

CHRYSALIS NEWSLETTER



Young DR boy reading his new Bible



AMO Teacher Training
Esperanza Foundation, DR



AMO Leaders: Jacqi Gough,
Luki Ortiz, Cristina Inchaustegui,
and Tricia Dominguez



Luis Sena, Food for the Hungry
DR Country Director

Nurturing a 'Josiah Generation' in the Dominican Republic

King Josiah...and all the people, both small and great, went up to the house of the Lord and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant, which was found. There was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might!

— 2 Kings 23:2, 25

In 648 B.C. eight-year-old Josiah was crowned king of Judah. Although his father and grandfather did evil in the sight of God, young Josiah sought the God of his father David and purged Judah of its pagan altars and false idols. He then began a Temple restoration in which was found "the book of the law of the Lord given by Moses." Josiah had never heard the law because there had been an eighty-year famine of God's Word in the land. When the law was read aloud to him, he despaired of the consequences from God upon his nation. Josiah called all the people together, both small and great, and read them the law. He and his people renewed covenant with God and vowed to obey God's commandments. God blessed the reign of young Josiah for his wise leadership and the preeminence He gave God's Word in making decisions and defending Judah from evil.

Today, God is raising up a generation of young Josiahs in the Dominican Republic (DR) through the AMO® Program. With the teaching of AMO lessons, which are based on God's Word and governed by biblical principles, truth inspires the hearts and minds of children to seek after God with all their heart and to share His Word with family and friends. Bible Reading for Reasoning units place a Bible in the hands of every child and have them reading the Scriptures for themselves and reasoning with truth for application in their own lives and communities. God's living Word is renewing minds and igniting a grassfire in the DR, where both parents and young adults are now requesting AMO classes. In addition, six NGOs have established AMO afterschool clubs, churches are enriching their educational programs with AMO lessons, Christian schools are using the curriculum in their classes, and missionary pastors are carrying AMO into Haiti. Luis Sena, DR's Food for the Hungry (FH) country director, recently wrote, "We are having a visitation from God in the Dominican Republic by opening the door to AMO! Our prayer is that such a visitation will find a responsive attitude in the evangelical Christians in our needy nation." This is what every nation needs—an army of Josiahs who love Jesus Christ and are equipped to think and reason with truth from God's Word. These young leaders can transform the culture in their nations for Christ.

Many DR teachers, who have received AMO training, find significance that this is happening on their island of Hispaniola. For those who know Christian history, Hispaniola is where Christopher Columbus planted a cross in December 1492. God opened the Atlantic Ocean for the eventual spread of the Gospel in the western hemisphere beginning in the DR, where the first Christian church, monastery, and university were built in the New World. Today, many Christians believe God wants to see His Word given preeminence once again in the Body of Christ, just as in the day of king Josiah. Let's believe and pray that a 'Generation of Josiahs' will be raised up in every nation!

History of AMO in the Dominican Republic

AMO® was birthed in 2002 at a five-day seminar presented to Latin American FH country and child development directors in Lima, Peru. FH is a relief and development agency that embraces a wholistic approach to building healthy communities. In attendance was Luis Sena, DR country director and Christian visionary with a biblical mindset and a heart for seeing God's blessings manifested in his nation. Mid-week he shared that he had never heard worldview lectures that taught such topics as the principle of Christian self-government, internal property and stewardship, and the power of a biblical vocabulary. When the week ended, he was convinced that a children's program that cultivated its teachers with these topics could, indeed, become a tool for wholistic community development and transformation. Luis committed to pray for God's guidance in how best to invest in the children of his beloved country through the AMO Program and Teacher Training. (Continued on page 2)

Meet Cristina Inchaustegui, Director of AMO, DR

Cristina descends from two generations of educators. Her grandfather was a university professor, national poet, ambassador, and personal secretary to Antonio Guzman, a former president of the DR. Her grandmother founded Colegio Santa Teresita in Santo Domingo, and her mother taught there, as well. Cristina is currently the Director of Colegio Evangelico La Trinidad, an Assemblies of God school that serves 300 children in Santo Domingo. Her desire is to be used by God in the transformation of her nation through Christian education.

When she attended her first AMO Training, she realized that this was the tool she had been praying for. Since that time, Cristina has attended and translated other AMO Trainings and is one of our apprentices who is mastering the principles and tools of Christian education that is rooted in the Word of God. She traveled with Jacqi Gough to Cali, Colombia to attend the Rudiments of Christian Education Seminar. While there, an "internal revolution" took place as she learned how to lay each subject upon Christ and His Word. She is now inspired to establish a school and write curriculum based on biblical principles.

Cristina is currently governing nine AMO classes in her school and church this year and supervising 32 AMO Programs throughout the Dominican Republic.



She labored to get AMO's Spanish Teacher Guides in print and was invited to present AMO on the nationally popular *Con Freddy y Punto* nightly TV talk show last month. The hour and a half interview can be viewed on the Spanish page of our AMO website.

Cristina is married with two grown children and is bilingual. Her passion for AMO is contagious, and we are thankful for her joyful countenance, her giftings, and her commitment to Christ and education. Please pray for her leadership and influence in the Dominican Republic this year.

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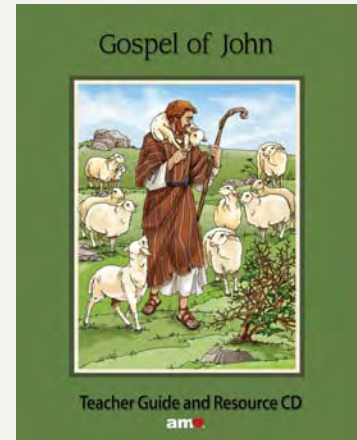
It took a year for us to write and pilot the Introductory Unit in English. Then, we had it translated into Portuguese and piloted in Brazil. Luis was kept abreast of every stage of development and searched for someone to translate it into Spanish. Soon, Rick Lane, AMO's wonderful friend from Texas, whose parents were longtime FH board members, raised the money for the Spanish translation in 2004. In 2007, Luis attended our AMO training at the YWAM base in Puerto Rico and returned home to organize a week of training in the DR for his staff. He invited participants from key evangelical churches and promoted AMO among other NGOs. Jacqi Gough, AMO director of training, and translator Lucrecia Ortiz presented their first seminar to 45 participants in Santo Domingo in February 2008. Soon, two FHDR AMO pilots were planted in two diverse settings: one in the Margara community near Santo Domingo and one in La Meseta, an agricultural village near the Haitian border. Luis soon gained the commitment of Esperanza International (EI) to adopt AMO for the education of children in the communities where they implement micro-finance programs. Soon another training program was offered by EI in August. Some of the comments from the participants express the spirit of our training program:

- "AMO's training was unlike other training I have attended. It was a daily oasis where we fellowshiped with Christ. At the end of each day, I couldn't wait for the next day to begin. Thank you for refreshing and inspiring me."
- "You nurtured us with the same spirit that the children will receive in the AMO Program. This is healing us, and we know it will heal our children and our nation."
- "Now I have the tool with which to disciple children in Christ."

Since that first training program, 300 DR children's ministry leaders, educators, pastors, and NGO directors have received the training. Programs are established that are teaching young children, teens, and young adults. In some settings, parents are attending AMO classes to build literacy. The children love Wellspring of Wonder® and hearing the classics read aloud. They are delighted to receive a Bible to read and take pride in caring for their binders. For many, it is their first opportunity to steward their own property. The fine and performing arts, the community service projects, and the festivals of celebration all contribute to provide both children and adults a godly vision for their lives and a hope for their nation.

am 
Nurturing the child's heart for God

NEW TEACHER GUIDE



This Bible Reading for Reasoning unit is a powerful study of the divine nature of Jesus Christ, the Son of God! It complements our Gospel of Luke unit, a biographical study of the life and earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of man. The great 'I AMs' and the names of Jesus in John help paint the portrait of the second person of the Godhead and His relationship with His Father. The two kingdoms of which Jesus taught are compared and a beautiful portrait of the Holy Spirit is profiled for the children.

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