

First Principles

Newsletter of Principia, a non-profit educational institute

July 2003

Our Mission:
Disciple leaders by Biblical principles
for individual, educational,
and cultural reformation



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A Banner Year

*Thou hast given a banner to those who fear Thee
that it may be displayed because of the truth! - Psalm 60:4*

Principia is having a 'banner year,' as the ministry has grown and our sphere of influence has enlarged. The Lord's banner of truth in education has been raised in many conferences, indeed, a very exciting half year of 'disciplining the nations.' God's Hand in the life of our mission and the design of our *Feed My Lambs* curriculum has been strong and visible, and we praise Him for His great providence and the many international leaders He has brought into our lives! Behind the curtain of traveling has been the writing and editing of the curriculum. Following are some of our memorable accounts:

January & Phoenix, Arizona

Elizabeth Youmans taught first principles of Christian education and government to leaders from nearly 50 nations at the Disciplining Nations Alliance Conference sponsored by Samaritan's Strategy, a partnership between Food for the Hungry International and Harvest Foundation. It is an expanding network of international alliances seeking to equip leaders with a biblical, Christian world view and to help churches practice holistic ministry in their communities. Elizabeth was inwardly impacted by these courageous leaders' testimonies of waging the battles of persecution, imprisonment, guerilla wars, genocide, Islam, communism, AIDS, orphans, poverty, and severe famine in their nations. Many friendships were initiated during this week.

February & Asuncion, Paraguay

For two years, Dr. Youmans has been consulting with a small group of biblical thinkers in Asuncion headed by John and Jinhi Roskamp, visiting Christian schools, networking with evangelical leaders, and teaching first principles of Christian education and government. Paraguay is a small, landlocked nation comprised of six million people, of whom 98% are Catholic and/or pagan syncretism and 2% are evangelical. Paraguay is nearly bankrupt after years of practicing corruption and injustice. Jinhi, in conjunction with the National Association of Evangelical Pastors, organized a prayer chain to include praying for the establishment of biblical, Christian education. Traveling to all the regions of Paraguay, they raised up 300 intercessors. In October 2002, Hosanna Community Church took steps to establish a school by hosting a Principia Vision Conference. In February 2003, Elizabeth returned to train their faculty. Centro Educativo Hosanna opened in March with 25 children (K-3). This humble beginning laid a solid foundation of Christ and His Word in principle, policy, and practice. The church, school, and parents have covenanted to work together. The faculty is writing curriculum and teaching individual subjects by principles. The young students have formed their own prayer chain. Recently, Paraguay elected an evangelical as president and a round table of Christian educators was formed in this capital city to include Dr. Youmans. A Christian teacher training center has been established to equip and disciple teachers for educational reform and nation building. God has heard the petitions of His people and begun a new work!

March & Namibia, Kenya & Ethiopia

Elizabeth was privileged to experience Africa for the first time by attending a five-day Samaritan Strategy Conference in Windhoek, Namibia with Darrow Miller (Food for the Hungry International) and Dr. Bob Moffitt (Harvest

Foundation). Darrow, the author of *Disciplining Nations*, now teaches world view in the nations, and Bob, a pastor with a doctorate in education, teaches the Church how to walk in the principles of holistic ministry. Both were mentored by Francis Schaeffer at L'Abri. African leaders from many nations attended this conference. The mission of Principia and our *Feed My Lambs* curriculum were introduced to the participants. Our vision for networking with the Disciplining Nations Alliance is to connect with leaders, who have been trained by these men, and continue the disciplining process by teaching first principles of Christian education and government in their cities. Elizabeth was graciously hosted by John and Suzanne Hunter, principle approach educators at the Windhoek YWAM base. John founded the Teachers for Africa training center there, and Elizabeth was honored to address the YWAM students one evening.



From Namibia, Elizabeth traveled northeast to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya near majestic Mount Kenya, for two days with Irene and Dennis-Tongoi, whom she met in Phoenix. Armed with a vision to see judicial and institutional reform, they brought a group of ten educational leaders together for a small presentation. Time spent envisioning for the future, a visit to a local Christian high school, and a half day on safari in a wildlife refuge with zebras, giraffes, and rhinos at the foot of the Ngong Hills made for a most remarkable time!

Food for the Hungry, Ethiopia hosted Elizabeth for five days in Addis Ababa. Thomas Stocker, the dynamic Swiss country director, met Elizabeth in Phoenix and invited her to consult with him in his vision to found a Christian university in the capital city. While there, Elizabeth spoke to the students at the Evangelical Theological College and Graduate School, presented a two-day Christian Education Conference to pastors and leaders of children's ministries and a one-day Christian Education Vision Conference for pastors and educational leaders. She also had the opportunity to meet Dr. Sharon Sampson, an American educator, who is writing a Sunday School curriculum for the evangelical church in Amharic. Ethiopia is the world's third poorest country with an annual income of US \$ 98. It has a 3,000 year history and is the oldest Christian civilization in the world. The people are kind and gentle and in the last century were held captive during 70 years of communistic rule. In the last 30 years, Ethiopia has experienced two great famines and has been ravaged by AIDS. A third famine threatens to leave many facing starvation once again. The increasing recurrence and severity of famine give grave concern for these people. Ethiopia is not poor in natural resources; however, she has a poverty of ideas and lacks biblical solutions. Dr. Youmans will return to both Kenya and Ethiopia in August for five days of conferences in each country. Pray for an anointed two weeks of effective teaching and learning.

April & Web Site Launched

Principia launched her new web site designed by Justin Agoglia of Skylar Designs in Virginia Beach. It has been a blessing to refer potential donors and international leaders to the site for information about our mission and programs. We are looking forward to marketing our new curriculum through the site, as well as placing our newsletters there.

May & Teach the Nations Initiated

Principia held her bi-annual Board Meeting in Virginia Beach. *The Feed My Lambs Introductory Unit* was unveiled for board members. Dr. Evie Tindall, who co-labored to birth the Wellspring of Wonder portion of the curriculum, presented *The Good Shepherd* demonstration.

With the completion of the *Feed My Lambs Introductory Unit*, Principia partnered with PROMOTE, a Chesapeake-based paraschool, to pilot the curriculum in English in their Summer Readers Camp at Apostles Lutheran Church. Teachers and staff were trained by Dr. Youmans at Regent University. The training was professionally video taped for use as a teachers training tool for *Feed My Lambs*. Great resource and time was invested preparing for this large project. Enormous gratitude is extended to Ellen Bolewicki, Wendy Giancoli, and Joyce Moran, who helped prepare the visuals and classroom appointments.

Principia inaugurated the vision for *Teach the Nations*, a program which sends seasoned principle-approach teachers as short-term missionaries to sites around the world where Principia demonstration schools and *Feed My Lambs* pilot programs are in place. *Teach the Nations* was inspired by the life of Jan Amos Comenius (17th C. Moravian father of modern education), who was called 'Teacher of Nations.' The vision is for master teachers to bless others with the training, experience, and tools that they have acquired and receive the joy of disciplining others. Nancy Hameloth, 4th grade teacher at StoneBridge School in Chesapeake, Virginia, will travel to Parnamirim, Brazil in August to encourage the faculty of Instituto de Educacao Cristo Imago Dei, where Elizabeth and Simone Youmans imparted the principle approach July, 2002.

June & Piloting Feed My Lambs

The *Feed My Lambs* Pilot Project was initiated at Apostles Lutheran Church in Chesapeake, Virginia under the inspired leadership of Cathy Dooley. With children ranging in ages from five to twelve, they are reading the classic *Heidi*, the book of Proverbs, and learning of God's Hand in history through the Children of the Promise Timeline. Cathy is teaching the Wellspring of Wonder unit as she walks through the timeline looking through the "windows of promise." They are building an enriched, biblical vocabulary, enjoying notebook work, and completing many of the arts and crafts projects. There is great enthusiasm among the staff, parents, and children. This is very encouraging considering that the children are on summer vacation from school routines. They are making puppets to present a Heidi puppet show as their community service project in a large children's hospital in Norfolk. Cathy has done a phenomenal job of creatively employing the whole program with their summer camp children.

*May thy way be known upon the earth,
Thy saving health among all nations. - Psalm 67:2*

Praise and Prayer

August Ministry:

& Nancy Hameloth, our first *Teach the Nations* missionary-teacher is traveling to Parnamirim, Brazil to one of our demonstration schools in South America.

Please pray for her as she teaches and encourages the faculty at Imago Dei Educational Institute.

& Elizabeth Youmans is traveling to Africa: Nairobi, Kenya; Christian Education Conference (5 days); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Vision Conference (1 day); Christian Education Conference (2 days); FML with leaders from Food for the Hungry, World Vision, and Compassion (2 days).

Please cover her with your prayers, as she imparts the vision for Christian education and government.

Principia Site:

Due to the expansion of our ministry, we have outgrown our present site and are in great need of one that will provide adequate space for a conference room as well as administration and production offices.

Raising Funds for Feed My Lambs:

We praise God who has generously provided for the completion of the Introductory Unit through your many gifts! The project is now ready to go forward to the next stage. Principia is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational institute that accomplishes her mission only as she receives grants and charitable gifts.

If you have a heart to nurture illiterate, forgotten, and hopeless children with these ideals and principles, please pray about what the Lord would have you contribute to *Feed My Lambs*. Donors are needed to enable the following: 1) Edit the Teachers Training Video and Manual; 2) Fund the Spanish, Portuguese, and Amharic translations for our pilot sites; 3) Send Dr. Youmans to the five pilot sites to train leaders and lay teachers; 4) Pay writers and illustrators for the next five units.

If you have a burden for a particular country, please pray about how you can best support this program or contact Dr. Elizabeth Youmans at eyoumans@principiacorp.org

All gifts are tax deductible.