



A MONTHLY PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PUBLICATION OF PBCI
DECEMBER 2012 EDITION

GIVE LOVE, SAVE LIVES THIS CHRISTMAS

The Typhoon Pablo Narratives



Volunteers worked hard together to bring family packs to the indigenous peoples unreached by relief operations. Trucks cannot enter the village because of road damage so the team hired "skylab," which is a motorcycle with wings made of planks.

Despite living on sweet camote day after day, there was no rush for the people to get food.

The typhoon was so strong that it crumpled steel structures. This devastation is also seen on bigger scale with other towns ravaged by Pablo.

Typhoon Pablo (International name: Bopha) ravaged the Philippines on 4 December 2012 leaving almost two thousand people dead, 216,876 families homeless and millions without livelihood. The most affected provinces are Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental and some parts of Surigao del Sur. The storm literally left whole towns crushed to the ground with all of its service providers crippled.

According to the Agriculture Department, damage to crops and agricultural infrastructure reached P29.12B. 95% of the banana plantations, 98% of the corn plantations and 80% of the ricefields can no longer be recovered. This translates to more than 160,000 farmers left unemployed.

Immediately after the typhoon, the people needed food, temporary shelter, clean drinking water, clothes, cooking utensils and medicines.

Government, churches, NGOs and other sectors came together to provide short-term relief but there are places that remain unreached because of damaged transportation infrastructure, distance from the center and lack of communication facilities. It is these places that PBCI actively targeted to reach.

Aside from relief operations, medical services and psychosocial intervention were also deemed as necessary because the people are not only reeling from the loss of their material possessions but more so of their loved ones.

The Business Sector joins us in delivering relief

On 18 January, representatives from Epson, Mercury Drug and MediCard joined the Peacebuilders Community in distributing food packs to 2,877 families in Compostela Valley and New Bataan.

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For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. - 1 Cor. 3:11

We welcome your contributions for this ministry. Please send your gift to: Mennonite Church Canada (attn: Witness)
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GIVE LOVE, SAVE LIVES...

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Relief Operations on Christmas Day

5388 families in eight barangays received family packs on 24-25 December. 67 volunteers spent the Christmas Eve in tents in Cateel, one of the most Pablo-devastated towns. Christians, Muslims and other faiths worked as one team to do one mission - serve as many people as they can without discrimination.

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Children share their cheer amidst the destruction of Typhoon Pablo. This photo was taken in Andap, New Bataan which had the most number of casualties.



While their parents wait for the relief goods, the children enjoy the games prepared by the psycho-social team. They also received their own kiddie packs.



As we serve, we get to listen to stories of numerous people who have experienced the brunt of the typhoon. Love, joy and faith persist even in hearts that had suffered much.



The team celebrated Christmas Eve in a schoolyard. The entire building was damaged to the ground.

Pepita Olivares is one of our regular volunteers who organized her whole village to help us out in the relief packing.



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GIVE LOVE, SAVE LIVES

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Even as PBCI is doing relief operations, it is also preparing for the rehabilitation phase. Throughout December, the team has been going around Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley surveying the damage, talking with the people and meeting concerned offices and agencies. These pictures were taken on 28 December during a scouting trip with one of our partners, Renato Constantino. The team brought packs of rice and gave it to families along the highway. It was a totally different experience for both the team and the people. They did not expect the food pack and we were able to connect with them more personally.



Father and daughter wait for their turn for the medical services. In this operation, a medical team and a psychosocial team were deployed while the relief distribution was going on.



Scouts were deployed before every operation to ensure efficient and effective distribution. The scouts are tasked to identify places that are not as served as the others, develop relationship among the community leaders, set-up the place for the operation and map the topography of the area. All these are done in 48 hours. Because of this, relief distribution to 1000 people take an hour and a half with no long lines and crowd tension.



When the pastors of the PAR Community reached us after four hours on the roof, this is how our staff house looked like. We are based in Valencia City, Bukidnon.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PBCI STAFF



Dann Pantoja. Pray for my leading the team as we transition from relief operations to rehabilitation phase. It is both challenging in the short-term and the long-term perspective and is more expensive in terms of budget which we do not have yet.



Joji Pantoja. Pray for our good health as we continue on with our busy schedules. PBCI remains on high alert for the relief operations.



Bennette tenecio. Please pray for my Mom as she will be staying in Australia starting December 3, 2012. Pray for smooth adjustment and good health. Pray also for good health and sound mind as I do the tasks assigned to me.



Kriz Cruzado. Please pray for guidance as she makes major decisions, provision for her family and good health. She has been diagnosed with diabetes last month.



Mel Sumatra. Pray for wisdom as we get deployed for the rehabilitation phase. I also ask God for blessings for my family.



Joy Betios. Pray for physical health and strength as we do relief operations. Pray that we do not get sick.



Fred Abelitado Please pray for us that we remain healthy in all our operations. Pray also for my family. Fred has just lost his brother to a car accident.



David Quico .Pray for our spiritual, emotional and physical health as we are deployed to Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental. May God shower us blessings and good health for us to serve the people.



Sherel Quider. Please pray for my peace of heart and mind as I process the trauma I experienced during Typhoon Pablo. Please pray also for wisdom and alertness as we are constantly in red code.



Twinkle Bautista. Please pray for wisdom, strength and grace as I transition from a field operations team leader to information and communications team leader. May God also give us good physical health.



Frani Catua. Pray for Frani's health because she just recently gave birth.



Tyron Ortiz. Pray for guidance and wisdom as I go back to school to enhance my skills in the administrative department.



Nenia Galanza. Please pray for a smooth transition for the team as we undergo changes. May God grant us wisdom.

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

-1 Timothy 2:1-2

MEDICAL PROGRAM IN ILIGAN AND CDO ENDS, PBCI DIRECTORS ARE NOW INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS

Seven nurses and psychosocial workers graduated on 19 December 2012 after serving one year at Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro City. They focused their ministry to the survivors of Typhoon Sendong that lashed Mindanao on 17 December 2011.

The graduates are: Daphnie Dua Derigay, Kaye Kirstin Chanyee, Alvin Ysulat, Phoebe Kate Gupana, Gemwill Mendoza, Julie Condino, and David Montero.

David Montero will be deployed as a peace and reconciliation worker next month in Davao Oriental.

Meanwhile, our directors Bennette Grace Tenecio and Kriz Cruzado have become independent consultants. Although they are now not formally employed under Peacebuilders Community, they are still serving with us directly through their consultation.

Bennette is still our relief operations director while Kriz is still helping us out with the rehabilitation phase. 

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