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[Engineer Gilbert Rivera]

In his opening comments during the presentation, Engineer Rivera stressed the need for his local peace-keeping teams to be exposed to restorative justice in order to give them wider perspectives particularly in fulfilling their duties. He intimated that he had no choice but to send to jail about 40 erring members of his constituency. The teams include the barangay tanod and Lupon who are authorized to conduct hearings on certain cases.

NPMP's RJ program reaches barangay level

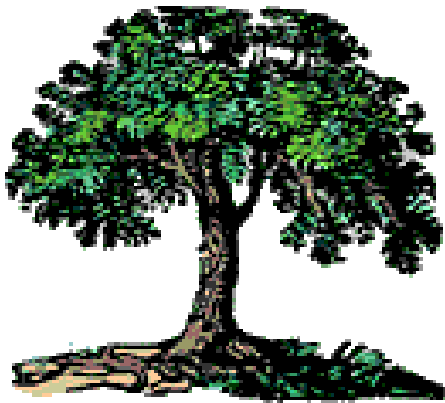
Convinced that the principles of restorative justice could help the Lupon (barangay council), Engineer Gilbert U. Rivera, chairman of Barangay 174 in Caloocan City, Metro Manila agreed to have National Prison Ministries Philippines' (NPMP) Restorative Justice program introduced to members of his Lupon, barangay tanod (community police) and staff last April 10, 2008.

The NPMP through its executive director, Tessie Uadan, encouraged the participants to help alleviate the overcrowding in Philippine jails. She pointed out that their peace-keeping roles should lead to the "shalom" or peace of God. She also exhorted them to reflect on the new information they now have. Hopefully, their coming into an awareness of what restorative justice is will lead them to want to be equipped in the Sycamore Tree Project.



More than twenty participants joined in the presentation. Engineer Rivera later informed NPMP of the Lupon's appreciation of new information and requested that follow-up workshop in the Sycamore Tree Project be conducted in June.

The Sycamore Tree Project



The Sycamore Tree Project gets its name from the Story of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus based on the account in Luke 19:1 - 10.

NPMP chair teaches RJ at JNTI

On April 14, Dr. Rey Taniajura, chairman of the NPMP, was again invited to teach Restorative Justice at the Jail National Training Institute (JNTI). This was Dr. Taniajura's second stint of teaching RJ at the training arm of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The NPMP and BJMP have an existing memorandum of agreement to

promote restorative justice and its adjunct program, the Sycamore Tree Project, among BJMP's personnel and inmates.



[JNTI students who took the RJ class under Dr. Taniajura last April 14]

Prison ministry workers in Bicol meet with NPMP officials

Members of the Bicol Region Prison Ministry, Inc. (BRPMI) met with Dr. Rey Taniajura and Atty. Roy Valenzuela at the BJMP regional office in Legaspi City last May 2. Atty. Valenzuela is the vice-chairman of NPMP and head of the legal service of the BJMP's national office.

At the meeting, it was agreed that a Restorative Justice seminar be held for prison ministry volunteers in Bicol region sometime in July. The members of the BRPMI also expressed interest in being trained on how to facilitate the Sycamore Tree Project among inmates of the BJMP in the Bicol region. Pastor Cesar Montas of

the Jesus is Lord Church in Legaspi City is Chairman and President of the BRPMI.



[Dr. Taniajura and Atty. Valenzuela in a meeting with officers of the Bicol Region Prison Ministry, Inc.]

NPMP Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan for 2008

VISION

We see ourselves engaged in restoring peoples and communities in conflict beyond crime and punishment.

MISSION

To promote among and equip stakeholders in crime on biblical restoration.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2008

Key Events:

a. Promotion and Advocacy

*Leadership seminars;
Relationship building*

b. Networking and linkages

Establish and strengthen existing partnerships with network organizations in the government, churches and para-churches

c. Teaching and equipping

Conduct restorative justice seminars, Sycamore Tree projects and para-legal seminars (in partnership with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology)

d. Organizational development and fund-raising

*Organize NPMP chapters in key cities and provinces;
Raise funds to support NPMP activities
Publish newsletters*

Would you like to participate in the ministry of the National Prison Ministry Philippines? Please let us know of your intentions by emailing us at the following addresses:

ephesiansway@yahoo.com

tessuadan@yahoo.com

If you would like to support our prison ministry work, especially the promotion and holding of the Sycamore Tree Program, as well as other projects, in the prisons all over the Philippines, you may send in your donations to the following bank account number (c/o Ms. Aileen Orogo):

**NPMPI- Acct# 1994 – 0173 – 29
Bank of the Philippine Islands
Kalayaan Branch, Kalayaan
Avenue, Quezon City**