Dear Friends,

What a great time we had in Kenya! Although I have had many African students (in the Philippines), studied with African missiologists and missionaries, and have heard Cheryl (several times now!) tell her stories from Africa, this was the first time Lynn and I have been to that great continent. I feel much more like a world mission teacher now—and not just an Asian-mission one. Although it was a new cultural context for me, there were many things that are the same: 1) the Adventist church is strong and growing, 2) the people are friendly and helpful, and 3) although there are many signs of modern progress and the stores are full of anything one might want, there is much poverty.

For worship just last week Lynn and I were reading Isaiah 58 again. It is the Old Testament equivalent of Matthew 25. We missionaries are very aware of the Great Commission to teach and baptize; but how are we doing at fulfilling the commission of these two chapters—to serve Jesus by serving “the least of these His brothers”? I know it is not always easy to know what our response should be to the overwhelming needs around us as we serve on the mission field, but we do have to take seriously that God does want to work through us for their good. And is there any better way to represent our God than to show His mercy to others? “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry, and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him . . .?” (Is 58:6-7 NIV)

The center-page “continuing education” item this month talks about the place of “development” in the mission of the church. In the next few months, as we get our missionary forum in operation on the internet, maybe we can share with one another ways that we have found to personally serve Him among the oppressed. Maybe together we can better share the face of Jesus with a hurting world.

May God bless you in your regular duties as a missionary and in your 24/7 Christian witness for Him.

Lester Marklein

We’ve almost made the connection!

Despite some delays, the IWM website, including the TCK Forum announced last issue, should be up and running soon. Meanwhile, since our website will be linked to the Adventist Mission site why don’t you log on to www.adventistmission.org. Check out the mission stories, articles, and videos already there and, starting with this issue, you will find the Global Connections newsletter there as well.

INSIDE . . .

This summer marked forty years since the first Mission Institute was held at Andrews University in 1966. The Andrews and Nairobi participants (pictured in this issue) were part of the 114th and 115th institutes, respectively. Hundreds of missionaries have brought their hopes and dreams and, yes, doubts and fears to Mission Institute. As they have wrestled with complex issues in cross-cultural service, they have shared their hearts with us and with each other. We who work at the Institute feel privileged and blessed by every one of you who has been a part of the Institute experience. We rejoice in your commitment to mission and are grateful to the Lord of mission for His blessing and empowering. If you haven’t yet attended a Mission Institute, or if it has been more than ten years since you attended, send your request to attend to your division secretariat. We hope to see you soon!

Cheryl Doss

IWM
Schedule of Events
October 16-November 4, 2006
Andrews Institute
January 3-6, 2007
Australia Institute
January 12-27, 2007
Andrews Institute
March 11-31, 2007
Asia Institute
June 11-30, 2007
Andrews Institute
July 10-15, 2007
Andrews Re-entry
The adult Re-entry participants enjoyed a time of debriefing, fellowship and fun together. A few participants are pictured on a Sabbath visit to the Battle Creek Historic Adventist Village.

Both missionary kids and teens had a great time in their respective re-entry programs. Pictured here are the teen re-entry program participants.

Participants: Corazon Banaga (Kenya); Hesron Byilingiro & Anna Mbangukira (Rwanda); James, Susan, Joshua, & Rachel Crutcher (Kenya); Juliet Dagoon (Tanzania); Miroslav & Nadica Didara (Sudan); Elmer & Conchita Edpalina (Sudan); Mitchell, Roselyn & Romel Fabriga (Ghana); Samuel & Premalatha Gaikwad (Philippines); Dave & Yvonne Higgins (Philippines); Geoffrey, Ruby, Lauretta, Gerry & Sam Mtike (Kenya); Andrew, Mauie, Andrew Jr., & Christy Njoke (Congo); Angelina, Dominie, Kirstene, Irise & Gwyn Payagaran (Rwanda); Verna, Gemini, Verbeta & Gem Peducne (Zambia); Philip & Birgit Philipsen (Kenya); Jesse, Elizabeth & Roxolene Role (Kenya); Sylvain, Ljiljana, Sophie & Silas Romain (Albania); Ellen, Harville & Sharlene Valenciano (Zambia); Elimar, Marcia, Marcelli, Giovanna & Giuliana Zillo (Guinea-Bissau).

Having fun with the giraffes at the Kenya Mission Institute.

Missionary Kids and Teens enjoying a hike in Nairobi, Kenya for Mission Institute.

Nairobi, Kenya Mission Institute July/August 2006

Andrews University Mission Institute June 2006

Participants: Jonas, Raquel & Andre Arrais (GC); Rina Banks (GC); Dilsun, Lea & Daine Beastra (South Africa); Leo, Clarissa & Jehel Espuna-Reyes (Albania); Anthony, Debora, Chelsea & Georgia Kent (GC); Erbe, Jerma, Joshua & Janene Palafax (Kenya); Erika, Maxine & Janee-Grace Puni (GC); Felipe & Elizabeth Tan (AU); Donald & Janet Usson (Korea); Doug, Dawn, Joshua & Hannah Venn (Thailand); Clinton, Gina, Daniel & Heather Wahlen (Philippines); Woody & Peggy Whidden (Philippines).

Missionary Kids have fun during Mission Institute at Andrews University, June 2006.
Christian Development Resources


Kuhn, Wagner. *Christian Relief and Development.* 2005; Sao Paulo, Brazil: UNASPRESS. To promote the importance of a biblical theology of transformational development for missionaries as they aim to be holistic witnesses in a cross-cultural context. Available at IWM.

Sider, Ronald J. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity.* 2005; Dallas, TX: Word Publishing. In this new look at an age-old problem, Sider offers not only a detailed explanation of the causes, but also a comprehensive series of practical solutions, in the hopes that Christians like him will choose to make a difference.


Myers, Bryant L. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practice of Transformational Development.* 1999; Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. The purpose of this book is to describe a proposal for understanding the principles and practice of transformational development (positive material, social, and spiritual change) from a Christian perspective.


Ajulu, Deborah. *Holism in Development: An African Perspective on Empowering Communities.* 2001; Monrovia, CA: MARC. Explores how biblical ethics apply to the escalating challenges presented by poverty around the globe.

Eade, Deborah, and Ernst Ligteringen, eds. *Debating Development: NGOs and the Future.* 2001; Oxford, UK: Oxfam GB. Contributors to this volume reflect on what kind of development will eradicate poverty, and what types of agencies are best suited to the task. www.oxfam.org.uk

The MARC books are available at www.worldvisionresources.com and the rest are available at Amazon.com unless otherwise indicated.

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The training curriculum of the Institute of World Mission is built on five learning objectives: Growing Spiritually, Thinking Biblically, Reasoning Missiologically, Living Holistically, and Serving Incarnationally. This focus denotes an effort to consider the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as an all encompassing and holistic ministry. More often than we think, missionaries are sent by God and the Church to distant and difficult places to minister and serve those in needs. Accordingly, many committed missionaries go to preach the Good News and in addition find themselves involved in challenging circumstances where providing physical healing, emergency resources, and educational development is a priority.

Missionaries often find themselves involved in educational and developmental areas, as these types of ministries provide a venue whereby people and communities can have an opportunity for change and transformation. Many times the motivation behind this type of educational initiative is to help provide opportunities for those who are poor or discriminated against.

In the past such educational and development initiatives, motivated by a spirit of humanitarian benevolence and charity, inspired the establishment of several schools and universities in Europe and throughout the world, many of which still exist today. In his book Christian Charity in Action, Michel Riquet makes the following comment regarding the establishment of the Sorbonne in France and other European universities: “It was in fact in order to enable sixteen poor men, Masters of Arts aspiring to the doctorate, to pursue their studies at the University, that Robert de Sorbon, chaplain to St Louis the king, founded the College of the Sorbonne in 1257. It was the same at Orleans, Salamanca, Oxford and Cambridge. In these university centres the Friars Preachers for many years fostered a flame of fervour and charity” (1961:124-125). For these missionaries, the charity which is inspired by the spirit and fervor of the gospel must encompass all forms of Christian life and practice—evangelistic, educational, medical, pastoral, and so forth.¹

Missionaries must continually be aware that God provides them with an excellent opportunity to reach people through education, as education means development which leads to transformation and redemption. Missional education and development has to do with the restoration of human dignity. Such development encompasses every dimension of human existence: physical, moral, psychological, social, and spiritual. In this case, our holistic ministry’s philosophy is based on the assumption that love is the foundation for a Christian vision of human development (1 Cor. 13) because development is relational. Although development will include material, technical, and capital inputs, these alone are inadequate. A person without dignity is a person who is not loved and valued. The goal of holistic development is a person-in-community transformed by love, whose dignity has been restored, and who has found a productive and socially responsible role in the community.

True education and development is achieved when the poor, the oppressed, the sick, the vulnerable, and the miserable of society have been enabled to participate as responsible members of the community,

¹ Some parts of this article taken from Wagner Kuhn (2005), Christian Relief and Development: Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspectives of the Holistic Gospel. Pp. 56; 139-145.
each one contributing to the realization of a just and free society. When their basic needs are met, individuals become responsible members of a community and participate in shaping their own future, because they have access to resources and opportunities. This kind of education and development is multi-dimensional, encompassing every part of human life.

Individual or community holistic development in all its perspectives and forms is a radical concept. It involves all aspects of life. It has to do also with the redemption and transformation of the structures and powers that hinder and obstruct the person from the abundant life Christ wants everyone to enjoy (John 10:10).

Personally, I have come to the firm conclusion that development as understood and practiced from a holistic Christian perspective offers much more hope and has a better chance to succeed than does a mere secular education and development that dichotomizes between body and soul, between the physical and spiritual realities of life. A holistic approach to mission and ministry will seek to be inclusive and integrative, aiming at addressing the person in his or her wholesomeness. In this sense, it is in Christ that we have the one best example. Any philosophy and practice of a holistic ministry, especially for missions, should carry the principles of Jesus’ holistic gospel which aims to transform the whole human being—body, mind, and spirit.

It was with this aim in mind that Ellen G. White went forward with the vision to establish the Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists in 1906. The purpose was that the healing of the sick and the ministry of the Word are to go hand in hand.² This purpose must continue, and not only at Loma Linda University, but in all educational, medical, and other institutions of the church—integrating the teaching of the word and healing of the body.

God’s mission must continue through hospitals that not only heal but also teach the words of the great Physician, through relief and development agencies that not only provide humanitarian aid but also words of hope in the God that loves and cares, and through educational institutions that not only teach the established curriculum but also build men and women of noble characters. His holistic mission must continue through churches, missions, conferences, unions, and divisions that not only manage but also live and preach the good news of the gospel in word and deed. God’s mission must continue as you and I, members of the church, learn, live, and practice the holistic gospel of Jesus.

Missionaries who are involved in holistic ministry and mission (humanitarian relief and/or transformational development programs along with being a Christian witness) need to be careful to follow the principles and concepts presented in the Bible. They must study the life of Christ to see how He imparted life and salvation as he ministered to all—healing, teaching, and preaching the good news. Because in the end, we all need to understand that preaching good news and healing the human body is one and the same activity, an activity that is carried forward by individuals through the Spirit.

As a missionary engaged either in humanitarian relief, educational and development activities, administration, preaching, or medical mission you are the hands and feet of one Body—the Body of Christ. Thus, holistic ministries must be carried out together and in an integrated manner as we endeavor to live the good news of God in the wisdom and strength of the Spirit and in the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

So, what is your role in God’s holistic mission? May God bless you as you continue to serve Him as a faithful and dedicated missionary in God’s holistic mission!