

Newsworthy

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



Khmer children washing their teeth (Photo: Salaa Hope Battambang)

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.

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A few words...

Dear friends,

The main role of the HCD Institute is to equip Christians to be more effective in advocating for children. Of the people who have trained with us, a majority of them are in leadership position. Now that speaks well of the program!

In this issue, we feature five models of children's ministry our students and alumni are engaged in. These ministry models represent the needs of children everywhere and showcase the commitment of our students and alumni. The five models are selected to represent five different countries from where our HCD community is located.

Enjoy reading this issue.

Rosalind Lim-Tan

Director, HCD Institute

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Preparing students for life

A literacy model, Cambodia



Grade 5 student in front of the school building (Photo: Salaa Hope Battambang)

SALAA Hope Battambang (SHB) is a Christian primary school that caters to 192 Khmer children from both Christian and non-Christian families in Phnom Penh. Its vision is to prepare the children for wholesome living which includes life skills, responsible citizenship, and active Christian service.

School principal Soy Sophal says, "We believe that education is the key to fulfilling this vision. When children are well educated they are empowered to participate and contribute more fully in the life of society."

To this end, the students are taught arts and sciences, local and foreign languages, modern technologies, as well as instructed in God's Word. From 7a.m. till 3.15p.m., the children attend classes that include govern-

ment-approved subjects as well as Bible knowledge, computer science, creative skills, and appreciation of fine arts. As part of the learning process, the school conducts chapel service every Friday afternoon.

One noted aspect of the school is that the teachers, staff, parents, and community work together to provide a positive learning environment for the students. The teachers and staff strive to be good role models in the school while parents help to promote learning and moral growth at home. The community plays its part by ensuring a safe environment for child development.

Founded by USA missionaries Kelly and Cyndi Robinette and Soy Sophal, SHB is funded by the Assemblies of God and Mission of Mercy, USA. At present, there are 13 Khmer teachers, 8 administrative staff, and 3 Americans working in SHB. In July 2005, the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport officially recognized SHB as a non-profit private school. ■

Soy Sophal is a second year HCD student. He hopes to be a more effective principal in SHB through this HCD training

Making a home for the homeless

A family-oriented model, Thailand



House parents Tom and Pranee with the children of Narada (Photo: Narada Home)

MAI, 16, knows firsthand the stigma of having HIV-infected parents. When she was still at kindergarten, her father died of AIDS. In school, her friends avoided her when they come to know her background. Inevitably, her experiences and struggles left her an angry and bitter person. But all that changed when she came to Narada Home.

Narada Home was started in July 2001 by Itapon Foundation to help orphans and children from dysfunctional homes who have difficulties with studies and life skills. The word "narada" refers to the "nard" perfume used to anoint Jesus (John 12:3). Narada Home is the first Christian family in the primarily Buddhist village of Nong Wai. Under the care of house parents Tom and Pranee Rungroadsataporn, children in Narada receive proper guidance, tui-

tion, and also opportunities to grow and thrive in a family environment.

At present, Narada is home to six children, including Mai who have all become Christians. Five have been baptized and are now actively serving the church. Just as perfume fills a house with fragrance, the Narada children have become a fragrance to the community in Nong Wai. Encouraged by their good behavior and excellence in studies, the villagers expressed interest to send their children to Narada for tutorials.

For Mai, the Narada Home has been a life-changing experience. She says, "The more I get closer to God, the better a person I become. I have become the new 'Mai' and have learned to more forgiving and patient with people." Mai is currently studying in a secondary school. She has a burden to help abandoned children and marginalized people, and desires to tell them of the hope they can have in God. ■

Inspired by the positive outcomes of Narada Home and as a final requirement of her studies, Pranee is developing the "Good Kids Preschool" program to be implemented in a nearby Thai village.

Training missionary educators

A teacher training model, Brazil



The PEPE preschool program helps children to have an early start in education (Photo: PEPE)

Terezinha Candeiro, a final year HCD student lives in Brazil. Her dream is to see every child in Latin America have a good start in education. As the international director and trainer of PEPE, her role includes raising awareness among churches and organizations of the importance of early childhood education and partnering with them to train missionary educators who will bring “hope to the children’s hearts” (PEPE’s motto).

PEPE (short for Programa de educação pre Escolar, or preschool education program) is a community based preschool program, set up and run by the local church. Started in 1992 with 25 children in Sao Paulo, Brazil, PEPE prepares preschool children living in difficult circumstances for formal schooling at Year One. These children often face difficulties in making the transition from early

years to primary education. More than 7,000 children have been reached through PEPE, with about 300 local teachers working every day to give each child an early start in their education.

Terezinha has been with PEPE since its inception. The program has proven to be a viable mission tool for the local churches. In recent years, PEPE has expanded to countries like Peru, Paraguay, and Mozambique. Churches with a PEPE school see themselves not only as a place where the spiritual needs of the child are met but also as a place “where children can acquire and improve skills which are the prerequisites for good performance and accompaniment of the education process, as well as the process of socialization and citizenship” (PEPE Training Manual, 11).

Unlike other forms of preschool education models in the community, PEPE is a relatively inexpensive model that can be set up by a local church. This model uses the church premises, as well as their members, provided they received proper training. As such, Terezinha is investing her energies to complete a comprehensive PEPE training manual as her final M.A project. ■

At the time of writing, Terezinha is halfway through preparing the training manual.

Using media to change lives

A media model, Singapore



2009 HCD alumna Blossom Phillips (right) with final year HCD student Byambat

SINGAPOREAN society places high emphasis on moral development in the education of their children. Nevertheless, concern alone is inadequate to ensure that the children form good character during their formative years in school.

HCD alumna Blossom Phillips works as a children’s ministry consultant at Trans World Radio (TWR) in Singapore. She acknowledges that teachers, parents, and caregivers have a hard time impacting the lives and moral conduct of the young people, given the varied and emerging problems among urban youngsters.

At present, Blossom is involved in a project that uses the media to communicate moral values to children as well as parents and teachers. Based on the character building series of “I want to be like Jesus” by Gilbert

Beers, Blossom has already identified relevant topics and hopes to complete the series of audio stories to be made available in MP3 format. The project is part of her final year project in the master’s program.

Established in 1954, TWR is a global media outreach that engages millions in 160 countries. The ministry uses varied media channels to broadcast biblical truths in more than 200 languages. High-powered radio broadcast reaches as far as the Middle East and Latin America while internet streaming is available in Asia and Europe.

In regions where broadcast cannot be received, TWR promotes a face-to-face visit. Hence, Blossom spends a considerable amount of time travelling to such regions in South East Asia to teach and equip the children’s leaders who otherwise may not have the opportunity to engage in deeper reflections of biblical truths. ■

Blossom and her spouse, McDaniel are both missionaries with TWR, Singapore.

Implementing child studies in a seminary

A seminary model, Makassar, Indonesia



Ivone Palar (left) with HCD Global Alliance general secretary Dr Dan Brewster (Photo: CB Kok)

FOR many years, Ivone Petti Palar and Judy Gaskin (another HCD alumnus) have been actively involved with "Camp Good News," a Christian camp ministry for children and young people. Ivone is also the division head and trainer for the Kids' EE (Evangelism Explosion) in Indonesia. Judy, among many other ministries, works with AWANA. While their ministries have been growing by leaps and bounds, both ladies felt that much more could be accomplished if the workers are better trained for the purpose.

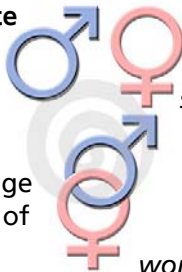
In 2007, inspired by their HCD training experiences, Ivone and Judy proposed a child studies program to Sekolah Tinggi Teologia Jaffray (STTJ), Indonesia. The proposal was well received

by the seminary president and a child resource center was established at the seminary. Elizabeth Ronda, a current HCD student and wife of the seminary president joined the duo to further initiate a master level training program at the seminary. Located in Makassar in the South Sulawesi province, STTJ is one of the few seminaries in Indonesia that is providing such form of training.

Recently, Ivone accepted an offer from the seminary to be the fulltime Child Studies Coordinator. She will move from her present home in Jakarta to Makassar. In January 2010, Ivone visited the HCD Institute to update herself on current HCD issues and to view a working administration model. ■

A workshop on "Sex Education for Youths"

THIS workshop looks at Scriptural teaching and social science research on sexuality in order to develop an understanding of healthy sexuality and sexual expression at each stage of development of children and youth. It will focus on puberty and adolescence; consider the level of sexual knowledge appropriate at each age; ways to communicate this knowledge in appropriate ways; examine reasons for and consequences of premature sexual initiation; discuss strategies for protecting children and youth and for motivating them to postpone sexual activity until marriage; and considers the critical significance of sexuality and relationship training in disciplining children and youth.



Workshop facilitator:
Barbara 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. While living in Africa she founded, edited, and contributed to a quarterly newsletter for wives of World Vision executives worldwide. She earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1996. Her doctoral thesis was on teen sexual morality. Barbara and her husband Manfred live in Canada. They have two married sons and six grandchildren

The HCDI Calendar

JUNE:

June 7 – HCD 2010 begins at MBTS campus in Penang. 25 students have registered themselves for this year's modules.

June 12 – Graduation of Klang Valley Child Studies students at the MBTS Klang Valley branch.

June 21 – One day workshop on "Sex Education for Youths" led by Dr Barbara Kohl at Penang campus.

JULY:

Module 3 of the Sijil Pelayanan Kanak-Kanak (Certificate in Child Studies in Bahasa Malaysia) will be held in July at different locations in Sabah and Sarawak. Module 3 is practicum training conducted by *Dignity for Children Foundation*.

AUGUST:

Aug 19-21 – The HCD Institute teams up with *Voice of Children, Cambodia* to conduct a weekend seminar on children's concerns in Phnom Penh.

SEPTEMBER:

Module 2 of the Diploma in Child Studies will be held in China.