



APBAid Annual Report 2012

The ministry of APBAid is coordinated by Rev Kabi Gangmei, with the help of his staff. We praise God for His provision and guidance to sustain the ministry through the year 2012. We thank all the donors and Churches who contributed generously to the APBAid ministry this year.

Development Consultation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

From September 2-4th, 2012 208 Baptists from 14 countries in the Asia Pacific gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to consider how they can better serve the world's poor in the region. Delegates, already involved in a variety of ministries with people living in poverty, were driven by the desire to match good intentions with good practice, to share their experiences, build networks for future cooperation and to engage in mutual learning.

The Development Consultation featured three streams: practising a distinctive Christian development; preparing for and managing disasters; and more controversially, the place of a rights based approach to development. Through more than 55 written presentations, delegates sought to share, learn and explore what is good practice under each of these three streams.

In considering what it means to practice a distinctive Christian development, delegates consider the role of the church in the transformation of individuals and communities, where the Gospel is extended holistically to all. They also recognized the need to become much more engaged in sustainable business and economic activities, learning from skilled Christian business persons and others. There was a recognition that while climate change is real and humans are active agents in its causes, our theology of the environment and our development activities have not always sought to address this critical issue – this is something we need to urgently redress. We recognized that as we seek to engage our organizations in effective Christian Development, their governance and leadership needs to be strengthened, moving towards best practice in this area.

The Asia Pacific region continues to be exercised by the many disasters, both man-made and natural, that affect our communities, more particularly the vulnerable poor. Discussion and case studies presented in the Consultation highlighted the need for continued improvement in preparedness, coordination and enhanced capacity to respond to these situations by our church and the communities in which they are situated. Delegates shared how effective alliances were established in such situations that went across the community, interfaith and agency levels. Importance was placed on establishing agreements between such groups ahead of possible disaster situations. The specialist and urgent needs of internally displaced persons in such disasters was shared through compelling case studies. The church is called on to be an active agent, assisting and advocating on behalf of such people in their communities. The Consultation delegates consider how best to assist with mediation, relief and development after ethnic and religious conflict. Very current case studies, such as in Assam, highlighted the problem and the need.

The Development Consultation delegates considered the role of a rights based approach to development from a number of points of view. Clear biblical teaching points out how such an approach was central to the Christian message and development. Case studies around the issue of women and children trafficking in Asia clearly outlined how a number of organizations were addressing the rights of the exploited in this specific situation. Moreover, the Church in the region was asked to move beyond denial to engagement in this area. The rights of the child were

explored in both child specific ministries as well as the other development ministry addressing the needs of the community. Development workers were asked to own and model child participation in the development ministries they engage in. Advocating for the rights of the marginalized, exploited and oppressed was seen to be central to the ministry of the church, as it was to the ministry of Jesus. Delegates were challenged as how the ministry of advocacy can be carried out in countries ruled by oppressive regimes. Finally, a rights based approach needs to ensure the participation of people with disabilities and disempowerment. Poignant case studies of those affected and infected with HIV/AIDs, the needs of widows and the blind were considered.

One of the great strengths of the consultation was the combination of biblical and theoretical reflection with real life case studies from the experiences of delegates. Underlying proceedings was the conviction that God loves the world, seeks its transformation and calls us to partner with Him in this task.

Finance

I would like to thank Allan Smith, the APBAid Treasurer, who has been looking after the accounts and helping the office in receiving and disbursing the funds. He has prepared the details of the financial report separately.

Emergency Reliefs

In 2010 we started the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) with the objective of helping Churches in the region respond to the need arising out of disasters. In 2012 we were able to support the following relief and emergency situations:

1. **Typhoon Washi Relief, the Philippines.** Following the devastation caused by Tropical storm Washi struck the southern island of Mindanao on 17 December 2011, APBAid was able to support a relief project by Convention of Visayas and Mindanao Southern Baptist Churches with more than \$10,894 with support received from BMS, BWAid and funds from the ERF.
2. **Flood Relief, the Philippines.** APBAid, with funding from the Malaysian Baptist Convention and ERF funding, was able to commit \$8,000 to support the flood relief efforts of the Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches after the devastating floods in early August.
3. **Assam Ethnic Violence Relief**
Following further ethnic conflict in Assam late July and August of this year, APBAid was able work with the Lower Assam Baptist Union and Council of Baptist Churches in NE India to develop relief projects to be submitted to Baptists donors. APBAid support each of these projects with \$2,000 from the ERF, and BWAid provide \$10,000 in support to the LABU and Baptist World Aid Australia provided \$15,000 in support of the CBNEI.
4. **Repairs to Kawtholei Bible School.** APBAid has been able to provide nearly \$3,000 to support the repairs to the Kawtholei Bible School following the fire which destroyed it on March 3rd, 2012.

Project Activities

1. Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar

After completion of the first group of 4 projects a further four projects have been funded in through MBC-CSSDD and its partners to help support those communities recovery from Cyclone Nargis. The costs of \$100,000 have been supported by APBAid, ABC and BWAid.

2. Emerald Hope Project, Andaman

A joint project of APBAid and NBCC, and funded by BWAid, EHP-II now it has entered the 3 year of the project. With the estimated costs of \$116,906 the project is working among 180

women through 20 SHGs, building capacity of the groups in such areas as account keeping, livestock rearing, and small home based income generating activities. The project will be phased-out in June 2013

3. Japan earthquake and tsunami relief

Japan's earthquake & tsunami on March 11th 2011 swept over 125,000 homes and some 20,425 lives were lost or missing. The disaster aftermath became complicated with difficulty arising out of radiation leak from the Fukushima power plant. APBAid worked hard with the leaders of Japan Baptist Convention and Japan Baptist Union who did their best in responding to the need on the ground, resulting in APBAid providing \$80,000 to JBC and JBU. In 2012, APBAid worked with JBC and JBU to develop a further two projects. These projects have largely been funded by the CBF and BWAid, with APBAid providing a further \$25,000 to support these two projects.

4. Sumatra Earthquake Recovery, Indonesia

In Oct 2010, an earthquake struck West Sumatra, which followed the one in the same area in September 2009. APBAid, with support from BWAid, has funded a project through Rebana, UIBC, costing \$32,676 to support the recovery from this second earthquake.

5. Christchurch Earthquake Support. Following receipt of further funding, APBAid was able to provide a further AUD\$5,250 to support the work of New Zealand Baptists.

6. IDP Relief Kachin Baptist Convention. Through the support of Baptist World Aid Australia, APBAid was able to provide \$10,000 for the IDP relief project of the KBC following the violence between the military and the local population.

DRM/Capacity Building/Training

A DRM training was conducted in Davao from 24-30th November for the benefit of Baptists in the Philippines, a country that experiences an annual cycle of floods, typhoon and tidal waves. which was arranged at Southern Philippines Baptist Theological Seminary, Davao. Altogether 30 delegates from the following 4 Conventions affiliated to APBF came to attend it. The objective of DRM Philippines II was to help Conventions build capacity to be able to respond to the challenges brought about by disaster, conflict and poverty. The occasion was also good opportunity to build better relationship with the Baptist Churches in Southern Philippines. Feraz Legita did the coordination of the program and motivated the delegates to think and respond to the challenge of disaster impact. Eddy Ruble led in sessions on disaster cycle, disaster risk management and care of relief workers. Kabi Gangmei led on the global scenario of disaster, human greed and disaster, how a community interpret a disaster and update reports on APBF/APBAid activities. Feraz rounded off with a session on how to write a relief application. The learning was nearly immediately put into action as super-typhoon Botha hit the Davao region, causing much devastation and loss of life.

Peace Making and Conflict Transformation Training was conducted for in the Philippines from 24th September to 13th October. The training was funded and supported by Baptist Peace Network North America, APBAid and CPBC-DM. Feraz Legita was instrumental in arranging the training.

Interactive website for APBAid

A highlight of the Development Consultation was the introduction of a web based disaster response database. As natural disasters increase in frequency the database will enable Asia Pacific Baptist Federation member churches and Conventions to share resources, needs and learnings and so facilitate timely responses when disasters strike.

We have been working with WebCom, Guwahati (India) on the development of interactive website for APBAid. By year-end, the website development was near completed. With a good communication system we'll be able to constantly interact with the partners.

Partnership with Baptist bodies

1. We continue to assist BWAid in assessing and monitoring relief and development projects in India and South East Asia.
2. We, as consultants assist Baptist Union of Norway (BUN) in monitoring Lydia Project in Mizoram. The project focuses on to help Chin migrants by developing SHGs and credit scheme.
3. We assist European Baptist Mission (EBM) as a Regional Representative to help supervise some 48 projects they support in India
4. Other partnership: we are actively engaging with IMB-ABC, CBF and BMS.

Conclusion

We were able to link up with the Churches in the Philippines through DRM capacity building, and through relief we deepen relationship with Churches in Assam, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar. It has been great challenge to work with Churches across the region.

I wish to acknowledge the dedication the APBAid staff (Feraz Legita, Sushil Nazary (until June 2012) and Anderson Tokbi (since Sept 2012) under the direction of Rev Kabi Gangmei. I am also thankful for the long service of Allan Smith, who stands down as the inaugural APBAid Treasurer at this meeting.

Dr Les Fussell
Chair, APBAid Committee

Date: Dec 19, 2012