



# 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

JANUARY 2012 EDITION

## FINAL REPORT ON TYPHOON SENDONG RELIEF OPERATIONS

### TYPHOON SENDONG (INTERNATIONAL CODE: WASHI)

On December 15, 2011 Typhoon Sendong entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility with an estimated sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour based on the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather report. Public Storm Signal Number One was raised in the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Siargao Island, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Province, Agusan Provinces, and Misamis Oriental.

On the afternoon of December 16, 2011, PAGASA reported the typhoon to have maximum winds of 65 kilometers per hour and gustiness of 80 kilometers per hour, alerting several provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. On early morning of December 17, 2011, the typhoon hit the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, as well as other surrounding municipalities in the province of Bukidnon.

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## HEALTHCARE OUTREACH IN AMPATUAN MUNICIPALITY



15.JAN.2012, Ampatuan Municipality—The team of PeaceBuilders Community and Care Channels International held a Medical and Dental Outreach activity in Baranggay Saniag, Municipality of Ampatuan, Maguindanao. The dental team served 63 patients for tooth extraction and the medical team served 313 patients with various illnesses who went home with necessary medicine and supplements. This community of around 300 households is inhabited by Maguindanao Muslim and Teduray Tribe. The common diseases recorded among the 313 patients are malnutrition, hyperacidity, dehydration, viral colds, tuberculosis, and bacterial skin diseases. The rare cases reported were one 7-year old child with hydrocephalus and a 3-month old with possible liver or gallbladder disease.

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# FINAL REPORT ON TYPHOON SENDONG...

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Several houses were swept away by the raging flood waters, many people died and some are still missing. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported a total of 1, 010 dead caused by the typhoon, and a total of 1, 603 people injured.

The typhoon devastated most areas in Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities, and the NDRRMC admitted that the PAGASA warnings failed due to the lack of accuracy, especially in the areas that will be affected by the typhoon. Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities were not warned of the typhoon. The strength of the typhoon was also not accurately measured, since the actual amount of rainfall and wind measure exceeded the estimate of PAGASA. Some environmentalists, however, blame the damages to illegal logging and mining that were being conducted in the nearby provinces, which caused the extreme damages.

## MENNONITE RESPONSE

The response of Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Church Canada were prompt and generous. Encouraging notes, prayers, and funds were sent very quickly. Here's one from Ann Campbell-Janz:

*"Dear Dann and Joji:*

*I am also sorry to hear of the devastation and loss of lives in Cagayan de Oro, Iligan City and Lanao. I am thankful that Peacebuilders and others are mobilizing volunteers and donations from local gov't, businesses, churches. to help the 20,000 displaced people by Typhoon Sendong. I just spoke with our disasters management director and MCC is able to provide \$5,000-\$10,000 for immediate emergency needs."*

Ann Campbell-Janz  
Program Associate  
MCC Asia Department

Even before we called for help, we received this email from Gordon Janzen:

"Hello Dann,

I heard of the "tropical storm" that Mindanao last night, especially Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. I am sad for the loss of life. How is Davao? Our prayers are with you."

Gordon Janzen  
Mission Partnership Facilitator  
Mennonite Church Canada

Mennonite Church Canada sent an above-budget amount of Canadian \$5,000 for this emergency purpose.

## PBCI-LED RELIEF OPERATIONS WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS

Immediately after the typhoon, Peacebuilders Community, Inc. (PBCI) coordinated with other organizations to launch an emergency relief operations and other much-needed responses such as Healthcare and Psychosocial intervention to the survivors of the typhoon.

The PBCI network, dubbed as *Give Love, Save Lives*, was able to raise the equivalent of \$21,000 in cash donations and goods from individuals, families, and various local and national organizations.

Bennette Grace Tenecio, Director of Support Operations, led in coordinating representatives from Mindanao People's Caucus, VSO-Bahaginan, University Peace and Reconciliation, Davao Bible Community Church, Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute, Coffee for Peace, and Hineleban Foundation. This network of peace organizations conducted two waves of relief operations with Medical Mission and Psychosocial Intervention in Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities. [continued on page 3]

**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

## FINAL REPORT ON TYPHOON SENDONG...

*From page 2*

The first wave was conducted on December 21-22, 2011 and the second wave was conducted on January 4-5, 2012. The *Give Love, Save Lives* Team consisted of volunteers from other organizations, as well as students and individuals who were touched to serve.

The Relief Team, led by Kriz Cruzado, Director of Field Operations, packed goods that were donated by several organizations and individuals. Mats, pots and pans, toiletries, rice, and canned goods are some of the stuff that they gave away. They were able to serve a total of 2, 065 families.

The Medical Team, led by Mei Solocasa, PBCI Healthcare Specialist, was able to care for a total of 906 patients for both Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities. The Psychosocial Intervention Team, on the other hand, was able to care for 406 traumatized children in the areas. Bennette Tenecio, PBCI Director of Support Operations, led the Psychosocial Intervention Team.

Over all, there were a total of 62 volunteers and partner individuals mobilized to be part of the *Give Love, Save Lives* Team. We are also thankful to the Peace and Reconciliation Community Region 10 (PARCOM 10), which was organized by PBCI in October 2011. They immediately responded to the people and even organized the Kagay-an Evangelical Disaster Response Network (KEDRN), which became the command center for all evangelical groups that conducted relief operations in Cagayan de Oro City, in coordination with government officials and agencies.

### NEXT STEPS: REHABILITATION PHASE

PBCI has committed to participate in the Rehabilitation Phase among Sendong survivors in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan:

1. Starting 01 February, we will mobilize 6 healthcare workers (nurses) and 6 psycho-social workers (psychologists and counselors) who will also be equipped in community organizing.
2. Starting 01 March, these 12 professionals will be deployed, in coordination with the command centers, to live among the Sendong survivors at the rehabilitation sites for 10 months.
3. These 12 professionals will be supervised by a physician-surgeon, a clinical psychologist, and a community development specialist who serves full-time with PeaceBuilders Community.

We thank God for your help during the Relief Phase.

We'd appreciate your continued support for the Rehabilitation Phase, Restoration Phase, and Reconciliation Phase.

Thank you very much! 🌱

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## HEALTHCARE OUTREACH...

*From page 1*

It was November 19, 2009 when the world was terrified with the massacre that killed 57 people composed of journalists, lawyers, and women in this very place, Ampatuan Municipality.

The gruesome massacre that is reported to be driven by desires of power and position is still now being laid before the Supreme Court.

Since then, this municipality has been suffering with prejudices from people outside of the municipality that in a mention of its municipality, people would relate it to a "massacre place". With this, social services such as healthcare have been very few for the fear of being in a massacre place, thus the decision of the team to do the outreach in this community.

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## HEALTHCARE OUTREACH...

From page 3

The thirteen trainees of the PeaceBuilding HealthCare Program did impressive work in doing the basic assessment of the 313 patients. There are many of the trainees who were not able to finish their high school and college studies, yet amazingly they are now equipped with skills in assessing such as checking the blood pressure, body temperature, or listening to lung and heart sounds. The exposure in this municipality helped the trainees to have a wider perspective on the healthcare situation of their own province and be of service to their co-Maguindanaons and neighboring Tedurays.

The PeaceBuilding HealthCare Program continues its pursuit in developing healthcare leaders who are equipped in being front-liners for health promotion and disease prevention with cross-cultural skills to serve communities from different cultural groups. 🌱

Reported by Mei Solocasa

## PRAY FOR THE PBCI STAFF



**Dann Pantoja.** Pray for the flexibility of PeaceBuilders Community as it is being carried forward by waves of growth. Pray for me as I lead PBCI as we firmly focus on our vision, mission, values, and "PAR 80 BY 2015"-goals. Pray for the Management Team as they guide the community through the big waves of growth-changes.



**Joji Pantoja.** Please pray for PBCI and CFP staff, and for the victims of the recent typhoon that hit the country.



**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.** May God heal all her physical diseases such as allergic cough and provide more physical strength as it is needed in the tasks God assigned her in this ministry.



**Regina Mondez.** Please pray for strength, wisdom, and God's provision as she finishes her tasks with PBCI until the end of this quarter.



**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.



**Jeff Yoder.** He is our new intern specializing in Community Healthcare.



**Angie Lederach.** She is our new intern serving as Peacebuilding Specialist.



**Twinkle Bautista.** She is our new Project Team Leader assigned in Valencia City, Bukidnon.



**Sherel Quider.** She is our new Assistant Project Team leader assigned in Valencia City, Bukidnon.



**Edmar Lorenzo.** She is our new Project Team Leader assigned in Lantapan, Bukidnon.



**Jeffrey Estallo.** He is our new Assistant Project Team Leader assigned in Lantapan, Bukidnon.



**Nenia Galanza.** She is our new staff assigned in Cagayan de Oro City.