

# First Principles

Newsletter of Principia, a non-profit educational institute

August 2002

## Nurturing the Whole Child

### A 'first principle' of education

Childhood is in crisis today around the world as children from both affluent and poor settings are at risk of being abused and abandoned physically, spiritually, and emotionally. The spirit of hopelessness marks this rising generation in the way they think, reason, and relate to life and its challenges.

In many countries, thousands of young orphans live on the streets to fend for themselves, while others slowly starve to death or die in wars where they are enscribed as soldiers. Many more are those whose death is hidden from our natural eyes. This '**forsaken generation**' lacks the protection of caring fathers and the nurturance of loving mothers. These little ones also lack Godly instruction, aesthetic enrichment and loving role models. Desperateness and sorrow overtake them as the enemy wages war for their hearts and minds.

This overview radically contrasts with the **Christian view of the child** which sees each child whole made in the image of

God and destined for immortality! In the eye of God all children are equal. God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7). He has ennobled each child with dignity and worth! Each is imputed with independent value apart from his station in life and his abilities!

A 'first principle' of education is to nurture the spirit and the soul of the child and to cultivate renewed thinking and a Godly imagination. The Bible teaches us that young Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with

#### Definitions of Key Words

**whole**, *n.*, Complete; entire; sound; not hurt or sick.

**nurture**, *n.*, That which nourishes; food; diet. 2] That which promotes growth; education; instruction.

**nurture**, *v.t.*, To educate; to bring or train up.

**child**, *n.*, A son or a daughter; 2] One weak in knowledge, experience, judgment or attainments. 3] One young in grace. 4] One who is unfixed in principles. 5] One whose principles and morals are the product of another.

God and men (Luke 2:52). Principles of healthy relationships with both God and man must be imparted and the heart and mind nurtured with truth and beauty in order to call forth the full potential of Christ within. Children thrive on loving relationships. They hunger for noble ideals that impart hope and transcend the material world and the crass pop culture. Children grow wholesomely and wholly when their aesthetic tastes and their spirits are fed nobleness and truth.

The heart is the wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:23) and must be tenderly shepherded by loving parents and teachers. What is fed to the mind and heart determines how one views God, man, and the world in which he lives. It affects the choices he will make leading to a healthy and fruitful life or a sickly and impotent one (Proverbs 23:7). **Education is an internal and eternal process.** Nurturing hope and wholeness in children builds healthy adults, institutions, communities, and nations!

## Feed My Lambs Piloted

### Lima, Peru

May 24-31

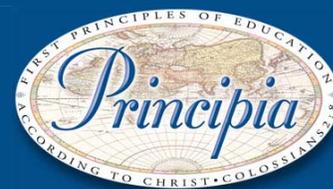
By Elizabeth Youmans

*Do you love Me more than these? . . . Feed My lambs.*  
- John 21

God's providences are both incredible and mystifying as He moves through the smallest of details in the lives of individuals and events for His gospel purposes. So it was as God orchestrated my introduction to Darrow Miller in Asuncion, Paraguay last October. He is one of the directors of Food for the Hungry International (FHI) and vice president of Samaritan Strategy. We were seated together at a luncheon of Paraguayan Christian leaders and pastors, one of us departing for North America and the other arriving from Africa. We were told by our host that we "spoke the same language" and should get to know one another. With an exchange of email addresses, God initiated a relationship that brought Principia and FHI together for His greater purposes in Christian education for impoverished children around the world.

In December I flew to Scottsdale, Arizona where I was graciously hosted by Darrow and his wife, Marilyn, and introduced to the FHI leadership team. Darrow and Marilyn spent three years at L'Abri in their youth and were mentored by Francis and Edith Schaeffer. Darrow has authored the book *Discipling Nations* and spends most of his time traveling and teaching Christian leaders around the world his Biblical worldview course. During the time I spent with the FHI team, they asked me to teach them something. After about an hour of sharing, one of the men interrupted stating "This is electrifying!" The Lord was present with us and the day concluded with a challenge for Principia to design a curriculum for their Child Development Program (CDP).

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#### Our Mission:

**Disciple leaders by Biblical principles  
for individual, educational,  
and cultural reformation**

**Nurturing the 'vision of greatness' within children:**

The challenge was taken as I prayerfully developed a paraschool program over the next three months to nurture the 'vision of greatness' within school-aged children around the world.

I named it *Feed My Lambs*. It is designed to feed the whole child with the riches of God's living Word and the fine and performing arts in order to cultivate hope, creativity and noble ideas for transforming his world view and ultimately his culture.

The program is based on the Christian view of the child, which acknowledges God's image and individuality imprinted within that ascribes value and dignity to each one. The program teaches the providence of God's Hand in the lives of individuals and nations and inspires each child to know God's full purpose and plan for his life and his nation.



**All children hunger for truth and beauty and thirst for living water:**

The centerpiece of *Feed My Lambs* is the use of the fine and performing arts to nourish the soul of the child. All children hunger for truth and beauty. Truth and beauty are eternal and spiritual. Beauty has moral value for truth and transcends the mundane, the mediocre, the hopelessness of poverty! When fed in large portions to an impoverished child, beauty and truth enable his soul to take wing and fly above his circumstances. They cultivate his imagination inspiring him with noble ideals and creative ideas. Equally, children

thirst for living water. *Feed My Lambs* uses the Bible to build literacy and reading skills, as well as to think and reason with Biblical principles. The Bible is the highest model of language and imbues children with Biblical imagery and a noble vocabulary for expressing creativity and truth! The principles of good health and hygiene coupled with exercise provide an enriched afterschool alternative for non-directed leisure time. *Feed My Lambs* is designed in such a way that parents are cultivated to think and pray Biblically for their children and the community is reached with the Gospel.

**Feed My Lambs piloted in Lima, Peru**

The program was developed and many tools were translated into Spanish to be piloted with four Latin American FHI country directors and their leadership teams. In May I traveled with Dwight Vogt, CDP director, to Lima where fifteen FHI leaders and two Christian school directors from La Paz, Bolivia were gathered. We met in a Catholic retreat center north of Lima that was dedicated to a 19<sup>th</sup> c. priest who served orphans through Christian education. Four intense days of instruction and discussions took place. Biblical principles of education and government were imparted and the classic Spanish poem, *Platero y Yo*, was chosen to use with these leaders, as they learned the value of cultivating the aesthetic sensibilities of children. Interestingly, the leaders were first challenged as fathers and church leaders, and several were moved to tears for their own children and family life.

**Developing the full program**

From this week with Food for the Hungry International has come the challenge to write a curriculum that any adult believer could teach. FHI leaders from the Dominican Republic have asked for the curriculum so they can pilot it in their paraschool program. This requires writers to research and fully develop the curriculum with lesson plans and resources and translators to translate children's classics and the curriculum in various languages. Finally, the program must be produced on CD roms and distributed. There is great energy and enthusiasm for this program within the Christian educational community everywhere I travel and speak. I look forward to what God has planned for this vital instrument that will plant hope and living principles in the hearts and minds of children and their teachers and families around the world.

Most recently, I have been invited by Darrow Miller to participate in the annual FHI leadership conference to share my heart with their international leaders for principle-centered education in the developing world. Please pray for new relationships and the effectiveness of this teaching that many hearts will be ignited to plant Biblical principles in their ministries and nations.

**Recent News**

**Give thanks to the Lord who alone does great wonders! - Psalm. 136**

Dr. Kenneth Talbot, founder of Whitefield Theological Seminary and College has offered to assist Principia in the establishment of an international teachers college by extension. The purpose is to offer an affordable masters degree and an educational specialist certificate program to teachers in developing countries.

Dr. Evie Tindall, Regent University School of Education professor, is now a board member. She brings her years of teaching, NILD therapy and her expertise in reading and working with at-risk students to Principia.

Principia will move to an office on Kempsville Road in October.

*Feed My Lambs* curriculum is now being written. God has blessed us with three writers for literature, fine arts and Christian history.

Ethicom is now working with Principia to design marketing tools and our web site.

**Partnering with Principia for Paraguay**



This small Latin American country has a population of six million people of which 2% are evangelized. The average annual income per person is \$1,030. She is poor in natural resources which hinders her development and her character lacks the virtues of truth, justice and a Christian work ethic. Statistics such as these reveal the greater problem of spiritual poverty. A country as poor and corrupt as Paraguay cannot rebuild until the Gospel is preached, the church is educated with God's Word, and Biblical principles are applied to personal and public life.

Pray for Dr. Elizabeth Youmans as she travels to Paraguay **October 8**. She is addressing: 1] the National Association of Evangelical Pastors to plant the vision for Christian education; 2] mothers on national radio; 3] national intercessors for Paraguay. She is also training teachers and leaders to found a Christian school in Asuncion. God is moving among Christian leaders by His Spirit as they seek His direction to rebuild this nation for Christ.

# Principia's Ministry Schedule for 2002 - 03

*Imparting Principles*



*Discipling Leaders*



*Reforming Education*

## February

9 *StoneBridge Principle Approach Seminar*  
Chesapeake, Virginia, USA

## April

5-15 *Principia Education Training*  
Strasbourg, France

## May

2-5 *Council for National Policy Meeting*  
McLean, Virginia USA

24-31 *Feed My Lambs with Food for the Hungry International*  
Lima, Peru

## June

1-7 *Principia Education Training*  
San Antonio, Texas USA

9 *KPC Acts 13 Missions*  
Virginia Beach, VA USA

*The Slater Institute Keynote*  
Virginia Beach, VA USA

## July

7-13 *The Slater Institute History Applications*  
Virginia Beach, VA USA

15-22 *Principia Education Training*  
Parnamirim, Brazil

## August

25 *KPC Acts 13 Missions Meeting*  
Virginia Beach, VA USA

## September

9-16 *Principia Education Training*  
Fortaleza, Brazil

## October

12-18 *Christian Education Seminar and Consulting*  
Asuncion, Paraguay

25-1 November *Principia Education Training*  
College Daniel, Guebwiller, France

## November

2-4 *Principia First Principles Seminar*  
Nancy, France

5-8 *Principia Consultation*  
l'Oliveraie (Christian school), Strasbourg, France

16 *Marriage of Bryan Youmans and Simone Hara*  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

## January, 2003

12-16 *Food for the Hungry International*  
Phoenix, Arizona USA

## Partnering with Principia in the Nations

**May Thy way be known upon the earth,  
Thy saving health among all nations.**

**Psalm 67: 2**

We thank you for responding so generously to the challenge of partnering with Principia in the nations. Principia has received great provision from God this month. We now have office space, writers for the *Feed My Lambs* curriculum, support for establishing a teachers college, and experts hired to develop the greatly needed marketing tools.

We greatly depend on your prayers and financial support as we continue to move forward in the significant opportunities God has opened to us. We invite you to carefully consider investing in the nations with Principia.

- ▶ *Partnering with Principia for Paraguay*
- ▶ Funds for two salaries
- ▶ Reprinting *Rebuilding the Wall of Christian Education* in Spanish, French, Portuguese and English
- ▶ Creation and printing of marketing and fund raising tools and the design of Principia's web site, our primary marketing tool
- ▶ Curriculum design and writing for *Feed My Lambs*
- ▶ Spanish translators for children's classics

**To contact Elizabeth Youmans or Simone Hara, or to receive further information about our current projects, please inquire at one of the following addresses:**

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