



July 2011

Dear seminary friends,

Greetings from hazy Penang! Herewith the 8th *Communiqué*, highlighting the development and expansion of Holistic Child Development (HCD) programming in seminaries around the world. I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Mr Kok Chik Bu who does much of the compiling and formatting of this communication piece each quarter. I think he does a superb job, don't you? Chik Bu is also the HCD website manager, and the one who keeps the site up to date. If you have not checked it out lately, be sure to visit it at www.hcd-alliance.org. And, if you have information about an HCD program, event, or resource which we can post on the website, please do let us know.

A couple things to put on your radar. We reported in the last *Communiqué* on the **Now and Next Theological Conference on Children** which was held in Nairobi from March 9-12. A compendium of the papers, responses and reflections of that conference is now being prepared. We hope to have copies available by the time of the upcoming 4/14 Window Summit III to be held in Singapore from September 5-9 this year.

Speaking of the **4/14 Window Summit**, Dr Jesudason Jeyaraj and myself are co-chairing the Academic and Theological Transformation (ATT) track at that summit. There is still time to join us in that track at the summit. If

you would like to receive an official invitation to register, please write to me at dan.brewster@yahoo.com. We will then seek to include you in the final batch of invitees for this important gathering.

Allow me to encourage you with this thought. My friend Dr Betta Mengistu, has recently drawn my attention to this verse from I Samuel 16:11:

So [Samuel] asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

In our seminaries, perhaps we too need to be more attentive to the youngest. Like Samuel, we need to be ensuring that those in our care whom we are equipping for ministry, that they too 'will not sit down until they arrive.'

Every blessing,

Dan Brewster

Oops!

In the April 2011 issue, we mentioned that each pencil dot on the scroll (below) represents a child in the feature article "Now & Next: Theological Conference on Children." In point of fact, each dot represents **100,000 children**. All these dots total 2.2 billion children that we want to reach for Christ; one half of them live in poverty and daily face risks and difficult circumstances.



Menchit Wong and Sylvia Foth holding up the scroll.

Are you part of the HCD Global Alliance? Does your institution support academic program in holistic child development? Thinking and planning to start one now?

At the **HCD Global Alliance**, we seek to bring together theological institutions, organizations and ministry influencers to advance the cause of children through Holistic Child Development (HCD). Join us today and be part of a bigger picture as together we seek to be a truly global advocate for children!

To sign up, write to info@hcd-alliance.org.

The **HCD Communiqué** contains news and information about the development and programming of HCD movement around the world. It is published electronically four times a year in English.

The HCD Global Alliance

address: c/- Compassion International, Leader Garden Apartments, Block 1A, Unit 18C, Jalan Chee Seng 13, Tanjung Bungah 11200, Penang, Malaysia
email: info@hcd-alliance.org | **website:** www.hcd-alliance.org

The **Global Alliance for Advancing Holistic Child Development** (also HCD Global Alliance) is a partnership between Compassion International and its member institutions. The general secretary is Dr Dan Brewster who is also International Director of Academic Program at Compassion International. He has studied and written extensively in the areas of child and community development, missions, and missions strategy.

HCD and theological education

Two seminary professors share their views on the opportunities and challenges of implementing Holistic Child Development (HCD) for theological education.



Razouselie Lasetso and Denise Kjesbo

Communiqué: How did your institution learn about HCD and become connected to the movement?

Dr Razouselie Lasetso: In 2007, I was at a curriculum workshop on HCD in Calcutta, India, and there I had the opportunity to learn more about the HCD movement. Following this, our college decided to offer a course on HCD, which we designed from an interdisciplinary approach. Since then, we have been offering the course and the response from students is very encouraging.

Dr Denise Muir Kjesbo: I found out about the HCD movement through my connections with the *I for 50 Movement* and the *4/14 Movement*.¹ In 2010, I was a part of the Academic and Theological Transformation Track at the second 4/14 Window Summit held in New York. It was there that I learned about the HCD Global Alliance. After exploring its purposes and talking with the leadership of my institution, we became a part of the Alliance.

What do you expect from a program in HCD, for yourself and also for your institution?

Razouselie: Personally, I have gained much insight on the importance of doing children ministries, which is way

beyond Sunday School ministries. What fascinates and satisfies me most are the strong biblical foundations. HCD will certainly benefit theological institutions like ours with the opportunity to reflect theologically on emerging issues while equipping students to advocate for children both in the church and society.

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Denise: My hopes for Bethel's involvement in the Global Alliance is to connect, learn, and collaborate. First, I am excited to learn about what God is doing all around the world in the HCD movement. It is a joy to make connections with others who share a similar passion and heart for serving children and families in the community and in the church.

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Second, I have already learned a great deal from others in the movement which I am able to take back to Bethel. My learning have informed and expanded my teaching in my current course portfolio. It has also prompted

me as the director of the program at Bethel to facilitate curriculum revision, from enhanced bibliographies and changing units of study within current courses, to new courses being proposed, developed and added to the curriculum. Also, my exposure has allowed me to share the larger vision of what God is doing through the movement with our faculty and administration at Bethel Seminary as well as the broader Bethel University.

Lastly, I am excited about the possibilities of working together with others in the HCD movement. This means being in conversation with one another and also visiting one another's programs. I have been so encouraged to teach at the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary this June and experience "up close and personal" how God is at work through this flagship program. I cannot wait to see what God might be doing in the future. I believe we are seeing something new emerging in the global arena and there will be new opportunities for collaborative partnerships that we cannot even begin to imagine.

What are the plans to get HCD onto the mainstream curriculum discourse in your respective institution? Any challenges that you foresee?

Razouselie: To me, HCD program is crucial for theological education. Theological Colleges and Seminaries must pay special attention to this emerging issue. Of course, doing so is certainly not without its challenges, both in terms of human and library resources, as well as shaking up a very deeply rooted system. But we will explore all possibilities of incorporating HCD in theological education in a comprehensive manner.

Denise: Well, I have spoken with various members of our Biblical and Theological Foundations courses and shared texts, books and articles from the HCD movement with them. I have

¹ The *I for 50 Movement* seeks to train one children's ministry leader for every 50 children in the world. The *4/14 Movement* seeks to transform the world through reaching and discipling children aged between 4 and 14.

also presented the case to my division as well as the broader faculty. This includes meeting with the Dean and Provost of Bethel Seminary to dream and strategize together regarding next steps. So, yes, we are in the beginning stages of the conversation.

Jump into the stream and join the movement!

I think one of the challenges is that divisions still exist within the typical institution of higher education, and this movement is seeking an integrative approach that is sometimes difficult to accomplish. But with perseverance and prayer all things are possible!

Any advice to seminaries and other theological institutions planning to start an academic program in HCD?

Razouselie: Theological colleges and seminaries must take HCD seriously. This is all about preparing the present and subsequent generations for a more fulfilling future. Pastors and church leaders, not just practitioners, are the right persons to educate our people to engage in HCD. Therefore, it is important that seminaries and theological institutions think seriously about adopting HCD into their academic program so that new generation of Christian leaders can be equipped to lead the church, family and community in molding children God's way.

Denise: Jump into the stream and join the movement! Exciting things are happening and there are those who have gone before you who can help you get started. Learn from them and then make it your own for your own context and culture. ■

Dr **Razouselie Lasetso** is a senior Professor in New Testament and Biblical Studies. He organizes and coordinates the HCD Programmes at Eastern Theological College (ETC) in Jorhat-Assam, India.

Dr **Denise Muir Kjesbo** is the Professor and Lead Faculty for the M.A. in Children's and Family Ministry at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. She is also the Director of The Cory Center for Children, an endowment at Bethel focusing on children and family ministry.

Short and Sweet

Online education is the wave of the future

A combination of online and on-campus education is able to preserve both learning and community, according to seminary professor Dr Denise Muir Kjesbo who runs a hybrid learning program at Bethel Seminary in USA.

Prior to joining Bethel in 2000, Denise (right) had taught in traditional education environment at college and seminary level for 17 years. Confessing that she is a "digital immigrant" who prefers to interact with students face-to-face, she nevertheless acknowledged that the online environment was able to preserve the best of traditional education and build community. Not only that, the new modality of learning was able to invite more thoughtful responses from students, particularly those who would normally not verbally participate in traditional classroom settings.



"Online education is the wave of the future. There's no turning back," she said.

Bethel Seminary, a school of Bethel University, is one of the 15 largest accredited evangelical seminaries in USA. In response to the changing educational environment, Bethel launched *InMinistry* in 1996 to cater to those who would not otherwise be able to study at the seminary. *InMinistry* is a fully accredited distance-learning program that combines on-campus intensives with online learning. Four programs are currently offered, including the *M.A. in Children's and Family Ministry*. Some 350 of Bethel's 1,200 students are currently enrolled in this hybrid learning program. ■

Visit <https://seminary.bethel.edu/offices/inministry/> for more information about *InMinistry*.

HCD equips workers in the mission field

SHARMA (not her real name) is a missionary in Asia, ministering among teenagers with physical disabilities for the past 7 years. She shares her learning experience after taking a course in HCD.

"I am embarrassed to say that when I first heard of HCD, I thought it had nothing to do with my ministry. I have always had a special love for children and had experienced how God reveals Himself through them, but I could not see my love for children and my life as a missionary coming together. In my head, children and mission were two parallel lines that could never intersect. I thought HCD was for churches and Sunday schools, not for missionaries.

"The *Child, Church & Mission* course intrigued me because it had these two words together – *child* and *mission*. I am thankful that through this course, God showed me that indeed *child* and *mission* do not only cross paths but go hand in hand in many ways. As I learn to read scripture with the child in the midst, I began to see the important role that children play in revealing God as well as in fulfilling His plan for His people and for the world.

"I have also never heard of the 4/14 Window, that most people come to Christ before the age of 15. I see now that children are indeed our largest mission field. I also see the importance of HCD in equipping workers, including missionaries, to work with children. May God help us to treasure them, nurture them and bless them." ■

Sharma teaches English at a high school for youths with physical disabilities, most of whom come from poor farming communities. She is convinced that if 4/14 is the window to lead children to Christ, it is also the Enemy's window to lead them astray.

Growing awareness of HCD across India



Participants at the Allahabad (top) and Delhi (bottom) meetings.

Pictures courtesy: CFCD India/2011

IN April 2011, the Christian Forum for Child Development (CFCD) India organized two HCD Curriculum Orientation workshops for leaders and representatives of seminaries, churches and Christian organizations in the North India region.

The first faculty orientation was hosted by Allahabad Bible Seminary on April 9 for 20 faculty members from seminaries in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The second was hosted by the Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (ISPCK) on April 12 for seminaries in New Delhi and from Punjab. Resource persons were drawn from Allahabad Bible Seminary, Viva India, Evangelical Fellowship of India's Commission On Relief (EFICOR), ISPCK and CFCD India.

Similar workshops were held in Chennai, Kerala, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, and Dimapur in the past few months. In total, some 180 people from 80 institutions gained an understanding of HCD and its relevance for ministry to children.

CFCD India is a national network of local theologians and practitioners established in 2008 to promote and develop an indigenous Child Theology for the HCD movement in India. Its chairman Dr Jesudason Jeyaraj expressed hope that through seminary-based education, the HCD movement will continue to impact churches and the wider society in India. He also hoped that more churches, mission bodies, and Christian agencies will send their staff for training in HCD.

Development in South India region

Meanwhile in the southern part of India, the **Centre for Contemporary Christianity (CFCC)** in Bangalore received 9 new students for its third cycle of MTh and PhD programs in July 2011. They joined 14 other students who began their HCD studies in Feb and July 2010. The pioneer Feb batch of 7 students is nearing completion of their studies programs.

Founded in 1994, CFCC is a post-graduate research study center offering masteral and doctorate studies in HCD since 2009. With the increased interest in HCD, CFCC is developing several resource books on ministry to children in crisis. In April 2011, CFCC and the Christian AIDS/HIV National Alliance (CANA) jointly released a Christian handbook on HIV and AIDS in the Indian context: "AIDS In India: Who Cares Anyway?" CFCC is also in the process of developing a Pastoral Concern series to complement their Missiology and Contextual Theology series. ■

Find Training

Master of Arts in Children's and Family Ministry

Bethel Seminary, St. Paul campus, Minnesota, USA



The **Master of Arts in Children's and Family Ministry** is an *InMinistry* program of Bethel Seminary, offered through a combination of online distance education and on-campus intensives since 2000. The format combines 10 fully distance courses with 14 intensive courses. It takes approximately 40 months to complete the program.

Began in 2000, the MA program is currently the first and only hybrid learning option in the Association of Theological Schools accreditation with full accreditation and blend of children and family studies. At present, the program has over 80 active students, aged 24-57. Since its inception, the program has graduated more than 100 students currently serving in varied contexts in the United States and around the world. For more information, see <http://seminary.bethel.edu/academics/st-paul-programs/childrens-ministry/> or write to program director Dr Denise Muir Kjesbo at d-kjesbo@bethel.edu.

Daystar confers 10 MAs in Child Development

ON June 18, 2011 a pioneer group of 10 students graduated with *Master of Arts in Child Development* from the Institute for Child Development (ICD) at Daystar University's 33rd Graduation Ceremony, held at the Athi River campus in Nairobi, Kenya.



During the ceremony, over 900 students were conferred with undergraduate degrees, masters, diplomas and postgraduate diplomas from various disciplines. Rachel Muteti (*left*) is one of the students who graduated from the child-focused postgraduate program. The children's pastor of a local church in Nairobi commented that the biblical emphasis and practical aspect of the program has helped her to become an effective leader for ministry with children. "The program is a must to all those who wish and hunger to see children enter the kingdom of God," she said.



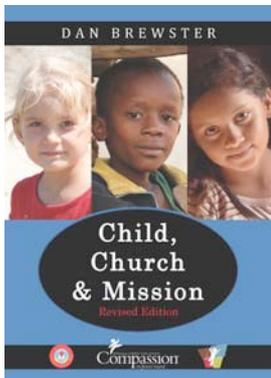
Some graduates of the MA in Child Development program at Daystar University.

Picture courtesy: ICD/2011

The 10 graduates are the first harvest of a seed sown by ICD program director Dr Malinda Harrahs who initiated the program in 2009. Together, they will be instrumental in supporting the ICD to promote and advance the discipline of HCD across Kenya and beyond.

The ICD is a training department at Daystar University focusing on equipping Christian workers to better serve children. From Nov 9-11, 2011 the ICD will host an international conference themed "African Christian Scholars and the Plight of the African Child," focusing on the role and potential of academic institutions, child-focused organizations and churches in meeting emerging challenges facing children in Africa. For more details, see www.daystar.ac.ke or download the registration form at http://www.daystar-cdi.com/downloads/Child_Development_Symposium.pdf. ■

Find Resources



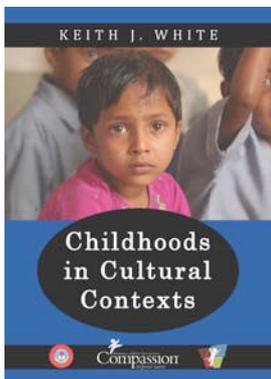
Child, Church & Mission (Revised Edition)*

By Dan Brewster (Published by Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Compassion International and HCD Global Alliance, Penang 2011)

Child, Church & Mission is a resource book for Christian child development workers, designed to help them better understand children and their rightful place in the church's mission strategy. In this revised and updated version, missiologist and child advocate Dan Brewster makes clear that the church is uniquely called to remove overwhelming barriers that deny many children the wholeness for which God created them.

"This book is an absolute 'must' for every pastor, theological student, director or leader in children's ministry around the world. It has a huge potential for bringing deep changes in your ministry and in your life."

– Anne-Christine Bataillard, International President, Hi Kidz International, Lausanne, Switzerland



Childhoods in Cultural Contexts*

By Keith J. White (Published by Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Compassion International and HCD Global Alliance, Penang 2011)

Culture is one of the most formative elements in shaping childhoods, giving children identity, meaningful existence, and link them to a wider perspective of life with a past, present, and future. In this resource book, sociologist and childcare practitioner Keith J. White examines childhoods in cultural contexts, drawing from historical, socio-cultural, psychological, political, and theological perspectives of child development.

"The study of child development in cultural contexts is of great value for people who are working with children because it helps them understand this age group from a more dynamic perspective. Child development cannot be taught apart from the cultural contexts and vice versa."

– Rosalind Lim-Tan, Director, HCD Institute, Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang, Malaysia

*Both resources can be freely downloaded from www.hcd-alliance.org/resources and used for teaching purposes.

Informe HCD América Latina



Reportado por **VERÓNICA OJEDA O.**
Coordinadora de los programas DINA en el Cono Sur de Latinoamérica

Capacitación de facilitadores para Diplomatura DINA en Cochabamba, Bolivia

Del 24 al 26 de marzo, Verónica Ojeda, Coordinadora de la Alianza Regional DINA para Conosur y facilitadora de la Diplomatura de DINA en Chile, capacitó a 18 futuros facilitadores para el desarrollo de este programa educativo en Bolivia.

A través de un convenio entre Compassion International Bolivia y Fundación Kairós, se ha concretado la apertura de varios núcleos de estudio para la Diplomatura en Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia en todo el país y ya se cuenta con más de 200 estudiantes cursando este programa. ■



Capacitación en Cochabamba, Bolivia

Inicio Programa de Diplomatura en Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia en el Instituto Bíblico Nacional de Chile

A partir de Agosto próximo, comienza a realizarse esta Diplomatura en la ciudad de Santiago, con aproximadamente 30 estudiantes. El programa tiene duración de un año y se proyecta para que, luego de esta experiencia, se abran nuevos núcleos de estudio en otras sedes del país a partir del año 2012. ■

www.ibnchile.com



Santiago, Chile

Consulta Regional sobre Programas Académicos en Seminarios Teológicos enfocados en el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia

Se realizará en dependencias del SEMISUD en Quito, Ecuador durante los días 26 al 29 de Septiembre 2011. Se espera para este encuentro, la participación de todos los Seminarios Teológicos asociados a la Alianza Regional HCD, que imparten programas en Desarrollo Integral de Niñez y Adolescencia. ■

<http://semisud.edu.ec>



SEMISUD en Quito, Ecuador



4/14 Window Global Summit III

Singapore, 6 - 9 September 2011

Your sons and daughters will prophesy...
Your young men will see visions. — Joel 2:28 NKJV

<http://4to14window.com/globalsummit3/>

