



peace and reconciliation journal



Mennonite Church Canada
WITNESS

A MONTHLY PRAYER LETTER PUBLISHED BY DANN & JOJI PANTOJA
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Working with PeaceBuilders Community, Inc., Republic of the Philippines

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METRO-COTABATO MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZES THEIR PAR COMMUNITY

The MetroCotabato Ministerial Fellowship (MCMF) formally organized the MetroCotabato PAR Community from among their key leaders on June 18, 2011.

This journey started last November 08, 2010 when key staff of the PeaceBuilders Community Inc. (PBCI) was introduced by Ms. Joy Raguine to the MCMF leaders. PBCI presented the concept of peace and reconciliation (PAR) ministry. Since then, a partnership journey grew between MCMF and PBCI into a mutual commitment to advance PAR ministry in Cotabato City and the whole Maguindanao Province.

[continued on page 3]



MetroCotabato PAR Community is setup to organize four PAR Teams around Cotabato City and Maguindanao Province to lead the churches in advancing peace and reconciliation ministries in their local contexts.

NORTHERN MINDANAO LEADERS INITIATE PAR MINISTRY



Bishops, pastors, church workers, local government executives, and academics from Region 10 who attended the Northern Mindanao PAR ministry orientation

Twenty-seven Christian leaders — bishops, pastors, church workers, local government executives, academics — participated in the Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) Ministry Orientation in Cagayan de Oro City, on June 28, 2011. They represented various evangelical communities in Region 10.

[continued on page 2]

PAR NUEVA ECIJA CONDUCTS THEIR OWN PAR SEMINAR

On June 24-25, 2011, the key leaders of Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) Community in Nueva Ecija organized and facilitated their own PAR Seminar 1 (Basic Course). Fifteen (15) pastors and leaders from the fourth district of the province attended the event, and all of them also supported the PAR 80 by 2015 vision of PAR Communities throughout our land.

Bishop John Tayoto and Rev. Joy Gabasa, both from the Asian Center for Leadership Education and Development (ACLEAD), facilitated the training, and explained the PAR theology in their own local context as pastors and ministers in the province. 🌱



PAR Seminar 1 participants from the fourth district of Nueva Ecija

NORTHERN MINDANAO LEADERS INITIATE PAR MINISTRY

From page 1

This event is the beginning of a series of PAR Seminars to be held throughout this region in the next few months: PAR Seminar 1, Oroquieta City, August 4-5; PAR Seminar 2, Cagayan de Oro City, September 1-3; PAR Seminar 3, Malaybalay City, October 10-12.

Bishop Genesis "Bong" Udang convened these leaders with the support of the PAR Commission of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC). The Vice Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City, Hon. Caesar "Ian" Acenas, graced the event and participated through the second half of the seminar. He publicly announced his desire to attend the whole PAR Seminar Series 1-3. The newly-appointed Provincial Administrator of Bukidnon, Mr. Provo

Antipasado, was one of the participants representing his province. He invited PeaceBuilders Community Inc. (PBCI) to serve as consultant in their province's leadership development and vision-casting program. The rest of the participants are the chairpersons of their respective provincial, city, and municipal ministerial fellowships.

PBCI — represented by Freddie Abelitado, Matt Tiessen, Mei Solocasa, Kriz Cruzado, Joji Pantoja, and Dann Pantoja — served as PAR Seminar facilitating team.

We welcome the Christian leaders of Region 10 to the growing Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) Movement in our land! 🌱

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

METRO-COTABATO MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP...

From page 1

Last March 09, 2011, 32 MCMF pastors and key Christian leaders participated in an inter-faith dialogue between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) which was held at the Kadtuntaya Foundation Inc. in Cotabato City.

After finishing PAR Seminars 1-3, the MCMF established a PAR Community among their ranks, with an intention of forming 4 PAR Teams of 15 members each, around Cotabato City and Maguindanao Province.

God willing, these Christian leaders in MetroCotabato will be one of the 80 PAR Communities in the Philippines who would advance as a Peace and Reconciliation Movement, with an integrated framework for peace-building, who are organized in partnership with various parts of the People of God, who are mobilized to do ministries of justice and peace in the name of Jesus, and who will lovingly serve all the peoples of our land unconditionally regardless of religion, ethnicity, or political ideology, to the end that our land will experience holistic transformation!



Pastor Val Juan, Chairman of the Metro-Cotabato Ministerial Fellowship



Top: MCMF members who are discussing about forming PAR Teams around Cotabato City and Maguindanao province

We welcome the MetroCotabato PAR Community to the growing number of PAR Communities in the Philippines! 🌱

IMC JOINS THE FIRST PCEC EVANGELICAL PEACE SUMMIT



PCEC Peace Summit participants

Bishop Porcincula (leftmost, wearing gray) shares with his group about the current peace and reconciliation activities he is involved with in his local community



On June 29-30, 2011, forty (40) Christian leaders and peace advocates gathered together in Tagaytay City to attend the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) First Evangelical Peace Summit. Bishop Ambrocio Porcincula, Southern Luzon bishop of the Integrated Mennonite Church of the Philippines (IMC), attended and actively participated during discussions and reflections. Together with him are Elielson Mondez of Lumban Mennonite Bible Church, and Danilo Anonuevo of Gospel of Grace Ministries.

[continued on page 4]

IMC JOINS PCEC...

From page 3

Bishop Porcincula shared the existing peace and reconciliation activities being done by IMC and the local church in Lumban, Laguna. The other participants also gave insights and reflections about the peace situations and what they have been doing in their respective geographical areas.

The objectives of the summit are to:

- raise awareness and facilitate a common understanding on the context and issues of the current peace negotiations in the country;
- gain information about the current state and social cost of the armed conflict and military operations in different regions of the land;
- be updated with the ongoing efforts of various groups—religious and civil society organizations—in monitoring and brokering the peace negotiations;
- form a peace constituency from among the Evangelical church groups and to formulate a plan of action for peace at the local, regional, and national levels; and,
- formalize the creation of a Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

In the end, IMC , as well as the rest of the PCEC-member churches gave its full support and blessings to the newly-established Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PARCOM) of PCEC, which will work towards achieving peace and reconciliation throughout the country. 🌱

PRAY FOR THE PBCI STAFF



Dann Pantoja. Praise God for the formal organization of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PARCOM) of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC). Please pray for the PAR Seminars in Region 10 -- Northern Mindanao, scheduled in the next three months. Pray also for the PAR Seminars in Zambales Province. Pray for resources, for health among leaders and participants, and for travelling mercies.



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 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 blessings of wisdom and strength for the Poona Piagapo and Kolambugan HealthCare Teams and wisdom for her as she coordinates the Maguindanao HealthCare Team.



Regina Mondez. Please pray for wisdom as she deals with many people and tough decisions; for growth, as she experiences struggles in the different areas of her life; for strength and energy so she can overcome and finish with excellence all the challenges and responsibilities she is facing right now.



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 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.