



BushNet

News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

GIVING PRACTICAL HELP - MEETING SPIRITUAL NEED

Issue 1 of 2018



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Emmanuel Relief and Rehabilitation Philippines

Introducing a new Rôlett and a new Chairman

GDPR

The Marawi Siege

The Story Behind The Story

We reported on the end of the Marawi siege and the relief that ERRP has provided in the November 2017 Down to Earth. You can read a copy online on tinyurl.com/ybvst7fo or scan the QR code.



along with brave Christian men and women, to provide emergency provisions. The group of Christians decided they would help the village build houses and they would not stop until all of the village people had a home.

But in the process of building these houses the rebel commander in the area, Commander Bravo, suspected that the pastors are converting his fellow Muslims. He recruited the village leader's son in order to train him to kill the pastors. Sultan Camlon Moner Sr. was not happy with this, having experienced the genuine love from Christians who simply wanted to help them. He was very diligent in protecting the pastors, moving them up to three times a night so they will not be discovered by the rebels.

The pastors sought wisdom from God on how to convince the rebel leader that they were there to simply help. The group decided to rebuild the mosque that was destroyed by the bombs. The village was glad and the rebels backed off which allowed the pastors to continue with the building project.

On the inauguration of the mosque, Sultan Moner invited the pastors as special guests, which the pastors gladly accepted. The pastors came to the opening and requested the village leaders to sit at the front. With basins and towels, they proceeded to wash



In 2000 the Islamic Village of Delabayan, Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte was flattened by the soldiers under the then President Joseph "Erap" Estrada, the movie star. The village, which was suspected of hiding Muslim rebels, was attacked by the soldiers, causing the villagers to evacuate to the city of Marawi, which was just a couple of towns away.

After the bombing, the soldiers did not leave even one house or building standing. When the evacuees returned, they had nothing to protect them from the elements. They did not expect any help from the government and the other villages were not willing to help either, for fear of repercussions from the government. But pastors from Cagayan de Oro and a nearby town went to help,



the feet of the Muslims. Not one eye was dry that day!



Muslims in the Philippines have been discriminated against for centuries. When the Spanish came in 1521, they called the Muslims “Moro”, taken from the Moors of Europe. Even when the Americans took over in 1898, the same treatment was given to the Muslims. The majority of Catholics in the Philippines carried on with the same treatment while the government, for the most part, neglected the Mindanao area where Muslims were normally found. So, to have Christian pastors humbly washing the feet of Muslims was a sight never seen in the country.

Sultan Moner declared that they have to pay back what Marawi accorded them when they were the evacuees. About 100 families ran to his village. Instead of keeping them in cramped basketball courts or schools, the good Sultan distributed them in houses of the villagers. He declared to them that if the villagers will eat, the evacuees will eat too!

Emmanuel International (ERRP) suggested to build 100 houses in the village for the evacuees as their permanent homes. The Sultan agreed to give them land. Other Christian partners also agreed to help. So far, ERRP has only raised money to build one house and yet the other partners have already contributed goods for 12 houses.

Each house costs £2,000. We hope to contribute more to the Village of Hope, which is what the project is called.



It is not only a matter of building houses for the evacuees; it is a complete package based on acceptance and tolerance that can boost Muslim-Christian unity.

Sultan Camlon T Moner Sr



One of the completed houses

Read more about Marawi in a national newspaper on tinyurl.com/y9srblu5 or scan the QR code. The writer is now an ERRP worker raising funds for our projects.



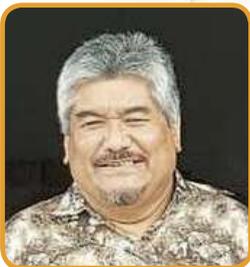
Pastor, when are you taking our young people to your city for a retreat?

That question would probably be a normal question from a parent from a community that wants to give their young people something worthwhile to do during summer time. But if the request comes from a Muslim leader to a pastor, that is very strange.

On one of my trip to Marawi, I asked the church leaders in Cagayan de Oro to invite Sultan Camlon Moner Jr. to meet with us for lunch in Iligan city. Sultan Moner came with two other men and met with three pastors from Cagayan de Oro and myself. During the meeting, he looked at one of the pastors from Cagayan de Oro and asked, "Pastor, when are you going to take our young people to Cagayan de Oro for a retreat?" My mouth was open with astonishment as I waited for the response from the pastor. "Let us pray for funding, Sultan. Hopefully we can do it this summer."

When I asked what it is all about, another pastor told me that the Sultan allows the young people in the village to be taken to Cagayan de Oro, a trip of about three hours, to have a retreat for three days so they could be taught "values formation classes". I got excited about this. We are praying for funding and that youth workers could come to help these young people become peaceful loving adults, after meeting the Prince of Peace in Cagayan de Oro, the City of Gold.

Would you come to help?



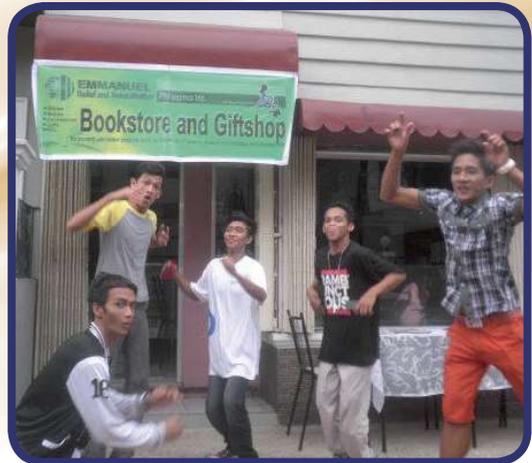
Alex Pacis is the Chairman of the ERRP board. He provided the articles about the work of EI in the Philippines.

Organic Solutions

Problem: The cost of running an office in the city is enormously high, with rent and utilities are getting more expensive in Manila.

Problem: Some of our young people in the church could not come to some church activities due to the need of the family (they have to look for recyclable materials in the dump site to help feed the family for the day).

Problem: The produce from the members of the church, planted in the mountain, could not be sold due to the distance (going down the mountain plus crossing 3 rivers) and the buyers, knowing that the mountain people are desperate to sell their produce, would offer very low prices for it. For them it would not be worth the effort to transport the produce, so they just give it away or let it rot on the trees.



ERRP was trying to solve the problem of being able to afford the cost of operation, with the rent going up 20% and the cost of electricity and water sky-rocketing. We have changed the bulbs, avoid using air conditioners (even though Edna suffers from asthma), using water very efficiently, etc. But still, when we lower our usage, the

rate goes up, so we end up again where we started.

I said to Edna “We should find ways to use this place to earn some money.” We have done it before but we simply bought items to sell in the subdivision but it did not work very well.

Then our church planter, who goes to the mountain every weekend where he planted a church, kept bringing fresh fruits and produce from the mountain. I asked how much it cost him but he said they were free. I know that these mountain people are not well off. They appreciate the little things the church planter would give them, such as dried fish and some canned goods. A can of sardines is very special to them: some groups in the mountains of Mindanao would scoop the oil from the top of the canned sardines and apply it on their hair like “pomade” (I hope you remember this item of the past). The reason they do it is that they like the scent so much and they also want to announce to everyone what they had for lunch.

The church planter said that the church members do not sell the produce in the lowlands due to the issues mentioned above. I told the church planter to buy them at the fair price and we will cover the costs of transporting them to the house we are renting. This is where the office is located as well as the church we planted in the city. (The church also offered to carry some of the costs so we could afford to stay.)

For a number of weeks now, Edna has become a produce store, selling fresh fruits and vegetables inside the subdivision. I asked her to meet the subdivision people as they come to buy so she could befriend them and one day share the gospel to them. We are hoping to invite them to come to church too. Edna, who at first was sceptical, now has a hobby she enjoys. She is supervising two young people from



the dumpsite whom we now employ to sell the produce to the community. These young people could previously not attend the activities in the church but now they are earning some money while they are with us.

The income is not quite enough yet to cover the costs of the operation but we are very hopeful that, once the fruit and vegetable store becomes known to the community, we will have enough customers to make extra funds. The church members who meet for prayer meeting on Wednesdays are our best customers. By Sunday, all the produce is gone and fresh ones are delivered from the mountain early Monday morning when the church planter comes home from the mountain to attend to his church plant.

By the way, the produce is organic.



Twilight Church Planting in the City

Edna Santos



Edna Santos has been with EI for over 3 decades. She first worked in the International Finance Department and then became a missionary to Tanzania. In her retirement years, she chose to move to Quezon City, Philippines to help the Philippine office as well as minister among the poorest of the poor in the city.

In the process, 4 churches in the garbage dumpsite and surrounding area have been planted. Edna has been part of the

vision to plant churches in that city from the beginning. Today there is a growing congregation meeting at the house where the office is located, in a subdivision. The church is now attended by 60 to 80 people, mostly from the poorer squatter community (squatters built their shanty homes on lands owned by other people who normally do not live in the area) outside the subdivision. Their weekly AWANA children program is attended by over 100 children and is ran by young people who have been won to Christ, disciplined and trained to lead. It is totally operated by squatters themselves in a basketball covered court within the squatter community. Many of these children and families are getting to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Many are beginning to have hope in the lives for now and for eternity.

We also help educate them through our scholarship program. Each child can be effectively educated for £15 a month from grade school to college. If one child in the family could be educated to college, the family's economic conditions will improve tremendously. We want to see 1,000 of these scholars be helped all over the poorer communities of the Philippines.

Edna's job is to supervise EI's projects, making sure that funds are properly distributed as designated as well as



Church in the home office



Church in the home office

properly reported back to the office with receipts when the funds are used.

As the church is meeting in the home-office, the need for larger space becomes imperative. There are vacant lots in the subdivision but the cost could be at least £100,000 to acquire a lot and build a building that will house the church and the EI office, with rooms for missionaries (including Edna). We have been praying for this for a couple of years. EI's office is carrying the weight of the costs of housing the church in renting a larger house that has enough space for the church to meet. The costs monthly for EI's office is about £600 which mostly could be saved if EI owns its own property.

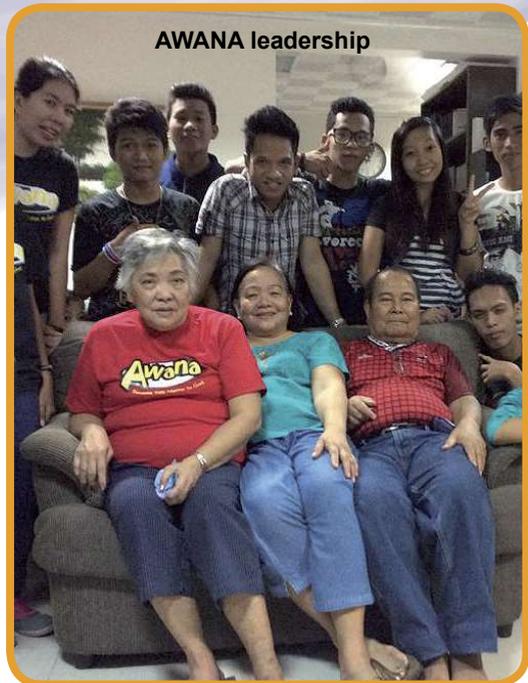
We don't know how long Edna can stay with us in the Philippines. She is over 70 and yet quite busy in planting churches and helping the poor. We could use retirees who want to give one, two or more of their twilight years to plant churches and help the poor. We will make sure we have a room for you at the office.



AWANA children's group



Receiving school supplies



AWANA leadership



Receiving school supplies



Introducing a new Rollett

Dave and Tricia Rollett are very pleased to be able to introduce you to Cassian Jonah Rollett! He was born on the 9th April and weighed in at a healthy 7lb 10oz.

Mummy, baby, big brother Titus and daddy are all doing well (on the good side of surviving!)

Dave and Tricia are in the UK until June but will return to Tanzania to continue their work in the Iringa region.

Introducing a new Chairman

Clive Tydeman is the new Chairman of the EIUK Board of Trustees.

Clive first worked with EI in 1997 with a two year stint in Malawi working on a relief and development programme. More recently, Clive was Country Director for the Fellowship for African Relief in Sudan, a partner of EI. He was elected to the Board at the 2009 AGM and became Chairman of the EIUK Board in 2017.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance

The law is changing from May 2018 and we need to confirm you are happy for us to continue to hold your details as a subscriber to the BushNet quarterly magazine.

If you have not responded to us about this, we have included a form herewith. Please complete and return it to us. You can post or email your form, or a similar request, to us (contact details on the form).

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