



APBAid Activities Report 2016

(For the year ended Dec.31, 2016)

Overall co-ordination of the works carried out by Kabi Gangmei as Director and Feraz Legita Deputy Director, with Victor Rembeth, Chair of APBAid Committee and Les Fussell as Treasurer

Shalom! Blessed New Year, and thank God for his guidance and provision that sustain APBAid ministry through the year 2016. Once more it's a great privilege for me to share a brief account of APBAid activities during the year. We started the year with a successful Baptist Pacific Forum held in Suva, Fiji on February 1, 2016. APBAid Committee meeting was also held there in the sideline, and I and Feraz were there to hear decisions taken and implemented them.

A. Admn updates

- Office:** APBAid continues to operate from 2 places - one from Shillong, India as 'information hub' with Kabi Gangmei and the other 'sub-office' in Iloilo, Philippines with Feraz Legita. There were some changes in Shillong office -
 - Ojims Daimai who assisted in ADRiMIS and website maintenance left by June-end.
 - Anderson Tokbi who assisted as Project Officer for 3 years left by July-end, and he is presently pursuing higher studies in the Southern Baptist Seminary, US.
 - From 1st July, Kabi also assist Council of Baptist Churches in NE India (CBCNEI), as 'Consultant' in the area of Relief & Development.
- ADRiMIS and website:** APBAid's data-based website was discontinued as there was lack of response, and partnership from different stakeholders. However, section of the website for news/updates continued. We should do an overall review in maintaining the website.

B. Trainings and Seminars

1. Staff Trainings & Conference

- Baptist Pacific Forum**

APBAid joined APBF in organizing Baptist Pacific Forum in Fiji on February 1-3, 2016. By actively participating in the Forum, APBAid got acquaintance with the Pacific region, and build enduring relationship with Fiji Baptist Convention (FBC). The forum had opened up great opportunity for better coordination aftermath of Fiji Winston Cyclone.

- BReaD Network Annual Forum & BWA Annual Gathering, Washington**

Kabi attended BWA Executive Committee meeting, held in Washington, US on March 7-9, 2016; and in the sideline of the meeting he also joined BReaD Network Annual Forum on March 3-5, 2016. We continue to maintain strong relationship with BReaD Network.

- Consultation on Integral Mission, Delhi**

Kabi attended "Integral Mission Consultation" in Delhi on April 11-14, 2016 organized by Tearfund UK and Eficor India. It was a special gathering of 30 leaders of Christian NGOs in India to reflect, share and learn from each other experience and holistic involvement of respective organization (read integral mission).

- South Asia Regional Creation Care Conference, Nepal**

Kabi attended conference on "Creation Care and the Gospel" in Kathmandu on September 12-16, 2016. The conference was organized by Lausanne/WEA, as a campaign to inculcate message of environment protection among the Christian communities.

2. APBAid conduct Trainings & Seminars

- Disaster Risk Reduction Training for APBF member Conventions in Philippines**

APBAid Sub-Office in Philippines conducted training on DRR for Baptist Churches in Philippines on October 4-6, 2016 in Iloilo City, Philippines. Forty delegates from 4 Baptist Conventions and ABWU attended the training. Resource persons were from the DILG

(Department of Interior and Local Government) and Government agency involved in disasters. The overall objective was to enhance capacity of Baptist Conventions in Philippines, equipping them with the skills/ministry on disaster as the Philippines is disaster prone country.

- **Visit to the Vanuatu Baptist Churches**

APBF President, Ross Clifford and Les Fussell, Acting Treasurer of APBF and Miyon Chung, Chair of the APBF Theological Committee visited the Vanuatu Baptist Churches (VBC) during September 28-30th, in order to follow-up initiatives raised during the Pacific Baptist Forum in the last February. Dr. Miyon Chung joined the visit to conduct 3-day training for the leaders of VBC on the “The Biblical Images of the Church” in which Les led a session on the “Church Response to Disasters” and how the church can be prepared for ministries during such disasters.

Prior to the visit of APBF officers to Vanuatu, Feraz Legita visited Port Vila and met with Pastor Kalo Kaltabang, VBC leader and his wife Mrs Mary Kaltabang along with other pastors and members where orientation on APBF/APBAid was given. She also briefed them about ministry in times of disaster. Feraz Legita took time to visit the office of Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC) and inquired on the follow-up of the APBAid support to the cyclone Pam recovery project that was channeled through the TAI.

- **Consultation on Disaster Response, East Nepal**

APBAid and Nepal Evangelical Baptist Convention jointly conducted Consultation on Church and Disaster Reponse at Birtamod, East Nepal on October 25-27, 2016. With the aim to bring awareness and mobilize 50 community leaders, the 2-day DRR brought a great opportunity to work together with leaders Baptist communities in Eastern Nepal.

- **Workshop on Domestic Violence (Women in Church and Society)**

As follow-up to the initiative of Baptist Pacific Forum, APBAid Sub-Office in Philippine in coordination with Fiji Baptist Convention (FBC) and Baptist Women leaders conducted a workshop in Suva on Domestic Violence on October 28-29th. It was done with the objective to bring awareness on domestic violence and to identify challenges that women organizations and churches could respond to, with the support of FBC leaders. It was the first time that such workshop was conducted with Baptist women leaders involved in the planning and as a facilitating team. There was a good participation by over 60 delegates, mainly women members and a few men leaders.

- **Workshop on Disaster Response, NE India**

APBAid and CBCNEI jointly conducted Workshop on Church and Disaster Response in Guwahati, Assam on December 12-14, 2016. The workshop was attended by 30 key Baptist development workers of the region. It aimed to bring awareness/skill dissemination among the church leaders and development workers, and to encourage the churches getting involved in helping those are affected by disasters.

C. Relief Involvement

Continued relief projects

1. **Haiyan Rehabilitative projects:** Tropical typhoon ‘Haiyan’ struck Philippines in 2013, and APBAid Sub-Office in Philippines facilitated Baptist Churches took up 2 major rehabilitative projects with the support of Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) and German Baptist Union (GBU). Under these projects GBU supported livelihood recovery of 550 families, costing \$159,700 and BMS helped 600 families with a grant of €129,361 to provide capital assistance to farm needs, small business and income generating projects. The Sub-Office did the task of monitoring CPBC Haiyan Projects; and did Terminal Evaluation of the project. Terminal evaluation of the 2 projects was conducted on June 19-28, 2016. Steve Smith, member of APBAid Committee joined in the evaluation process with an

evaluator from North East India. Impact evaluation of the livelihood project with budget of €7,934 supported by BMS will be conducted in May 2017.

- 2. Chin Hills floods and mudslides relief (Myanmar) Phase-II:** Onset of cyclone Komen in 2015 brought major floods and landslides in Chin Hills, Myanmar. APBAid worked with Chin Baptist Convention (CBC) to implement Phase-I of the relief project, to provide relief to 224 families and to conduct DRR Consultation for 33 CBC pastors and lay leaders. In Phase II, the relief project covered 500 families by helping them in their agricultural activities. Foodstuff support was given to these affected families so that they would be producing their food need for the next season. The relief project had a budget of \$38,915 contributed by GBU.
- 3. Nepal Earthquake:** Nepal was hit by earthquake on April 25, 2015, and its impact on human habitats was devastating - loss of lives and livelihood, and destruction of public infrastructure. This included destruction of some 150 church buildings, including 20 known Baptist churches. Besides the initial relief assistance, APBAid is assisting Nepal Baptist Church Council (NBCC) in 2 major rehabilitative projects -
 - (i)** Reconstruction of 5 Church buildings, of which 3 were completed with the support of HKBC - costing \$78,933 to provide worship places for 125 families (518 members), and
 - (ii)** Community Support & Livelihood project at Jaisithok, costing \$115,553 supported by JBC and HKBC. The community development project aims to input livelihood skills, assistance to school children and WASH schemes with the affected community.
- 4. Phailin Rehabilitation Project, Orissa India:** Following the impact of cyclone 'Phailin' in 2013, a rehabilitative project was taken up in the Eastern Indian States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh with Bengal Orissa Bihar Baptist Churches Association (BOBBCA). With the completion of the project early in 2016 a terminal evaluation was conducted in March 2016, and a debriefing session held in Kolkata on April 1-2, 2016. In closing the project APBAid and BOBBCA conducted DRR program November 29-30, 2016 at Chandipur for 25 delegates mainly consisting of youth leaders and pastors.
- 5. Humanitarian assistance Kachin IDPs, Myanmar:** The renewed civil conflict of Kachin State in June 2011 between insurgents and the army after 17 years of ceasefire resulted into thousands displaced in Kachin State, Myanmar. Many of them were given shelter in Putao area. Working together with Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), APBAid mobilized resource from its own fund and with the support of GBU a relief grant of \$11,266 was sent to KBC to help 70 households (293 persons) in their struggle for survival. The relief provision of mainly food items was given those who were camped at Lungsut camp and it was given to in order to last them for 3 months.

New relief projects

- 6. Fiji:** Tropical cyclone 'Winston' hit Fiji on Feb 20, 2016 and caused extensive damages to houses and standing crops. APBAid had appealed to member Churches for prayer and financial support, and deputed Eddie Ruble, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) personnel to do an assessment, and help FBC develop a response plan to the challenge arising out of cyclone. Following his recommendation, APBAid and FBC drew up a relief response plan with a budget of \$66,127, with components below -
 - (i)** FBC Capacity Building and Staff Development, start functioning by February 2016;
 - (ii)** Psychological First Aid – Psycho-Social trainings, held in last July-August; and
 - (iii)** Procurement of a vehicle, done by June 30th 2016.
- 7. NE India floods:** Series of cyclonic wind combine with thunderstorms and hailstorm swept through NE India in April-May and again in July-August 2016, resulting into destruction of hundreds of houses in Mizoram, flash floods in Assam and mudslides in Manipur. This was followed by heatwaves of high humidity for 3 weeks, causing into Gastro-related diseases

and cough/fever among the children. APBAid and Baptist Churches of the region took up the challenge to mobilize reliefs, and drew up plan to help those who were affected –

- (i) APBAid from its own ER fund helped Baptist brethren in Karbi Anglong (Assam) and Mizoram with small grant of \$2000 each.
 - (ii) It facilitated Relief grant of \$5,394 of Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) to Baptist Church of Mizoram to help storm affected 100 families and BMS grant of €4173 supporting 3 DRR programs.
 - (iii) With TAI's assistance of \$15,000 a relief work was done in Assam through Lower Assam Baptist Union (LABU), and helped 616 families (4300 persons).
 - (iv) With GBU's assistance of \$31,355 three small relief projects were also taken up –
 - Rehabilitative scheme for 100 flood affected Bodo families in Lower Assam;
 - Rehabilitative scheme for 200 flood affected Mising families in north bank area, Assam through CBCNEI, and
 - Rehabilitative scheme for landslide affected 70 farmers at Zhobumai village, Manipur; this effort also through CBCNEI.
 - (v) DRR program conducted (on Dec 12-14) for partners, with skills for capacity building.
- 8. Typhoon Koppu Relief and Recovery Project:** An emergency and recovery project of Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches (LCSBC) for the communities affected by typhoon Koppu that hit Luzon on Oct 18, 2015 causing 48 deaths and affecting a total of 696,027 families. The project was supported by GBU with US \$28,000 with components of emergency relief and shelter assistance.
- 9. Typhoon Melor Relief Assistance:** An Emergency relief project of Central Philippines Convention of Southern Baptist Churches (CPCSBC) for the communities affected typhoon Melor that hit Samar area on December 17, 2015, causing 8 deaths and 165,000 families evacuated in Luzon, Bicol, and Visayas. GBU supported it with a grant of US \$6,350.
- 10. Relief and Recovery effort aftermath of typhoon Haima and typhoon Sarika** that hit Luzon last December. The typhoon made landfall on Dec 19, 2016 causing 8 deaths and over 75,000 people in evacuated. Earlier in October, typhoon Sarika hit the same area causing 2 deaths. GBU supported this project with a grant of US \$27,000.

Other reliefs:

- **Taiwan:** Major earthquake with magnitude of 6.4 struck Taiwan on Feb 6, 2016 and claimed 13 lives. The event also devastated habitats in the southern part of the Island nation. APBAid had appealed to the member Churches for prayer and financial contribution toward the relief effort of Chinese Baptist Convention (CBC Taiwan).
- **Sri Lanka:** Tropical storm, named “Roanu” swept through Sri Lanka in mid-May 2016 resulting into heavy floodings and mudslides in Central and Western part of Sri Lanka. APBAid made appeal to member Churches, and assistance of a small grant of \$3000 was given Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya (SLBS) to work at Beligodapitiya village in district of Kegalle to provide relief, and pastoral visit and care.

D. Development Initiative

1. APBAid continued to work with the 3 local Baptist Churches in the Indian State of Mizoram namely, Baptist Church of Mizoram (BCM), Lairam Jesus Christ Baptist Church (LJCBC) and Zomi Baptist Church (ZBC). The project **Lydia Project**, a joint-undertaking supported by Baptist Union of Norway (BUN) was started in 2011 with the objective to give assistance to the poor women-migrants who came from Chin Hills, Myanmar. After completion of 5 years by the end of 2015 the project could mobilize 101 SHGs (1026) in 4 districts of Mizoram with

running capital of \$58,746. Starting from January 2016 the project was restructured into 3 units managed by the 3 respective Churches, and it continues to move forward by mobilizing local funds from banks and other NGOs.

2. APBAid Sub-Office in Philippines took up development initiatives by
 - A **Consultation** was conducted in early December 2016 with Development Ministries of CPBC to develop sustainable livelihood projects for Haiyan Survivors and this was reviewed for onward submission to the donors.
 - Stressing on need for income-generating projects to support pastors and ministry in Vanuatu during the first visit to Vanuatu by Feraz, the and in later during the APBF team visit, Les Fussell helped VBC to develop a sustainable development project.

D. On Peace Activities (by Feraz)

1. ***Trainers' Training in Conflict Transformation, Baguio City, Philippines, Feb 9-12, 2016:*** Feraz attended part of the training and met with some Baptists involved in peacemaking in Asia-Pacific. It was facilitated and conducted by Rev. Daniel Buttry of IM-ABC. The training was in 2 batches- the first in Feb 8-18th and the second, in the 1st half of March 2016.
2. ***National Forum on Dams in Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Domain, March 30-31, 2016:*** Together with CPBC leaders, a forum for advocacy of the indigenous peoples' rights and protection of their ancestral domain was organized. By stressing on the protection and preservation of environment/ecology a statement was produced and sent to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).
3. ***Studies on Feminist Leadership with Association of Women in Theology (AWIT)-Iloilo Chapter***, 18 June 2016: A meeting organized to support to women in leadership with emphasis on 5 basic elements of Feminist Leadership: **a)** spirit of subjectivity (also allowing emotions and compassion); **b)** spirit of integration (caring about human relationships), **c)** spirit of mutuality (not based on hierarchies), **d)** spirit of sharing and consensus-based decision making), **e)** spirit of creativity (constantly looking for new ways of doing and thinking)

Conclusion and thanks

I would like to express our special thanks to the donors and member Churches who contributed generously for the work to continue. To name a few TAI, EBM-GBU, BMS, IM-ABC who are standing with us in these endeavour. We have now BReaD Network making the task of coordinating resourcing to much easier. Not to forget our member Churches who are sources of our support both in prayer and financial contribution.

I would like big 'thank you' to the Chair of APBAid Committee, Treasurer, members and APBF General Secretary who lend support in every opportunity to work, and more so with all the encouragement. Through reliefs and DRR we were able to extend our engagement with the Churches in the Pacific region, especially in Fiji and Vanuatu while continuing our initiatives in Vietnam, and deepening relationship with Churches in Philippines and Indonesia. We also consolidated our gains in Nepal with the launching of Phase-II projects, and in Orissa State of India, and I am hoping to further gains in those areas.

We give praises to God for the opportunity and what we achieved, and we remain committed to forward with what we have. We request your prayer for the challenges that lay before us.

Rev. Kabi Gangmei
Director, APBAid

Date: Jan 10, 2017