



Together, protecting Filipino children

Children's Link

Official Newsletter of the Philippine Children's Ministries Network

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2009



five loaves & two fish

FINDING OUR RHYTHM OF REST IN BUSYNESS

Take the time to stop for a moment and consider what a normal day is like for you. Each day presents a different kind of challenge. Having different roles and responsibilities in a fast and frenetic world, the demand and pressure on us are greater. It is no wonder that many are feeling very tired and discouraged. We even face health issues that are due to work-related stress. What we go through may not seem so hard or complicated on the surface. But so much energy is spent in all the tasks whether physical or mental and in coping with emotional turmoil precipitated by changing situations and circumstances. If we go through life like machines that work non-stop, we will eventually conk out and become useless.

The Bible gives us a very good account of the busy life of our Lord



Participants to the Workers' Retreat enjoying their time with God and with one another at Tagaytay City.

Jesus Christ. He ministered to peoples' needs from village to village. He dealt with bickering disciples who were often slow to understand what He was saying and doing. He faced criticisms from family, threats and plots of his enemies. He didn't have a comfortable base to go back to after a tiring day. What was the Lord's secret in getting so much work done in very little time? Was it because He is divine? The Bible is clear with the fact that He set aside his being God when He took on the form of humanity with its frailties and limitations.

Very simply, the Lord withdrew to a solitary place now and then.

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URGENT APPEAL: What's Next After Tropical Storm 'Ondoy'?

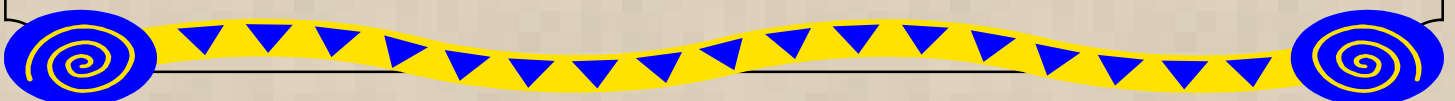
Tropical storm Ondoy (Ketsana) left almost four million people, of which 805,779 families are in Metro Manila, and many more in 25 provinces in Luzon adversely affected by the worst flooding in the country in 40 years. The death toll has climbed to 295 and 39 people reported missing, with estimated 9.7 billion pesos damaged to property and crops. An unaccounted number are still waiting relief, having no drinking water, food and power for a couple of days now. Pictures coming out show mud-covered communities, destroyed houses, streets filled with debris and choked with vehicles, people in various difficult situations.

The aftermath of the disaster is overwhelming so that government and private sectors are joining hands to address the situation. Rescue and retrieval operations are in earnest. Relief work has intensified. The clean-up has begun in some areas. PCMN as a network of Christian ministries to children at risk is currently focusing on finding out the situation of its members and partners in badly affected areas. Four are located in Marikina, Cainta and Pasig with three operating shelter programs for abandoned and neglected children.



Relief team of PCMN member organization, Bright Lights Learning Center taking a pause from work.

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Network news

Cont. from page 2 Finding Our Rhythm of Rest

The time of fellowship with the Father refreshed and recharged him. **He enjoined his apostles to do the same.** Mark 6:31 *“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”*

What about us? Have we learned to withdraw to a quiet place and get some rest in our busy lives? As a rule we don't want to be lazy or be considered one. We feel that resting is a waste of time when we could be getting something done or advancing our cause. We think that real rest will have to wait until we go to heaven. That's why most of us will rest only when we are weary and sick. Consider this: If we think of stopping to rest when we are finished, then there will be no rest for us. Our work is never done. When we finish one, another comes our way.

God built in the created world a rhythm of rest. In Genesis 1, creativity and productivity is followed by rest.

The field lays fallow for a time after harvest. The trees shed their old leaves and wait for a time before new ones sprout. Rest is a physical, mental, emotional and spiritual necessity. Our bodies need rest to function properly, our minds, too, if they are to perform at



peak efficiency. Most importantly, our spirits need to rest in the presence of God so we can learn to trust him to work on things that we cannot do, receive his blessings and having done so, become a blessing to others. Isaiah 30:15 **“In repentance and rest is your**

salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.”

Our rest could be as short as 30 minutes to 1 hour during the day, a day during the week, a week or longer every six months. So we won't be disturbed, we should put a notice to everyone around that we are disconnecting for a time. Switch off mobile phones and computers, disconnect landlines and go to a quiet place. In that period of quietness, reflect and listen to God from the heart. Let it be a time when the Good Shepherd leads us beside still waters and makes us lie down in green pastures. Then we come out refreshed, restored and capable to face whatever challenge comes our way.

Article is written by Pine Gutierrez, National Coordinator, PCMN.

WORKERS' RETREAT PHOTO STORY



Network news



PCMN Board Committee on Membership met last October 2 at the World Vision office to deliberate on membership composition and on terms of affiliation of networks to PCMN.

In photo (L-R) are: Atty. Patty Arroyo, Arnel Carreon, Menchit Wong, Armi Martinez & Pine Gutierrez. Not in photo are Dilys Arbotante & Fe Foronda.



Step-UP students of Bright Lights Learning Center try their hands in Refrigeration & Air Conditioning training., a cooperation with Technical Education & Skills Development Authority (TESDA).



Thirteen representatives of PCMN member organizations attended the Orientation on Skills Training & Scholarship for Unemployed Young People and Adult at ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation.

FAITH-BASED GROUP HOSTS FORUM ON ANTI-CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

An Advocacy Forum on Anti-Corporal Punishment was held last September 16, 2009 at the World Vision Development Foundation Chapel in Quezon City. The forum was organized by the Alliance of Christian Development Agencies (ACDA) and Child Rights Network (CRN) in partnership with the World Vision Development Foundation (WVDF).

Most people consider discipline and punishment as one. Andrea V. Olase, Advocacy Specialist of WVDF shared that discipline aims at teaching, mentoring and guiding the child to learn from the situation or experience. It is not limited to situations

when there is a mistake or offense". Punishment on the other hand is giving "penalty for a wrongdoing", and "teaching painful lesson so that the mistake will not be repeated". Corporal punishment is common practice among adult committed against children, cutting across cultures, geography and social class. She stressed the need to stop corporal punishment for it hurts children, violates children's rights and children themselves want it stopped.

Mr. Ernesto Almocera, Jr. of Philippine Legislative Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) gave an update on a bill on anti-corporal punishment which

Committee review at the House of Representatives. He encouraged the faith-based community to promote and support the bill by lobbying for its passage.

The pressing need among the FBOs is to deepen biblical understanding on positive discipline. There are opposing views on the biblical merits of using the rod in disciplining children. While there may be pros and cons on the use of the rod, it is necessary that we seek the heart of God on a world fit for children, free from abuse and violence.

By Gerald Tampico, Network Development Facilitator, PCMN.



Signs of Hope

"De Padyak nga Traysikol", A Network Sustainability Project

A network of 30 Pastors and churches was organized in 2006 at Calbayog City, through the initiative of Philippine Children's Ministries Network. From an anti-human trafficking movement, the Western Samar Children's Ministries Network (WSCMN) already moved into bigger concerns such as child protection. This year the network members felt the need to raise local funds through a sustainable project called "De Padyak nga Traysikol", a manual tricycle powered by human feet very similar to a bicycle which has a carriage that can ferry 2 people.

The pastors, through the leadership of

Ptr. Vivencio Campani, conducted a survey and found out that, if the Network will invest to this income generating project, they can earn as much as P 5,000.00 per month for 5 tricycles running. "This amount is enough to sustain our Network operations with its programs and activities", said Ptr. Campani.

The members have agreed to contribute P500.00 each in order to purchase the first tricycle. They collected the first P5,000 which PCMN matched 50% of the amount of the purchase price of the second hand tricycle. WSCMN purchased one tricycle already and is now earning P 40.00 a day or P280/wk.

The network plans to continue collecting contributions from its members to purchase the second unit this October.

This report was filed by Ptr. Oscar Tabarranza, WSCMN Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sept 15: Launch of Step-UP Center, Brgy. Nangka, Marikina City

October 14: Launch of Step-UP Center, WSCMN, Calbayog City, Western Samar

October 14-16: 4th yr Semi-Annual HMRSC Project Assessment, Calbayog City

October 22: PCMN Board & Staff Planning

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Making a Difference Together

From page 1. Urgent Appeal

They have been linked to World Vision's relief team for immediate assistance. Continuing follow up is going on especially for organizations and churches that are small and have limited access to resources. They would be in need themselves. The aim at this point is to connect them to groups that are currently helping.

In the weeks ahead, focus will shift to the more costly task of recovering what have been lost, such as homes and stuff, but most importantly helping rebuild lives negatively impacted by the disaster especially among the poor who have no or very little resources to get started with. PCMN is now raising funds to help affected organizations and local churches recover in the fastest way possible so they could resume their work of responding to the needs of the most needy and vulnerable, both in relief work and in the harder task of rebuilding/rehabilitation. These groups located in communities of great need are strategic to a more sustainable work among the poor.

Join us in the great task before us. Donate now. Let's make a difference together!

Account name: Philippine Children's Ministries Network Inc.

Account type: Savings – Peso

Account number: 90191633

Banco de Oro – Makati Shangrila Hotel Branch

Account name: Philippine Children's Ministries Network Inc.

Account type: Savings – US dollar

Account number: 90191641 SWIFT Code BNORPHMM

Banco de Oro – Makati Shangrila Hotel Branch



Children shown above are living in an evacuation center in a community in Cainta, Rizal. The evacuation center is a fellowship center of a local church. The children shared that their houses were swept away by floods brought by Typhoon Ondoy and they have nowhere to return to.

Picture above was taken with permission from Bright Lights Learning Center & parents of children.