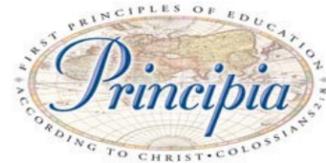


Discipling leaders  
by Biblical principles  
for individual, educational,  
and cultural reformation



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# First Principles

Newsletter of Principia, a non-profit educational institute April 2004

"You are sons and daughters of the most high King and His mighty Hand of Providence has orchestrated this program for you, your children and your nation!" It was an anointed time in the Lord.

The spirit of the program was imparted through teachings on the Christian view of children and God's divine plan for individuals and nations for the Gospel. The teachers were immersed into God's Word, children's literature and the fine arts, and our *Children of the Promise Timeline*. The Christian ideals and principles of truth and beauty that nurture the whole child, as well as community service projects and festivals of learning, are all new concepts for our Mexican brothers and sisters! It was a clash of educational worldviews, which requires processing and application for a thorough understanding.

The morning I left San Antonio for Acuña, Lisa Lyles, intercessor and mother of seven children, brought her children over to pray for me. As the prayers of the children ascended I was reminded of Jesus' words, "I praise you, Father, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." (Matthew 11:25) As we were driving out of Mexico into the United States, a huge double rainbow appeared in the sky seeming to span the two nations. We were struck by God's promise of mercy and healing love! Since January, San Antonio families have visited Alpha and Omega and donated their time and resources. Principia will return in July and continue training teachers. Pray for the success of our *Feed My Lambs* program into which Christian scholars from six nations have poured their time and talents to see principles of transformational education planted for nation building.

By Elizabeth Youmans



Elizabeth and translator, Pastor Nelson Herrera

### Dr. Ted Yamamori Visits Principia

For those in international relief and development, the name Dr. Ted Yamamori is highly regarded. After serving as President of Food for the Hungry International for 17 years, he is now President Emeritus. Born and educated in Japan, Ted came to the United States to pursue a doctorate. He taught in the fields of sociology, international development, business, and religious studies. An expert on poverty

and world hunger, his vision is to produce "lasting documents" (books) in the areas of food and water, health (HIV Aids), business, and education. He has authored or edited 17 books on the first three subjects from a holistic worldview and is now interested in producing a book on education. Dr. Yamamori visited Principia to consult with Elizabeth on the subject of transformational education. Introduced to our *Feed My Lambs* curriculum by friends, he was attracted by our focus on reaching children in poverty around the world with a Christian program that offers hope, enrichment and the Word of God. His comment that "Christian education seems only for the wealthy and reaches only a small percentage of the Christian world" was piercing! During our time together, Ted put a two-year strategic plan in place for introducing *Feed My Lambs* to the international child development ministries and agencies. He also invited our participation in the Lausanne Forum for World Evangelization in Thailand in which he will convene the Holistic Mission Issue Group. What an honor for us to work with him in this field.



Simone and Elizabeth Youmans with Dr. Ted Yamamori

## 2004 Schedule

- ☞ **January**  
San Antonio, Texas: Vision Conference  
Acuña, Mexico: Feed My Lambs Pilot
- ☞ **February**  
Santa Rosa, California: Dennis Peacocke Learning Forum  
Guebwiller, France: French Christian Teachers Conference
- ☞ **March**  
Vilnius, Lithuania & Minsk, Belarus: KPC Nation Building
- ☞ **April**  
Heber, Arizona: Discipling Nations Alliance
- ☞ **May**  
Principia Board Meeting
- ☞ **June**  
La Paz, Bolivia: Feed My Lambs Pilot  
Parnamirim, Brazil: Feed My Lambs Pilot with Team
- ☞ **July**  
Acuña, Mexico: Feed My Lambs Pilot
- ☞ **August**  
Nairobi, Kenya: Two week Teacher Training  
Kampala, Uganda: Vision Conference
- ☞ **September**  
Bangkok, Thailand: Lausanne Evangelistic Forum 2004

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

## Feed My Lambs Is Piloted in Mexico

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Do you love Me more than these? . . . Feed My lambs." - John 21:15

Principia's children's program, *Feed My Lambs*, is now being piloted internationally in Acuña, Mexico! The twelve-week Introductory Unit, designed and edited by Dr. Elizabeth Youmans for use in the developing world, was translated into both Spanish and Portuguese this year!

*Feed My Lambs* (FML) was birthed in 2002 through a challenge from Food for the Hungry International to develop a Christian program for the thousands of children they sponsor around the world. FML is an enriched, principle-based program designed for children's ministries and paraschools. It is also appropriate for day, home and Sunday school settings, as well as literacy programs and teaching English as a second language for adults and children of all ages.

Distinct from other programs which seek to "entertain" children, FML nurtures the soul and consecrates the spirit of the child with the ideals of truth and beauty, as well as the knowledge of moral principles. The program has children studying the world's great children's classics, inspiring vignettes from Christian history, reading the Bible to build Biblical literacy and reasoning skills and participating in the fine and performing arts. Wholeness and transformation are cultivated within and without, as the love of learning is kindled in *two generations*, both children and their teachers! Because words are the building blocks of ideas, language skills and vocabulary are emphasized to help transform the mind. As creativity and hope are released, the child is guided to steward his full potential in Christ. The holistic program affects not only a child's mindset, but cultivates his moral imagination and builds vision for what is possible with Christ. As one child is led to Christ and liberated to fulfill his divine potential, it affects his family, his community, and ultimately his nation!

### Spanish and Portuguese Translations

*Feed My Lambs* was piloted in English in 2003 in Chesapeake, Virginia at Apostles Lutheran's Summer Reading Program with great success. Several schools and children's ministries in South America became very interested in piloting the program in their nations, which challenged Principia to translate the Introductory Unit into Spanish and Portuguese.

God's great Providence opened the door for the Spanish translation. Through a series of events led by Tom and Christi Moorman in San Antonio, Texas, Elizabeth met Rick Lane, whose father served on the board of directors of Food for the Hungry for many years. Rick was collaborating with Al Sierra, a financial consultant, to raise support for a small Christian middle school Al had established for street

children for whom there was no school in Acuña, Mexico. One of Al's desires for the children was to have a curriculum with God's Word at the heart of every subject. He asked his daughter, who is a teacher, to search for such a curriculum and she could not find one! Rick introduced me to Al and drove the fund raising for the Spanish translation. God put a dynamic team of translators together for the Teachers Manual and Introductory Unit. They were Regent University Hispanic scholars and translators from Honduras and Spain, a Miami pastor, and Food for the Hungry staff in Peru and Bolivia! Their work is a treasure for the Spanish-speaking nations, as Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world.

Dr. Youmans is blessed to have Simone Hara Youmans in her family. Simone is Brazilian and holds a masters degree from Regent University. She translated the complete FML Teachers Manual and Introductory Unit (160,000 words!) into Portuguese and donated the translation to bless the street children of her nation! We are most grateful for her generosity and scholarship! Her parents will direct one of the pilot sites in São Paulo, and her former church will plant another in Embu. A third site will be in Parnamirim, Brazil. Elizabeth is equipping three teachers from Chesapeake, Virginia to train the paraschool staff in this small northeastern village in June, 2004. They are being sent out at their own expense as short-term missionaries!



Alpha and Omega teachers with Al Sierra, Nelson Herrera and Elizabeth Youmans

### Alpha and Omega School in Acuña, Mexico

Acuña, Mexico is a dusty border town of 120,000 people three hours south of San Antonio, Texas. Our FML teacher training took place in January on a cold, rainy weekend in one of the slums without paved roads. It was so cold in the Alpha and Omega School classroom that we wore our coats and scarves. When we unpacked all the handouts, the teachers were astonished to find them in Spanish. Their hearts were touched to learn of all the individuals God had used to produce the program. One male teacher said with tears in his eyes, "We are not worthy to receive such an outpouring of love. Who are we to be given such a gift?" The response was, (See page 4)

May thy way be known upon the earth,  
Thy saving health among all nations. - Psalm 67:2

principia, (n. pl.) First principles. (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)