

Chrysalis Newsletter



Jacqi Gough, AMO Training
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



Jacqi Gough, AMO Training, Lima, Peru



AMO Training, Lima, Peru



Elizabeth Youmans
Rudiments of Christian Education
YWAM, San Juan, Puerto Rico



Daniella Cartaxo, AMO Training
Uberlandia, Brazil

Teaching and Learning God's Story

Now in our eighth year of serving Christian education, I am more convinced than ever that God divinely established this ministry to tell and illustrate His Story in the nations! His Story is the greatest story ever told. It's a story of unconditional love and redemption, a story of His mighty Hand of Providence working through individuals like you and me and through our nations for His glory and His Christ. When we accepted the challenge to develop an enriched program for children in the developing world, new chapters of His Story were written, bringing God's Word and message of hope to many!

Our year began with Jacqi Gough in Antigua, Guatemala in a Spanish immersion course provided by a grant from one of our donors. Jacqi spent two weeks in January in the heart of the ancient Mayan culture, studying and practicing how to read and speak Spanish. It gave her the confidence she needed to converse in Central and South America as she travels.

In February Jacqi held two 5-day training sessions. The first took place in Santo Domingo for Food for the Hungry (FH), who established AMO® programs in four regions of the Dominican Republic. FH is a relief and development agency that embraces a wholistic approach to building the vision of community. Luis Sena, FH country director, has the vision to transform the worldview of two generations by reaching indigenous children and parents through AMO's wholistic program. The training for 45 leaders from five nations took place in the University of Santo Domingo, the oldest educational institution in the western hemisphere. We were blessed to have Lucretia Ortiz, a Guatemalan educator whom I first met at a Disciple Nations Alliance forum, as translator. Jacqi is mentoring AMO director, Evelyn Calcaño, and will soon return to the Dominican Republic to visit the four AMO projects, meet the children, and encourage their teachers.

The second AMO training was held in Lima, Peru and was hosted by Victor Contreras, who attended my 2006 AMO training in Lima. Victor was orphaned as a young boy and raised by Rosario Perez, the "Mother Theresa of Peru". When Victor heard my teaching on the Christian view of the child, he wept and committed himself to introduce AMO to all the regions of Peru, a country with 13 million homeless children. He is now our AMO Peru director and hosted a great seminar for 81 people, who represented many international ministries, as well as local churches and Christian schools.

The highlight of the week's teaching was the session on Christian history. Jacqi told the story of God's providential Hand in 19th century Peru through the life of Scottish, Christian educator, Diego Thomson, whose passion was to serve Christ as a missionary teacher in the nations. He taught the Reformed view of education which inspired the establishment of public schools in Peru using the Bible as a textbook for teaching and learning. He also translated the New Testament into the Quechua language. He believed in the power of the Scriptures as a means of liberating people from ignorance and bondage. Those in attendance realized that they are standing on the shoulders of many Christians from centuries ago, who courageously and sacrificially laid the foundation for their work in the 21st century. From this Lima training session, four sites are now using AMO's curriculum.

Our AMO Brazil directors, Daniella and Rubens Cartaxo, had a very successful three-day training in Uberlandia, a city in the State of Minas Gerais. There were over 150 people in attendance. In the words of Rubens, "We realized that AMO's effectiveness is very clear, as it offers the local church a tool of strong influence and truth for the children in their communities. AMO provides a great channel for the Gospel to transform both

the society and community where the program is located. Many people were revived in their calling with children and others began to understand it more fully. We know that many children will be touched by the teachers in attendance, and we praise God for the outpouring of His Spirit of grace upon us."

In April I taught our Rudiments of Christian Education in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the YWAM Base. It is such a joy to teach in this setting among such an anointed group of young leaders mentored by Yarley Nino, base director. I also had an opportunity to speak twice at a local church, whose associate pastor attended our seminar last year. Convicted by the Biblical philosophy of education, she and her pastor/husband founded a School for Parents in their church to teach families a Biblical view of parenting and education. While parents attend class, several YWAM students use our AMO curriculum with their children.

— Elizabeth Youmans

Testimonies

A Life Changing Experience

When I stepped off the plane in Santo Domingo, I anticipated many things about my time in the Dominican Republic, but not what happened! This trip transformed my life in the most unexpected way. I had never before experienced such power of the Holy Spirit, which was visibly at work in a group of people and in me, as I did that week. I finished the AMO training energized, inspired, and called to commit myself to learning and then teaching this program. The doors that Christ had previously shown me on my trip to Croatia, now had one that clearly said "Enter."

The other participants coalesced into a cohesive, expressive, and effective group that demonstrated love for one another and a desire to establish AMO in their geographic settings.

I am convinced that this program offers a powerful, effective, and Biblical answer to many of the world's problems, and I am not just referring to the developing world! AMO has the potential to transform education in the United States, as well, by offering a system for developing a genuine and eternal identity, an uplifting vocabulary, and an ability for critical thinking and analysis.

In addition, AMO, which means "love" in Spanish, is truly an instrument for sharing God's unconditional love with those who need it most - the millions of children around the world who are at risk!

— Vija McDill, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist

Wellspring of Wonder in Uberlandia, Brazil

We are happy for the opportunity to testify about our AMO Program and to inspire others to introduce it to their churches, communities, and schools. AMO's curriculum is a blessing from the Lord. We are using Wellspring of Wonder in our weekly school chapel service. Wellspring has really touched the hearts of our children. Every Monday morning, the children are anxiously waiting along with the whole school community including teachers, the cleaning team, the office staff and even parents! After we began Wellspring, some parents came to school to find out what was happening, since their children were bringing the Wellspring stories home to them. This material appeals to a wide range of age groups. We work with children from ages 3 to 8 at the same time, and they all remain attentive during each presentation. The moments for imagining and wondering and the time when they express through art what they've received make this curriculum extremely rich. This develops both the spiritual and intellectual potential of the children as they learn about God's Story and how to take dominion of the eternal truths of His Word.

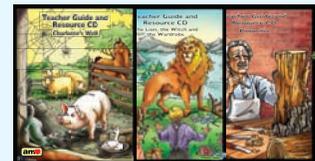
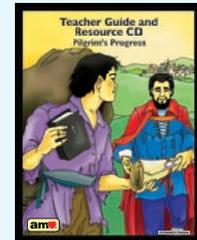
— Marco Aurélio, Principal
Institute of Peniel

One Mother's Testimony

My children attend the Institute of Peniel where Wellspring of Wonder was presented. They learned of the greatness of the Lord, not only from the moments of worship and wondering, but from the stories which are engraved in their minds and hearts. Each week there was a new presentation, and they would tell me about it with a brightness in their eyes that only the Lord can inspire. When Wellspring was finished, my daughter came with a certain sadness in her expression and said to me, "I wish that we had Wellspring every day, and that it would never end!" I realized how the Holy Spirit truly built the spiritual life of my children and me through Wellspring of Wonder.

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