



**A MONTHLY PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PUBLICATION OF PBCI
JULY 2012 EDITION**

BUKIDNON FORMS PAR COMMUNITY

Valencia City, Bukidnon - - A new Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) community is formed in Bukidnon as 32 pastors and church leaders finished the peace and reconciliation trainings in a span of three months.

Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) National Director Bishop Efraim Tendero commissioned the trainees on July 7, 2012 at the First Fruits Academy, Valencia City, Bukidnon.

Like all other PAR communities, the trainees underwent the three manuals namely the *Basic Course*, *Skills for Everyone* and *For the Healing of our Land*. Book 1 and Book 3 were taught by PBCI president Luis Daniel Pantoja and Executive Vice-president Joji Felicitas Pantoja. Book 2 was given by Angela Lederach and Kriz Cruzado, and Twinkle Bautista and Sherel Quider as co-facilitators.

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Bukidnon PAR trainees underwent the Armed Conflict Area Survival Training before being commissioned as PAR Community.

PBCI FORMALLY OPENS NEW CENTER



PBCI EVP Joji Felicitas Bautista Pantoja and Rosabel Naromal cut the ribbon for the formal opening of the new center.

Davao City, Philippines - Peacebuilders Community formally opened its new office in 404-A, Acacia St., Juna Subdivision, Davao City last July 15, 2012. From the two-door office it once occupied, the new office is a two-storey building that houses an administration room, a consultants' room, a board room, a staff room, a kitchen, a receiving area and a lawn for office gatherings.

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ILIGAN HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS GET HANDS-ON TRAINING

By Crisologo Tagupa

Everyone’s hands were full at the outreach in Luinab last July 25, 2012 - the second learning event for the volunteers in the PBCI-sponsored training.

In coordination with Radya Al-Salaam Foundation Inc. (RASFI) and the City Health Office (CHO), the outreach catered to the needs of the Sendong-affected families temporarily sheltered at the bunkhouses in Luinab. Around 120 individuals including children from 37 families were expected to avail of the consultation but the turnout was far below that number. The ten volunteers were assigned to various tasks like the registration (2), consultation (7 in three separate tables) and pharmacy or medicine distribution(1). The four PBCI healthcare staff distributed themselves to mentor the volunteers in various works. One table was added to handle emergency cases.

At the end of the day the volunteers and the PBCI staff were in one language that it was a successful activity:

1. RASFI was represented with a sizable person power - about ten of them. It helped assuage the line of people at the registration and consultation tables. They also helped in the psychosocial program.
2. Aside from the two medical doctors – Drs. Glenn Manarpaac and Sheila Verdida - a number of nurses and key staff of the CHO came for the activity. The doctors were appreciated by the people because they took time to explain causes of common illnesses.
3. One thing that was a good measure done from the registration was the “screening” of someone’s complaint before sending him/her to the consultation stations. This step avoids an unnecessary surge of callers at the consultation tables.
4. Due to a lower turn out of patients, the activity culminated earlier than scheduled. As such, the volunteers and the assisting staff from PBCI and RASFI had ample time for the debriefing session.

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PBCI FORMALLY OPENS...

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Before the formal program, there was a two-hour open house for all the visitors. PBCI EVP Joji Felicitas Bautista and Rosabel Naromal cut the ribbon. Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute Executive Director Christine Vertucci, pastors from Mindoro, friends from Manila and volunteers in the Sendong relief operations joined the celebration. Also present were PBCI vice-president Norman Naromal who gave the prayer of dedication and Board member Tayna Miclat.

Fairtrade consultant Kriz Cruzado hosted the program and the field staff gave reports on what is happening on the ground. After the prayers of blessing for each room, PBCI president Dann Pantoja led the Holy Communion.

The day ended with lots of food, laughter and conversations among the community members. 

OTHER PAR TRAININGS FOR THE MONTH

God has been expanding PBCI to bring peace and reconciliation concepts in different sectors of the society. In the following dates, PBCI trained workers of a corporation on PAR whose leader dreams of a God-centered company.

July 19 - management team of the corporation

July 12-13 – managers and supervisors

July 3-4 – industrial workers



BUKIDNON FORMS...

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25 of the trainees are from Valencia and seven are from Lantapan, another town in Bukidnon. Almost all of the leaders of the Valencia City Ministers Association Inc., Lantapan Interfaith Ministers Association and Council of Evangelical Churches of Bukidnon (CECB) were there. The first two organizations are local ministerial associations and the last is the provincial arm of the PCEC.

As a result, the CECB decided to have a formal peace and reconciliation committee which will be meeting this August to discuss how to implement the PAR concepts in their respective contexts.

Several PAR graduates are also very active in organizing farmers for the coffee fair trade. As of now, coffee farmers are being organized in seven communities in three cities in Bukidnon.

Bishop Tendero's visit: After the commissioning, Bishop Tendero stayed for one more day as requested by the pastors. The evangelical churches said they feel blessed with his presence because it has been more than 20 years since a PCEC national director visited them.

ILIGAN HEALTHCARE...

From page 2

The things to be improved are:

1. Due to the sloping terrain, the area where the activity was held seemed to be small and it created an elevation between a patient and the person conducting the consultation. Nonetheless, nothing could be done about it.
2. A prior listing or survey among the households as to the complaints of individuals may have saved time for the registration.
3. There was a need to provide a clear direction for callers such as markers on the sequences of steps and stations. This would save a person's time in handling "traffic flow".



L-R: Council of Evangelical Churches of Bukidnon Chairman Dan Dangallo, Sierry Tendero, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches Bishop Efraim Tendero and Filipino inventor Manny Alkuino celebrated Ms. Tendero's birthday in Valencia, City Bukidnon last August 8 in time with the commissioning of the new PAR community. Bukidnon pastors feel very blessed with the visit of the Tenderos

Bishop Tendero gave a message at the Lord Jesus Our Redeemer Church in the morning and had a forum with more than 80 pastors in the afternoon. They also celebrated his wife's birthday, Ms. Sierry Tendero, during lunch with a local church and with the CECB and VCEMAI officials and Bayani Simbalay Coalition in the evening. 🌿

As a learning event, the outreach developed the confidence of the volunteers to handle the consultation process. The input of RASFI on psychosocial support drove home the point that a therapeutic communication is an important part of a healing process. The showmanship of CHO staff creates a good impression on their willingness to be of help.

In a little way, the spirit of cooperation was once again highlighted in the Luinab community outreach. 🌿

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THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND THE CHANGES WE WANT TO SEE

By the Iligan Healthcare Team

Last July 4, 2012, we, the Iligan team, finally managed to conduct our first medical and psychosocial outreach at Barangay Sta Elena, Iligan City. Since this was our first shot to facilitate everything, everyone was anxious of its outcome. This outreach would serve as a practical application of the concepts we have been teaching our volunteers since April. Even the volunteers were not exempted from the tension. At that time, we decided to divide the volunteers into two groups for optimum supervision and learning. But even with this number, we still found it difficult to facilitate a smooth flow of people from all stations that would offer them the services they need. The major challenge for us was the lack of manpower to help us with the traffic of people. Sometimes, some of us will need to leave our post in order to entertain other concerns.

The outreach was made possible with the cooperation of our partner, the Kaabag Ranaw Incorporated. KRI spearheaded the psychosocial interventions for our patients. We are very thankful for this partnership because our partner provided their services without having to ask any counterpart from us.

First thing in the morning, we were disappointed because the area has not been prepared despite our coordination meeting with the barangay officials.

The number of patients was overwhelming and we would have wanted back-up from the health center. However, it was also the scheduled day for immunization. So we were basically on our own.

After sometime, the doctors had arrived and we finally started our consultation. The City Health office provided us two doctors. This was our first encounter with them. Before hand, we had oriented them on how we conduct our outreaches. But somehow, they were not able to grasp fully of the main thought of what we were saying. The greatest dilemma that we encountered during this outreach was the differences in our orientations with the doctors and the people there. For instance, one of our volunteers was intimidated by one of the doctors. According to our volunteer, she was deliberately teaching her patient the importance of traditional medicines as remedy for common sicknesses. But she was offended when the doctor told the patient that these traditional medicines will harm the patient. So these were two conflicting paradigms that would cause confusion on the part of the patient. All we can do is provide him with other options that could provide relief.

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THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM...

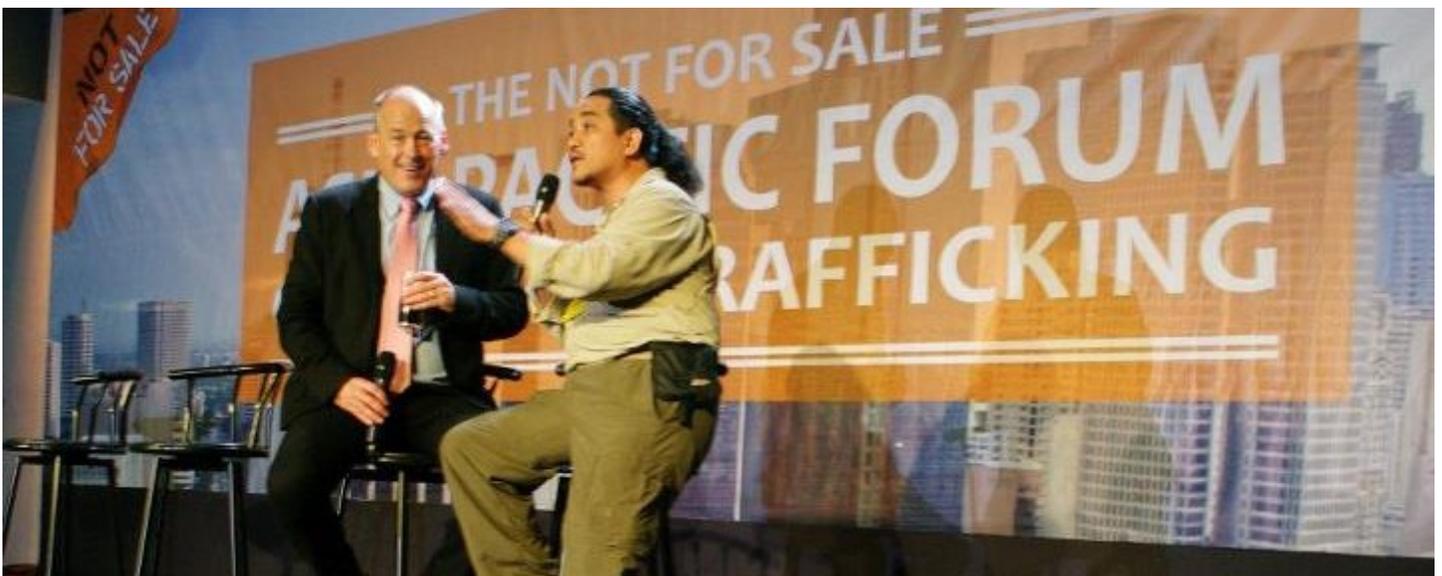
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It was very difficult for us to introduce new methods of healthcare because they already have their own established principles. As one of our volunteers said, "It is difficult to change established principles. We need more than just a hit and run day of outreach to change their thinking. What we need is a tenacious conviction towards paradigm shifting." Indeed, one-time shot outreaches is not the remedy for such bureaucratic healthcare. The people need more than just medications or other medical services. What they ultimately need is empowerment. It is about time that they realize that health is not just a basic need but a fundamental right as well. Furthermore, they should be taught on how to utilize available resources for healthcare that just remains unnoticed from their surroundings.

The key to primary health is prevention. As long as people lived a healthy lifestyle then diseases would be prevented. The curative aspect entails a greater expense. Thus, the role that we play as we deal with these communities is very crucial. More than assessment, we need also to unceasingly teach the people that there are other options.

At the end of this outreach, we were able to serve an overwhelming 192 patients. However, the test for services is not the number but the quality consultation that we spend with every patient. Indeed, conducting an outreach is not the solution nor is it an urgent need as of this time. However, this was a definitely a head start for all us.

For us, this is truly the heart of sustainable health care: to empower people. 🌱



PBCI President Dann Pantoja shared the ministry of PeaceBuilders Community, Inc. and the social entrepreneurial endeavors of Coffee For Peace at the **Asia Pacific Forum on Human Trafficking**, July 19-20, 2012, Manila,

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PBCI STAFF



Dann Pantoja. Please pray that the leaders of the various sectors in our society who have finished the PAR trainings would be able to live, demonstrate, and multiply the PAR practitioners and leaders in the Philippines.



Joji Pantoja. May God work in the hearts and minds of the people and the leaders of the conflicting parties that we are working with. Pray for humility, servant-attitude, excellence, efficiency, and effectiveness on the part of PBCI.



Bennette tenecio. Please pray for good health and guidance in my work. We are still looking for Personnel Development staff and accounting staff. God will direct and provide us the right persons.



Kriz Cruzado. Please pray for the leading of God in my life specifically on further studies and future endeavors. Kriz has been praying to enter KROC University and become a licensed mediator.



Mel Sumatra. Mel is a new staff to be assigned in Bukidnon. Pray for his preparations on the field, for the people he is going to meet and work with. Pray for his team members as they work as one community in their field.



Arjay Balabag. Please pray as we transfer to a new place. Pray also for the healing of my cousin who has a psychological problem. May God grant our family good health, protection and provision for my siblings' school needs.



Joy Betios. Please pray for continuous guidance as she makes personal decisions. Pray also for her strength and good health as she serves PBCI as the administrative officer. Pray for her family's health and provisions.



Fred Abelitado. Praise God for his resourcefulness in maintaining our office furniture in good condition, roasting coffee, fixing plumbing and electrical problems and many other things. Pray for his health.



David Quico. Please pray for David as he is deployed in Cagayan de Oro as health care program. Pray for health, safety and wisdom as he works with the survivors of typhoon Sendong. Please also pray for his family.



Phoebe Gupana. Please pray for the people we are serving who lost their faith in God, who is fighting a disease, for the abused and poor children. Pray for relationships to improve with peace and joy.



Jeff Estallo. Please pray for guidance in his personal decisions, family issues and in his work. May God open the hearts of his aunts for reconciliation and may their faith in God be strengthened.



Nenia Galanza: Please pray for guidance that I may develop deep and long-lasting relationships with the community I am called to serve.



Sherel Quider: Please pray as I am being deployed to Lantapan. Pray for confidence, wisdom and God's guidance as I meet new people.



Twinkle Bautista. Please pray that the coffee farmers trained in Bukidnon truly experience and enjoy fair trade farming. May their passion and commitment remain as they plant coffee for the next three years.



Gemwill Mendoza. Please pray for more medicines for the outreaches in Iligan specifically medicines for adults. We have six more outreaches to go which translates to 700 patients.



Kaye Chanyee. Please pray for strength, guidance, wisdom and grace for the Iligan team as we conduct trainings and outreaches.



Daphnie Derigay. Daphnie is praying their family continue to journey and grow together. She also prays for stronger ties in her family. Daphnie is also praying for the gov't that it pursues inclusive growth for the country.



Alvin Ysulat. Join us in praying for the success of the medical and psychosocial trainings in Iligan. We are being challenged in the areas of coordination and networking.



Julie Condino. I pray for knowledge, wisdom, strength, patience and good health of the CdO team to be able to continue the started healthcare program and to be able to serve more IDP's.

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people," -1 Timothy 2:1

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BUKIDNON FARMERS EMBRACE FAIR TRADE COFFEE



The first of the coffee trainings in Bukidnon. Barobo farmers discuss their possible costs of doing coffee production.

Valencia City, Bukidnon – “In three years time, I would be producing world-class quality Arabica coffee,” a participant to the coffee training said.

On July 25-26, the first coffee training in Valencia City was held in Sidlak Pinoy, a former showroom of Filipino technology of reinforced bamboo products and silt bricks. It was given by PBCI EVP Joji Felicitas Pantoja and fair trade consultant Kriz Cruzado. 25 farmers from three cities of Bukidnon participated.

At the onset, farmers expected to gain new knowledge and technology on coffee farming. One of them wanted to see how coffee fair trade would help in nation-building. The participants’ expectations were well met as seen in their evaluation. But more than that, the trainers also focused on the “being” of the farmers as opposed to their “doing” and “having”. Pantoja emphasized that a person’s being should not be dependent on his/her work and possessions.

A person is created in the image of God and God declared that it is very good, she said. Cruzado taught the farmers on how to deal with scrupulous dealers. Both of the trainers affirmed the dignity of farmers who, in the Philippines, are mostly considered lowly and poor.

At break time, affirmation of learning was apparent as the participants opted to wait for the brewed coffee rather than the instant coffee saying that they have now understood the economics of the 3-in-1 sachets.

At the end of the training, the farmers were excited to start their coffee farms and dreamt of producing high-quality coffee. During the sharing of their goals, they dreamt of Bukidnon as a coffee capital and of having their own coffee shop. One participant shared how he appreciated the focus on the being which can be found in God. “For many years, I wanted to serve God but didn’t know how or didn’t give attention to it. Now, I see why I need to attend the training. “Change has to begin with me,” he said. 🌱

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COFFEE FAIR TRADE BRINGS HOPE TO BUKIDNON FARMERS



During the coffee training, Filipino inventor Manny Alkuino shares his technology on reinforced bamboo and silt bricks as possible options for livelihood.



One of the coffee orientations we had. This is with the Tigwahanon tribe of Bukidnon.



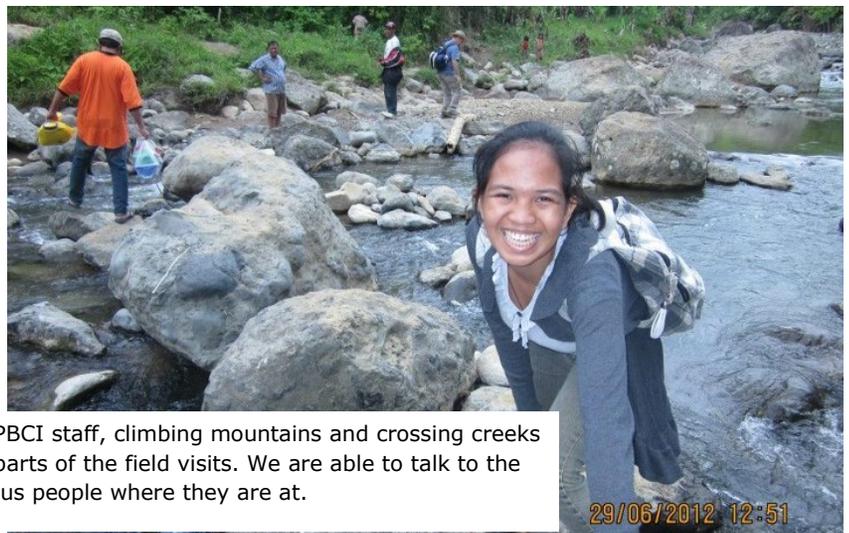
Sites for coffee planting



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For the PBCI staff, climbing mountains and crossing creeks are fun parts of the field visits. We are able to talk to the indigenous people where they are at.

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