



# 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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## PBCI INTERNS IMMERSE IN THE PHILIPPINE CULTURE

Peacebuilders Community Inc. (PBCI) invites interns that are willing to share their gifts and help in the peacebuilding ministry in our country. This year, we have three Canadian interns, who, during their stay in the country, are falling in love with the



MATT  
Matt, The Transporter



JENNA  
Jenna, The Theater Artist



KEITH  
Keith, The Accountant

Philippine culture and the peacebuilding ministry in Mindanao. Each one of them is unique, and has skills and talents that are very much needed in the ministry. One of them is a young man and a very good driver. The other two are a couple, one a theater artist, and the other, an accountant.

### The Transporter



Matt, enjoying passion fruit in the Talaandig community

Matthew (Matt) Tiessen, is from Leamington, Ontario, Canada. He was sent by Leamington United Mennonite Church (LUMC) to work, learn, and establish new relationships for one year. He started in

August 2010, and has only a few months left in the country. He is in charged of the Transportation and Communication aspects of PBCI work. He serves as the driver, mechanic, and photographer during field visits. He has already taken PBCI team to many

places in Mindanao that even most professional drivers in the Philippines would not even dare to go. Matt is a good student of cross-cultural relationship building, and proves to be good in making friends and

establishing relationships with people that he just met for the first time.

During his internship, Matt tried to improve his photography skills, experienced becoming a 'barista' at Coffee for Peace, and even became a godfather of a Filipino baby girl. His experiences at PBCI teach him a lot, especially that he is required to read books, while he is having a difficult time to do so. He began to love the different Filipino foods such as pusit (squid), banana cue, *turon*, passion fruit, *tuyo*, and a lot more. What excites him a lot is the traffic system in the country, wherein he sees order in the midst of seeming chaos.

Asked how he sees his role as a technical support person at PBCI: "It is very important to keep our vehicle fit for service so that we don't get stranded in a critical area. Along with maintaining the vehicle, it is important for me to be a smart, safe, and efficient driver, getting my passengers safely and efficiently to our destination."

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## PBCI INTERNS IMMERSE...

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Jenna and Keith, wearing their PBCI IDs during one of their trips in Mindanao.

### The Theater Artist

Jenna Grubaugh is from Vancouver, British Columbia. She was inspired to join PBCI because of Dann and Joji's connections to her home church, Peace Mennonite, in Richmond, BC. She took Peace and Justice Studies and Theater. In January 2010, she was a part of the team that visited Mindanao for our Peace and Reconciliation Field Exposure Program (PARFEP). During that trip, she was convicted to be part of this amazing team. She, and her husband, Keith, would serve as PBCI interns for one year.

As the Theater Arts Specialist of PBCI, she looks forward to inspire change towards peace and justice through the arts. Although she has already gained knowledge and understanding of the peace and justice issues after only 2 months, she is hoping that PBCI will continue to encourage her to use her artistic gifts to contribute to its vision.

She is currently enjoying Monday morning staff meetings, laughter despite desperate and sad situations, and the fact that being Christocentric is not equated with being exclusive.

Asked what makes her stay in the Philippines enjoyable: *"I would have to say that the friendly nature of the people here and the wonderful, constant sunshine has made this an especially amazing place to be serving God."*

### The Accountant

Keith Grubaugh is from LaGrange, Indiana, USA, and studied Accounting at Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada. Since the beginning of their relationship, he and his wife, Jenna, had always wanted to take a year and do service together. When Jenna expressed her interest to return to the Philippines after her visit in 2010, it got the ball rolling. They did the application process and they were challenged about the job description assigned to them.

Keith now serves as Peacebuilders Community Inc. (PBCI's) Business and Accounting Specialist. He envisions to help PBCI and Coffee for Peace have an accounting system that will serve as a financial base to move forward in the next five years. He also envisions to help have a working water reservoir for the Talaandig tribe.

He looks forward for their stay here in the Philippines to be a life-changing experience that will forever help them become better global citizens, and that they will never forget even if they return to North America. As of now, he is enjoying the Philippines—the warm weather and sunshine, the people, and Paradise island, (although he dislikes frogs and lizards).

Asked what he loves about PBCI: *"I love the vision, the people we work with, and the work that PBCI is doing in the Philippines. I love Dann and Joji, they are warriors for the Peace of Christ."* 🌿

*Regina Mondez, Development Communication 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, Inc., Philippines



## MCCANADA AND IMC ARE OFFICIALLY PARTNERS



IMC Board of Trustees and Bishops with Gordon Janzen during their meeting in Manila on April 11, 2011.



Gordon Janzen and Regina Mondez with Bishop Adriano Fernandez and his wife; and youth leader, Yda Villa



The visit at Lipit Christian Church outreach in San Fabian, Pangasinan



Visit with Bishop Jose Basa and Rev. Felix Sotto at Lipit Christian Church, San Fabian, Pangasinan

On April 11, 2011, the Integrated Mennonite Church of the Philippines (IMC) Board of Trustees (BOT) and Board of Bishops (BOB) gathered in Manila to meet and discuss partnership with Mennonite Church Canada (MCCda) Asia Facilitator, Gordon Janzen. The meeting focused primarily on the Global City Church Planting vision of IMC. MCCda will send church planting workers to assist IMC with this vision. This will be the major partnership role of MCCCanada with IMC. Also present in the meeting is Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) representative, Carol Tobin.

The arrival of the church planting missionaries were discussed in the meeting. IMC will formally invite Darnell and Christina Barkman, who are expected to arrive on year 2012. As of now, preparations are being made by IMC, MCCda, and the couple.

After the meeting, Gordon Janzen also visited IMC congregations around Luzon, particularly where the five bishops are located. He was accompanied by Dann Pantoja and Regina Mondez.

He visited Bishop Ambrocio Porcincula in Lumban, Laguna; Rev. Jomedes Eusebio, IMC Chairman of the Board, in Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya; Bishop Adriano Fernandez in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija; Bishop Ramon Bansan in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija; Bishop Edgardo Docuyan in Binuangan, Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya; and Bishop Jose Basa in San Fabian, Pangasinan. It took four days to visit all the bishops of IMC, and it was an unforgettable experience for the IMC members.

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Elmer Docuyan, Gordon Janzen, Regina Mondez, and Dann Pantoja, overlooking Sierra Madre mountain range in Binuangan

## MCCANADA AND IMC...

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During the visit, the team was able to have fellowship with the pastors and some members of the congregation in that area. Although IMC brothers and sisters are geographically far apart, the visitors noticed that they actually have a sense of connectedness and unity, which can be considered as one of its strengths as an organization.

In Binuangan, Gordon Janzen was also able to meet the BUGKAI Fair Trade Farmers. This group of farmers is being trained by PBCI in Fair Trade Coffee Farming. During our visit, they discussed the developments happening with the coffee seeds that they planted a month ago. Most of them have high hopes for the future of Arabica coffee farming in their area. In fact, they even brought samples of the seeds that are already germinating, and the whole group prayed for it as a representation of all the coffee seeds that were planted by the farmers.

In general, the IMC bishops felt that they are very much a part of the partnership, and the special visit made them feel that they are loved and respected. The short visit with the IMC bishops made a lasting impact to the partnership and relationship of IMC and MCCda.

This meeting and field visit was the first big coordination task of PBCI's Church Resourcing Coordinator for Luzon, Miss Regina Mondez. As an affiliate organization of IMC, PBCI will allot 40% of Ms. Mondez' task as IMC Secretariat. She was endorsed and accepted as Secretariat by the BOT during their November 2010 meeting at San Jose City, Nueva Ecija.

IMC is now looking forward for more exciting developments toward the Global City Church Planting vision and IMC 2015 vision. The partnership with Mennonite Church Canada brought so much hope for the vision of IMC. 🌱

**For photos of our latest activities, please visit our Facebook page at:**  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Peacebuilders-Community/92496934865>

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

## PRAY FOR THE PBCI STAFF



**Dann Pantoja.** Please pray for God's wisdom as PBCI discerns the 80 PAR Leaders across the Philippines who would be the key people in establishing PAR Communities in each of the 80 provinces in our country. Pray also for 1000 national financial partners who would help us advance peace and reconciliation in this land.



**Joji Pantoja.** Please pray for faster healing of her bones which was broken due to her recent accident. Pray for God's miracle as her menopausal age causes lack of estrogen and calcium. Also pray for comfort as being constraint in her room and having limited mobility makes it hard for her.



**Bennette Tenecio.** Please pray for her as she spearheads the fundraising for the PAR 80 by 2015 vision of PBCI (see <http://peacebuilderscommunity.org/invitations/give/>).



**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 for God's wisdom as we start Urban Poor Healthcare Program in Davao City. May God provide direction for us to know the people to work with, the places to reach, the right time to start, and the resources to be used.



**Regina Mondez.** Pray for wisdom and strength as she faces bigger challenges with her tasks in Luzon, as well as with her tasks as coordinator of the Integrated Mennonite Church of the Philippines.



**Matt Tiessen.** Please pray for wisdom and motivation, and also safety during their travels in Mindanao as they are very busy moving around the island, which involves lots of driving for him.



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



**Jenna Grubaugh.** Please pray for a healthy heart, mind, and body so that she would be able to work to her full potential in making the theater production come to life.



**Arjay Freg Balabag.** Please pray for wisdom and creativity as he continues to do his tasks at PBCI and Coffee for Peace.



**Joy Betios.** Please pray for renewed strength for her work from day to day, as she and her family also struggles from injustice in their local community.



**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.