

Newsworthy

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HCD INSTITUTE
Connecting you to child advocacy and development



Newsworthy contains news and information about our work and also the fellowship of the student alumni. It is published three times a year in English.

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The **Holistic Child Development (HCD) Institute of the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS)** is a department for training, research and networking in holistic ministries to children. We seek to transform and enable the Church to do child advocacy and development through Christian-based theological education, research and awareness raising. The Seminary is part of the **Global Alliance for Advancing Holistic Child Development**, a network of theological institutions seeking to promote HCD programs worldwide.

In this issue

Of Christmas past...

A look at the beginning of our ministry at the HCD Institute.

Of Christmas present...

Some highlights of our present work in South East Asia including the conferring of degrees in HCD programs.

Of Christmas yet to come...

We offer several training opportunities for the year 2012 including the Project 28 literacy development program for children.

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A few words...

Of Christmas past, present, and yet to come...

In an 1843 novella *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, Scrooge, a miser was visited by three ghosts of Christmas. The *Ghost of Christmas Past* unfolded visions of Scrooge's sad childhood experiences which made him the man he is. The *Ghost of Christmas Present* revealed the life challenges of people close to Scrooge; life challenges which he can help lessen but chose not to. The *Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come* focused on Tiny Tim. Tim is ill and unless he receives treatment, will soon die. As the vision suggests, Tim's death is partly due to Scrooge's indifference, "by-stander," and 'bah humbug" attitudes. How did it end? Well, do take time to read the story.

Dicken's narrative provoked a thought, "What if we had the three visitors in our HCDI office?" "What would they reveal of our past, present, and that yet to come?" Let's take a peek...

Happy reading and blessed Christmas one and all from our office!

Rosalind Tan

Of Christmas Past...

HCD Institute



THE Child Studies program at MBTS is ten years old! The program started in 2000 with the *Diploma in Early Childhood Christian Education (ECCE)*. Designed by Joy Cullen and Rosalind Tan, this program met the needs of the church kindergartens in Malaysia. Held in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Sandakan, this program alone graduated more than 150 students. In 2001, Compassion International and MBTS jointly offered the first holistic child development (HCD) program, integrating theology and best practices in ministry to children at risk. We take pride that MBTS is the first seminary to offer this type of training. To date, there are more than 70 seminaries and bible schools offering part or whole HCD programs globally under the Global Alliance for Advancing HCD.

In 2004, MBTS officially launched the Child Resource Center. This office has since been renamed the **Holistic Child Development Institute (HCDI)** serving the South East Asia region through curriculum development, training, and support of new HCD program ventures. Rosalind Tan took the role of honorary director, working with a small but dedicated team. From 2004 to 2011, the Certificate in Child Studies program was initiated using Viva's *Celebrating Children* curriculum from U.K. Along the way, partnerships sprouted in various SEA countries.

Unlike Scrooge, the HCDI childhood was founded on much love and nurture from the MBTS family and network partners. A big "thank you" to: **Compassion International** for their support and confidence that a small office like ours can make a difference in this world; the **Child Theology Movement, UK** who guided our theological thinking; **Hosanna Foundation**, our China ministry partner; **Harvest Center**, who works with us in community development, to colleagues who have taught in our programs; supported us financially, and last but not least to the ever hardworking team (Tryphena, Chik Bu and Alice). *Gloria in Excelsior!* ■

Of Christmas Present...

ONE of the main objectives of the HCDI is to support HCD training ventures among our South East Asia partners. Some highlights for 2011 include...

China

Two training modules were held in China in March and September this year. 61 persons graduated with the Diploma in HCD. After the graduation service in September, the *Training of Trainers* program began. 27 of the grandaunts were selected to become trainers of children's workers, many of whom are not able to enroll in the child studies program due to personal, political and geographical factors. This ministry is in partnership with Hosanna Foundation, China.

Cambodia



A conference was held in Pursat province to raise awareness among pastors and church leaders of children in and outside the church. This conference was organized by the *Voice of Children Cambodia* and the *Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia Children's Commission*.

Indonesia



The HCDI organized a *South East Asia HCD Torchbearers Retreat* in Makassar. Jaffray Theological School, our network partner graciously hosted the event. We planned, prayed, and played together for 3 days. The next retreat will be held in Cambodia in 2013.

Thailand



One of our HCD Alumni started a bi-lingual preschool for children in a predominantly Thai-speaking village. The HCDI was on hand to support her ministry through teacher training, materials, and consultation. The Safe Place Funds provided toys and learning equipment for the children.

Myanmar

Working with *St Matthews Orphanage Center*, the HCDI organized a 5-day *Training the Trainers* workshop in Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar. The participants are involved in some form of children's ministry, and represented different churches and denominations in that province. Many of them commented that this is the first time they are taught to train others and pledged to return for a follow up module.

Malaysia



Ms Terezinha Candieiro, the International director of PEPE (Preschool Education Programme) led an afternoon presentation on the ministry of PEPE in Africa and Latin America. PEPE is a learning support preschool program for young children in marginalized communities. Started by missionaries Georgina and Stuart Christine from BMS World Mission in 1992, it was a response to the impoverished community in Jardim Olinda, São Paulo. The question that resonated in their hearts and minds was, "How to plant a church amongst such deprivation and poverty?" The answer came when one of the mothers from the community asked, "What kind of church do you

belong to?" One more that talks a lot and does nothing?" By early 2011, the PEPE program has more than 9,000 children enrolled in 20 countries." PEPE remains a strong demonstration of the potential bringing together the evangelistic and social dimensions of the Gospel seeking new models of missionary cooperation in a world increasingly plagued by poverty of spirit and body that Jesus came to save." (Extract from Candieiro's research, 2011)

Graduation 2011 at Penang Campus



Other than the fact that it was 11/11/11, November 11, 2011 was a special day for 138 persons because they graduated from various programs at the MBTS. Of this total, 16 received their *Certificate in Child Studies*, 1 person received the *Graduate Diploma in HCD* while 3 others were conferred the *Master of Arts in HCD* program. ■

Of Christmas yet to come...

2012 Training Program

For details of English programs, please write to hcd.institute@gmail.com.

For details of Mandarin programs, please write to chcd_mbts@yahoo.com.

MBTS Klang Valley campus

「攜童」基建 (Chinese language program, non credit; workshops)

- **Diploma in Child Studies**
Chinese language program, curriculum emphasis on children, education, and mission. Modular style – Saturday classes plus school holidays.
- **Certificate in Child Studies**
English language program; curriculum emphasis on children, education, and mission. Modular style – offered during school break and public holidays.
- **Graduate Diploma in Holistic Child Development**
English program. Flexible schedule depending on cohort group.

MBTS Penang campus:

「攜童」基建 (Chinese program, non credit; workshops)

- **Diploma in Child Studies**
Chinese language program, curriculum emphasis on children, education, and mission. Modular style – Saturday classes plus school holidays.
- **Certificate in Child Studies**
English language program; curriculum emphasis on children, education, and mission. Modular style – offered during school break and public holidays.
- **Graduate Diploma in Holistic Child Development**
English language program. Modular – offered in June.

2012 Session – Master of Arts in HCD

June 4–8	Children’s Agency: Protection & Participation Child, Church & Mission	Dr Glenn Miles Dr Dan Brewster
June 11–15	Theological Foundations of Holistic Child Development	Dr Keith White
June 18–22	Children & Spirituality: Implications for Pastoral Care	Dr Rosalind Lim-Tan
June 25–29	Understanding Children & Childhood in the Asian Religions	Dr Sunny Tan

2012 Community Project

ARTICLE 28 of the UNCRC recognizes the right of every child to education; and that education of children should be directed to the “development of the child’s personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to the fullest potential (#29).” According to developmental theorists, the most formative period in a child’s life is between the ages of two and six years. The experiences and knowledge gained from these early years lay the foundations for learning in later life. Due to reasons which include poverty, marginalization, politics, and geographical location, the privilege of education even at the lowest academic level is not always accessible to the children. But, the Church, the people of God can meet this need.

One way to achieve the goal is to mobilize and equip concerned individuals to develop literacy programs for children who do not have the privilege of a head-start in education. Hence, “**Project 28.**” The project has many facets which relate to training of educators, curriculum development, management of education centers, etc. In sum, it is an attempt to partner with God in holistic development of marginalized children through education. In 2012, the HCDI will be engaged in developing a learning support center for young children in a native village. The aim is to provide opportunities to young children for self actualization through literacy. The **Project 28** team comprises several alumni from the MBTS Child Studies program. If you are interested to be part of this team, please email Rosalind Tan at hcd.institute@gmail.com. ■

A final narration in *A Christmas Carol*

Many laughed to see this alteration in him (Scrooge) , but he let them laugh and little heeded them, for he knew that no good thing in this world ever happened, at which some did not have their fill of laughter. His own heart laughed and that was quite enough for him. And it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well if any man alive possessed the knowledge.

Charles Dickens, 1843