

# Chrysalis Newsletter



Group Photo



Travel to the dining room required winter coats and blankets!



Devotions with Lulu Arboleda



Sculpting oil lamps with Deborah Edwards

## AMO Encuentro 2009

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners. — Isaiah 61:1*

This powerful verse from the book of Isaiah was the theme of our first AMO Encuentro. It was an historic time as leaders from the Americas gathered in January at the Christian Advent Retreat Center, a beautiful setting on the Suwannee River in northern Florida. Our purpose was to meet and fellowship with one another, many of us for the first time, and to strategize and encourage each other as we teach children and disciple our communities and nations for Christ through the AMO Program.

The fourteen national directors and teachers present represented AMO programs that are currently operating in thirty-one cities in eight nations. There are others around the world who are using the AMO curriculum but have not remained in communication with us.

Our first day was spent listening to the narrative of each AMO director and teacher. Each brought a Power Point and shared both the history of AMO in her ministry and nation, as well as the beautiful faces of the children in her programs. It was such a joy for me to learn firsthand what God has done through so many gifted teachers and our AMO lesson plans.

The Spirit of the Lord breathed refreshment and renewal upon us! God spoke to us in our morning devotions and teachings which centered on Jesus, the Master Teacher, and Biblical methods of teaching and discipling individuals as they relate to nurturing the hearts and minds of children for God. The need for acquiring personal habits of reflective learning, personal

encounters with the curriculum, and cultivating Christ-centered interpersonal relationships with the children, families and colleagues with whom we work were imparted and discussed.

A small biographical sketch was shared as we looked at the life and contributions to Christian education of Gehard Groote, a pre-reformation scholar who invested in a small number of disciples what he had gleaned from his study of the Gospels about the character of Jesus Christ. We also discussed how to research and develop a curriculum of God's Hand in our own communities and nations.

The afternoons brought a lighter fare and times of laughter, as two teams competed in a camera scavenger hunt! Creativity was rewarded as the teams found such items as cypress knees, skinks, shoepicks and bladderworts. One team found everything on the list in the library and the other team created the items they could not locate out of clothing and paper. The prize went to Rubens Cartaxo who was able to fashion an armadillo from his wife's silk blouse! The leaders also completed chalk drawings of trees with Maria Spencer and sculpted clay oil lamps with Deborah Edwards. We lit our lamps as a symbol of re-igniting our passion to share the love of Christ in a dark world.

Our evenings were filled with meaningful discussions and strategic planning for the future. Our last evening we had a "Passing of the Baton" ceremony in which each



leader received a baton from Jacqi and Elizabeth and was individually prayed for by the group. It was a significant element of the Encuentro. We must accept our responsibility as leaders to cultivate and equip the emerging leaders around us and pass on to them what we have received.

### The Fruit of Our Encuentro

1. The rich fellowship knit hearts and minds together and produced a new energy for collaborating in the nations. (Galatians 5:13)
2. We were all mightily encouraged by the presentations of each leader. Seeing the joyful countenance on the faces of the children and their parents and hearing how many individuals have accepted Jesus as Savior was very moving.  
  
This collective narrative is a powerful example of how God blesses and multiplies when Jesus Christ and the truth of His Word are lifted up! God's ways are higher than man's ways. (Isaiah 55:8)
3. A spirit of inspiration overflowed from the devotions and teaching sessions, and many received insights for their personal lives and ministries. (John 6:63)
4. God confirmed the calling of several leaders, while others were renewed in their callings. (Isaiah 6:8)
5. Fresh ideas were gleaned with regard to program administration, the adaptation of resources, and the methods used in AMO.
6. The promise of a formal discipleship program through online teaching and coaching was imparted. (1 Thes 2:11, 12)
7. The "Passing of the Baton" ceremony gave assurance that many of these leaders are committed to entrust to and disciple other leaders with what God has given them in working with the AMO Program. (2 Timothy 2:2)

### Testimonies from the Encuentro

I have known since I got saved that my calling is to share God's Word in the nations. God's providence for me with AMO came last year at the AMO training in Santo Domingo. I fell in love with the program and initiated several components with my 4th grade class. At the Encuentro, the Holy Spirit confirmed His calling in my life and lit His fire in my lamp. As His child, I am willing to do what He planned for me in Eternity. I tell Him everyday now, "Yes, Lord, here am I, send me."

— C. Inchaustegui, Dominican Republic

My goals for attending Encuentro were met and God surpassed all expectations. It was a joy to see Elizabeth again and also my international friends from Brazil and Colombia. I was re-inspired by the greatness of God and our mission as believers to transform the world for Christ. It was amazing to hear the reports and know that God enables us to have a part in what He's doing all over the world. I received personal strength and encouragement, and God used each one to inspire and re-ignite my passion for the lost.

— N. Hameloth, USA

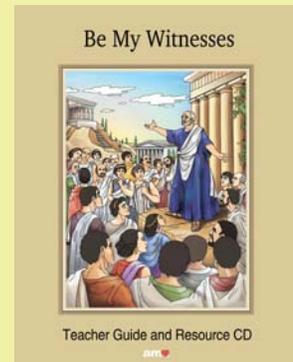
For us, the Encuentro was an opportunity to be renewed and strengthened in our calling. It was a precious time of fellowship and mutual encouragement with other brothers and sisters who share the same mission — to nurture the hearts of children for God. We were quite challenged with the model of reflective education which demands time, meditation, and investment in relationships, and essentially opposes the hectic system of modern society. May God bless us with wisdom to live in His liberty and not under the tyranny of urgent demands!

— The Cartaxos, Brazil

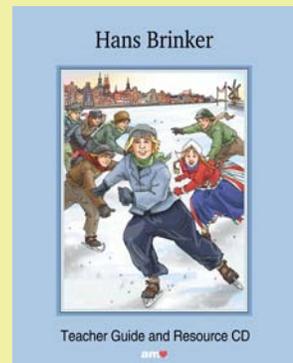
The Spirit did an eternal work of joy, hope, love and determination in our hearts. Surely God was in that place. We fellowshiped with Him and we will never be the same. Let us run the race of our high calling in Christ!

— J. Gough, USA

**am**   
Nurturing the child's heart for God  
**NEW**  
**TEACHER GUIDES**



A Christian history unit that centers on the call of Jesus' disciples to be His witnesses. It highlights the history of the early Church through readings, Power Points, the book of Acts, and the New Testament "One Anothers." The unit includes 1st century Christian life and challenges youth to reflect on their 21st century calling as Christ's disciples. There are 24 enriched history lesson plans, 8 arts and crafts lesson plans, 13 beautiful and historical coloring pages, Roman Empire map, graphic organizers, vocabulary cards, and the culminating Agape Feast celebration. **\$ 29.95**



Mary Mapes Dodge's literary classic is two stories in one—a travelogue of Holland with a study of Dutch culture and the tender story of family love and devotion as Hans and Gretel Brinker overcome their challenges to enter the village ice skating race. The unit contains 36 literature lesson plans, 12 arts and crafts lesson plans, 13 beautiful coloring pages, map of the Netherlands, graphic organizers, vocabulary cards, and the culminating Dutch Festival and skit. **\$ 24.95**

**Available for Purchase**  
**www.amoprogram.com**  
**407-275-0203**

#### CHRYSLIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Cox, Ph.D. President  
Bryan Youmans, B.S., VP  
Elizabeth Youmans, Ed.D., VPO  
Evie Tindall, Ed.D., Secretary  
David Padgett, B.S., Treasurer  
Jacqueline Gough, M.A.Ed.  
Richard Krakowski, J.D.