

## **Prisoners Answer President Arroyo's Call for Unity**

Manila, Philippines — As President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo prayed for peace, unity, and righteousness across the Philippines, an unexpected answer is emerging from within the walls of New Bilibid Prison in Muntin-lupa City.



**President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's prayers for national unity find echoes behind the bars of New Bilibid Prison.**

New Bilibid Prison, one of Asia's largest and most notorious facilities, is home to more than 13,000 inmates, including murderers, drug dealers, and child abusers. Yet amidst this darkness, a remarkable transformation has begun.



**Michael John Clarke and David Clarke (centre) speaking with local Christian leaders during the Trojan Horse Mission to New Bilibid Prison.**

A group of over 100 inmates, once hardened criminals, has come forward

to share their testimonies of faith and personal redemption. These “Trojan Warriors” are committed to helping others find a new path in life, offering spiritual guidance and leadership within the prison walls.

These testimonies have been gathered by Michael John Clarke, Regional Director of the Trojan Horse Mission, and will be published by Abshott Publications in the UK. This powerful collection aims to inspire and encourage others, showing how even in the darkest places, hope can shine.



**Reformed inmates and Christian trainers in New Bilibid Prison. Many have become spiritual leaders within the prison community.**

Christian groups, including The Reformed Presbyterian Christian Church in the Philippines and the Followers of Jesus Christ Ministries, have supported this movement, nurturing faith and hope among prisoners. Many of the inmates have since become pastors, teachers, musicians, and spiritual leaders.

This mission was further supported by a team from the UK: David Clarke from Fareham, Rev. Gordon Smith from Mearsley, and Michael John Clarke, who is currently an inmate. Their mission, conducted from 3rd to 23rd August, focused on highlighting these stories of transformation and fostering a message of hope and reconciliation.

These stories, echoing President Arroyo’s call for a more just and righteous society, remind us that change can come from even the most unexpected places. The Trojan Warriors’ voices serve as a beacon of hope, not just for the prison community but for the entire nation.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo became President of the Philippines on January 20, 2001, following the ouster of then-President Joseph Estrada during the second EDSA People Power Revolution. She officially served as the country's 14th President until June 30, 2010.