

Hunger and poverty are not normal.

-Darrow Miller

Overcoming Obstacles and Affecting Change in Peru

When Atilio Quintanilla started working with FHPeru 17 years ago, he could have only guessed that he would now be branching out on his own as funds ran out for his Church and Family Development Program. Refusing to be held back, he has now helped found a new church whose mission and vision is to continue the discipleship of his nation, Peru.

With three children in their early twenties and one girl at age 11, the whole family has experienced a call and committed to launch Iglesia Cristiana de Desarrollo Integral (Christian Church of Holistic Development).

The church started as a Holistic Discipleship Cell Group in the largest and poorest district of Lima. Surrounded by 200 local churches focused on ministering to spiritual needs, Atilio's group grew to 45 members and became a church with a vision for holistic ministry and the discipling of his nation. Atilio's children have launched a youth group that now includes 28 students.

One way their church has demonstrated God's love to the community was by raising funds for a handicapped woman desperately in need of a second operation, following an infection from a gall bladder operation the previous year. As she starts to recover, they are finding that many of those who helped are now attending their church!

The church's vision helps focus and empower its ministry: *Be a church with a*

strong transformational influence in the country, whose members have a spirit of overcoming obstacles, are formed holistically, understand and live out the worldview of the Kingdom of God, and permanently demonstrate His love with practical actions of service to their neighbors.



The church also emphasizes the priesthood of all believers—proclaiming that we all have the same call and responsibility to represent God full-time in our homes, work places, and community! This church works to equip its members to be experts in personal evangelism, counseling, and the leading of Holistic Discipleship Cell Groups.

Beyond the church project, Atilio empowers seminary students by teaching numerous courses including Holistic Ministry, Biblical Worldview, and Social Service Projects.

He will also speak to groups of 500-600 pastors and leaders of various denominations at each of four National Annual Conventions to which he has been invited.

These are just a few of the ways God is at work through Atilio, his family, and his church in Peru. If you would like more information or to help, you may contact Pastor Atilio Quintanilla at: aquintanillaa@hotmail.com

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Prayer Calendar

- September 22-30. Kampala, Uganda Churches Together US and Africa team meeting in conjunction with Kampala Pentecostal Church's Watoto Conference.
- October 10-23. Heber, AZ Harvest Staff Conference.
- October 25-30. Bangkok, Thailand DNA presents at the World Evangelical General Assembly.
- November 10-14. Dhaka, Bangladesh Vision Conference hosted by Food for the Hungry and the College of Christian Theology, facilitated by Ben Wong and Raaj Mondol.
- November 20-23. Phoenix, AZ DNA Global Leadership Meeting
- May 13-16, 2009. Hong Kong DNA Global Forum

The Shining Light of Cambodia

Special Thanks to Melvin Angelo T. Sales Diaz & John Tuggy

Cambodia suffered great social breakdown from 1970-1990 during the Pol Pot and Vietnamese occupations. Close to an entire generation of leaders and accumulated social wisdom was lost during that time.

In 1999, Harvest International, together with Food for the Hungry, conducted a Vision Conference in Cambodia introducing and teaching church leaders to practice wholistic ministry and be involved in the development of their communities.

Several organizations were birthed out of this conference, one of which comprised representatives from multiple Christian development organizations. These individuals met together regularly to build up a base of resources that could be used to train pastors in wholistic ministry.

As the organization grew and began to hire staff and trainers, it changed its name to Cheas Ponleu (Shining Light). Their stated project goal was: *To mobilize the Body of Christ in Cambodia for a more effective wholistic ministry in their own communities.* Here were some of their purposes and objectives:

- Train and strengthen church leaders to implement sustainable wholistic ministry initiatives (seed projects) in their locale
- Facilitate healthy relationships be-

tween churches and their whole communities

- Enable the church and community to respond together to their area's specific needs
- Encourage the use of locally available resources when responding to community needs

The project found that engaging the local church in wholistic ministry provided a tangible opportunity for reconciliation between Christians and their local village community. This was a very good thing as many of the church members had experienced alienation, discrimination, or persecution in their villages. While the churches have not seen a great increase in membership or attendance, the seed projects have caused people to become more receptive to their role in the community.

Between 2006 and June 2008 here are some of the results of Shining Light's work:

- 1,263 pastors and church leaders from 40 districts across 9 provinces have undergone a Training of Trainers course
- 204 seed projects and 78 development projects have been implemented
- 339 mentoring activities have been developed for 293 leaders
- Newsletters are



Church members build a bridge for their community.

disseminated that include basic agricultural lessons that some rural areas use as manuals for farming; the newsletters also share ideas for seed projects

- Updated the Training of Trainers course for the Cambodian context

Even with Shining Light's tremendous accomplishments, there are still many challenges for the churches of Cambodia. Relationships with government officials in many areas are strained and the government is putting pressure on them to defer their trainings. Another challenge is that some locals have informally adopted a "poverty gospel" that would say that being poor is more holy than being rich. This results in a lack of incentive to improve their material existence (food, clothing, shelter, education, etc.). They believe that when one is poor and can survive, it means they trust the Lord more.

In the future, Shining Light plans to have a greater focus on training youth who will become future leaders of their respective communities. They also have plans to expand their Training of Trainers to include very technical and practical training.



Elders study about seed projects.

Seeds of Hope & Change

Reports across Asia

Getting Dirty for the Gospel

The Christians at one church believed that God was calling them to reach out to a nearby village that had no Christians. As usually happens, the people of the village had been told many negative stories about Christians. When members of the church went to the village to see if there was anything that they could do to help out, they were told to stay away. Eventually a government official told them that they could clean out an old field so it could be used by the community. The church turned up, spent the day cleaning, and then returned home without sharing the Gospel with anyone. The government leaders were so surprised that the church had kept its word that they then gave them freedom to come to the village at anytime. Now many in the village are more than happy to hear the Gospel!

Standing Up for the Poor

In one village, the poor farmers had to walk many kilometers to get to their farm land even though they also had land in the village. The church decided to encourage the people in the village to grow and eat vegetables. As they talked to the people they discovered that they were not able to grow vegetables near their houses because the cows of the rich farmers would eat all of the vegetables and tear down any makeshift fences that they built (they didn't have the money for good fences.) At the next village meeting, a church representative stood up and told the government leaders that if they really wanted to help the poor then they should tell the rich to tie up their cows so that the poor could grow in the land near their houses. This was a risky thing to do for him since the government leaders are amongst the rich. However miraculously the leaders agreed and the next day they issued a new law that said all animals in the village had to be fenced in! Now the poor have started to grow vegetables near their homes.

A Wholistic Focus Brings a Spiritual Transformation in Asia

We believe that God does not just care about our hearts and souls, but that God cares deeply about all of our physical reality. One group in Asia has been making a big impact through empowering churches to demonstrate God's love to their communities by meeting physical needs. What a difference it has made!

This group entered one area just two and a half years ago where Bible knowledge was low among lifelong church members and the deacons were known to smoke, drink, and beat their wives. It's now estimated that 30% of the congregation in these churches are growing spiritually and that the deacons have changed their ways and are trying to read their Bibles. Also, the giving in the church has changed from \$30/month to \$500/month! The church is all around more stable and has experienced increased unity among its members.

In another area, this group became involved with a largely self-focused church. Over years, the church



changed and began setting out each month to demonstrate God's love to others and build relationships. Now the church has a reputation for being interested in the lives of others and is being welcomed into areas that they had initially been forbidden to go. Those involved in serving with the church has also grown from 10% to 50%.

Ideas for Seed & Development Projects

from Cambodia

- construction of dirt roads, ring wells, hand pumps, and irrigation canals
- backyard gardening, distribution of seeds (vegetables and fruit trees) for planting
- distribution of small animals for raising
- Bible studies, teaching children
- cleaning the environment
- helping widows to repair/construct a decent house
- micro-loans
- introduction of income generating activities (i.e. sewing, small business)

Updates from our U.S. affiliates

We are so thankful for God's gracious hand in our recent registration as a nonprofit organization. Additionally, we were pleasantly surprised by an unsolicited gift from a local businessman, who has donated office space virtually rent free in an ideal location, closer to all of our homes. As we take this step of faith, it's as if God continues to tell us, "I am leading you. Trust me for the future of the DNA."

Effective Seed Projects are ...

1. Covered in prayer
2. Motivated by God's intentions (above human compassion)
3. Thoughtfully planned
4. Simple, small, uncomplicated and completed in a short time
5. Done with local resources
6. Done for those outside the church, without discrimination
7. Those who benefit also participate
8. Does not manipulate
9. Plan wholistic impact as much as possible
10. Evaluated by Kingdom standards

Bangladesh Vision Conference

The College of Christian Theology Bangladesh and FH Bangladesh are joining together November 10-14 to organize the first Vision Conference for their area since 1997. The trainers will be Ben Wong from Hong Kong and Raaj Mondol from India. The conference will be taught in English and targeted at "second level" denominational and NGO leadership with hopes that attendees will be equipped to organize future conferences and disseminate the ideas of biblical worldview and holistic ministry with DNA materials.

Vision Conference Materials Overhaul Complete!

A two-year project to reformat the Vision Conference materials has been completed with the new materials beginning to be uploaded on the Disciple Nations Alliance, U.S. website for free download. Materials that have been reformatted include all of the PowerPoint presentations for each Vision Conference session as well as participant notebook materials. The new PowerPoints also include teachers notes. The newly up-

dated materials have been professionally produced in the same format and design. So instead of Bob Moffitt's materials having one appearance and Darrow's having another, in this new package, all materials share a similar look.

Please take a moment and have a look for yourself! The materials are available at www.disciplenations.org/vc/host-

tools. Please share this link with others who are teaching these materials or would like to begin. Thanks goes to Heather Hicks and Cindy Benn who led this effort and worked closely with Darrow and Bob on this project. Cindy is currently working on the best way to format the files on the website. Please contact her if you have any questions or suggestions at cindyb@disciplenations.org

Please send stories and updates for our next Global Newsletter to twilliams@disciplenations.org