

FIRST PRINCIPLES™

Newsletter of Chrysalis International

October 2006

Volume 2

Discipling leaders by Biblical principles for individual and cultural transformation

The Effect of One AMO Pilot Program:

by Elizabeth Youmans



While traveling through many shanties in the third world, the plight of children who are sick, abandoned, abused and illiterate burdens me tremendously. I always want to stop and read a classic or share an arts lesson with them, so they, too, can know the joy of stories, ideas, and colors that gives flight to the imagination and inspires hope and God-sized dreams. Three years ago, I decided to design an enriched, principle-based curriculum applying what I had learned as a teacher at StoneBridge School. This was to be a gift to the church for use as an afterschool or summer program. Idealistic goals were established to nurture the whole child, so each could have the opportunity to know the true and living God through worship, His Word and the riches produced by Christian civilizations throughout time. The curriculum, which I named “Feed My Lambs,” is based on beauty, truth and moral goodness and the methods of the Principle Approach®. Individual components were formatted with daily lesson plans and reflective methods to accomplish these goals. Our mission to reach the hearts and minds of at-risk children and their teachers, while building bridges to parents, the church, local businessmen and the community is both noble and lofty. The introductory unit and a teacher training program, which

teaches a biblical, Christian worldview of building and discipling healthy communities through education, were written. The program was piloted in Chesapeake, Virginia, where it was highly received by the children, teachers, parents and the church. But there were skeptics on the sideline who questioned the wisdom of introducing classic children’s literature, the fine and performing arts, reasoning from the Bible and a taste of Christian history from a western perspective into other cultures. However, God sovereignly opened doors to train teachers in Africa, Asia and South America. He also provided wonderful linguists, who translated the program and training materials into Spanish, Portuguese, Burmese and Korean. The proving ground for the potential of fulfilling our mission and goals would be the pilot projects, which were initiated this past year in the developing world. I am excited to report that the program has been well received. In piloting the program, we chose AMO (an acronym for “Feed My Lambs” in Portuguese and Spanish) as the official name for the curriculum.

I want to share the power of one AMO pilot to glorify the Lord and inspire you to use this program in your church or school setting. (We have a Christian school in Brazil that recently began an AMO program as an afterschool outreach to street children.) Much to our wonder, all of our original goals were achieved this past year in a pilot program located in an under-developed, rural area in Latin America. Our relationship with the directors began in 2002, when I trained the faculty of the Christian school they had founded. They were gracious hosts, and our seven days of training and fellowship were visited by the Lord, as God birthed a rich relationship. A few months later, it was made known to us that this couple was struggling financially. They fought to keep their school solvent by pouring their own resources into the school’s budget. They paid their teachers, but seldom had enough to pay themselves. There were many days they only ate one small meal. I suggested they seek support from their church, whose pastor had his own son enrolled in their school. They made an appointment, but were told that Christian education was not a church priority.

The following year they were trained to use our AMO Program. In 2005 they organized two afterschool projects in their community. The project where they taught was located in their church building. It wasn’t long before parents became interested in what they were teaching the children. They invited them to have fellowship and taught them some basic principles of the program. They led several to the Lord, who now attend the church. In several months, the parents offered to repair and paint their classroom and even installed an air conditioner. They tied a big red ribbon on the door as a gesture of honor and love for the AMO directors.



The teachers wrote a play to culminate their study of the children's classic, *Heidi*. The children successfully presented it to their parents and church community. They received wonderful comments from tearful parents and excited church members, who were not prepared for the children's ability to act with such grace and style. Then, they offered a performance at a local nursing home as a Christmas gift. The children also wanted to give gifts to each resident, so on their own they collected items and assembled hygiene kits. The children presented their play and touched the lives of these forgotten ones, as they distributed their gifts while kissing them and speaking of the love of God. As the AMO pilot concluded, the pastor was interested to know if they would continue the project. He came to the directors and shared how his heart had turned to support Christian education. He even sent a contribution to Chrysalis to assist in the translation of more curricular units. Our mission to reach the hearts and minds of children, teachers, parents, church and community was fulfilled through this one six-month pilot program. To God be the glory!



**Our AMO curriculum is for sale on our website at:
www.chrysalisinternational.org or telephone 407-275-0203 to order.**

AMO can be used as curriculum in a multitude of settings: The Christian school or homeschool classroom; Sunday school; the family read aloud program; a co-op homeschool enrichment class; an adult literacy program; and in an advanced Spanish or Portuguese language class. It is currently being translated into French and Russian, as well.

FIRST PRINCIPLES . . .

The Role of Education in Discipling the Nations:

God's first call to education is part of the Old Covenant which He made with Abraham. He chose Abraham to be a great and mighty nation through whom He would bless all the nations of the earth. "For I have chosen Abraham that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, in order that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He had spoken about him." (Gen 18:18-29) In order for Abraham to bless the nations, he had to be faithful to teach his own children the ways of the living God. God's covenant and heritage are passed to the generations through education. (Ps 78) God's curriculum for His people is His Word. For the ancient Jews, knowing and doing God's Law was their life! (Dt 30:19-20; 31:12-13) Today, parents are still accountable for the education of their children. The local church also has a responsibility to teach adults and children and support parents in their role of education. Without the active leadership of the local church in education, there is moral ignorance, the character of the people declines and God's purpose for each nation goes unfulfilled. As believers are instructed in God's principles and disciplined to be salt and light, they influence families, communities and the institutions of society as instruments of transformation in their nations.

The Role of the Church in Discipling the Nations:

When God established the New Covenant through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross two thousand years ago, His church became the new "chosen nation." She was to be a holy nation, unlike any other in the world, and God's primary agent for advancing His redemption, healing and blessing to all nations. (Eph 2: 14-22; 1 Pet 2:9 -10) Jesus instructed His followers, the founders of the church, to make disciples of all nations teaching them to observe all that He had commanded. (Mt 28:16- 20) After the church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), His apostles spread the Gospel throughout Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria and out to the remotest parts of the earth. "Universally, the church is the living, worldwide body of redeemed people, who have put their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The local churches established around the world, who meet for worship, fellowship and service, are community-based expressions of the worldwide church." (*God's Remarkable Plan for the Nations, Miller, Moffitt & Allen, 2005*) Today, God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) carries on through His worldwide church. Although imperfect, the church is God's instrument to proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel to the nations. God established His church to serve the nations and gave them His authority and power to fulfill His eternal plan. The local community church is an educational center. It is to prepare believers—adults *and children*—with a Christian world and life view and the principles to make righteous and just decisions, while discipling them to "go ye therefore into all the world."

