



A MONTHLY PRAYER LETTER PUBLISHED BY DANN & JOJI PANTOJA, MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA WITNESS WORKERS
Working with PeaceBuilders Community, Inc. P.O. Box 80138 Davao City 8000 Republic of the Philippines

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HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRAINING

By Mei Solocasa, Peace and Reconciliation Team Organizer, Ranaw PAR Zone, Mindanao mei@peacebuilderscommunity.org

Eleven graduates of the HealthCare Training Program finally received their certificates and first aid kits. After 11 months of learning and applying the healthcare skills learned from the program, these volunteers are now ready to serve their respective communities. They are our Peace and Reconciliation Team (PAR-T) in Ranaw Zone whose specialization is healthcare.



This has been a partnership endeavor between PeaceBuilders Community, Inc. (PBCI), Reach International HealthCare and Training, Inc. (RIHCT), and Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc. (EcoWEB).

Mayor Ana Liza Palawan of Poona Piagapo Municipality expressed her gratefulness to PBCI, RICHT, and EcoWeb for facilitating this program and assured that the support of the Local Government would continue to further this endeavour.

Dr. Sam Evans, Medical Director at PBCI, challenged the graduates to continue learning and to apply their new skills primarily among themselves and among their family members in order to make an impact to the community.

PBCI congratulates the Peace and Reconciliation Team of Healthcare Volunteers in Poona Piagapo!

Mei Solocasa (seated third from left), led and coordinated this training program. You can read about her personal reflections and how she sees the continuation of her journey as a Peace and Reconciliation Team Organizer on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/notes/mei-c-solocasa/reflections-from-the-field-random-thoughts/437616605016>



WE'RE SEEKING TO LIVE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

We disrupted our physical routines and eating habits during our June-July 2010 North American Ministry. Now, we're back in-stride.

Joji brought us back to our fruit, vegetable, and fish diet. We're using brown rice instead of white. She has returned to her morning walks.

Dann is back to swimming, the practice of TaiChi, and of course, hiking—an activity inherent in his peace-building field trips.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER

- 01-06:** Dann wraps up Quarter 2 and starts up Quarter 3 of Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) 2010 organizing activities in Luzon, the northern island of the Philippines. Joji initiates Coffee for Peace (CFP) export process to Canada.
- 08:** Matt Tiessen, our intern from Leamington United Mennonite Church (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada) will arrive. He will be our transportation-communications technical staff for 1 year through the critical areas of Mindanao.
- 13:** Megan Enns, our intern from Foothills Mennonite Church (Mennonite Church Alberta), will arrive. She will serve as our research assistant for 3 months, travelling through the critical areas of Mindanao.
- 14:** Dann attends a strategic meeting of the PAR Commission of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC PARC) in Quezon City. Joji prepares CFP to meet with CFP partners among Mindanao's First Nations.
- 15-17:** The Field Operations Team, along with our two Canadian interns, will travel to the Talaandig First Nation's ancestral domain to participate in the General Assembly of the Mindanao People's Caucus, where Dann will deliver the keynote address. Joji and the CFP Team will oversee the first harvest of Arabica coffee by the Talaandig Nation.
- 18-20:** The Field Operations Team will facilitate PAR meetings with various Christian leaders in Cagayan de Oro City, in the north shore of Mindanao Island.
- 21:** The Field Operations Team will meet with our networks in Iligan City and Kolambugan Municipality, Lanao del Norte Province who support Mei Solocasa with her PAR Team-HealthCare Volunteer Organizing in that area.
- 22-23:** The Field Operations Team will meet with our networks in the Poona Piagapo Municipality, Lanao del Norte Province who support Mei Solocasa with her PAR Team-HealthCare Volunteer Organizing in that area.
- 24:** Joji (VP Global Partnership Development), Bennette (Director of Support Operations), Kriz (Interim Director of Field Operations), and Mei (HealthCare Training Specialist) will meet with Dr. Ross James of the Australian-based Health Communications Resources. The meeting will be held in Davao City.
- 25:** The PBCI Board of Trustees will meet in Davao City.

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION TEAMS

Peace and Reconciliation Teams (PAR T) are composed of local volunteers from various communities who are partnered with international volunteers. They are jointly trained for 8 months in the following areas: Armed Conflict Area Survival Training, Fact-Finding Missions, Conflict Transformation, Disaster Preparedness, Trauma Healing, Inter-Faith Dialogue, Medical and Relief Operations, Development Communications, Cross-Cultural Communications, and Personal Growth & Development.

The mission of the PAR Ts are: (1) To promote peace and reconciliation in each of our 82 provinces by giving skilled, courageous support to communities experiencing various conflicts; (2) To inspire various parties-in-conflict to discard violence in favor of nonviolent action as a means of settling differences; (3) To provide various churches and communities with first-hand information and resources for responding to situations of conflict, and to urge their active involvement; and, (4) To interpret a nonviolent perspective to the media and to our nation as a whole.



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PAR TEAM: THE UNIVERSITY PAR TEAM

University Peace and Reconciliation is a team of University Students in Davao City who are committed to achieve peace and reconciliation in our land. Most of them are key officers of their respective university student councils.

Their specialization is the application of information and communications technology to promote peace. They are currently working with Davao City's prominent visual artist, Mr. Kublai Millan to produce a trilogy of coloring book for children. The respective themes of the coloring books are Love, Joy, and Peace.

Their PAR Team Organizer is Bennette Tenecio (seated on far left in blue), who does this particular ministry as a volunteer. Her full-time employment job description at PBCI is that of Director of Support Operations and Trauma Healing Specialist.

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, Philippines