



MAY 2013 EDITION

PCEC TO MILF: FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, HOW CAN THE CHURCH HELP IN BUILDING PEACE AMONG PEOPLE IN MINDANAO

BY TALA BAUTISTA



(From L to R) Bishop Efraim Tendero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches pray together with Moro Islamic Liberation Front Peace Panel chairman Moqhaqher Iqbal and Datu Kharis Baraguir of the royal family of Maguindanao. Please continue to pray for the peace talks especially in this very crucial time. Pray that both the government and the MILF will persevere in reaching a final agreement despite peace stallers.

Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) national director Efraim Tendero had a dialogue with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace panel chairman Moqhaqher Iqbal, members of the transition commission and members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces on 14 May 2013. Bishop Tendero asked the MILF on how the evangelical churches can help in pursuing peace in Mindanao. Among those raised in the discussions are:

- MILF invited the church in journeying with them and with the Government of the Philippines (GPH) especially during the difficult times of the discussion.
- Civil society organizations and the churches should build a parallel structure to help pressure both parties in concluding the agreements.
- The churches should network with other peace organizations to help in advocating the peace agreement and the crafting of the Bangsamoro Basic Law to the people in the ground.

This may help in involving the people at large and the mid-level government officials to create a critical mass support.

- The church is pivotal in talking to the government to prove its sincerity in the peace process.
- Other struggles that the Bangsamoro faces are the stereotypes from the common people that trigger animosity.

In response, Bishop Tendero said that the church will continue to help in advocating the Bangsamoro aspiration as articulated by the Bangsamoro. The church is in communication with the government about the peace agreements and that he is committed to continue working in bringing the four leaders – government, civic society, business and church – to work for a common agenda of peace.

Before the discussions, MILF peace panel chair Iqbal shared the status of the peace agreements. Conflict transformation consultant Wendy Kroeker and PBCI joined the dialogue. The dialogue ended in a prayer by both the MILF and PCEC after a sumptuous lunch prepared by the hosts.

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: Menonite Church Canada (attn: Witness)
600 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4 • P: 204-888-6781 TF: 866-888-6785 • www.mennonitechurch.ca

PASTORS ESTABLISH NEW PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMUNITY



: The new PAR community prays together at the end of every training day. The pastors said that this prayer time has greatly encouraged them because it reinforces the value of support and cooperation. Even if one lets go of his or her hand, he or she will not fall down.



The leaders of the new PAR community and the PBCI team prayed for the Congressman-elect Josephine Sato of Occidental Mindoro. Occidental Mindoro is a province in Region IV-B.

The churches in the province of Occidental Mindoro expressed their desire to be united to be able to continuously impact their community. And they did just that! 23 church leaders finished peace and reconciliation training from 20-24 May 2013. 14 more are waiting for the next training because they were not able to complete it.

The new PAR community was so passionate on their desire to act on their present reality that they turned a workshop on consensus-based decision making into a real meeting. They immediately chose their core leaders and the issue they wanted to focus on.

The day after the training, several of the core leaders and the PBCI team went to the provincial capital as part of their hands-on training on fact-finding and research. The trip is also a prayer ride where the team prayed for each of the towns.

THE NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS SET FOR A NEW PBCI

Peacebuilders Community has a newly-elected Board of Trustees. They are:

- Chito and Joy Legaspi
- Norman and Rosabel Naromal
- Tayna Miclat

Each of the Board chose a specific program to work on based on their skills and passion. Chito is focused on creating a system for transportation for all our field work and field exposure. Chito is a businessman in the transportation industry.

Joy is in-charge of planning the

events of PBCI such as international interns. Joy is in the hotel and restaurant business.

Norman is a pastor of the Davao Bible Community Church. He and his wife, Bel, has been with the PBCI as BoT since 2006. Norman is focused on the spiritual transformation aspect and helps out in the Peacebuilders School of Theology.

Bel is a geologist by profession. She is focused on the economic-ecological aspect and she has been busy in research for the PBCI position paper on mining.

is the manager of a TV station in the

Philippines. She is working to have a program on television that looks at current events through the lens of peace.

The Board met on 11 May 2013 with Wendy Kroeker as an observer.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.

PRAYER LETTER: MAY 2013

YouTube PeaceBuilders Community, Inc.

**PBCI LEARNING TOUR WITH
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION
CONSULTANT WENDY KROEKER**



Bai Jehan Baraguir puts on the hijab on conflict transformation specialist Wendy Kroeker. (Bai means princess.)

PBCI staff had a learning tour with conflict transformation consultant Wendy Kroeker from 9 -17 May 2013. On the 14th, a day after the Philippine mid-term elections, the team went to Maguindanao to meet with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Before that, the team visited Datu's Brew, a coffee shop owned by the Baraguir family.

The Baraguirs had adopted PBCI president Dann Pantoja in his first stay in Maguindanao in 2006. Bai Jehan Baraguir shared her passion on the coffee industry saying that she and her family embraced the vision of Coffee for Peace. "Coffee is indeed an effective medium to express peace and culture," she said. Datu's Brew has been featured in a lifestyle magazine and has won the First Coffee Brewing Competition in the whole province of Cotabato. Bai Jehan said people come in and get amazed by the quality of coffee. This opens conversations for the advocacy of raising the coffee quality in the Philippines, possibilities of close relationships with Muslim, Lumad and Christians, and raising the bar for coffee shop management. The coffee shop also serves as a showroom for Maguindanaoan fabric called Inaul.

After that, Datu Kharis Baraguir shared their perspective of history. "Colonialization had divided us," he said. The lumad (indigenous peoples) and the Muslim in Mindanao and the Muslims are said to be brothers through the lineage of Mamalu and Tabunaway. Mamalu is the ancestor of the lumad while Tabunaway is the ancestor of the Muslim. He affirmed the story of the missing golden plate which the two brothers used to share a meal before they parted. In the current times, the two main groups with the migrants who are mostly Christians have a history of conflict with each other.

With this, Datu Kharis reiterated his commitment to peacebuilding. "I am not rich but I will spend my last centavo to help in peacebuilding," he said.

**COFFEE FOR PEACE IN THE TOP 16
OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS
CHALLENGE 2013, OUT OF 752
APPLICANTS FROM 115 COUNTRIES**

The Coffee for Peace and PBCI family are hopefully waiting for the results of the Women in Business Challenge 2013 of the BiD Network. CFP is in the top 16 and the first five would be announced before September this year.

The competition is open to women entrepreneurs who contribute to "positive social and/or environmental impact." This year's theme is "Empowering Women Entrepreneurs to Drive Growth." CFP is represented by CFP COO and PBCI EVP Joji Felicitas Pantoja.

**CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSE
IN COMPOSTELA VALLEY**



This is the skeleton of the first permanent house that is being built by the Montevista Peace and Recovery Community. Montevista, Compostela Valley is a town hit severely by Typhoon Pablo (International Name: Bopha) last December.

The Peace and Recovery Community was formed during the relief operations. It is composed of pastors, church leaders and nuns of the Convent of St. Bridget and Mo. Elizabeth Convent.

Until now, there are families living in temporary shelters after the typhoon destroyed everything in its path.

PRAYER LETTER: MAY 2013

 **PeaceBuilders Community, Inc.**

PBCI STAFF PRAYER REQUESTS



ECRECENCIA ECLEVIA

Please pray for good health and that my daughter will pass the auditions for the banduria. I also pray for a God-approved partner in life.



FRANI CATUA

I pray for good health for my daughters – Aki and Aria. Please pray also that my husband will not be laid off from work.



SELFRED ABELITADO

Pray for good health for my family. May my father be healed of his cough.



NENIA RHEA GALANZA

I pray for wisdom. May I be effective in the communities I am assigned in and to be more active in dealing with the people's issues. I pray that God continually teach me His truth.



SHEREL QUIDER

May the Holy Spirit sustain my spiritual journey. Please pray that my skills in information and communication be more effective and efficient in advancing peacebuilding. Pray also for the wisdom, safety, peace and joy for my family, relatives and friends.



DAVID QUICO

I pray that the Lord will grant me blessings and contentment. That He would guide me on my journey, grant me wisdom, and shower good health and blessings to my loved ones. Bless my sisters and brothers and also my mom.



DARIENNE JOY BETIOS

I pray for good health. May God extend my resources as I finish our house. May God also grant me patience and peacebuilding resources as I relate with my neighbor.



JOHN MEL SUMATRA

Please pray for the establishment of Peace and Reconciliation community in Compostela Valley. Pray for me as I search for the man or woman of peace in the province.



EDUARDO ISADA

Pray for the PBCI team to gain deeper understanding of the spiritual realm within the Biblical context.



CLAY ROJO

Please pray for a 4X4 vehicle that we can use in our ministry. We are often invited in the mountains of Bukidnon.



JUNE ROJO

Please pray for our family's health, especially my children. May God continue to protect us from any illness as we serve the Prince of Peace.



TYRON ORTIZ

I pray for good health for me and my family. I also pray for patience in everything that I do.



DAWN ALBERT PATES

I pray that God will bless my family, provide us with our financial needs and strengthen our spiritual needs. I pray for good health and security among my loved ones. I pray that when I go out to meet potential clients for Coffee for Peace, the people will find confidence and trust in what we believe.



TALA BAUTISTA

My country is deeply wounded by divisions, conflicts, environmental degradation, greed. Many of our people groan of injustice and violence. Please join us in praying for the Philippines. May the Shalom of Christ heal our land.



JOJI PANTOJA

Please pray for wisdom in all the projects that we are handling. Pray also for good health and physical strength.



DANN PANTOJA

Please pray for both the Government of the Philippines (GPH) Peace Panel and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Peace Panel to go back to the negotiating table immediately and sign the Annexes to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) before the process get sabotaged by those who want to perpetuate the conflict for their selfish, war-based, interests; their interests maintain their hold on wealth and power.

PRAYER LETTER: MAY 2013

 **PeaceBuilders Community, Inc.**