



April 2011

Dear seminary friends,

Greetings from Penang! This has been an interesting quarter for the Global Alliance. Several new seminaries are introducing or planning HCD programming, and the child has been in focus in other ways as well. In a report I did to my organization (Compassion International) in January 2011, we were able to document and map some 70 seminaries firmly committed to HCD components or programs in their curricula. We highlight a couple of those developments in this issue of the *Communiqué*.

Also this quarter, we had a planning meeting for the upcoming **4/14 Window Summit** to be held in Singapore in September 6-9, 2011. There, at least 8 different tracks will be mapping out strategies for reaching and deploying the '4/14ers' to transform their world. Dr Jesudason Jeyaraj of India and I are facilitating the Academic and Theological Transformation (ATT) Track, and we expect at least 60 seminary leaders and faculty to join us in September, many of whom have not yet participated in the 4/14 Window activities, doing strategy planning for Academic and Theological Transformation. Check out some of the exciting 4/14 Window developments at <http://www.transform-world.net>.

The most significant event of the quarter was the **Now & Next Theological Conference on Children**, held outside of Nairobi, Kenya from March 9-12. More than 100 seminary, denominational, and organizational leaders, along with several people from various networks, alliances and movements joined us for biblical and theological reflection. The emphasis was on humility, as we sought to learn about God, church, ministry and mission through the 'downside up' lens of the child. It was a blessed and historic meeting as we basked in Scripture, fellowship, the compelling and captivating subject matter, so prominent, yet so hidden in 'normal' times of theological reflection. Our good friend Kok Chik Bu has captured some of the flavour of that event in the summaries of the plenary papers here in this *Communiqué*. Our thanks to him, the Vice-Chancellor of Daystar University Dr Timothy Wachira and his fine faculty and staff, and many others for their outstanding hosting and managing of this event. We will be working now to polish and publish the papers, responses and findings in a Compendium soon. Enjoy!

Blessings,

Dan Brewster

4-14 Window Day to Change the World April 14, 2011

A national day of fasting and prayer for children and youth

<http://transform-world.net/newsletters/2011/4-14windowprayer.pdf>

Oops! We had originally published that the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) started the *PhD in HCD* program in the Philippines. In point of fact, the program was initiated by Asia Graduate School of Theology Philippines (AGST-P) and hosted by APNTS. We apologise for the error.

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

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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.



Participants at the Now & Next Theological Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, March 9-12, 2011

Now & Next: Theological Conference on Children

FROM March 9-12, 2011, some 105 global leaders, theologians, mission practitioners and ministry influencers from 85 institutions and organizations from over 30 countries across 6 continents came together for the “Now & Next Theological Conference on Children” in Nairobi, Kenya to reflect theologically on the place of children in the life, Kingdom and Mission of God.

This gathering served as a follow up to the 4/14 Global Summit held in New York City in 2010 and the Lausanne Congress at Cape Town. It also followed on the global summit of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Mission Theologians (INFEMIT) on a similar theme “Now and Next Generation,” taking place in the same venue from March 6-9.

The Conference was hosted by Daystar University and Compassion Kenya at the KCB Management Centre in Karen, a peaceful suburb on the outskirts of Nairobi. The meeting coincided with the Lent season as well

as major political shifts in northern Africa, as well as the devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan.

Six ways of speaking about children

The Christian Church is arguably the single largest and most effective body of people ministering to children worldwide. Yet, as a whole, the Church often lacks commitment to children, or has simplistic views about them. In her opening paper “*Biblical Understandings of Children and Childhood: Resources for the Church and Mission Today*,” Dr Marcia Bunge, theology and humanities professor at Christ College, Valparaiso University keyed the conference with six biblical themes regarding children as resource to help the Church affirm the complexity and intrinsic value of children as they address some of the challenges children face today.

Marcia is the director of the *Child in Religion and Ethics Project*, an initiative that explores how world religions view children and adult obligation to them. She is also the editor and co-

editor of three books on the subject: *The Child in Christian Thought* (Eerdmans, 2001); *The Child in the Bible* (Eerdmans, 2008); and *Children and Childhood in World Religions: Primary Sources and Texts* (Rutgers, 2009).

According to her, the Bible understands children as: 1) Gifts of God and sources of joy, 2) Sinful creatures and moral agents, 3) Fully human and made in God’s image, 4) Developing beings in need of instruction and guidance, 5) Models of faith and sources of revelation, and 6) Orphans, neighbors, and strangers in need of justice and compassion.

“By holding these six perspectives in tension, rather than in isolation, we can broaden our conception of children and strengthen our commitment to them in seminaries and in all areas of the Church,” she said.

She added that such areas include spiritual formation, religious education, children’s ministries, child protection and advocacy, and theological education.

Marcia expressed hope that a more holistic view of children would encourage churches and organizations to love and care for all children in various countries and contexts.

Four other plenary papers were presented by Dr Keith White (UK), Rev Canon Dr Vinay Samuel (India), Rev Dr Victor Nakah (Zimbabwe) and Dr Ruth Padilla de Borst (Costa Rica). Each was followed by a series of formal responses as well as group reflections on theology, practice and personal life. The Conference also included a time of cross-cultural worship led by the Afrizo band from Daystar University as well as creative, reflective and liturgical prayer.

A time of listening to God

The three days in Nairobi provided a space for serious theological and missiological reflection in which children and young people were

explored as agents of God's mission, and lenses through which new insights into God in Christ were gained. Some who were present had engaged in many years of theological reflection on the topic. For some, it was a new and enriching theological exploration.

Despite the diversity of culture, vocation and church affiliation, there was a strong sense of united purpose and an acknowledgement of past individual and collective failings – in particular a recognition that children have not received due and just attention. This led in turn to a commitment to further the inclusion of children in the life, theology and mission of the church.

With a common resolve, participants pledged to humility in their practice and presence with children as servants of Christ. They pledged to earnestly listen to and learn from children, and address such issues as the role and

place of the child in ministry and mission, the role of Child Theology in seminaries, churches and Christian organizations, and the training of ministers in Child Theology and related disciplines.

The Conference was made possible by the support of the Child Theology Movement, Compassion International, Daystar University, 4/14 Global Initiative, HCD Global Alliance, INFEMIT, the Lausanne Movement, Overseas Council International, and World Evangelical Alliance. ■

To download Conference papers, go to www.hcd-alliance.org/nowandnext.

To view Conference photo album, see <https://picasaweb.google.com/114070878288075320369>.

For enquiries and information, email nowandnext@hcd-alliance.org.

Here and There



Not surprisingly, Africans comprised the largest regional group at the meeting. More than half of all the participants represented 12 countries in the continent of Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, West Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



At a time when most participants were already in beds, the Findings Committee stayed up late to document the day's proceedings. On the last night, the team worked until 4am to finalize a draft of the Conference report. Despite getting a few hours of sleep, some of them enthusiastically joined a sightseeing group later in the day.



Too much information overload can overwhelm the mind, body and soul. To help participants get through each day, Petra College principal Dirk Coetsee led them in a fun and light-hearted dance sequence.



How many children are out there in the world? Menchit Wong (right) and Sylvia Foth (left) held up a sheet of paper to indicate the number of children if each pencil dot on the sheet represents a child.

“Theologies of childhood” primarily provide sophisticated understandings of children and childhood and our obligations to children themselves.

On the other hand, **“child theologies”** reexamine not only conceptions of children and obligations to them but also rethink fundamental doctrines and practices of the Church as a whole, using the “lens” of the child.



Marcia J. Bunge Ph.D

Professor of Theology & Humanities
(Christ College, Valparaiso University)

Director of the *Child in Religion & Ethics Project*

Short and Sweet

Children as signs of God's Kingdom a challenge to all

THE history of Christianity and Christian mission has seen examples of people and organizations that mistaken their visions and achievements for the Kingdom of God.



In his paper “*Children as Signs of God's Kingdom: A Challenge to All*,” theologian and child development practitioner Dr Keith White emphasized that no church, organization or denomination fully embodies the Kingdom of God. He noted that the kingdom is “necessarily and only in signs now,” and as such, followers of Jesus ought to live humbly in “a pilgrimage of signs.”

“Our purpose is to ask above all else what God reveals to us by signs that provide a clue to how we should change in order to be in tune with His Kingdom, and therefore fit partners in His mission,” he said.

Keith chairs the Child Theology Movement. He maintained that the sign of the child that Jesus placed in the midst of his followers is a challenge to churches, seminaries and organizations to rethink their understanding of God's Kingdom. The challenge is also to remain focused on the theological framework for their faith and practice as they seek to model a kingdom living that points to a better way. ■

Dr Bill Prevette, Dr Genevieve James, Dr Bernard Boyo and Bishop Joshua Banda each formally responded to Keith's paper.

Church is best place for a child's growth as God intends

MUCH of contemporary evangelicalism suffers from an “ecclesial deficit” that sees the church as having only a supporting and provisional role in God's Mission in contrast to the eternal nature of the kingdom of God.



Missiologist and theologian Rev Canon Dr Vinay Samuel however stressed that the church has a significant and eternal existence within the reality of the kingdom. In his paper “*The Church and the Child*,” he also affirmed that the church is the best environment for a child's growth as God intends.

“It's in the church with its kingdom life that the child's identity, security and selfhood are best shaped and nurtured. It is a larger family where the child sees how God is central to all of life,” he said, adding that the church is also the place where the child learns to recognize sin and respond to evil.

As such, the church should recognize and recover its place of nurture and discipline for the child, even those outside of the church. At the same time, the church should also see children as subjects of God's creation whom God has given to the church as “spiritual signs and resources.” ■

Dr David Ramirez (Church of God), Rev Dr Dietrich Werner (WCC) and Ms Rosalee Ewell (WEA) each formally responded to Vinay's paper.

Child in the midst key for seminary relevance

A growing number of seminaries and theological schools have found a way forward to better equip the church to carry out the mission of God.



In his paper “*Child Theology: A Challenge to Seminaries*,” theologian and minister Rev Dr Victor Nakah noted that such seminaries have allowed the *child in the midst* paradigm to challenge their faith and practice, and in so doing, remain relevant to the needs of the church. He however conceded that Child Theology must first engage the theology of the faculty before it can find a space in mainstream curriculum discourse.

Victor is the Africa Regional Director of Overseas Council International (OCI). OCI exists to help non-Western seminaries produce quality Christian leaders that can help the church respond biblically to opportunities and challenges of the day.

Victor affirmed that seminaries have an extensive influence in shaping and informing not only the church but also the wider society. He however pointed out that they are only as relevant as they are able to serve the church through, transformational education and practice that take contextual realities – including children and youth – seriously. ■

Dr Sunny Tan, Rev Joe Simfukwe and Dr Corneliu Constantineanu each formally responded to Victor's paper.

Kingdom logic necessary for Christian response to children

IN an effort to be efficient, expedient and professional, Christian responses to the needs of children can easily become governed by the rich and powerful who sets the agenda and term of mission engagement.



In her paper “*Children in Mission: A Challenge to Christian Movements and Organizations*,” theologian and educator Dr Ruth Padilla de Borst challenged the prevailing “logic of power” and instead called for the “downside up” logic of God's Kingdom as the basis for engaging a hurting world, particularly children who are “the prototypical citizens of God's Kingdom.”

She affirmed that children's exclusion from the life and ministry of Christian movements and organizations could be addressed by an ongoing conversion to kingdom logic, characterized by “holy indignation,” an unrelenting passion to make things right, and vigilance against instrumentalizing children.

Ruth is the General Secretary of Latin American Theological Fellowship based in Costa Rica. She recently joins World Vision International. ■

Dr Peter Mageto, Mr D.J. Konz, Ms Elizabeth Barnett and Dr Catherine Stonehouse each formally responded to Ruth's paper.

Daystar launches Sunday school ministry guide

IN early 2011, Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya launched a **Children Ministry Guide** training program to help Sunday school teachers teach God's Word better.

According to Dr Malinda Harrahs, head of Daystar's Institute for Child Development (ICD), the training has been designed to encourage children to reflect on God's Word. Its curriculum encourages the use of imagination through storytelling, drama, and creative arts. Through shared learning, group activities and outreach, children learn to enhance their social skills.

"We hope this training will inspire Christian leaders and help them see the strategic importance of children and youth in the 4/14 Window of receptivity. We also hope that churches in Kenya and elsewhere will recognize that 4/14ers can make a difference in their community if they utilize education, spiritual, parental and pastoral resources to equip and mobilize them," she said.

The program also helps parents and community members learn how to spiritually nurture children, defend their rights and care for them in an increasingly secularized world where families, churches, and society are failing to raise children and young people.

On another note, ICD will be hosting an international academic forum from June 30 to July 2, bringing together Christian African scholars to share their experiences and expertise in reaching children at risk in Africa.

For more details, write to Dr Malinda Harrahs at hmalinda45@yahoo.com. ■

Lee University in TN, USA to offer Master's degree in HCD

GOOD news! Church of God Field Director to Latin America Dr David Ramirez reported that Lee University in Cleveland, TN has submitted a proposal to offer a **Master's degree in Holistic Child Development**, first developed at **Seminario Sudamericano (SEMISUD)** in Quito, Ecuador.

LEE UNIVERSITY

According to its Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr Carolyn Dirksen, this may be the first time a Church of God North American school has taken a curriculum idea from one of their international schools to implement in a US campus.

She said, "We will be one of a very small number of schools in the US that offers this degree, and we are very excited about launching it."

Lee University has a provision in their program for students to do some of their work at SEMISUD, and for SEMISUD students to do theirs at Lee if they choose. The university is now working on the question of how much their programs should be focused on Bible and theology, and how much on practical ministry.

The two institutions are part of the Church of God, a denominational body founded in 1886 upon the person of Christ and the principles of Protestantism. In recent decades, Lee University, one of the largest Christian private institutions in Tennessee, has undergone an expanded sense of mission and vision in its ministry.

Congratulations to the Church of God for this great example of sharing and partnership in HCD development! ■

Find Training

Master of Theology in HCD

New India Bible Seminary, Kerala, India

The **New India Bible Seminary (NIBS)** is offering MTh studies in HCD beginning June 2011. This is a 2-year residential program with 8 full-month taught modules, supervised practical ministry experience, field research and thesis. The 50-credit academic program is divided into 4 semesters of 16 weeks each. Medium of instruction is English.



Since 1975, NIBS has been training Christian leaders to reach India with the gospel. Today, the seminary has over 200 students from 21 states of India and 5 neighboring countries. NIBS is accredited by the Asia Theological Association.

For enquiries, contact program director Dr Alexander Philip at pgstudies.nibs@gmail.com or visit www.nibskerala.org.

Diploma in HCD

Cambodian Bible Institute, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The **Cambodian Bible Institute (CBI)** will be offering Diploma studies in HCD beginning June 2011. This is a 2-year non-residential and modular program taught in Khmer language.



The program is a joint venture between CBI and the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia Children's Commission (EFC CC) with technical support from HCD Institute (Penang, Malaysia). CBI is a training ministry of the Assemblies of God. Since 1994, the institute has been training national Christian leaders for ministry in Cambodia.

For enquiries, write to CBI principal Rev Frank Kelly Robinette at kelly.robinette@agmd.org or EFC CC director Nou Vandeth at childcom@online.com.kh.

Noticias de Alianza Regional DINA – (HCD) Latinoamérica

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

LA Alianza Regional DINA, desde su constitución en septiembre del 2008 en Quito, se ha enfocado en promover a través de sus asociados, el desarrollo de distintas iniciativas de programas académicos en DINA para la Región.

Actualmente, contamos con dos niveles de programas en esta área: *Diplomado y Maestría en Desarrollo Integral de Niñez y Adolescencia*, los cuales han sido implementados en diversas instituciones teológicas asociadas a esta Alianza Regional abarcando un universo de al menos 180 estudiantes. Entre algunas de ellas podemos destacar:

I. Maestría en Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia: Impartido desde el año 2006 por el Seminario Sudamericano (SEMISUD, Quito, Ecuador) en colaboración de Compassion International. Corresponde a un programa de modalidad semi presencial con una duración de 2 años. En el último mes, han firmado un convenio de acreditación de titulación con la Universidad Lee de Estados Unidos.

Participan de esta Maestría, estudiantes de diferentes países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe. Dentro de los planes se proyecta ofrecer en un mediano plazo un doctorado en DINA en el SEMISUD.

Coordinadora: Lic. Carolina Díaz Pubiano dina@ded.edu.ec

II. Diplomado en Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia: Impartido desde el año 2009 por el Centro de Estudios Interdisciplinarios (CETI) de la Fundación Kairos (Argentina) en colaboración con Compasión Internacional y la Alianza Regional DINA. Es un programa de 2 años de duración en una modalidad presencial.

Coordinador: Lic. Nicolás Panotto cetibasic@kairos.com.ar

Este programa de Diplomado se ha implementado además, en otras instituciones teológicas:

1. Seminario Bautista de Venezuela | *Coordinador:* MA. Richard Serrano rima2clavedesol@gmail.com
2. Seminario Ministerial de Chile | *Coordinadora:* MA. Verónica Ojeda O. verojeda08@gmail.com
3. Juventud para Cristo Uruguay (Area de Teología) | *Coordinador:* Rev. Hugo Piris hpiriz@chasque.net

III. Diplomado en Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia Uruguay: Este Diplomado es un Programa del Seminario Bautista Siloé en colaboración con Compasión Internacional y la Alianza Regional DINA.

Ha iniciado sus clases desde el año pasado en la ciudad de Montevideo. Tiene una extensión de 2 años en modalidad presencial.

Coordinador: MA. Julio Amarillo julioama@hotmail.com

Muy pronto tendremos noticias de otros programas que ya vienen trabajando en República Dominicana, El Salvador, Jamaica, Perú, Colombia, Argentina y Costa Rica con sus respectivos contactos, así como de otros que estarán iniciando pronto en algunos países de Latinoamérica.

Por otro lado, la Alianza Regional DINA además de promover la implementación de Doctorados, Maestrías, Diplomados, Certificados y Cursos, ha organizado cinco comités de trabajo en las áreas de: Currícula, Publicaciones y Comunicaciones, Investigación, Desarrollo de Facultad y Teológica Pastoral, con el fin de asesorar, apoyar y realizar un seguimiento del desarrollo de los programas a los seminarios e instituciones teológicas asociadas.

Damos gracias a Dios por lo que juntos y juntas hemos ido construyendo en favor de la niñez y adolescencia de Latinoamérica. Aún hay mucho por hacer... ■

ESEPA inicia programa de certificación en Costa Rica

EN Noviembre 2010, en las instalaciones del Seminario ESEPA, en San José, Costa Rica; líderes representantes de las siguientes organizaciones: Seminario ESEPA, Asociación Roblealto y Viva de América Latina se reunieron para firmar un convenio y establecer un programa de capacitación que podrá ser una respuesta para muchas organizaciones e iglesias trabajando en el campo de la niñez y la adolescencia.

Después de un año de trabajo de análisis situacional y desarrollo curricular, ProDINA (Programa de Desarrollo Integral para la Niñez y la Adolescencia) comenzó el 22 de Enero en las instalaciones de Seminario ESEPA con 22 estudiantes.

El certificado es un programa de dos años que cubrirá siete cursos de énfasis en la niñez y la adolescencia y siete cursos generales de Biblia y liderazgo Cristiano.

Para más información, escriba a certificado@eseпа.org. ■ Reportado por Greg Burch, Seminario ESEPA

