

In This Issue

- ***Covenant Leaders Network takes active role in reconciliation and restoration***
- ***STP goes to Iwahig***

Covenant Leaders Network takes active role in reconciliation and restoration

The Covenant Leaders Network (CLN) of Palawan has picked up the challenge to respond to the call for reconciliation and restoration. In a recent meeting with the executive director of National Prison Ministries Philippines, Ms. Tess Uadan, and Virgilio Gozon of the Integrated Iwahig Ex-Inmates Group (IWAHEiG), CLN members were oriented to how they can participate in this undertaking. Mr. Gozon sees the integration of ex-inmates to the various communities in the province of Palawan with CLN's participation.

In Palawan province the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm is located. In 2004 the penal colony celebrated its 100th year.

Citing Palawan's strategic location, Ms. Uadan encouraged the members of CLN to help integrate in communities ex-offenders who are now in their midst. For instance, one town in Palawan was reported to have a population of 70 percent ex-offenders. Ms. Uadan also reminded the members of CLN of the church's role to give drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and to visit the sick and those who are in prison based on Matthew 25.



[Ms. Uadan addressing CLN members]

CLN is a fellowship of various local churches, non-government organizations and individuals who are willing to be instruments to spread



God's name and fame in Palawan. The CLN meeting with Ms. Uadan was held last February 22 at the Life Church in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Pastor Israel Santos presided over the meeting.

STP goes to Iwahig in Palawan

The Sycamore Tree Project (STP), a model of Restorative Justice of Prison Fellowship International (PFI) has finally been introduced to the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IP&PF) in Iwahig, Palawan. The team from the National Prison Ministries Philippines (NPMP) who brought the program to the penal colony was hosted by Iwahig Penal Farm superintendent, General Francisco B. Abunales, and the Iwahig Christian Fellowship. The NPMP team visited Iwahig on February 21 to 23.



[NPMP executive director Tess Uadan talking to the inmates of Iwahig Penal Farm]

NPMP executive director, Tessie Uadan, introduced on February 22, the STP program to the inmates of Iwahig, ex-offenders and members of the Covenant Leaders Network. Representatives of the Iwahig Christian Fellowship also attended the meeting.

STP sessions were started on February 23 with participants divided into two groups. One inmate participant who has been recently transferred to Iwahig Penal Farm from the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila mentioned that he has already heard about the STP at NBP. He was unable to participate in the sessions at NBP but was glad to have now been a part of the program in Iwahig.

Livelihood training on herbal soap making was also conducted by the NPMP team, following the STP sessions. The other members of the team who also participated in the livelihood training were Alma Coner, founder and manager of Filipinas Herbal Soaps, and Florenda S. Gabriel, a lecturer at the College of Home Economics of the University of the Philippines in Diliman. The participants were as enthusiastic about the training as they learned of the different properties of Philippine herbal plants that can be used to cure a number of skin diseases. They were also eager to begin their own herbal soap making projects.



[Training participants in Iwahig, Palawan]

The Integrated Iwahig Ex-Inmates Group (IWAHEiG), a member of Covenant Leaders Network and the Iwahig Christian Fellowship, are potential recipients of Prison Fellowship International's (PFI) global assistance livelihood funding program. Their coordinator, Nessie Cory R. Bolen, had been asked to prepare and submit to NPMP a plan of operation for the project. Miss Bolen and Mrs. Olga Avelino of the Covenant Leaders Network have also been tasked to continue the succeeding sessions of the Sycamore Tree Project or STP in Iwahig, Palawan.

NPMP Vision, Mission Statements Re-visited

In a meeting of the board on January 29 with executive director Tess Uadan, the NPMP directorate headed by its chairman, Dr. Rey Taniajura, approved an updated

vision and mission statements for the ministry in 2008.

Below are the new vision and mission statements of the National Prison Ministries Philippines, Inc.

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*

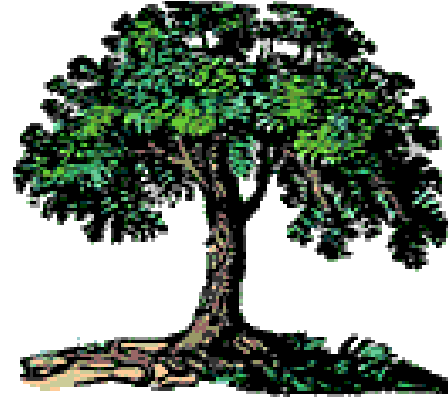
b. Networking and linkages

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)



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

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



[NPMP strategic planning meeting]

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):

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

The Sycamore Tree Project