

SPEAKERS & PAPERS

ASM Preconference Symposium on “Children at Risk”

The Great Omission: Do Children Matter to the Mission of God?

1:30-5:30 p.m., Friday, June 17, 2011

Techny Towers, Techny, IL

The Transforming Influence of Short Term Missions: A Peruvian Case Study

Hunter Farrell and Jed Koball

In the last decade, short-term mission (STM) has received significant criticism from both missiologists and social scientists (Adeney 2003, McLaren 2003, Montgomery 1993, Priest, Dischinger, Rasmussen and Brown 2006, Priest and Priest 2008, Ver Beek 2009, et.al.), criticism which often focuses on the inherent inefficiencies of STM, the lack of cultural awareness, the negative impacts on local Christian witness or social services, and the limited nature of the “personal transformation” that has emerged as a primary objective of the phenomenon in many circles. At the same time, some scholars have noted broader impacts of short-term mission, such as Robert Priest’s “linking social capital”, Robert Wuthnow’s “status-bridging social capital” and Kersten Priest’s “globalization of empathy”. In this paper, we will examine the impacts of an ongoing experience of short-term mission on 11,000 children who suffer from lead poisoning as a direct result of the toxic emissions of a U.S. owned metal smelter in the city of La Oroya, Peru to reflect on how short-term mission is transforming the lives of the children and their families, a growing number of U.S. and Peruvian short-term mission participants, and their shared understanding of what mission is.

Authors: Hunter Farrell, director of Presbyterian World Mission and Jed Koball, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), mission co-worker in Peru.

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Alexa Smith is a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister and journalist who has written from Latin America, the Middle East and covered debates within U.S. religion for the past 20 years. She presently works with the Presbyterian Hunger Program to organize campaigns within U.S. congregations and presbyteries alongside international partners to oppose hunger, including trade reform, abuses within the extractive industries and efforts to develop healthy local food economies.

Child Abuse in Ministry Settings

L. Martin Nussbaum and Theresa Lynn Sidebotham

Press accounts of the sexual abuse of children in Catholic Church settings began with reports about one serial offender in 1985 and another in 1991. Coverage of Catholic sexual abuse exploded in the first half of 2002, with over 17,000 news stories during that period. Within two

years, over 2,000 lawsuits were filed. More news stories followed; then documentaries and annual victim conventions; then over \$2.5 billion in settlements by Catholic institutions, leading to the bankruptcies of eight dioceses and one religious order. Two under-remarked results are the deep popular misperceptions about child abuse in ministry settings and the birth of a coalition of wealthy lawyers looking for new ministries to sue.

Drawing lessons from the Catholic scandal, this paper will offer helpful considerations and strategies for Christian missions by addressing: (1) the problem of child abuse, including abuse in boarding school settings; (2) the industry born out of the Catholic sexual abuse scandal; (3) the prevention of child abuse in ministry settings; (4) a protocol for responding to allegations of child abuse; (5) communications and confidences; (6) differences between current and historical abuse; and (7) tension in Christian values in responding to claims.

Presenters: L. Martin Nussbaum's primary practice (Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP [Religious Institution Group]), is serving churches, denominations, religious schools, and other religious institutions. He serves as general counsel for many religious institutions. He also serves or has served as litigation counsel, First Amendment counsel, amicus counsel, and consulting counsel in trial and appellate courts around the country.

Theresa Sidebotham's practice (Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP [Religious Institution Group], 2009-Present) focuses on religious institution law, education law, and litigation.

Title?

Kersten Bayt Priest

Presenter: Kersten Bayt Priest is assistant professor of sociology at Indiana Wesleyan University. She holds an M.A. in anthropology and a Ph.D. in sociology (Loyola University). Her research has focused on globalization, identities, religion, congregational studies, and women's care work in short-term missions. She has conducted field research (and published) on interracial relations in South Carolina, new immigrant religion in Chicago, and short-term missions in Peru, South Africa and the Dominican Republic. With her family, she has tackled diverse research projects, and is pleased that two of her children – and several of her students – have seriously pursued the field of sociology.

Current Trends in Ministry to Children at Risk in the Former Soviet Union

Mark Elliott

This presentation is a report on the current status of ministry to children at risk in the former Soviet Union: who is doing what and where, what meetings have been held recently and some new initiatives dealing with a new emphasis on outreach to orphan graduates who arguably are needier than orphans in orphanages. I will highlight the work of the CoMission for Children at Risk, the new 4-14 Global Initiative, Children's HopeChest, the International Leadership and Development Center in Ukraine, Doorways to Hope, Ukraine without Orphans, and the Home for Every Orphan Initiative spearheaded by Anita Deyneka. I will also summarize my own

publishing on the topic and a long interview I conducted with Anita Deyneka on exciting new efforts by Christians in Ukraine and Russia to encourage Christians there to adopt (recently published in the *East-West Church and Ministry Report*).

Presenter: Mark R. Elliott, retired professor of history, earned a B.A. *cum laude* from Asbury University (1969), and an M.A. (1971) and Ph.D. (1974) in modern European and Russian history from the University of Kentucky. He taught at Asbury University (KY); Wheaton College (IL); Samford University (AL); and Southern Wesleyan University (SC). In addition to teaching, Dr. Elliott held administrative posts for 19 years: director of the Institute for East-West Christian Studies at Wheaton College, and director of the Global Center at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. He was the author of *Pawns of Yalta: Soviet Refugees and America's Role in Their Repatriation* (University of Illinois Press, 1982) and over 150 articles. He was also editor or co-editor of five reference works and founding editor of the *East-West Church and Ministry Report* (1993–Present), which has received five Awards of Merit from the Evangelical Press Association.

“The God Who Bears Us”: Implications from Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Theology for the Church Amongst Children At Risk (CAR)

Janay Garrick

In many “cultures of death” in which children are devalued and suffering the church already exists. The questions are: Does the Church believe it is mandated to address the cries of the children in its midst? Does the church, in order to be an effective witness to the gospel, affirm a willingness to suffer? Who better than martyred German pastor and theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) to speak into the concept of the suffering or bearing church? Bonhoeffer believed that the church could not turn its back on the victims of violence and oppression, that the church should be a bearing church reflecting the God it serves: “God is a God who bears.” You cannot be a Christ-follower apart from bearing one another’s burdens. In Bonhoeffer’s theology, it is precisely such bearing which shapes discipleship and the church into a community patterned after the image of Christ. This paper explores Bonhoeffer’s theology and its implications for Church Planting agencies with the potential to work amongst Children At Risk throughout the world. The paper details his cruciform theology (discipleship and the cross) as the basis for community and becoming a “bearing” church amongst Children At Risk (CAR).

Presenter: Janay Garrick served as a children's pastor in California for four years before transitioning into long-term missions. For three years she served in and out of East Africa with New Life Home Trust and Pioneers as a missionary among Children At Risk. In 2011 she completed her Master's Degree in Cross-Cultural Studies with an emphasis in Children At Risk from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

Helping Traumatized Children Harriet Hill

Traumatized people may be the number one mission field in the world today. People of any age are traumatized they are overwhelmed with intense fear, helplessness, and horror in the face death or the threat of death. When children are traumatized, they have particular needs. Often they lack the vocabulary and analytical skills to identify their pain and express it in words. And often cultures work against the very thing traumatized children need: to be heard. In addition, caregivers may not connect unusual behavior with the trauma children have experienced. In this paper, I explore how, with biblical and mental health principles, caregivers in any culture can be equipped to provide basic help in situations where large numbers of children have experienced trauma.

Presenter: Harriet Hill, Director of Scripture Engagement Content with the American Bible Society works internationally in the area of trauma healing and scripture engagement. She holds a Ph.D. from Fuller Seminary's School of Intercultural Studies, Pasadena, CA.

The Student Volunteers at the “darkest and remotest corners and nooks of the country”: The Sunday School Movement in the US and Colonial Korea (1905-1945) Yeon-seung Lee

Fighting bees for Christian mission, student volunteer teachers for Sunday schools were a major force for building Christianity, as well as the nation in colonial Korea, as their American counterparts had done in the United States in the later nineteenth century. Initiated by laity, the first Sunday school convention was held in Korea in 1921. The quadrennial conventions nurtured thousands of Korean delegates who would teach their younger students in the remote churches in the country. This paper will examine the discourse on the Sunday schools as propounded in the articles by the first Korean delegate to both the Georgia Sunday School Convention in 1892 and the World Sunday School convention in Washington D.C. (1910), and the subsequent articles by the Western missionaries in colonial Korea. This paper also addresses the origin, development, and implications of the Sunday school conventions as an alternative center for fostering Christian leaders for the church, as well as society in colonial Korea, where a multitude of mission schools had to close because of the Private School Law promulgated by the colonial government in 1915.

Presenter: Yeon-seung Lee is a Th.D. candidate at Boston University (School of Theology).

Towards a Missiology of Partnerships: Undermining Asymmetries of Power in Cross-Cultural Partnerships

Nathan Penner

While the powerful have the privilege of ignoring power dynamics, the powerless do not have that luxury. And the most powerless in any society are often children, and especially children at risk. Furthermore, as churches and organizations seek to partner together for the care and restoration of children at risk, both within and across international boundaries, we are likely to encounter power asymmetries. For these reasons, it is important for us to better understand power and its sociological impact. Having theories, mechanisms, and tools to understand and address the power asymmetries will only strengthen the response and sustainability of a project.

In this paper I bring attention to the need for further research and an intentional dialogue around these issues. I will also explore a sociological perspective of power that provides a more in-depth understanding of the power asymmetries that affect partnerships. Building on this understanding of power I look at a theology of partnership that appears to inform Christian partnerships in order to suggest that while on an individual level it is effective in undermining power asymmetries, it falls short of addressing systemic inequalities affecting institutional partnerships.

Presenter: Nathan Penner grew up on an almond farm in Shafter, CA. He was raised as part of the Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church congregation and earned a business degree at Fresno Pacific University. He also worked with an African congregation in Gaborone, Botswana through service with the Mennonite Central Committee from 2002-2005. In 2008 he completed an MA in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis in Children at Risk from the School of Intercultural Studies and has continued there in the PhD program, studying under Dr. Bryant Myers. Nathan's doctoral research is focused on the asymmetries of power in cross-cultural development and mission partnerships between Western aid organizations and local African churches. His wife, Adrienne, also has her M.A. in Intercultural Studies from Fuller. They are currently living as nomads as they continue to study and teach around North America and Southern Africa.

Bringing Refuge to Children at Risk

Shelley Welch

In this paper I will discuss how children at risk are finding refuge in a relationship with the one true God through one ministry's approach to meeting their spiritual needs. Awana International thought that children at risk were beyond their reach, but now through innovative ministry, children are responding to games and fun, the gospel message of a loving God, and the discipleship they receive from caring adults.

While meeting the physical needs of children at risk is important and necessary, there is a critical need for meeting their spiritual needs too. Through this initiative children learn about their incredible value to the God who created them, God's plan for their salvation from creation to

Christ, and a hope and future that is much different from what they are living. They find “true” refuge despite the chaos surrounding them. Through caring adults and dedicated leaders they know the love of Christ. Through the Children-at-Risk Initiative, Awana International demonstrates how evangelism and discipleship can transform the lives of children, especially those who are among the “least of these.”

Presenter: Shelley Welch is the project manager for Awana International's Children-at-Risk Initiative, as well as their international program specialist. Shelley served three years in Kenya, Africa where she worked with street children. She also ministered in a number of churches as the children's ministry director, in addition to organizing, training, and leading short-term mission trips.

Facilitator

Dave Scott is the Associate Director for the Center for Missiological Research at Fuller Seminary's School of Intercultural Studies. He expects to complete his PhD in 2011. Dave and his wife Charity began work with children at risk in 1998 under the auspices of Viva Network, an international organization that helps grassroots organizations working with children at risk to build relationships and share information and resources at local, regional, and international levels. After their first year working in Oxford, England and Cape Town, South Africa their subsequent ministry has allowed Dave to assist in the development of a number of different academic programs focused on children at risk training around the world.

Panel Presenters

Susan Hayes Greener, Ph.D. was the Dean of Students at Trinity Evangelical Divinity and Graduate Schools, Deerfield, IL and in the fall will be an Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies at Wheaton College Graduate School, Wheaton, IL. She has also worked for both Mission of Mercy and Compassion International as a human development specialist. Prior to this experience she served as an assistant professor of Human Development for Berry College in Rome, Georgia, and as a research associate for Yale University in the area of emotional intelligence. Her ongoing desire is to promote optimal development through the work of the church, believing that the incarnation of Jesus Christ mandates holistic ministry to his people.

Brenda Ratcliff, M.A., C.D.V.P. is the Co-founder and Executive Director of “My Sisters, Inc” Winfield, IL. My Sisters, Inc. is a not-for-profit organized in the State of Illinois for the purpose of recruiting, training and equipping volunteers to provide domestic violence services to incarcerated survivors. For nearly 20 years she has studied and researched the effects of domestic violence on survivors and more recently has researched the prevalence of repeated victimizations in incarcerated women. She has also studied the use of religion in victimizing behaviors and the added impact on survivors. Brenda holds graduate degrees in education (Toccoa Falls College Graduate School, 1995) and Counseling (Wheaton College Graduate School, 2010).