



The Annual Report of the Asia Pacific Baptist Aid

(For the year ended Dec.31, 2010)

Overall co-ordination of the works carried out by APBAid as reported by Kabi Gangmei, the Director

It's a great privilege to share the exciting year of APBAid. For there has been new initiatives and expansion of our ministry and this contributes to the deepening understanding of Christian outreach and development of our relationship with the partners, affiliates and fraternal bodies alike. For this, I would praise the Lord who not only bless us but sustain us through the year. I would also express thanks to the Churches and Baptist bodies who stood with us in this ministry.

Office and official travels

I and my colleague Sushil Narzary, the APBAid Project Officer, have been working hard to accomplish the tasks assigned to us. I had spent over 73 days on official visit and travels – mostly on relief initiatives, DRM trainings, project visits and consultancy works. Sushil also logged about 63 days on official travels. He assisted in DRM trainings and supervises projects in Orissa and Andaman.

I had the opportunity to join the community of Baptists in Hawaii, on July 26 – Aug 2, 2010 at the BWA Congress. It was great to get to meet the leaders of Baptist Churches from different countries and to be refreshed by listening to the inspiring messages from the main sessions. On Sept 26-30, 2010 I and Sushil attended the Micah Network Consultation on Stewardship in Thailand. It gave us good input in the areas of accountability, and dealing with the proper usages of God's given resources. In addition, I was invited to speak at several meetings and trainings during the year: to cite a few, Feb 5-7, Teaching church leaders on Community Development at Jirighat, Cachar-Assam; April 23-25, and Leadership training of RBCU at Serfanguri, Assam. These were good opportunities to build rapport with the churches and partners.

Finance

Allan Smith, as the APBAid Treasurer, has been holding the fort in keeping the accounts and helping the office in receiving and disbursing the funds. I would like to thank him for the valuable service. He has prepared the details of the financial report separately. We received a total of \$374,366 and we spent \$158,717. It shows that our income has increased much larger than the previous year. This might be due to several calamities in the region last year. By the end of the year we were holding a balance of \$198,511 against varied heads of accounts.

It is encouraging to see consistent support coming from the Churches in Malaysia, Mizoram, Japan and others. I can say that there is now more awareness among the APBF member bodies and the churches. We remain thankful to the continued support of BWAid, BWAA, CBF, IMB-ABC, EBM and BMS.

Interactive website for APBAid

In following up the recommendation from the Asian Tsunami Roundtables, for a good communication system so that we may constantly interact with the Churches and partners, we have been working with WebCom, Guwahati (India) on interactive website for APBAid. We signed MoU with them in June last and we are now in the process of developing it into a full-functioning website. We paid a total of US \$37,573, for which BWAid and CBF granted us an amount of \$10,000 each and APBAid paid \$17,573. By October

2010 SRS document was received, and finalized. Layout design can be seen at <http://www.webcomipl.net/apbf/>.

We are thankful to Bijoy Sangma, Chairman of APBF Committee for Communications who had given us a good lead and guidance to the progress of the website development. We also remain thankful to Mr. Upendra Singh, IT Consultant to BWAA who personally visited WebCom office, Guwahati on Sept 23, 2010 and help us in monitoring the website development.

Major Involvements

(i) Disaster Risk Management (DRM) trainings

The Asia-Pacific region has been hit repeatedly by natural calamities. In response to this we have initiated capacity building trainings since 2007 with the objective of preparing partner Churches across the region. In 2010 we conducted 2 DRM trainings - 1) at Mt Hagen, PNG on May 5-9; and 2) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Nov.25-27. Altogether 51 church leaders, development workers and women leaders attended the trainings. With these two trainings we have now conducted altogether 8 DRMs across the region. We are thankful to BWAid and BMS for the support given to us to conduct these trainings.

It may be noted that people in Asia-Pacific region are four times more likely to be affected by natural disasters than those in Africa and 25 times more likely than those in Europe or North America (according to UN sources released in the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Thailand). With the global warming we are most likely to be facing more natural calamities in the near future.

(ii) Emergency Relief Fund (ERF)

Last year we started the ERF with the objective of helping partner Churches respond to the need of disasters. With the total collection of \$38,244 for emergency reliefs we were able to help in seven emergency situations in the APBF region:

1. CBCNEI storm relief, N E India with an amount of \$1,170 to help 5 families rebuild their homes;
2. Hill Tract Rehabilitation, Bangladesh with \$3,000 to help 41 families for foodstuff and home reconstruction;
3. Leh flood relief, Kashmir with \$2,385 to help 13 families for heating and foodstuff;
4. Mizoram hailstorm relief, NE India with \$3,000 to help 33 families rebuild their homes;
5. Pakistan flood relief with \$10,000 in foodstuff distribution and reconstruction of homes;
6. Merapi volcano-Mentawai earthquake relief, Indonesia with \$6,000 for immediate relief work; and
7. Arunachal Pradesh relief (rat menace), N E India with \$3,000 for helping 120 families in the provision of foodstuff

Besides the list we have committed \$6,000 to MBC for Giri Cyclone relief, Myanmar and another \$6,000 to LCSBC, Philippine for the victims of typhoon Megi. As Asia Pacific region is likely to experience more disasters and we will be receiving more requests it is good to strengthen the ERF fund.

(iii) Sumatra Earthquake Recovery, Indonesia

On Sept 30, 2009 a powerful earthquake struck West Sumatra and caused massive liquefaction of soils resulting into a massive mudflow. It destroyed some 115,000 homes and another 40,000 damaged including 3,150 schools. It was reported that 1,117 lost their lives. In response to the need APBAid working with UIBC initiated a recovery project costing \$89,537 (of which BWAid contributed \$52,537, APBAid shared \$17,000 and CBF \$7,500). The project was to reconstruct 2 schools and conduct DRR programs in Mentawai. While the implementation was in progress another earthquake struck the same

area on October 25, 2010 (mainly on the island of Mentawai) leaving behind 154 deaths, 400 missing and 4000 families homeless. The school that was constructed earlier was destroyed and the project had to be reassessed and plans to be modified.

(iv) Typhoon-Ondoy Recovery II, Philippines

In a span of 3 weeks, three typhoons wrecked havoc to the Northern parts of Philippines in September 2009. Death of 640 persons was reported and livestock, food grains and standing crops worth \$350 million were destroyed in heavy flooding that followed. APBAid along with LCSBC took up a recovery project worth \$30,000. It aimed to build a typhoon shelter, reconstruct 30 homes and help 80 farmers to replant their crops. The project was about to be completed, but on October 29, 2010 typhoon Megi struck the same area again, and those farmer beneficiaries suffered the same destruction of crop. In order to help these farmers LCSBC proposed another project with an estimated budget of \$26,679.

(v) Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar

Two and half years have elapsed since Cyclone Nargis lashed through the delta region of Myanmar on May 2, 2008 leaving behind 130,000 deaths or missing with 2.4 millions affected. Along with Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) we struggled through the initial relief works leading to a rehabilitation program. On March 24, 2010 a team of representatives from Baptist bodies including Paul Montacute, Bonny Resu and others visited Yangon and an understanding was worked out (composite name: '*Cyclone Nargis Recovery Program*') that projects costing a maximum of \$25,000 each would be received directly from the regional conventions. Accordingly by May 2010 initial fund for 4 livelihood and water and sanitation projects was released, and mid-term reports were received by August end 2010. The momentum was broken as one of the 4 regional conventions reported 'cash distribution', and an inquiry was initiated.

It is disheartening that after so many meetings, visits and agreement we could not implement and completed these projects as desire. It may be noted that we received a total of \$212,157, out of which total of \$111,899 was utilized till date and \$100,258 remaining with us as balance now. We are in discussions with MBC to support further projects for utilizing the remaining fund. We remain thankful to our partners BWAid, IMB-ABC, HKBC, BWAA and others who stand with us to move forward with the project.

(vi) Orissa Project, India

Starting from August 24, 2008 there had been violence against Christians in the Indian state of Orissa and it continued for months. Over 4,000 homes were burnt, 200 churches demolished, and 67 mostly pastors and evangelists were killed with some 30,000 displaced. In response to the situation APBAid mobilized a initial relief work worth \$40,451 to provide clothing, food packages and a recovery project worth about \$31,100 was implemented to build 11 community halls, repairs of 21 churches and construct 8 ring wells. We also conducted trainings in Legal aid and Trauma counselling to benefit 500 persons. This boosted the capabilities of the Christian communities as they continue to face discrimination and intimidation in the rural areas. The project is in the process of winding up and an evaluation is to be completed soon. We remain thankful to Five-two Foundation, South Korea for the support to this project.

(vii) Emerald Hope Project II

Immediately after the Asian *Tsunami*, APBF and NBCC-NMM jointly conducted relief and rehabilitation programs in Andaman Islands of India – providing nets, boats etc to fishermen, provision of saplings to some 100 farmers, operated tuition centers for school going children, a weaving scheme and enablement activities for the resident NMM Missionaries and the local Karen Baptist churches. It became a model of cooperation among 5 Baptist different Baptist bodies – BWAid and APBAid along with Baptists from Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam.

A rehabilitation project, “Emerald Hope Project” (EHP) was launched in July 2006 with the objectives to provide clean and safe drinking water, toilet constructions for hygienic living, mobilization of SHGs for alternative livelihood and coaching classes for underprivileged children. The project was completed by December 31, 2009. The project’s Phase-II with estimated budget of \$116,906 (BWAid contributes \$99,737) started it in June 2010. The goal of the project is to help 500 families through 50 SHGs, and leave behind a sustainable program for them.

Partnership with Baptist bodies

1. We assist BWAid in monitoring their projects in India and South East Asia – (1) working with Cambodia Baptist Union (CBU) to develop a small relief project, and (2) the Zeliangrong Baptist Church Council, Manipur in helping victims of Dimasa-Zeme ethnic clash.
2. We assist European Baptist Mission (EBM) as Regional Representative to help supervise some 48 projects they support in India. In doing so I attended EBM Executive Committee meeting in Berlin on Sept 1-6, and again I assisted EBM leaders in conducting Partners’ meeting on January 11-12, 2011 at Nellore, South India.
3. We assist Baptist Union of Norway (BUN) in developing a project to help Chin migrants from Myanmar in the state of Mizoram, India. It may be noted that there are some 50,000 displaced persons from Myanmar settling down there. I was with BUN leaders in Mizoram on January 15-16, 2011 for the inauguration of the project.
4. Other partnership: We are also actively engaging with IMB-ABC, CBF and BMS.

Thanks and conclusion

I would like to express thanks to the Chair of APBAid Committee, members and APBF General Secretary who lend support in every opportunity to work, and more so to the donors and Churches who contributed generously for the work to continue. We were able to link up with partner Churches in PNG, Laos and Vietnam through DRMs, and through relief outreach we began to deepen relationship with partner Churches in Philippines and Indonesia. We also consolidated our gains in Andaman Islands with the launching of Phase-II project, and I am hoping to gain further as we work on the Interactive Website.

We give praises to God for what we achieved, and we remain committed to the tasks set before us. We request your prayer for the challenges that lay before us.

Rev. Kabi Gangmei
Director, APBAid

Date: Jan 10, 2011