Nurturing the Child’s Heart for God

www.amoprogram.com
AMO is an acronym for “feed my lambs” in the Romance languages, 
apasenta minhas ovelhas 
apacienta mis oveljas 
in which the verb “amo” means “love.”

Jesus said, ... “Do you truly love me? ... 
Feed my lambs.” – John 21:15
The Mission of AMO®

Write, produce, translate, and market AMO for the Church to use in families, children’s ministries and Christian schools and, thereby, fulfill the Great Commission

Go and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. - Matthew 28:19-20
AMO was created for the millions of at-risk children around the world to bring them hope, joy and renewed vision for attaining their full potential in Jesus Christ.

The program has the capacity to transform the thinking and sensibilities of TWO generations - children and teachers!

Jesus said, ... “Do you truly love me? ... Feed my lambs.” – John 21:15
The Crisis of Childhood in the 21st Century

Street Children around the World

Brazilian Street Girl Sniffing Drugs

Kenyan Street Boys

Afghan Youth in Refugee Camp
Children are despised in increasing numbers through abortion, abandonment, and abuse.

Peruvian Orphans
58% of the world’s population is under age of 25.
100 million children are out of school due to poverty, discrimination, or lack of resources.
149 million children suffer from malnutrition.

Dominican Republic boys fed by Food for the Hungry International
In the two-thirds world, the average age is 15!

Young Ethiopian girls gathering firewood for their families
This is a ‘fatherless generation’ with need for the hearts of fathers to turn back to their children, and the children to their fathers.

Guatemalan Street Boys
An Enriched, Principle-Based Children’s Program that Nurtures the Whole Child with Beauty, Truth and Moral Goodness and Disciples Youth for Christ!

Learning begins in the imagination where thought and experience come together.

Reading the classic Heidi aloud to the children... Parnamirim, Brasil
Developed by

Creator: Elizabeth Youmans, Ed.D.
Editors: Elizabeth Youmans
        Helen Wood, M.Ed.
Writers: University professors, principle approach teachers, and former graduate and elementary school students of Dr. Youmans
Illustrator: Mary Britt
Designed as an afterschool program, AMO can be used as a Sunday school program; in day schools; home schools and family life settings; in a second language class; or a church program for adult literacy.
AMO’s Philosophy

Inspired by Jesus’ command to ‘Feed My lambs,’ the word ‘feed’ in Greek contains a wholistic view for nurturing children. It means:

♦ Nourish the inner man with spiritual food;
♦ Provide hope and good expectation;
♦ Cherish;
♦ Delight;
♦ Supply the eyes with beauty;
♦ Guard and protect;
♦ Tend with gentle care;
♦ Lead to good pasture for sustained growth

Jesus said, ... “Do you love Me? ... Feed My lambs.” - John 21:15
AMO Is Based upon the Christian View of the Child

Man, the crowning glory of creation, was made in God’s image and is destined for immortality. Therefore, **EVERY CHILD** has value and is endowed with great potential. Every child is ennobled with the capacity to imagine, think, reason, express ideas, love and learn! Every child is unique and has a place in HIS story.
Every child is a promise . . .

with a name,
a passion,
a story,

. . . . and a place in HIS Story!
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child
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Unconditional Love
God’s Word
Principles
Blessings
Prayers
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

Classic Literature

Unconditional Love
God’s Word
Principles
Blessings
Prayers
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

- Christian History
- Classic Literature
- Unconditional Love
- God’s Word
- Principles
- Blessings
- Prayers
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

- Christian History
- Classic Literature
- Bible Reading for Reasoning

Unconditional Love
God’s Word
Principles
Blessings
Prayers
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

- Classic Literature
- Christian History
- Bible Reading for Reasoning
- Community Service & Enterprise

Heart:
- Unconditional Love
- God's Word
- Principles
- Blessings
- Prayers
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

- Classic Literature
- Christian History
- Bible Reading for Reasoning
- Community Service & Enterprise
- Wellspring of Wonder®

- Unconditional Love
- God’s Word
- Principles
- Blessings
- Prayers
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

- Christian History
- Bible Reading for Reasoning
- Community Service & Enterprise
- Wellspring of Wonder®
- Classic Literature
- Music, Dance & Worship

Unconditional Love
God’s Word
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- Classic Literature
- Christian History
- Bible Reading for Reasoning
- Community Service & Enterprise
- Wellspring of Wonder®
- Unconditional Love
- God’s Word
- Principles
- Blessings
- Prayers
- Fine Art & Crafts
- Music, Dance & Worship
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

Christian History

Unconditional Love
God’s Word
Principles
Blessings
Prayers

Bible Reading for Reasoning

Puppetry, Drama, Mime, & Festival

Community Service & Enterprise

Fine Art & Crafts

Music, Dance & Worship

Wellspring of Wonder®

Classic Literature
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

Classic Literature

Puppetry, Drama, Mime, & Festival

Unconditional Love
God’s Word
Principles
Blessings
Prayers

Fine Art & Crafts

Music, Dance & Worship

Community Service & Enterprise

Wellspring of Wonder®

Joy

Imagination
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

Christian History

Bible Reading for Reasoning

Community Service & Enterprise

Classic Literature

Puppetry, Drama, Mime, & Festival

Fine Art & Crafts

Music, Dance & Worship

Wellspring of Wonder®

Unconditional Love

God’s Word

Principles

Blessings

Prayers

Joy

Renewed Thinking

Imagination
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

- Classic Literature
- Puppetry, Drama, Mime, & Festival
- Fine Art & Crafts
- Music, Dance & Worship
- Community Service & Enterprise
- Wellspring of Wonder®
- Bible Reading for Reasoning
- Christian History

Unconditional Love
God’s Word
Principles
Blessings
Prayers

Joy

Imagination

Renewed Thinking

Hope
AMO® Nurtures the Whole Child

- Christian History
- Classic Literature
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- Christian Service & Enterprise
- Wellspring of Wonder®
- Fine Art & Crafts
- Music, Dance & Worship
- Bible Reading for Reasoning
- Unconditional Love
- God’s Word
- Principles
- Blessings
- Prayers

Vision

Joy

Christian Character

Renewed Thinking

Hope

Imagination
AMO nurtures the head and the heart with the ideals of truth, beauty and moral goodness. The program components balance the rational and intuitive learning modes, which are cultivated in each lesson.
AMO Is Designed to Cultivate:

1. Christian World and life view
2. Christian Imagination
3. Christian Character

In TWO Generations!

Where there is no vision, the people perish. - Proverbs 29:18
Christian World and Life View

AMO has placed the transforming power of God’s Word at the heart of the curriculum to regenerate minds and renew thinking.

Children read the Scriptures to reason with Biblical principles for fresh ideas and solving problems God’s way.

Six-year old reading the book of Proverbs. Chesapeake, USA Pilot Program.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. - Psalm 119:105
The Notebook Method: The Tool of Reasoning

Child recording elements of the classic in his notebook
Christian Imagination

Cultivated through stories, art, biblical imagery and vocabulary, and noble activities filled with colors, music, drama and Christian ideals and virtues.

The imagination is God’s gift of wonder. - Ronald B. Allen.
Christian Character

The Christian principles of self-government, stewardship and service are woven into the whole curriculum.

With loving relationships cultivated and community service projects initiated, Christian character is taught, modeled and practiced.
AMO is designed
AMO is designed to impact and equip TWO generations!
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Inspiring and Equipping Adults

1. Train children’s ministry leaders and lay Christians to use the program
2. Inspire pastors, businessmen, and other professionals to get involved
3. Reach into the lives of parents for involvement
Teacher Goals

1. Build a Biblical, Christian world and life view for leadership

2. Train how to use the program and contextualize the concepts through:
   ♦ AMO Teacher Training Program
   ♦ AMO Teacher Manual

As a man thinks within himself, so is he. - Proverbs 23:7
**Parent Goals**

1. Impart the program’s Biblical principles to parents:
   - Fathers’ Blessing Cards
   - Mothers’ Prayer Cards

2. Build relationships through monthly mothers’ teas and fathers’ breakfasts

3. Offer family life teachings to interested parents
Community Goals

1. Partner with local businesses for support and service projects

2. Celebrate with children’s art festivals in the community

3. Initiate service projects and small business enterprises

This day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord... - Exodus 12:14
There are also 2-day and 3-day program schedules.
AMO’s Methods Are Biblical:

♦ The Gospel is proclaimed!
♦ The whole child is nurtured.
♦ Love is shared through relationships, service projects and community events.
♦ Truth is imparted in every lesson.
♦ Creativity is inspired by the fine arts.
♦ Christian imagination is cultivated.
♦ God’s Hand in history is memorialized.
♦ Reflective thinking and reasoning with God’s Word is practiced in every lesson.
♦ Character, not the environment, is taught as causative.
♦ Parents are included through weekly prayer and blessing cards.
♦ A written record of learning is maintained by each child.
♦ Learning is celebrated through music, drama and festivals.
Introductory Unit Contains:

- The Classic Heidi
- Book of Proverbs
- Children of the Promise Timeline
- Wellspring of Wonder®
- Fine Arts and Crafts
- Butterfly Garden Service Project
- Festival of Readers
Sample Literature Lesson

Lesson plans are principle-based with teacher background notes and commentary, vocabulary defined, student reason questions, oral and written work, graphic organizers, and coloring pages.

Heidi 6

Time: 40 minutes
Reading: 1st half chapter 3: “Out with the Goats”
Review: Our setting and the setting for Heidi
Goal of Lesson: Have children comprehend how our setting can affect the health of our soul.
Have them “hear” the author’s description phrases and identify setting descriptions.
Principle: The beauty of God’s creation restores one’s soul.
Scriptures: For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20). God satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good (Psalm 107:9). He restores my soul (Psalm 23:3).

Content:
1. Distribute student folders.
2. Introduce and define vocabulary words, Pin the student vocabulary cards on the Treasure Chest bulletin board.
3. Briefly review the play. Distribute the coloring page.
4. If Have children sing “Edelweiss” which they’re learning in music class (words below).
5. Read the first half of Chapter 3.
6. Ask the children what the theme of this chapter is? (Sharing and taking care in one’s surroundings or setting.)
7. How does our setting affect the state of our soul? Teach the concept of the internal man, the soul (the heart; the mind, the emotions; the will; the conscience) and its immorality. Describe how the beauty of God’s creation restores the man (his soul). A child’s heart and mind must be lovingly nurtured with goodness, truth, and beauty! This is the way God created us and it reflects His nature: good, beautiful, and truth.
8. Discuss the reading using Reason Questions below.
9. Have children write setting descriptions on Mountain Setting Graphic Organizer.
10. Before leaving class, have children repeat the Student Oral Work.

Reason Questions:
1. Why is Heidi happy in her new surroundings? Give examples from the story to support your answer.
2. Is Amin Uncle happy to have Heidi living with him? Why or why not?
3. Why was Heidi sympathetic towards Snowflake?
4. Is there someone in your life for whom you have sympathy? Describe.

Student Vocabulary Words:
1. alert (adj) Watchful; vigilant.
2. impression (n) The effect which objects produce on the mind.
3. plaintive (adj) Complaining; expressing sorrow or grief.
4. reluctant (adj) Proceeding from an unwilling mind.
5. soul (n) 1) The spiritual, rational and immortal substance in man, which distinguishes him from animals; that part of internal man which enables him to think and reason, and which renders him a subject of moral government. The immortality of the soul is a fundamental concept in Christianity. Such is the nature of the human soul that it must have a God, an object of supreme affection. 2) The seat of the emotions.

Student Notebook Work:
Have students record these words of the author on their Mountain Setting Graphic Organizer.

Heidi with an apron full of edelweiss
Torn-Paper Mountainscapes

In the Style of Swiss Artist Paul Klee

Paul Klee (1879-1940) was a Swiss painter born into a family of musicians. His childhood love of music was always a source of inspiration to him in his own artwork. He studied painting in Germany and later traveled in Europe where his visual sensibilities were nourished by the beauty of the landscapes. Klee used color to define and give shape to his subject matter. He most often painted landscapes and is classified as a modern artist.

Our Project

Torn colored construction paper is used to create a mountainscape in the style of Paul Klee.

Supplies

- Printed picture of the Swiss Alps downloaded from the internet or shown to the children on the computer.
- Printed picture of a Paul Klee landscape downloaded from the internet or shown to the children on the computer: http://www.artsisters.com/Klee
- Colored construction paper (green, purple, light and dark blue, grey, black, yellow, red, white)
- 8”x11” construction paper for background (light blue). One per child.
- Glue

Instructions

1. Create a sample torn-paper mountainscape to show the children.
2. Prepare the room by hanging a picture of the Swiss Alps and the sample of your finished project on the board.
3. Introduce the children to artist Paul Klee and show his artwork (download from the web site).
4. Provide each child with a piece of background construction paper (light blue); have children share green, purple, yellow, blue, orange, red, and white construction paper; glue.
5. Demonstrate how to tear the paper to make the shapes for the mountainscape and how to glue them to the background paper.
6. Have each child print his name on his mountainscape in the bottom left hand corner of the project.
7. Hang each child’s mountainscape on the wall with a sign labeled: “Mountainscapes in the Style of Swiss Artist Paul Klee.”

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AMO™ Arts & Crafts Unit
Wisdom beings in wonder. - Ronald B. Allen.
AMO’s Curricular Format

Teacher Guides:
Available in two formats for the nations:
♦ Printed spiral-bound books with reproducible materials on a resource CD
♦ CDs in which all materials are downloaded and printed by the ministry or family

Teacher Training Manual:
Printed handouts received in a binder at the time of training
AMO Teacher Training

Three or Five Day Program
Instructional and Practical

♦ The philosophy and principles are imparted.
♦ The notebook method is taught.
♦ Lesson plans for each component are modeled.
♦ Participants practice in small groups.

For more information:
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Photography Credits

1. Food for the Hungry International
2. UNICEF
3. AMO Pilot Programs: USA, Peru, Brazil, Korea
4. Elizabeth Youmans
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