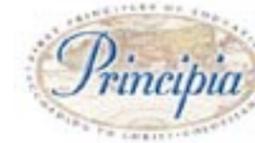


First Principles

Newsletter of Principia, a non-profit educational institute

November 2004

Discipling leaders
by biblical principles
for individual, educational,
and cultural transformation



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Missions to Transform Culture

"The problem is not only to win souls but to save minds. If you win the whole world and lose the mind of the world, you will soon discover that you have not won the world."

- Charles Malik

The Church today has a distorted view of missions. Most Christians think that Jesus' great commission relates solely to "getting the heathen saved." Unfortunately, history testifies that although Christianity has reached the four corners of the world, it has failed to disciple healthy nations. Today, many evangelized nations remain in subjugation to poverty, disease, and corruption. For example, 85% of Haiti is evangelized. She has more missionaries per capita than any other nation in the world! Yet, she remains the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Her poverty is rooted in her lack of a biblical mindset. This is an indictment against the Church's view of missions and her failure to teach and disciple new converts.

A wholistic view requires an understanding that missions is more than evangelism and church planting. As our friend Darrow Miller teaches, most believers live in chapter three of Genesis, forgetting that before the fall of Adam and Eve, God issued a cultural mandate to "be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth." Salvation is the essential first step towards transformed individuals and healthy nations. However, sinful man not only needs a new heart but a renewed mind to affect the culture for Christ. The great commission includes the cultural mandate. Believers must learn to think and reason with biblical principles to transform every area of life and to apply godly solutions in every institution of society. In the Islamic world today, wealthy Arabs heavily support Muslim education around the world! The battle rages for the hearts and minds of youth. Will the evangelical church embrace a wholistic view of missions and support missionary educators? Principia's mission to "disciple leaders with principles to transform education" has found expression, as we labor in conjunction with other international networks. I encourage you to support our missionary teachers in the same manner in which you support other missionaries. The two-thirds world is unable to fund Christian education.

Disciple Nations Alliance Retreat (DNA)

Dr. Elizabeth Youmans attended the seven-day 2004 DNA Retreat high in the Arizona mountains. Leaders gathered from forty-five nations to pray, share, and collaborate with what God is doing worldwide in the Church. This alliance began in 1997 when Darrow Miller and Dr. Bob Moffitt, two pastors mentored by Francis Schaeffer, began teaching together at international conferences. DNA is not an organization, but a "school of thought" committed to helping the Church discover God's vision of transformation for the nations; put on a biblical worldview and live it out in society; and practice wholistic, incarnational ministry that demonstrates Christ's tangible love to broken people. This set of ideas is disseminated through collaborative partnerships and the distribution of educational resources, training, and networking.

Principia's Board recently evaluated the effect of our international teaching ministry. We discerned that individuals with DNA worldview teaching have a greater understanding and ability to apply principles and methods of Christian education to their culture, than those who must first begin by learning a biblical worldview. We are honored to collaborate with God's Spirit and DNA leaders around the world. More information about DNA is available at www.disciple-nations.org.

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Lausanne Forum for World Evangelization 2004

In October, Dr. Elizabeth Youmans attended the Lausanne Forum for World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand at the invitation of Dr. Ted Yamamori, co-convenor of the Holistic Missions Group. She roomed with Jinhi Roskamp, friend and Korean educator from Asuncion, Paraguay, who accompanied her to Seoul, South Korea for Feed My Lambs training.

The Lausanne Forum began with evangelist Billy Graham in 1966 to stimulate world evangelization through the mission: "the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world." The Lausanne Forum seeks to periodically check the pulse of the worldwide Church and to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He burdens the hearts of believers. The movement is best known for writing the Lausanne Covenant in 1973. Several world congresses have been convened over the years, which have dramatically influenced the direction of the Church worldwide. The evangelization of the two-thirds world (the 10/40 window), and the worldwide prayer network both began with Lausanne. The key topics addressed at these congresses eventually impact the local church.

This Pattaya Forum hosted 1,700 participants representing 150 nations. It placed participants into small issue groups such as The Arts, Children At-Risk, The Place of Women, Holistic Missions, the issue group in which we participated. All issue groups were tasked with evaluating where the Church is in view of the Great Commission and identifying what the current challenges and needs are. Each group met daily to examine and expound key issues. At the end of nine days, each submitted an occasional paper and presented a five-minute summary to the whole Forum.

It was sobering to hear the heartbeat of the Church. Undoubtedly, she is at a great turning point in her history as she wrestles with such complex issues as globalization, terrorism, HIV/AIDS, famine, poverty, Islam, postmodernism and bioethics. These critical issues forced participants to examine the impact of the gospel upon them and to challenge the local church to adopt a larger perspective of her role to engage in providing tangible solutions. Discussions were made interesting and, at times, even tense by the diversity of the participants as worldviews and cultural perspectives clashed. Each gleaned different ideas; however, this report focuses on those issues that affect Christian education most highly.

1. From all 31 issue groups, it was clear how urgent the need is for the body of Christ to have a biblical-worldview education. Education is the institution where Satan consistently steals our youth in broad daylight! Most pastors and church leaders view education as the responsibility of teachers, while their role is that of evangelization and church planting. Therefore, Satan is able to train our children in a pagan worldview through educational

institutions at every level of learning, the media, and the global pop culture. Our children are uncovered and ill prepared for God's calling and to combat the challenges that await them.

2. There was a loud outcry on behalf of child evangelism. One issue group coined the phrase "Children-the Great Omission!" Nearly 60% of the world's population are youth, however, only 15% of church ministries target children. In most churches, there is no strategy for discipling children, yet most believers come to Christ *before* the age of 15! Children are the most effective disciples, yet remain the brunt of all human evil, forgotten, and without a voice. Jesus said "of such is the kingdom of God." The Church needs to wake up and feed her children with more than the crumbs of her ministry. Children are our heritage and future leaders.

3. The majority of the Church has been strangely silent in the suffering world. She concentrates on saving souls, yet fails to reach the millions who are malnourished, abused, abandoned, diseased, dying and/or subjugated daily to social and economic injustices. The Forum served to bring the heart of God on these issues into focus. It challenged the Church to comprehend what the kingdom of Christ really is and not withdraw from the suffering world but serve it.

4. The body of Christ is one body. To be effective, believers must understand that the local church is part of a greater whole. The local church that understands her role in the greater move of God will be more effective in transforming individuals and nations for Christ.

5. Globalization is a real concern that the Church must face. As globalization has brought us all much closer, the great diversity of cultures remains a huge time bomb for strife and war. The Forum

challenged us to examine the meaning of reconciliation as demonstrated by Jesus Christ. The Church is called to be a peacemaker at all levels of life. We were challenged TO BE VISIBLE in the world and in our communities, to not hide, but know that only as we are in communion within communities, can we have the impact of transforming the culture around us.

6. Beauty has moral value when imparting truth. God is beautiful and the source of all beauty! The issue of reclaiming the arts for Christ communicated how the Church has allowed Satan to steal the arts and use them to distort beauty within the Church. Only 2% of the population are thinkers or idea makers. About 8% are artists who interpret the ideas and disciple nations with them. This issue group demonstrated ways to communicate the gospel through the fine and performing arts and reminded the Church that she has a divine mandate to cultivate the aesthetic tastes and sensibilities of individuals by redeeming the arts for Christ in the local church and in the Christian educational sphere.

by Jinhi Roskamp, CONO Christian School

Schedule

- December: San Antonio, Texas
- January: Sao Paulo, Brazil
- March: Lima, Peru

For more information, contact info@principiacorp.org

Principia is a non-profit 501(c) (3) educational institute. All gifts are tax deductible.