



July 2010

Dear seminary friends,

GREETINGS from Penang! Oh my. Much is happening in the world of HCD. This issue of *Communiqué* will highlight a few of the programs around the world, and some of the related events and activities, mostly on developments in Africa and Asia.

It was an eventful quarter in many ways, but I'll focus this time on something personal. Fifteen years ago I had a quadruple bi-pass operation. The procedure then was done on an emergency basis, and for a time doctors were not sure I would pull through. By God's grace I did, and I am constantly amazed at all that God has crammed into those 15 years.

But bi-passes also get clogged up, and after feeling some mild chest pain while hiking with my wife, I decided to get a check up at the beginning of June. Unfortunately, the bi-passes were pretty well blocked, and I was advised to have another angioplasty with stents to open up those arteries. I had it done here in Penang, and it was apparently successful. There is another 'native' artery which may need some attention at some time in the future, but I am counting on being "good to go" for another 15 years or so.

My friends and colleagues from around the world in Compassion and in the global HCD movement were very encouraging. I was amazed and so very blessed by the out-pouring of prayers and concern. Thank you all very much.

This happened just as we were beginning the 'flagship' HCD program at the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary here in Penang. I struggled with having to forego teaching my *Child, Church and Mission* class. For some of us, as you know, it is easier to give than receive the advice to "go slow," "take your rest." My friends at MBTS were among those most vocal with that helpful advice, and covered my responsibilities for me on very short notice. So I did rest, sort of.

But in July I'll go to China to be with my daughter and her husband and our grandson Noah. Hopefully that will be more serious rest.

A colleague of mine gave me a very encouraging passage which I commend to all of you:

"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble. The LORD will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness." Ps 41:1-3 (NIV)

It is a pleasure to work with so many of you sharing the vision of growing and enriching the HCD movement around the world.

God bless each one of you.

The Communiqué is an electronic publication of the HCD Global Alliance containing news and information about the development and promotion of HCD programming around the world. It is published four times a year in English. For information, contact:

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The HCD Global Alliance is a partnership between Compassion International and its member institutions. Dr Dan Brewster is the general secretary and also director of HCD International for Compassion International. He has studied and written extensively in the areas of child and community development, missions, and missions strategy.

Warmly,

Dan

About Us

► 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

Alert!

4/14 Window Summit II in New York City

MANY of you participated in the 4/4 Window Summit hosted by the Promise Church in New York City last year. We would like to alert you to the upcoming *2010 4/14 Window Summit II* which will again be hosted by the Promise Church in NYC.

As you know, the 4/14 Window refers to that age group, and the growing worldwide movement to not only reach but also to transform and deploy them to transform their own generation. The term '4/14 Window' has been around about 15 years now. However, in the past 18 months, under the leadership and vision of Dr Luis Bush, the concept (of course it actually refers to all children and youth from 0–18), has begun to energize and mobilize the Church in remarkable ways. Some 350 people from about 70

countries participated in the last 4/14 Window Summit and since then many national 4/14 Window Summits have taken place around the world, as well as many initiatives which are awakening the Church to the needs and potential of this age group. In other words, it is (finally) catching on!

Global Alliance general secretary Dr Dan Brewster will be facilitating the *Academic and Theological Transformation* track within the 4/14 Window Summit. The track will be chaired by Dr Jesudason Jeyaraj from India and will closely parallel the objectives of the Global Alliance in seeking to grow and enrich the HCD movement. It will encourage the inclusion of seminary offerings regarding children and youth, including courses on 'at risk' children, the new discipline of Child

Theology and many other such offerings in seminaries and theological institutions.

The Summit participation is by invitation only. If you are accepted as a participant, you would not be just an attendee. You will have a hands-on role, helping to shape a global missions agenda. You will meet fascinating, like-minded people in an unforgettable context. It will truly be an iron-sharpening-iron experience. If you would like to be invited, please write to Dr Dan Brewster at dan.brewster@yahoo.com or Dr Jeyaraj at jbjeyaraj@hotmail.com and we will see that you receive an invitation.

For more information, see <http://4to14window.com/globalsummit2>



Insights

The challenge of HCD programming: paradigms, strategies and implementation

Dirk Coetsee



WHAT happens if a simple training program for child evangelism is opened up for contextualization and theological thought? Petra College had the privilege of observing this over the last twenty plus years. Having adopted a visionary and ground-breaking Euro-American model, we soon realized that the African context – and the Bible – challenged some of its fundamental premises and practices. We had to shift, not only in our understanding of children's ministry, but also of training for children's ministry.

Some of the key shifts that shaped our current approach to children's ministry were:

- From an *educational understanding* of children's ministry to a *relational understanding*
- From *one-dimensional* child evangelism to *holistic* children's ministry
- From an *individualistic* perspective on the child to an *integrated, systemic* perspective on children, families and communities

Some of the major shifts in our approach to training:

- From *equipping individuals* to *empowering organizations* (churches and ecumenical networks) for children's ministry
- From *residential training* to *contextual 'field' training*
- From *content-based* training to *needs and outcomes* based training
- From *theoretical 'class'* processes to *integrated experiential learning*

- From *children's work* to *children's work plus multiplication (equipping others) plus management*

In the process, Petra College moved from being a training centre to being an institute for capacity building, where our 'students' are partnering organizations/churches and the primary training goals are paradigm shifts, skills development and strategic implementation.

Our conclusion? *Thorough contextualization and theological reflection inevitably lead to adjustments in paradigms, strategies, content and processes of training.* This is the challenge for all Holistic Child Development or Holistic Children's Ministry training programs.

Dirk Coetsee is principal of Petra College. The interdenominational Petra College was founded in 1989 in South Africa to equip and mobilize leaders in children's ministry.

www.petra.co.za

Transforming society with children in the midst

Lena Pira

THE child in our midst... We see the idea in the bible, in child theology books and even represented by the encircled child in the Global Alliance logo, yet so many people miss the fact that God has indeed put children in our midst! I see it so clearly in Uganda. The median age of our population is just 15 years old. 62% of our entire population is under 19 years of age. Children truly are among us!

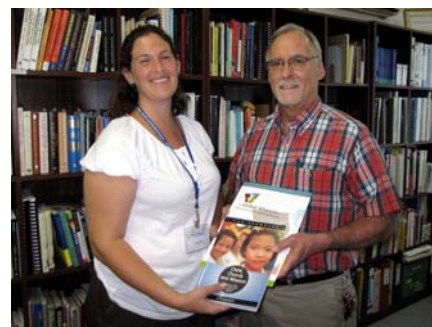
At Gaba Bible Institute (GBI), our vision is to equip Christian leaders for the transformation of society. The task of equipping Christian leaders in Africa goes far beyond the doors of the church. It goes to the heart of our society... to our children. In Kampala alone, there are over 800 organizations ministering to 1.2 million children at risk. GBI is committed to the training and equipping of the thousands of workers caring for these orphans and vulnerable children. Failure to train these workers would cut children out of the equation of child,

church, and mission, and miss the whole heart of God!

As a result of this conviction, our *Diploma in Child Development* was born! This child development program is not one you would find in a secular college or university but rather it is one that aims at the heart of God by seeing children as they truly are: a treasure and a gift made in His image.

On Aug 30, 2010, our doors will open to our first class of Child Development students! The program is currently being offered as a 2-year, 64 credit hour accredited diploma which focuses on ministry to Children at Risk in East Africa. We use the bible as our basis in all areas, realizing that the spirituality of a child cannot be removed from their physical, cognitive, social or emotional domains of growth and development.

We are thankful to the Global Alliance and all of our HCD partners



Lena Pira with Dr Dan Brewster at the HCD Institute of the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, June 2010.

who have been instrumental in coming along-side of us and mentoring us as we start this journey of the transformation of society through our nation's greatest resource – our children!

Lena Pira is GBI head of program development. Based in Kampala, Uganda, Gaba Bible Institute was founded in Jan 2007 with 35 students and a commitment to equip Christian leaders for the transformation of society.

www.gbiuganda.org

Developing a curriculum that relates to realities in Africa

HCD East Africa



IN view of the need to train better workers who can minister more effectively to children in Africa, the HCD Africa regional group aims to develop a curriculum that is more in tune with the contexts and realities in Africa. Under the theme "Keeping Our Eyes on the Goal: Promoting a Healthy Professional Development in HCD", nineteen individuals representing fourteen

organizations offering programs in HCD at various levels, met in Mukono, Uganda from May 23-27, 2010 to review and update their programs to meet the needs of their students, both formal and informal.

During the meeting, participants identified the essential core competencies required by learners, as well as learning materials for all academic levels, including certificated and non-formal programs. They also had fruitful deliberations on contemporary issues as well as challenges and opportunities in advancing HCD across the region. At the end of the meeting, the participants developed a framework that spells out their common identities as well as the rationale for training in HCD, and the necessary learning and ministerial

formation for learners at all academic levels.

The Mukono meeting was co-hosted by Uganda Christian University. Institutions represented at the meeting are Daystar University (Kenya), St Paul's University (Kenya), International Leadership University/NIST (Kenya), St John University (Tanzania), Rwanda Institute of Evangelical Theology (Rwanda), Uganda Christian University, Gaba Bible Institute (Uganda), Child Development Training & Research Center (Ethiopia), Uganda Martyrs Seminary Namugongo, Petra College (South Africa), Light University (Burundi), Africa International University/NEGST (Kenya), Compassion International and Viva Africa.

Short and sweet

MBTS 'Flagship' HCD Program in Penang, Malaysia

THE Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) in Penang had just completed its annual 'flagship' HCD program for the ninth time. This was the ninth year of offering courses in this program, and probably the most challenging from an administrative point of view. Two instructors of full week intensives had to back out due to health reasons just days before they were to teach. Filling in on such short notice was a test.

But the students were gracious and the program was well received. As in the past, the program had a fascinating international mix of students. There were 23 students from 5 continents and 14 countries, and the cross-cultural interaction on childhoods, parenting, the church, and many other topics was rich indeed.

This year, the program also featured a one day seminar on "Sex Education for Youths" taught by Dr Barbara Kohl. Dr Kohl has taught and counseled at the secondary school level and been active in Christian education and youth work in Canada, the United States and Germany.

Since 2001, MBTS has been offering a full-fledged MA degree in HCD through modular and part-time studies. Some changes are planned for next year as the seminary will once again offer a Graduate Diploma in HCD as well as the MA degree. The planned Diploma structure will require 2 modules of study, each module consisting of 4 weeks of intensive study.

For more information, please contact HCD program director Dr Rosalind Lim-Tan at hcd.institute@gmail.com.



MA in HCD students with faculty and staff at the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, June 2010

4/14 Window a key concept in mission thinking

THE 4/14 Window is a key concept that needs to be incorporated into the mission thinking of seminaries around the world, said former Overseas Council International (OCI) vice president Dr Manfred Kohl (*right*). Kohl was recently in Penang, Malaysia in June 2010 to visit the MA in HCD program run by the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary. During his short visit, the OCI ambassador met with Global Alliance general secretary Dr Dan Brewster and had a fruitful discussion on the development of HCD across the world.

Kohl is passionate that seminaries rethink their course offerings and priorities to be relevant to today's cultures and needs. He

is especially keen that seminaries include programming especially in areas of Stewardship, Peacemaking, and Holistic Child Development.

He said, "I believe [HCD] should be a basic course taught in every seminary. The concept 4/14 Window is very vital, since more than 80% of all Christians were converted during that period of their lives. I am personally very much in support of this ministry, and I am being a spokesman wherever I can."

Working with over 100 non-Western theological schools, OCI seeks to aid scores of seminaries around the world to produce quality Christian leaders.



Dr Manfred Kohl

Celebrating Children in Cambodia upgrades to diploma level

IN August 2010, the Celebrating Children (CC) alumni in Phnom Penh will be launching a Level 2 HCD course for graduates of the Level 1 CC course. This second level course is envisioned to be a 2-year diploma program that seeks to do an in-depth study of topics offered in the Level 1 courses.

At present, the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia Children's Commission is working with the AOG Cambodian Bible Institute (CBI) on accreditation of the new

program. This process is facilitated by CBI faculty member Ann Greave.

Celebrating Children was developed in 1987 by Viva with a consortium of Christian trainers and practitioners in childcare to equip people to work more effectively with children living in difficult circumstances. Over 16 different groups or institutions in Asia and Africa have run a *Celebrating Children* training course. More than 600 students have now completed the course.



In their own words

Interview with two HCD students from Ethiopia

THE Child Development Training and Research Centre (CDTRC) is a ministry that seeks to transform and influence people working with children to give greater emphasis on the nurture, development and role of children in Ethiopian society. CDTRC staffs Amberbir Tamire and Elizabeth Hassen are currently doing their first year *MA in HCD* program at the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary in Penang, Malaysia. *Communiqué* catches up with them on their experiences participating in a HCD program.

***Communiqué:* Please tell us briefly about your role in the CDTRC. What does your work involve?**

Amberbir: I am a facilitator (trainer) at CDTRC and help to coordinate our *Diploma Program in Children's Ministry*. My role includes designing training program, preparing materials, giving training, and also assessing students' performance.

Elizabeth: My role is similar. I help to facilitate diploma level and short term trainings.

Why did you choose to do a program in HCD? What are you expecting to get out from such a program?

Amberbir: What I am doing in CDTRC is holistic child development. As HCD is directly related to my work, I hope to be better equipped and also have a strong theological foundation in children ministry.

Elizabeth: As a facilitator, I need more knowledge, skills and sharing of experiences. I expect this program will help me to grow in these areas.

In what ways have your learning experience so far challenge you to do better in your area of work?

Amberbir: For me, the interrelationship between child, church and mission has

helped me to see afresh the church from the perspective of the child. I have also been challenged to deepen my own understanding of childhood and its history in my own context.

Elizabeth: The program has helped me to think outside the box. It has given me opportunities to share my experiences as well as to learn from others. I have been challenged to broaden my understanding and also to think differently because of the many varied contexts and experiences that we all have.

How do you expect to use what you have learned in your work?

Amberbir: I plan to include some topics in our diploma program. For my term papers, I plan to write on issues that are relevant and important to my work at CDTRC.

Elizabeth: After my return to CDTRC, I will try to analyze and apply my learning to my context. I will also try to contextualize the concepts and theories to meet the needs of children ministers and workers in Ethiopia.

Do you have any advice to people wanting to do a program in HCD?

Amberbir: Well, their motives should be for the sake of their ministry. They



should also commit themselves to the required academic works, assigned reading and related tasks.

Elizabeth: I encourage those who are engaged in training and teaching as well as those working with children to join this program! I believe they will find meaning in their calling, improve their work, and also increase their understanding of holistic ministry to children. I also believe their attitudes toward children will change for the better.

What have you enjoyed most about Penang? What has surprised you?

Amberbir: This is my first time in an Asian context and I am surprised to see a lot of similarities to us. I have enjoyed many things about Penang (except for the hot and humid weather!) and received much from the facilitators who shared not only their knowledge but also their hearts and passion for children.

Elizabeth: I have been enriched by the student interaction, the facilitative approach of instruction, and also the well-organized reading materials and books. I especially like Penang because the right students and facilitators for HCD are all here in one place!

Here and there



The *Child, Church and Mission* class of Summer 2010 at the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) in Rizal, Philippines with Dr Dan Brewster (standing far left) and APNTS associate program director Dr Nativity Petallar (seated second from right).



The 2010 *MA in HCD* final year colloquium at the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary in Penang, Malaysia. Standing from left are students Nou Vandeth, Irene Heidy, Barbara Ruegger, Socheata Sellers, and Christa Crawford with Dr Dan Brewster (third from left).

Selected HCD programs

More HCD programs at www.hcd-alliance.org/hcdprograms



Diploma in Child Development

Gaba Bible Institute, Kampala, Uganda

The *Diploma in Child Development* program is designed to give children's workers in the church and Christian ministries a biblical foundation and the practical skills necessary to work with children at risk. Graduates will be equipped to share the compassion of Christ and hope of the Gospel to the orphaned, abused and abandoned children throughout East Africa.

For more information, see www.gbiuganda.org or write to info@gbiuganda.org.

Selected HCD resources

More at www.hcd-alliance.org/resources



Empowering Children: Principles, strategies & techniques for mobilizing child participation

Dr Ravi Jayakaran with Jennifer Orona (William Carey Library, 2009)

From a Christian perspective, the realization that all children have dignity and are created in the image of God helps us to see that children's input is valuable. The Bible's concepts of community, church, and mission further help us to see that God not only uses children in his wonderful plan but that he also wants all of his children – male, female, young, and old – to participate in his work in the world. How can we encourage all children – even the most marginalized – to share, letting them know that their opinion is important and valued? How can we help them to feel comfortable sharing their opinions in a variety of settings? This is the purpose of this book. After discussing some of the rationale for children's participation and the need to understand a number of basic factors, the rest of this book concentrates on various aspects of mobilizing the participation of children.

For information, see www.allbookstores.com/book/9780878080014/

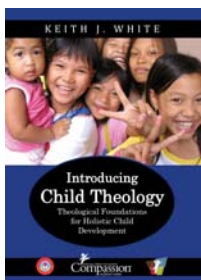


Field of Mudan

Written and directed by Steven Chang (Production Company: Florida State University School of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts, 2004)

Field of Mudan is a 23-min short film that portrays the sad reality of human trafficking and modern day slavery. Mudan, a frightened young Asian girl, is forced into sex slavery. She takes solace in the memory of her mother's promise that she will find Mudan and take her away to America: the "place where dreams come true". Mudan finds an unexpected friend in Faye, a sympathetic and compassionate brothel girl. Together Mudan and Faye courageously choose to live their lives as innocent, ordinary little girls despite their conditions and the bleak future that awaits them.

For more details, see www.indieflix.com/film/fields-of-mudan-4596/



Introducing Child Theology: Theological Foundations for Holistic Child Development

Dr Keith J. White (Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary/Compassion International/HCD Global Alliance, 2010)

This is a resource book with extraordinary insights and guidance from sociologist Dr Keith White on the new discipline of Child Theology. It is used as the course book for the module *Theological Foundations for Holistic Child Development*, taught as part of an MA program at the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary.

The book is available for download at www.hcd-alliance.org/resources.



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.