

Since our last issue of *First Principles*, Dr. Elizabeth Youmans has traveled to five continents teaching and ministering to God's people who are eager to learn and apply a truly biblical philosophy and methodology of Christian education—one that transforms individuals by renewing minds and disciples nations by teaching a wholistic approach that applies God's Word to all of life. She has become a true missionary, traveling to countries where the Church is alive and growing rapidly, but also to former communist countries, the persecuted church, the developing world, and to those who have suffered the devastation of civil war, ethnic cleansing, HIV/AIDS, famine, poverty, and ignorance at the hands of a military junta that closed all universities and high schools. Traveling alone to most countries, Elizabeth has experienced the Lord's powerful presence and gracious providence. He has proven to be her source of courage, health, and provision in the most unique geographic settings and cultural contexts. She knows more deeply the power of intercessory prayer partners, who faithfully pray for her and the fruit of her teaching. Her missionary journeys have taken her to the 14,000 foot heights of the Andes Mountains, as well as the grassy plains at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. In these months, she found herself weeping at a holocaust museum, in front of a Lenin statue while local militia urged her to "move on quickly," staring incredulously at a pagoda covered with 60 tons of gold and precious jewels, and only yards from a herd of elephants parading by her Land Rover. Observing the stark contrast of young Buddhist monks begging all day for food money to Korean children praying all night at the prayer mountain for their parents and their nation, her heart embraced each culture and her passion and zeal increased immeasurably to teach others what God has given her in Christian education. Following is her journal of the last six months of teaching and learning around the world.

LITHUANIA AND BELARUS

I toured the former Soviet Union before the Berlin Wall came down in the mid 1980s. So being in Lithuania and especially Belarus was like returning there again. Today, Lithuanians do enjoy a spirit of liberty yet unknown to Belarusians, but many things remain seemingly unchanged. I was the only woman with a team of six men from my Presbyterian church in Virginia Beach. Led by Pastor Bruce Anderson, we spent a week building relationships, encouraging believers, and teaching a wholistic view of discipling nations through biblical principles of reformation. We saw first hand the generational effect of the communist strategy to use alcohol to enslave men and rob them of their dignity and ability to lead their families, affirm their wives, and instruct the children. I spent a day with the teachers of the only Christian school in Lithuania, and then experienced the joy and Caleb spirit of the persecuted church in Belarus, as she lives out her faith boldly before a cold and oppressive regime. We held a one-day seminar in Minsk running four tracks simultaneously. I was stunned by the effect of the years of atheism upon reasoning. I planted the principles of Christian education and befriended an educator, who has since located *Heidi* in Russian. This will initiate the Russian translation of *Feed My Lambs* (FML) with a team from Uzbekistan.

BOLIVIA

La Paz is a city that boasts the world's highest airport. At 14,000 feet, it welcomes visitors with nose bleeds, shortness of breath,

and insomnia! Hosted by Food for the Hungry, Bolivia, I was invited to teach the FML program. An unexpected 350 teachers, Evangelical University professors, pastors, and NGO personnel attended the five-day conference. The Bolivian Minister of Education came the first morning, as well. Since the state teachers had just returned to school from a 40-day teacher strike, they were only able to attend morning sessions. All others received afternoon training and practiced using the FML curriculum. I taught the principles of Christian character, self-government, and stewardship. Afterwards, the Bolivians taught me that their native Incas had three similar principles that operated in their culture, which have since been reversed in the Bolivian character: 1) Do not lie. 2) Do not steal. 3) Do not be lazy. The Christian education philosophy I imparted seemed to highly inspire many leaders. Some received the vision to found a Christian day school in their community. During my ten days in Bolivia, I also spent time consulting with a team of leaders from Compassion International, Bolivia. Compassion works with over 32,000 Bolivian children, and I am pleased to share that they will pilot three FML projects in three different cities, as will Food for the Hungry. While there, a coalition of educational leaders from four Bolivian cities formed an alliance. They concluded a series of discussions and strategizing for the future by inviting me to return in 2005 to teach them how to develop curriculum by principles. Previously unknown to them, it was God's providential timing to pour out His Spirit upon the Bolivian Church for a fresh educational vision!

UGANDA

At the DNA Retreat, I met a fine Ugandan pastor with a family life ministry. He is an elder with the 12,000-member Kampala Pentecostal Church. This is a church that has disciplined its nation by teaching purity and chastity in sexual relationships. By doing so, Ugandans have witnessed the only decline of HIV/AIDS in all of Africa. It is also the home of Watoto (Swahili for "children"), a children's ministry that builds homes, places AIDS orphans in family settings, educates them, and calls forth their potential in Christ. I was invited to Kampala to hold a Principia Vision Conference. Over 125 leaders attended, including a Member of Parliament, teachers, pastors, parents, and even a Muslim, who was seeking to know how Christians train their children! A friend of our ministry, a retired businessman from Phoenix, also attended the conference. It was most successful and the immediate fruit was the formation of an alliance of attendees, including the Member of Parliament and the Muslim, to strategize the reformation of education in Uganda.

KENYA

I was accompanied to Nairobi by Jill Johnson, a graduate student from Phoenix, for Principia's second Teachers Training Conference. Jill has a calling to the nations and was a joyful companion. She helped me journal this portion of my report. These intense two weeks built upon the foundation laid in our 2003 training, when the Kenyan Christian teachers formed an alliance they named FORCE (Forum of Christian Educators). They met quarterly throughout the year to share classroom ideas and encourage one another.

Jill and I were lodged with those from out of town, which was a wonderful experience. The first night one of the men said to me, "Thank

you, mum, for coming to Africa and spending time with us. Most Americans come and only spend time with our animals."

"Now I am right side up!" testified Eric, a teacher from central Kenya, as he reflected on the change in his thinking about education and teaching. Like Eric, 175 teachers, headmasters, home schooling parents, and community development staff found their entire approach to education shift from a secular to a biblical, Christian paradigm. Many had doubts, at first, as to whether this teaching from an American could be applied to their Kenyan culture. In addition to Nairobi teachers from Christian day and British schools, there were those from state schools with over 80 students per class, some from the sub-Saharan desert who live among nomadic Muslim tribes, and those who teach isolated tribes in east Kenya. Week one led the participants through the philosophy and methodology, while model lessons demonstrated how various disciplines can be taught by principles. Many tools and vital methods were imparted for renewing the mind and building Christian scholarship. Week two was participatory and collegial, as teachers were divided into small groups to apply the methods for writing lesson plans and redesigning curriculum. Again some were doubtful, but as Bibles were opened, research begun, and key terms defined, the room came alive with inspired ideas and the hum of discussion that promised hope for transformation. By the end of the second week, there were many exciting testimonies. "The shift in spirit this week was dramatic," said one teacher. "These teachers seem truly empowered and hopeful that they can change Kenyan education to equip the next generation. This is inspiring!" Another shared that the founding of her school would now have a different foundation than before attending the training. The FORCE leaders and I spent time strategizing for the future. To God be the glory!

Jill and I were privileged to go on a weekend safari to Amboseli Wildlife Refuge with an Australian Outbacker. It was a once-in-a-lifetime gift from the Lord. We experienced the tranquility of this dusty, volcanic savannah and its amazing wildlife! We met many Maasai, including a 12-year old goatherd, who had recently come through his rite of passage into manhood. Standing tall and noble in his tribal garb, hair gleaming with red clay and face painted to match, he explained in perfect English how easy it was for him to kill a lion with his spear. What an adventure for these two American teachers!

MYANMAR

Invited by leaders I met at the DNA Retreat, I was welcomed to Yangon after FML was translated into Burmese. Formerly Burma, Myanmar is located in Southeast Asia at the crossroads of the two great civilizations of India and China. Buddhism is its national religion and 100 languages are spoken here. The people still wear their native dress, so men and women both don long cotton skirts in this tropical climate. Since 1990 a military junta has controlled Myanmar and persecutes Christians. One of Asia's poorest countries, golden-domed and jeweled-studded pagodas dot the landscape. My hostess organized a conference of over 150 Sunday school teachers which was held in an outdoor building where temperatures soared above 100 degrees. All my translators were female pastors. There had been much intercession in preparation, and the training went extremely well. The spirit of love and gracious hospitality deeply moved me. Pray for the body of Christ here, and successful FML pilot projects!

THAILAND

Thailand is the land of silk and gracious hospitality. I flew there to attend the Lausanne Forum for World Evangelization. I was invited by Food for the Hungry (FHI) to their international headquarters in Bangkok to present FML to a group of Thai educators from several provinces. While there, I also attended a day of FHI training and visited several DNA friends.

SOUTH KOREA

The great joy of my three weeks in Southeast Asia was my time in Seoul with Presbyterian pastor Chung Hwa Young and his team of leaders. Invited to impart FML training, I was struck by the dynamic spirit that flows out of this ministry. Pastor Young's calling is to raise up a generation of Korean youth strong in Christ for world missions. He told me when he began, all he knew to do to prepare them was to teach the children how to pray and worship God. Soon after launching this ministry, God showed him that, in order to be successful, they would have to be a church committed to prayer, as well. So, for the past 11 years, this is what this ministry has been doing. Today, there are over 600 children in the church that participate on children's worship teams and in cell groups for prayer three mornings a week at 5:30 A.M. I was lodged in the church and on church service mornings, I was stunned by the numbers of families pouring into church at 4:45 A.M. with their children. These same families pray Friday nights at the Seoul prayer mountain. The pastor's wife also has a special Sunday afternoon service for children. This is a joy-filled, family-centered church with a spirit of great hospitality. Principia is privileged to walk together with this ministry, as they initiate a *Feed My Lambs* pilot in 2005.

Curriculum Available on CD ROMS



Introductory Unit
\$49.95

Contains principle-based lesson plans and coloring pages for the classic *Heidi*; Reading Proverbs; Christian History Timeline; Arts and Crafts; Community Service Project; Festival of Learning; Prayer and Blessing Cards.

English
Spanish
Portuguese



Timeline of Promise
\$19.95

Christian History Timeline teaches God's plan as revealed through His promises for His children from eternity past to eternity future. Includes Timeline and images for mounting on wall, 24 lesson plans, and 24 coloring sheets.

English
Spanish
Portuguese



Wellspring of Wonder
\$29.95

Wooden story figures, backdrops, brightly colored underlays, the Scripture, a storyteller, and fine art all combine for an inspiring and wholistic learning experience that cultivates Godly imagination and creativity in children. Contains 12 stories from the Timeline, patterns to create story figures and objects, and 12 lesson plans.

English
Portuguese

For additional information, E-mail info@principiacorp.org