

# Chrysalis Newsletter



Young boy reading his new Bible  
AMO participant  
La Meseta, Dominican Republic



Lulu Arboleda & Nancy Hameloth  
AMO Training in Cali, Colombia



AMO Training, Cali, Colombia

## AMO's Full Vision Is Fulfilled in Colombia

Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days . . . Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run, for the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. . . . for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord; as the waters cover the sea.

— Habakkuk 1:5; 2:2-3 & 14

Six years ago, I was challenged by an international NGO to develop a program for at-risk children around the world based on Biblical principles. I ignored it at first, until one day the Lord spoke to me from the book of Habakkuk. As I wrote the verses in my journal, God gave me a vision that I hid in my heart until very recently. In the vision, I saw Latino children enter a marketplace singing and waving colorful banners. They were celebrating a festival, and their faces were filled with joy as they sang and danced and enacted a play. Their artwork hung on the storefront windows, and their classroom work was displayed around the marketplace. Families were gathered, as well as local businessmen and leaders. All were amazed and proudly smiled at the children. I soon realized that this was symbolic of the potential of the program God was calling me to birth. When it was time to write our first curricular unit, I included a celebration of learning, which I named the "Readers Festival." We wrote lesson plans that had the children craft simple musical instruments and festive banners and batons. And it was clear to me that families, church congregations, businesses, and the community would be impacted by what was being imparted to the children in the afterschool program. Little did I know what God had in mind!

Five years ago, Chrysalis established the "Teacher of Nations" program, which appealed to Christian teachers to carry our program to the nations during their summer break. The first teacher to volunteer was Nancy Hameloth from Stonebridge School in Chesapeake, Virginia. Nancy has always had a heart for the nations. She quickly raised her support and engaged her friends, Cheri and Bill Grider. We had evening sessions on how

to train lay Christian teachers to employ the AMO curriculum in their settings with success. In the summers of 2003, 04, and 05, they taught in Parnamirim, Brazil. Then in 2005, they committed to travel and teach in Cali, Colombia. They networked with the Christian Faith Community Church, pastored by Randy and Marcy MacMillan, a missionary team supported by Nancy's church. Pastor MacMillan, through his Mission South America vision, has planted 40 churches all over the Latin American world and Madrid, Spain in the last 30 years.

### God's Hand in Cali, Colombia

Cali is one of four cities highlighted in George Otis Jr.'s "Transformations" video. Prior to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Cali was known as a violent drug trafficking center and the headquarters for one of the world's deadliest drug cartels. During the 1990s, many of its evangelical pastors were murdered. The city's pastors united and initiated all night prayer vigils, the last of which drew over 80,000 people! God's Spirit began to transform hearts and deliver the city from evil.

In 2006, Nancy sowed the principles of Christian education and government. Pastor MacMillan's wife, Marcy, and her two sisters attended her lectures. All of them are educators, so Nancy gave them the AMO® introductory curricular unit. The following May, the church established an AMO Program with 19 street children who begged for money. Only two of them were in school, so the church team visited their parents and appealed to them to let the children study so they could get an education. This was a new cultural paradigm for them, but they all agreed. Incredibly, all 19 children today are still in school and doing well!

In August, 2007, Nancy, Cheri and Bill returned to Cali's Christian Faith Community Church and provided an AMO Teacher Training seminar for many teachers and children's ministry leaders. Nancy also provided them our second AMO curricular unit.

In September, the church began an AMO Program with youth who were in a halfway house close to the church in a neighborhood that has the highest rate of gang violence in Cali. In this area, there are both teen and young children's gangs on the streets. These youths were recovering from drug addiction and a life of violence. Once again, the church team visited their parents and appealed to them to get their children into school. The ministry fed the children a nutritious meal every day and introduced them to the riches of Heidi, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Proverbs, Luke, our Timeline of Promise, and the fine and performing arts. Many of the children attended school in the morning and the AMO Program in the afternoon. Nurtured by the love and individual care the children received from the ministry team, they began to flourish. Now, many of the children have come to the Lord, and their lives are being transformed.

### One Young Boy's Testimony

One of the greatest testimonies is that of Michael, a boy of the streets who was involved in gang activity and using drugs. He started coming to the afterschool AMO Program and was gloriously saved. He is now one of the youth leaders in the program. Other mothers have said, "If my child will end up like Michael, then I want him to participate in the AMO Program." Michael is a natural leader in his community, and he uses his power of influence to bring other youth to the program. He goes through the neighborhood and gathers up the younger children, and they all willingly follow him like the Pied Piper.

### Secretary of Education Involved

There were such great results from the six month AMO Program that the regional Secretary of Education approached the ministry with a request that they initiate AMO Programs in several schools. His comment to them was, "Many foundations have come and gone but they never had a clear plan as to how they could make lasting changes. You are prepared! And I have never seen

such a well organized curriculum." He gave them permission to use regional school facilities without charge because he has seen the dramatic changes in the children. Middle school teachers also thanked them for getting the children interested in school. Up to this time, the children never stayed in school. Now they have learned the value of getting an education and want to graduate. One of the teachers said, "You can send us any of the your students. We see they are more prepared to learn than any of the other children with whom we have worked." This September, the church ministry launched AMO afterschool programs in five schools. They also hired a brother to be a role model for the boys.

There are additional educators who are using AMO in their school settings and in the mountains with the indigenous Indians. I was told that there are now two AMO Programs located in the rural "red zone" areas north of Cali near the Pacific Ocean, where guerillas kidnap children from families in poverty and train them as future guerillas. Pray for these programs!

Faithful to their promise, Nancy, Cheri and Bill returned for their third summer two months ago. They were asked to train teachers in two Christian Faith Community churches located in other cities. Now the AMO Program has multiplied in the city of Cali, in the region, and in the nation!

### A Vision Fulfilled

From the AMO culminating festival in the Shiloh neighborhood comes a great story. The local community closed off the street and invited everyone to attend the AMO "Festival of Joy." They set up a stage and a sound system, and displayed the children's artwork. The police, who saw a reduction of gang activity and crime in the neighborhood because of the work AMO is doing, volunteered to participate. They dressed up as clowns and brought their brass band to lead the festival. The children sang, danced and performed their play. Many parents came to watch their children share their Timeline of Promise, recite Bible verses, and testify of changed lives by the power of God's Word. Many said this was the first time they were proud of their children. At the end of the festival, a salvation appeal was given and 40 people accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

— Elizabeth Youmans

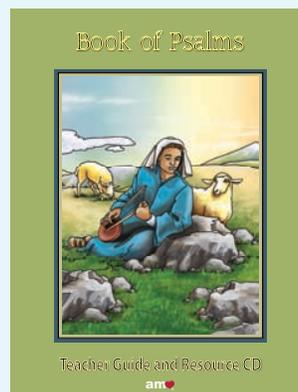
**am**   
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