



October 2009

Dear friends,

Greetings from cold northern Germany. It seems a bit early for weather this cool, but winter is just around the corner. I have come here to meet and spend some time with my new grandson Noah and her parents (my daughter and son-in-law).

This is the most widely circulated (and hopefully the beginning of a regular) communiqué to seminaries around the world who are in some way associated with the Global Alliance (GA) for the advancement of programming in Holistic Child Development (HCD). Many of you have seen the growing awareness and interest in the GA movement. More than 50 seminaries and theological institutions have begun or are planning to begin offering courses, programs or seminars on HCD. There are such plans at all levels, including diploma, bachelors' and Master's levels, as well as two PhD level start-ups planned for later this year.

Transform World 4/14 Window conference Much impetus was given to the movement through the Transform World 4/14 Window conference held in NYC in early September. More than 300 people from 70 countries participated in some 18 tracks devoted to reaching the "4/14 generation" and empowering them to transform their world. Each of the tracks worked towards plans and strategies which, over

the next decade, will guide a concerted global effort to take then needs and potential of children and young people seriously. The "Academic and Theological Transformation" (ATT) was one track. About 20 seminarians were part of that track in which we shared plans for developing HCD programming, and opportunities to widen the depth and breadth of the HCD movement worldwide. To learn more about the 4/14 Window movement, check out <http://4to14window.com> and see also an article in this issue.

Global Alliance News Four Regional Alliance consultations were held in the last 12 months in Ecuador, South Africa, India and Malaysia. This issue has a short write up on each consultation. Reports of each consultation are also available on our website.

Global Alliance Website Speaking of website, have you been to www.hcd-alliance.org? This site is dedicated to sharing HCD program information, curricula, syllabi, events and consultations around the world. To really be the 'go to' site for HCD program, we intend to populate it more fully with resources such as books and materials that may be adapted for use in HCD programs anywhere. We also hope to carry program information from institutions that are working on any aspect of HCD programming, such as brochures and HCD

events. Is your seminary included in the website? Let us know at info@hcd-alliance.org.

Bibliography of HCD Resources

We are also working on gathering bibliographies of HCD resources from HCD institutions around the world such as books, articles, course materials, library resources and online material for research. If you are heading a program, teaching a course or running a library, do send us a list or a bibliography (or if you have it as an Endnote file) of materials you are using. Please include at least 25-30 top resources and original research in your region as well as a location (e.g. name of library or website) or a contact person. See www.hcd-alliance.org/resources/research for an example of a bibliography gathered at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Enjoy reading about the HCD movement around the world. Please let me hear from you with any comments. And of course, note where you can contribute, both to the website and to future editions of this Communiqué.

Warmly,

Dan

** Dan Brewster is general secretary of the HCD Global Alliance.*

About Us

The Global Alliance for Advancing Holistic Child Development

www.hcd-alliance.org

► **Who We Are**

A voluntary group of seminaries, Bible schools, and other Christian academic institutions working together with researchers, trainers, practitioners, and other Christian leaders to create a global movement of academic programs in holistic child development (HCD).

► **Our Vision**

In response to God's heart for children, programs in HCD will be an integral component of the ethos and programs of a majority of Christian educational institutions in every country and region around the world.

► **Our Mission**

Encourage and enable seminaries, Bible schools, and other Christian academic institutions to implement contextually sensitive, academically rigorous, and developmentally sound HCD programs which will motivate and train practitioners, and inspire and equip church leaders, advocates, and other Christians to increase and improve their ministry and advocacy on behalf of needy children.

► **The Global Alliance Partners**

- Encourage Christian institutions to implement HCD programs
- Contribute to the development of HCD resources
- Participate with like institutions to further HCD research
- Collaborate with like institutions to improve the quality of existing HCD programs
- Support the development of advocacy structures for advancing HCD programs
- Develop contextual curriculum for the training of trainers

** The HCD Global Alliance is a partnership between Compassion International and its member institutions.*

Toward a global movement of HCD programs

Some of you may not know the history of the Global Alliance. In May 2007, the first *Global Consultation on Academic Programs in Holistic Child Development* convened with over 50 leaders of seminaries and other academic institutions from Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, Europe, and Oceania gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The event resulted in the birth of the Global Alliance, a partnership of Christian leaders and bible seminaries that is committed to promote, develop and establish academic programs in holistic child development (HCD) around the world.

Regional development

The Global Alliance initiative that took shape in Chiang Mai was further consolidated at a follow-up meeting in March 2008 in Pasadena, California with the appointment of a general secretary to oversee the task. Building on this, regional representatives began plans to meet other seminary leaders in their own region to create a cohesive regional movement.

In Sept 2008, the first regional meeting took place in Quito, Ecuador. Hosted by South American Seminary (SEMISUD), the meeting was attended by over 20 seminary leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean. One key outcome was the formation of the *Regional Alliance for Comprehensive Child and Teenager Development* to support efforts towards realizing the vision in the region.



First Global Consultation on Academic Programs in HCD, Chiang Mai, Thailand, May 2007

In Africa, the Africa Regional Alliance held two meetings, one in Johannesburg (Nov 2008) and the other in Nairobi (June 2009), reviewing the context, faculty training, roles and other issues, resulting in a significant plan of action – and lots of work to do!

In Bangalore, India, the Christian Forum for Child Development (CFCD) hosted the first consultation on curriculum and resource development in Feb 2009. The meeting brought together some 37 scholars from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh to work on a contextual syllabus for South Asia.

Meanwhile in SE Asia, 23 participants from 10 theological institutions in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines met in May 2009 to discuss program implementation. Hosted in Penang, Malaysia by the HCD Institute of Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, the meeting saw the appointment of a regional coordinator and the formation of three focus groups to sustain the vision in this region.

For the love of children

The most compelling factor that drives the Global Alliance is the clear biblical mandate to love and care for children. All children deserve to grow up in a healthy and safe environment so that they may truly enjoy and live out the lives God had intended for them to have in the first place. To this end, the Global Alliance works to encourage and empower seminaries, Bible schools and other Christian academic institutions to implement *contextually sensitive, academically rigorous and biblically sound* holistic child development programs that will motivate and inspire the Christian community to increase and improve their ministry on behalf of children around the world. That in a nutshell is our mission.

A meeting of the GA Steering Committee is being planned for the week of March 8-11 next year in Bangalore. More information and official invitations will be sent to the steering committee and resource persons before the end of Oct 2009.



Follow-Up Consultation of the Global Alliance, Pasadena, CA, March 2008



SEA HCD Program Implementation Consultation, Penang, Malaysia, May 2009

The 4/14 Window global initiative

A strategy for reaching a new generation to transform the world

“God is calling us to a new missional focus: the 4/14 Window golden age of opportunity to transform the world. God is calling us to radically change the way we view children and to respond to their strategic importance and rightful place in His Kingdom.” – Luis Bush

Mission Statement/Purpose:

Mobilize the body of Christ worldwide to invest in reaching, equipping and empowering the 4/14 generation to maximize their transformational impact while they are young, and mobilize them for continuing impact throughout the rest of their lives.

Vision Statement:

The younger generation will be recognized by the body of Christ worldwide as one of the primary agents of transformation (holistic mission) and will be making a difference in the seven societal spheres/ mountains of cultural influence (Arts & Entertainment, Business & Technology, Education & Science, Family, Government, Media, and Religion) in the nations.

You are invited to read the **4/14 Window Global Initiative Handbook** draft and offer your input and suggestions for further revisions at handbook@4to14window.com particularly with regard to the Vision, Mission, Vivid Descriptions of Outcomes, the 4-14 Covenant Draft in Appendix A, and the 4-14 Missiological Tasks in Appendix B. To download a copy, go to www.hcd-alliance.org/resources/books.

Recognizing the strategic importance and receptivity of children and youth, and their potential as a mission force, some years ago we coined the term “4/14 Window,” piggy-backing on the idea of missiologist Dr Luis Bush’s term “10/40 Window.”

The 4/14 Window is an age-specific group, from 4 to 14 years old. Most people who will ever make a decision to follow Christ will do so during this crucial decade. Just as the focus on the 10/40 Window transformed missions over the past few decades, so the 4/14 Window may provide new “wind in the sails” for ministry and missions at the start of this century. Dr Bush is now championing the 4/14 Window as an opportunity to empower and enable the ‘4/14ers’ to transform the world.

In September this year, Dr Bush convened a conference in New York. More than 300 people from over 70 countries and all aspects of ministry convened. Each morning before dawn, participants joined with intercessory prayers from the Full Gospel Church /

Promise Ministries International (Promise Church) for a traditional Korean prayer service, followed by a time of fellowship over breakfast.

The remainder of each day consisted of 1) *general sessions* to highlight the challenges, opportunities and models of ministry in reaching children; 2) *working sessions* for regional caucuses to share with one another what God is already doing through their church, ministry, or collaborative partnerships on a local, national, or regional level, to discern existing opportunities and define areas of critical need; and 3) *strategy sessions* to effectively find ways to resource local, national and regional efforts through 16 ministry focus tracks.

The core structure of the 4/14 Window Initiative are the sixteen Global 4/14 Tracks. Each of the tracks focuses on a specific area of holistic child development and methods of transformation. The various tracks are organized using the following paradigm and process of transformation:

- *Child Transformation:* Redeem and disciple the child as a whole person
- *Institutional Transformation:* Engage and strengthen the Institutions that nurture child transformation
- *Environmental/Societal Transformation:* Identify environmental/ societal obstacles and explore how they can be turned into opportunities
- *Missional Transformation:* Equip and empower the 4/14 generation to become agents of mission

One of those tracks was called the *Academic and Theological Transformation (ATT)* track. The objectives of this track are very similar to what we are already doing in the Global Alliance. Its vision and mission are the same as those for the Global Alliance. The ATT track simply gives us new avenues to further the cause of holistic academic and theological training at the seminary level on behalf of children and youth.

The Academic and Theological Transformation (ATT) Track

Dr J. B. Jeyaraj (front row, fourth from right) and Dr Dan Brewster (front row, third from right) chaired and facilitated a track called “Academic and Theological Transformation” (ATT). Our purpose paralleled the purpose of the Global Alliance – to encourage and enable Seminaries, Bible Schools, and other Christian academic institutions to implement academically rigorous and developmentally sound HCD programs in their institutions. The ATT track and other initiatives in the 4/14 Window movement then will dove-tail nicely into our Global Alliance efforts.



Seminary leaders at the Academic and Theological Transformation (ATT) track in New York, USA, Sept 2009

HCD programs around the world

More at www.hcd-alliance.org/hcdprograms

Ph.D. in Holistic Child Development

AGST Philippines in partnership with Compassion International & APNTS

This multi-year, inter-disciplinary, research-oriented degree is offered by Asia Graduate School of Theology - Philippines in partnership with Compassion International and Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS). Graduates of the program will be prepared to teach, to lead specialized ministries for children, and to engage in intensive and original research. It is intended for those who are or will be high-level practitioners and for those who are leaders or administrators of ministries with children.

www.apnts.org



Master of Arts in Holistic Child Development

Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) & Compassion International

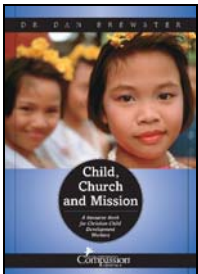
This program is a unique partnership in Asia between Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary and Compassion International to provide graduate-level training for leaders and practitioners in children at risk ministries. It has been offered since 2001 through modular or part-time studies at MBTS, a seminary that is established in 1954 and accredited to the Asia Theological Association and the Malaysian Association of Theological Schools.

www.mbts.net.my



Selected web resources

More at www.hcd-alliance.org/resources



Child, Church & Mission*

Dan Brewster

This is a resource book for Christian child development workers, designed to help them better understand the meaning and nature of the relationships between child, church and mission. The material may be used as a study course in Bible colleges and also as a training resource for children's ministry workers, workers with at-risk children (specialized groups) and training conducted by Christian child development networks. The book also available online in Spanish.



For They Shall Be Fed

Dan Brewster

This is a 26-page study guide and workbook based on Ron Sider's book "For They Shall Be Fed". It contains 6 sections

on the poor, righteousness and justice, and economic relationships between the people of God. This workbook may be used for private study or as an instruction tool in studies and workshops in churches, amongst childcare workers, or other settings.



Children & Childhood in the Bible*

Dan Brewster

This is a 118-page study guide designed to help readers dig deep into the Bible to see what it says about children and childhood. This workbook may be used for private study or as an instruction tool in studies and workshops in churches, amongst childcare workers, or other settings.

* Revisions of these popular resources should be available by January 2010



The figure in the logo represents the child in our midst. The circle depicts God's image in the child at creation. Hence, spirituality is not a domain but the core 'being' of the child. The four colors symbolize the four domains of child development. Our mission is to motivate and inspire the Christian community to provide safe places where the continuing work of a creative God can be evident through the physical, mental, social and emotional domains of development.