will embrace "Peace, Joy, and Love" in their lives..



Kriz Cruzado. Pray for more wisdom as she directs our Field Operations, patience as she deals with untoward events, good health so she could always function well, economic stability for her family so she does not have to worry for her finances, creativity and resourcefulness so she can continue innovating new approaches and strategies in achieving Field Ops goals.



Mei Solocasa. Please pray that God will give her wisdom in leading the new staff assigned in Bukidnon.



Regina Mondez. Please pray for guidance as she moves from Nueva Ecija in Central Luzon, to Bukidnon in Mindanao. Pray for strength and courage as she deals with emotional adjustments, as well as wisdom in dealing with her new tasks.



Keith Grubaugh. Keith is our new intern specializing in Technical Support—Accounting. Please pray for wisdom and strength.



Jenna Grubaugh. Please pray for clarity and perspective while she is working with the people in Bukidnon.



Arjay Freg Balabag. Please pray for him and his family, as they rebuild their home which was washed away by the recent typhoon.



Joy Betios. Please pray for renewed strength for her work from day to day, as their home and everything they possess were washed away by the recent flash flood in Davao City.



Freddie Abelitado. Please pray for energy and strength as he continues to be a good member of PBCI family. Also pray for his health and his family's needs.