



PEACEBUILDING IN BALI 2006

PACIFIC PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES LTD



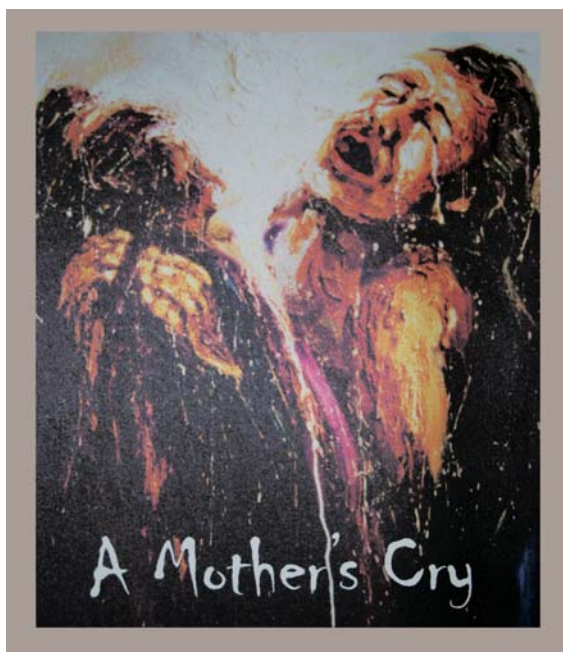
A MOTHER'S CRY IS ANSWERED

Terrorist bombs tore the heart out of Bali in 2002.

A Christian Balinese artist painted “A Mother’s Cry” which became an iconic plea from the Balinese people for international help.

The Bishop of the Church in Bali (GKPB) visited Australia and asked that the Church become a partner with Pacific Peacebuilding Initiatives so that effective ways of creating a new future in Bali might be developed.

With the financial support of Uniting International Mission, another partner in PPBI, two Balinese delegates were able to attend intensive peacebuilding training by PPBI. On their return home their recommendations led to the whole Synod of the Church in Bali deciding to change its own sense of identity. Instead of being a persecuted church bearing a deep new wound, GKPB embarked on becoming a healed church that would bless the nation and give public leadership.





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Bali could not “forgive and forget”. It was psychologically impossible, sociologically dangerous, and it is not the way of Christ. Rather it could remember its deep experience of pain and so choose to forgive. “We forgive because we can’t forget!”

More delegates were trained in peacebuilding by PPBI. When the second assault of terrorism exploded on Jimbaran Beach and in Raja Restaurant in 2005, the Bali Church now had the resources and commitment to respond.

PPBI Chief Executive Officer, Ian Stehbens, raised with the leaders of the Bali Church the possibility that they might convene a summit of all religious leaders from every religion in Bali as an urgent priority. Without such leadership Bali ran the risk of dividing into a suspicion driven conflict.

The Balinese Religious leaders (Hindu, Islamic, Christian, Catholic and Buddhist) were angry about the bombings. They talked about seceding from Indonesia and other extreme measures. However, the GKPB indicated they wanted to go a “gentle peacebuilding way” by inviting PPBI to Bali. The summit agreed and a diverse group of women and men from all religions was invited to attend training conducted by PPBI in Bali. The group was regarded as a strategic one for all of eastern Indonesia.

Pacific PeaceBuilding Initiatives sent a team of 6 to Bali in March, 2006, made up of five Australians and one Solomon Islander. The PPBI trained Balinese joined the team along with other key Balinese leaders.

The goals for the training were:

1. To gradually reduce inter faith conflict.
2. To provide the leaders and the tools to build sustainable and just peace.
3. To change the hearts and minds of the delegates so that they would establish peaceful and harmonious relationships.
4. To contribute to poverty reduction through the healing of mistrust, hatred and fear.
5. To engender a capacity to rebuild confidence in tourism.



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There were authorities in Bali who doubted the conference would last more than 2 days. How could Hindus, Muslims, Catholics and Protestants work together for peace in the strained atmosphere of Bali? The delegates remained together for the planned 2 weeks, without discord, which was seen as a miracle. Not only did they remain together, but when it came to making plans for the future, each regional group made constructive plans to work together to build peace.

The program was in two parts. During the first four days, which was held at Hotel Dhyana Pura in Kuta, presentations were made on:

- Fundamentals of Peacebuilding
- Holistic Approaches to Peacebuilding
- Peacebuilding and Identity
- Levels of Leadership (Understanding the role and potential contribution of each level)

For the second part of the program, the group travelled to a retreat centre. The group had a multi religion experience on the Sunday morning, first visiting the Royal Palace of Buleleng at Singaraja where they met descendants of the Rajas, then meeting the Muslim leaders at Pegayeman, followed by worship at the Git Git congregation of GKPB by some of the delegates.

Delegates chose one of the following workshops for the rest of the week:

- Involving women to build a sustainable peace, led by Mary Fay Maeni (Solomon Islands) and Komalawati (Indonesia).
- Community based restorative justice, led by John Steward (Australia) and Wayan Susrama (Indonesia).
- Religious resources for peace, led by Ian Stehbins (Australia) and Victor Hamel (Indonesia).
- Transforming politics for peace, led by John Woodley (Australia).



CHALLENGE Provide the resources, including human and financial, to encourage these delegates to continue what they have begun in building a just peace. We do this by:

- sharing in frontline negotiations, mediations, restorative justice initiatives, and church/ community based healing programs when external input is appropriate
- arranging support personnel to work alongside the trained leaders especially when further in-country training is needed
- advocating as requested,
- providing seed funding when deemed essential



A number of speakers made presentations on the subject of Religious Resources for Peace. Presentations were made on behalf of the Hindus, Catholics, Muslims and Protestants.

Another significant presentation was made by a Balinese psychiatrist who taught from his experience in giving treatment for trauma to the survivors of the bombings.



Former students of PPBI gave leadership during the conference. Three of them are from Bali and one from Solomon Islands. After the training in Bali, one of the Muslim delegates was invited to Sydney for fuller PPBI training later in 2006. Muhammad was a stand out delegate. On returning to Indonesia, he chose to study at a Hindu university where he continues his quest to discover the teachings on peace of each religion.

CHALLENGE To maintain contact with our former delegates and to stimulate the provision of resources, including human, financial and spiritual enabling them:

- to continue the work of peace
- to maintain and build sustaining networks
- to discover the resources for creating lasting peace within each religion



Megawati Soekarnoputri expresses her desire for programs of reconciliation throughout Indonesia to PPBI's CEO

The Bali Church was growing in confidence and stature and was ready to give national leadership. So the Bali course was held in conjunction with a National Consultation. A former Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia attended as did former President Megawati. Top leadership level contacts



between some of these leaders and PPBI leaders took place. There are Indonesian leaders who want to develop a relationship with PPBI because:

- PPBI has a network in the Pacific
- They want to see PPBI functioning in the same way in Asia.
- They are concerned about the possibility of conflict in their region this century.
- They are concerned about environmental damage in the area, through economic exploitation, conflict and global climate change.
- Because Indonesia is in a strategic position between 2 continents and is an archipelago separating 2 oceans, it is in a key position for peacebuilding.

CHALLENGE Provide the resources, including human and financial, to meet this request from the top level in Indonesia.

During the Bali course, the executive of the church in Maluku gave notice that it desires to conduct a program in Maluku in association with PPBI, similar to the one held in Bali.

CHALLENGE Provide the resources, including human and financial, to meet these kinds of request from middle level leadership in Indonesia.



Hindu delegates have created a Peace Forum in Bali



DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS OF PPBI IN INDONESIA

• BALI

1. As a result of the Peacebuilding conference that PPBI conducted in Bali in March, 2006, Ian Stehbens was invited to speak at the GKPB Pastor and Family Retreat in June 2007. The subject given to him was “How to Embody Peace in Family and Society”.
2. The quest for peace continues. A conference for religious leaders from Java, Bali and Lombok was held in Bali in May 2007.



CHALLENGE Provide the human and financial resources needed to encourage the Protestant, Hindu, Muslim and Catholic delegates who came to the conference and the GKPB to continue to restore and build relationships that are severely threatened since the bombings.

• SULAWESI

Rev. I Made Priana, General Secretary of GKPB, and Rev Ian Stehbens will travel together to Poso in Sulawesi after the retreat in Bali. A Hindu temple was bombed near Poso in March 2006 during the peacebuilding conference in Bali. A statement was made by the representatives of the Hindus, Muslims, Catholics and Protestants who were at the conference and published on the front page of the Bali Post. The General Secretary of the Protestant Church in Sulawesi was shot dead in late 2006.

Made Priana and Ian Stehbens will embody peace as they go to Poso to pray and help their brothers build peace.



CHALLENGE Provide the resources, especially human and financial, needed to encourage the delegates who came to the Bali conference and the Protestant Church in Sulawesi to implement new approaches to peace with the Muslim community.



- **WEST PAPUA**

Santje Wanggai attended the 2006 PPBI Course in Sydney. Since then she has been invited to teach at the Theological School run by the Pentecost Synod in Papua on “Conflict Transformation in the church”. She was also invited to speak on the role of women in peacebuilding at a global conference in Romania during January 2007.

Santje plans to return to PPBI this year, bringing a group from West Papua, including Muslims. She will co-teach the Women in Peacebuilding module.

CHALLENGE Provide the resources, especially human and financial, needed to bring these delegates from West Papua to the 2007 PPBI course in Sydney this year.

- **MALUKU**

The delegates to the 2006 Bali Peacebuilding Conference who came from Maluku were inspired to build networks for peace in their troubled province and are requesting a Peacebuilding conference in Maluku. This was confirmed by the leadership of the church when Ian Stehbens visited Maluku. During the Bali conference, Made Priana expressed the desire to see PPBI in Maluku as soon as possible. He believes this is strategically important because of the history of communal conflict in Maluku and its proximity to West Papua.

CHALLENGE Provide the resources, especially human and financial, needed to conduct a peacebuilding conference in Maluku.



DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS OF PPBI IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Ishmael Idu began conducting workshops in peacebuilding when he returned home after completing the Pacific PeaceBuilding Initiatives course in 2003. He began on his home island of Malaita and then moved across enemy lines to Guadalcanal. In October 2004, South Sea Evangelical Church General secretary, Ken Taylor wrote from Honiara, Guadalcanal,

“The program has received a lot of attention here in Guadalcanal. What you saw in Malaita was good, but over here has been miraculous. The editorial in the Solomon Star for Friday 1 October was a complete affirmation of this ministry as one of National importance.”



Ishmael is now employed as the Project Manager Peacebuilding for World Vision Solomon Islands and is working on the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal. This was one of the “hot spots” during the conflict.

He will return to the peacebuilding course in 2007 to co-present the Fundamentals of Peacebuilding course. He will answer from his experience



this question: *How can the enemy cross over the border of his enemy to negotiate peace and reconciliation and have the enemy accept him?*

Andrew Fanasia, the Vice President of the South Sea Evangelical Church, attended the PPBI course in 2006. After the course, he said, “We just didn’t know. We had heard the word ‘trauma’ but we didn’t know what it really meant. We didn’t know what to do either. Our theological and Biblical teaching has always had peacebuilding there but peace has often been so private and personal between a person and God and immediate neighbours that it could not be applied in the face of wider conflicts.”

CHALLENGE Provide the resources, especially human and financial, needed by PPBI graduates to continue the work of reconstruction, reconciliation and community restoration.

We praise God for what he is doing in raising up people to build peace in eastern Indonesia, Solomon Islands and other places and for those generous people who continue to provide the resources for these initiatives.

PACIFIC PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES LTD

6 Lincluden Pl, Oatlands NSW 2117 AUSTRALIA

Phone +61 2 9086 9365

Fax +61 2 9630 0678

www.ppbi.org.au

office@ppbi.org.au

