

MISSIONS TRAINING

William Carey International University has been a training resource for me, as well as missionaries internationally. It is a mission focused school as its name implies. They offer a course called *Foundations in the World Christian Movement* which covers the history of missions starting with Abraham and continues through history. Here are some excerpts from a paper I am writing titled, *The Need for an Oral Solution to Theological Education in a Ugandan Culture.*



Pastor Dinanath, an Indian Hindu, came to Christ in 1995 through the work of a cross-cultural missionary. In 1998, after two years of Bible College, he began preaching in the way he'd been taught. However, few villagers showed any interest, leaving him discouraged and confused.

The next year, Pastor Dinanath attended a seminar on storytelling methods. He realized that a lecture style and printed books couldn't reach his people, so he changed his preaching style. He began sharing the Bible conversationally as his tribe was accustomed to hearing. By 2004, his village church had multiplied into 75 churches with 1350 baptized members. (Christianity Today, March 2006, *Winning the Oral Majority*)

Herbert Klem in his book, *Oral Communication of the Scripture: Insights from African Oral Art*, describes his experience in missions. "The non-reading masses of Yorubaland and much of West Africa are oral communicators. They are usually illiterate only by western standards, since they give great attention to the preservation and transmission of oral literature. It is not that they do not learn, teach or communicate. It is that we from the west do not appreciate a system based on oral (rather than written) communication and memorization as is customary in an indigenous African setting." (Herbert Klem 1982, xviii)

The need of using an oral method of teaching the Bible is growing quickly among mission agencies. The International Orality Network began with the ministries of Wycliffe, Trans World Radio, Youth With a Mission and Campus Crusade. Many other organizations are following their lead of bringing the Bible to people in the methods that they are most accustomed to using. Our hope is that this can be a helpful tool in the Ambassador Institute training as well.

Ambassador INSTITUTE INQUIRY

Winter 2009



January will be a time to strengthen the work in Uganda and India. The two weeks in Uganda will be used to meet with Nate and the pastors and get a plan for the future regarding the curriculum and a teaching schedule.

The work in Uganda has had a number of challenges that Nate has had to face in regard to marriage counseling issues and expectations that the church leaders in Uganda have had. It is difficult to know when and how to help with financial requests, because they can create dependency rather than independence. Pray also for the suppression of the *Lord's Resistance Army* that is up in North West Uganda, Congo and southern Sudan. They are a brutal band of men that have terrorized villages in that area, where two AFLC friends are working.

During the two weeks in India I will get an introduction to the work that has been going on over the past years. We will be discussing the structure of the school that they are starting and there will be a week of training in oral teaching methods. It will be more difficult to develop training in India because of the language barrier and because there is not an AFLC missionary in the country.





Prayer Requests

- 2009 trip to Uganda and India. Pray for safety. Especially since there are travel warnings for travel in India
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- Effective meeting times to discuss the curriculum for this coming year.
- Orality Training Seminar that we will be having in India, February 2nd -6th.
- Nate Jore in Uganda. Specifically pray for the counseling issues that he has been working with and issues concerning the expectations of the church leaders.
- Support raising and upcoming visits to share with the congregations the ministry about the Ambassador Institute.
- Pastor Kevin's family back at home.

Praises for God's Provision

- Our goal of \$20,000 for the first year of our budget was met. We need to increase our income by \$20,000 each year for five years until we are self-sufficient.
- The privilege of traveling to Africa and India to work with our brothers across the globe and develop theological education with them.
- The *Foundations Course* offered through William Carey International University that I have been able to take these past months.
- Visits with congregations and share the ministry of the Ambassador Institute.
- Completion of the Summer Institute DVD's: *The Doctrine of Baptism; History and Aims of the AFLC; and Highlights in American Lutheran History*. These courses are ready for sale at \$50 each which includes the 10 hours of recorded class time. *Doctrine of the Lord's Supper* and *The Gospel of Mark* are also being edited at this time.



If you have an interest in hearing more about the work of the Ambassador Institute, or would like to schedule a congregational visit contact:

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