

Training News & Updates

Greetings from hot South Carolina! I have been so encouraged in reading about your outreaches to the children in your projects.

Things have been busy at Crisis Care Training International (CCTI), too. First, in November we completed the core module of the crisis care curriculum, *Offering Healing and Hope to Children in Crisis*. This module comes with a video on various aspects of life for children in crisis and a CD containing more than 50 visual aids that can be copied as transparencies or for handout notes. Already, workers from more than 35 organizations are using this core curriculum module. The module also has been translated into Indonesian and Russian. Requests are coming in for a Spanish translation. (Anyone know of a willing Spanish translator?) Find a letter of introduction to and a brochure about this module on the ROH Web site or e-mail me for more information.

Please pray for Andy Sexton who is currently working on the street children's module. As inter-

national director of children at risk for Oasis, he has a busy schedule. He has the material in lecture form and has taught it at Fuller Theological Seminary and is now putting it into curriculum format. Pray also for Marj as she has the tedious, yet vital, task of layout and design. Marj and I plan to spend the last half of July together finalizing the editing and layout so it can be published early in August. I know many of you are anxiously awaiting this module. Next week I am meeting with some SIM personnel engaged in education to review what material is available in the area of HIV/AIDS training, Emmanuel Hospital in India and Dr. Mary Reeves (prospective candidate for ROH) have prepared course notes on the topic but it, too, needs to be put into curriculum format.

Several requests have come for a training seminar focused on use of the core module. Therefore, CCTI is planning an open training (for any person or mission group) in Charlotte, September 21-24. Dr. Daniel Sweeney, professor in counseling and play therapy at George Fox University, and I will cover topics from the curriculum while Joel Holms, president of Pathfinders, will cover some inspirational aspects of ministry such as "Creativity in Ministry," "Changing the Mindset of Your Ministry" and "Mobilizing Your Church for Ministry to Children." Come and join us if you are home and would like to attend. Brochures are available; information can also be obtained on the ROH Web site.

August 15-19 I will be making my annual trek to the International



Christian College in Glasgow, Scotland for a training seminar. Once again I will co-teach with Andy Sexton. Each year so far we have had ROH candidates and/or workers on the course. This one is open to you, too.

In March an exciting ROH event took place in Spain. ROH hosted their first retreat (although I hear it was more work than retreat). I thought those who could not attend the retreat would enjoy a little flavor of the participants' insights following the seminar. So, I asked a few ROH workers attending the retreat to share what they found most helpful in the seminar for their life and ministry. Graham Bee, chairperson of the RIC (ROH International Committee), summarizes the seminar activities and gives an overview of the committee's decisions. He concludes by sharing his perspective on the challenge of ministry to children in crisis today.

I do pray that all of you have returned to your ministry greatly encouraged as you face sometimes daunting challenges in releasing children from exploitation and darkness. The Caregiver's Corner challenges us to dream big—and ask big to see those dreams fulfilled.

Together providing hope for the children,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phyllis Kilbourn".

Phyllis Kilbourn
Director CCTI

Urgent Prayer for Andy

In mid-May Andy's hand was injured when the motorcycle taxi on which he was riding collided with a bicycle. "Writing is fine but typing is so slow one-handed," he says. Facing a heavy schedule of research and meetings, "finishing [the curriculum] by the end of May is looking unlikely," but he will keep pressing on. Pray for quick healing and for God's grace and strength for Andy in all of his commitments.

ROH Retreat and International Committee Meetings

—Graham Bee, RIC Chairperson

From March 7-17, fifty workers associated with the ministry of Rainbows of Hope gathered at the Betel Conference Centre in Ciudad Real in central Spain. The gathering was the first of its kind since the ministry was launched by Phyllis Kilbourn in 1996. Team leaders and other workers ministering to children in crisis and at risk, came from South Africa, Central Asia, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Brazil, Spain, Albania, Russia, and another country in Asia, as well from Sending Bases in the USA, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and the UK.

Chris and Betty Hund had worked hard with the assistance of the ROH International staff, ROH Spain and workers from the Spanish field, to prepare for the Retreat. The Betel staff catered for our needs and cared for us very professionally.

The theme for the Retreat was "Jesus—more than enough." Ministry to children in crisis is a very demanding, draining and often discouraging work, so participants found it refreshing and encouraging to worship together and be ministered to from the Word each morning.

Three two-day seminars conducted during the retreat helped to better inform and equip workers in the areas of HIV/AIDS, member care and micro enterprises.

Teams from each country were given the opportunity to share about their ministries. Our hearts were moved as we watched PowerPoints and videos of the desperate plights of the children, young people and families to whom our teams are reaching out. Lessons learned and insights gained in ministry were freely shared for the benefit of the other projects. Strategic times of prayer for each project were borne out of deep compassion.

Throughout the retreat special times were set aside for each team as well as individual workers to debrief with the international directors. These occasions were beneficial both for the workers and for Chris and Betty in understanding the current situation and pressing issues in each center.

At the request of the ROH International Committee (RIC), the WEC International Office (IO) prepared a paper highlighting issues of which ROH needs to be aware in the development of the ministry. Jonathan Chamberlain presented the paper and answered questions.

Feedback sheets at the end of the retreat were very positive and in favor of a similar conference in three years time. The one main weakness noted was the very full program that, while beneficial in content, did not include enough time for rest or reflection to be classed as a retreat.

Following the retreat the ROH International Committee met over four days to discuss policy and strategic matters. Coming out of the retreat and the committee meetings, the following are some of the main challenges facing ROH as we move into the future:

1) **Direction and focus.** As a service ministry of WEC International, ROH's main focus is reaching children in crisis and those at risk in unreached areas of the world. However, opportunities for ministry are more readily available in partially-reached areas, so we need to be careful that we do not drift away from our main focus. Ministry among children in crisis compared with ministry to children at risk requires workers with a greater level of training, also. We need to recruit workers who have specialized training and assist present workers with on-the-job-training to

Training, an Urgent Need

The retreat was a special time to get together with many likeminded people and share about our ministry experiences. Once more I became strongly aware of the need for more training within ROH. Many retreat participants asked me for any training resources I might have as well as to hear about my experiences as a project leader. The need for more training is deeply on my heart; I am just waiting to see what God wants me to do about it. I also appreciated hearing about what other ROH ministries around the world are doing as well as gaining new knowledge from the specialized seminars offered by our guest speakers. I think generally it was an uplifting and encouraging time for all involved.

—Thirza Schoots,
Central Asia

Goals, Vision, Fellowship

Several things were helpful to me. First I gained a better understanding of how ROH works within WEC. Chris and Betty defined it well when they explained that ROH is not just a relief organization but a ministry that reaches children in crisis in the context of planting churches. Because it seems that every ROH project is doing something different, I thought it was good for all ROH workers to clearly understand our common goals and vision.

And it was just really wonderful getting to meet and fellowship with many other ROH workers and hear what they are doing. It's a lovely thing to be able to share with others who have the same passion and burden for reaching kids in crisis.

—Margaret Lin, Spain

help upgrade their skills so that we continue to minister to children in both categories.

2) **Church relatedness.** ROH is committed to contributing to church planting efforts in unreached areas and to helping existing churches catch a vision for the children. Being a ministry of a specific WEC field, each ROH ministry is subject to the field and committed to the church planting goals of the field.

3) **Training and trainers.** With Phyllis Kilbourn having been released to concentrate on developing curriculum materials and a training ministry wider than the scope of ROH ministry, it is important for us to appoint a new International Training Coordinator to oversee all aspects of training within ROH. We were greatly impressed with the caliber of workers being recruited into ROH, their love for God and commitment to a very demanding ministry. We know, however, that for them to realize their full potential it is critical that ROH be able to provide ongoing, on-the-job training. We are seeking to identify trainers at the various levels who can assist in this process, and appreciate the fact that Phyllis continues to make herself available where needed. Chris and Betty would be happy to hear from any who sense that God is laying this kind of ministry upon their hearts.

We want to be prepared to provide opportunities for all new ROH workers to receive the primary level of training in their area of the world. More specialized training using Phyllis' curriculum would then be given on the field.

4) **Finance.** We recognize that ministry to children in crisis usually requires outside funding to develop suitable programs to help the children and their families. Even the resources to maintain an established ministry can be a challenge to local churches. We are reluctant to go down the path of traditional child sponsorship with the heavy administration load that goes with it. We are open, however, to a more general sponsorship of a project with a photo of one of the children being provided to encourage prayer and ongoing interest. A project in Central Asia has tried this and it seems to be working well.

5) **Lines of authority and accountability.** As we continue to develop ROH ministry within WEC fields, the ROH international directors have been asked to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each field that has or desires a link with ROH. This document will help in clarifying expectations and responsibilities and hopefully minimize areas of misunderstanding. We reaffirm that all workers involved in ROH ministries are WEC workers serving in ROH and accountable to their field leader and field policies in the same way as other workers.

6) **Development of teams and ministries.** While the project in South Africa has a good-sized team, the numbers in most other teams are small, and the teams are in need of further staff. Larger teams are more readily able to receive WEC Trek teams and seem to attract other new workers. The development of quality tools to help in the promotion of ROH is one of our priorities, and Lisa in the USA office is working on this. The development of the Strategic Prayer Concept is important to undergird all that ROH is doing, and the retreat provided a great opportunity for Julia to meet many of those with whom she is communicating.

We are greatly encouraged with ongoing developments in ROH ministry and encourage all workers associated with ROH to uphold Chris and Betty in their responsibilities as ROH international directors.

Bonding, Communicating, Relating as Family

The thing I found most helpful about the retreat was meeting and getting to know people with whom I have corresponded over the last year or so. Putting a face with an e-mail acquaintance made the over-computer communications so much more personable. Spending time together revealed each other's personalities and built memories, which means much better communication and relationship when we return to the over-the-computer contact again.

As prayer co-ordinator I was so encouraged to see each field's response in understanding the importance of, desiring and gearing toward more prayer for their ministries. Seeing the need to have mobilization/prayer tools, I was delighted when almost all fields represented—on their own—made and gave me a PowerPoint presentation.

The conference gave us workers needed time to bond spiritually through fellowship and understanding the ministry that takes place on each of the fields. What a blessing to see what God is doing to reach the children around the world in so many creative ways and through so many different nationalities!

I've always had a sense that WEC is a ministry with a family "belonging." This conference made the feeling even deeper!

—Julia Clark, USA

Not Alone in the Struggle

I found it helpful to meet people from the different fields and learn what each team is doing. It encouraged me to hear some of their struggles and know that we are not alone in what we face and are learning in our team. I saw the need for more training for the specific situations/needs where we work. It also was helpful to make contacts with those doing similar things as we.

—Hope Sleasman, South Africa

Caregiver's Time Out

Phyllis Kilbourn



We read in 1 Kings 3:5 that the Lord appeared to King Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask for whatever it is you want me to give you." Solomon's response is found in verses 7-9:

...I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours?

Wow! Solomon could have asked for many things such as prosperity or a "comfort zone" to escape the overwhelming responsibilities facing him. Yet deep in Solomon's heart he knew God had entrusted him with the task of caring for His people. Solomon took his calling and the ensuing responsibilities very seriously. Therefore, his thoughts turned to that which would make him more effective in his ministry. He knew all too well that the task was far bigger than he.

Probably he had never felt so inadequate as he did when just thinking about governing the vast nation of Israel. Solomon knew that to succeed he would need divine enabling. So of all the things he could have petitioned from God, Solomon chose a discerning heart. He simply wanted to be equipped for the work God had commissioned him to assume.

Verse 10 states, "The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this." We know from the scriptural accounts of Solomon's reign that

God did indeed grant him a wise and discerning heart. He was empowered to effectively carry out His God-given commission.

Looking at the multitude of desperately needy children surrounding us—children for whom God has called and commissioned us to care—we quickly identify with Solomon. We, too, exclaim, "I don't know how to care for these children God has chosen as my responsibility. How can I provide help for those who have been so physically and emotionally scarred? Or care for the spiritual needs of deeply wounded children who reject our love and have lost trust?" Such responsibilities also highlight our sense of deficiency in required compassion, patience and love—characteristics so vital to effective ministry yet they can so quickly dry up in the midst of daily frustrations.

When God called us into ministry with children in crisis, He knew the diversity of experiences and problems of these children would be far from the range of experiences we had in our childhoods. He knew we would have times of feeling inadequate and ill-equipped for such a commission. However, just as God taught Solomon that his foundation for ministry was rooted in God's strength and resources, not in his own, so God longs for us to learn the same valuable lesson.

Think: if God said to you today in regard to your particular ministry, "Ask for whatever it is you want me to give you," what would your answer be? (I know what mine would be!) Having presented our

request to God, we doubtless would be prone to wonder if God would really answer our request as He did Solomon's. We even might try to figure out how He could do it.

How much we need the admonition of the Psalmist: "Be still and know that I am God"! One thing we know for certain: God is faithful. We can take courage when we reflect on past experiences when we have witnessed God's faithfulness. And, we have the assurance that God is "faithful to all His promises" (Psalm 145:13).

May we, like Solomon, be bold in asking God for all we need to be fully equipped to effectively minister God's love and compassion to children who have suffered so much pain, rejection, hurt and abandonment in their young lives. God will be pleased with our requests when they focus on building His kingdom among the children. In fact, His heart of compassion for the children causes Him to yearn to grant that which will enable us to fulfill our calling. But we first must acknowledge our dependence on God by petitioning Him for all we need.

RESOURCE

As a basic primer for their HIV/AIDS community educational programs, SIM recommends the book *The Sceptics Guide to the Global Aids Crisis—Tough Questions: Direct Answers* by Dale Hanson Bourke. Dale wrote this book in response to the need for a more manageable training tool than those available in texts and on Web sites. She has compiled the essential information in a simple, straightforward way, explaining medical and political issues in everyday language. She also addresses the question, "How can we really make a difference?" A wealth of information is packed into this 86-page book. CCTI will send a copy to any ROH personnel requesting it. To order, use the e-mail address at left.



Crisis Care Training International is a ministry of WEC International.

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