

LOOKS ARE DECEIVING

Take these boys, for instance. They look like normal, run-of-the-mill young people, but in fact all of them are in a rehabilitation center for one year because they are addicted to drugs. I had a great time sharing my life story with them. God does make a difference, and he can give us hope for the future.



The other picture was taken at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meeting. These young people have a desire to know God's will for their lives. As I shared my personal testimony with them I explained that Jesus has a plan for each of our lives, and he wants to show it to us if we will yield our lives completely to him.



The young man seated to my left in this picture is the son of two of my former students who attended Faith Academy in the early '60s. After graduating from college they returned to the Philippines to minister alongside their parents. They helped to start a Christian school for Filipino young people which now has branches in other areas of the Philippines.

There is also a church in connection with the school. The pastor helped to sponsor the FCA meeting and asked me to come to his church on a Sunday and share my testimony with his congregation. The church is desiring to start a sports ministry as an outreach to the community.

I am amazed at the opportunities that come my way to encourage people to seek God's plan for their lives. We are so grateful for your help in making it happen. Bless you for partnering with us.

Tine & Jan

Tine and Jan Hardeman

From the President...

CLOSING THE GAP

In May I asked you to join me in praying for six strategic conferences and workshops being facilitated by OC throughout the month in countries around the world. Each gathering sought to stimulate strategic cooperation among leaders for the discipling of nations. Here's one way in which the Lord answered your prayers.

Closing the Gap was a global event initiated by OC and facilitated by a team of six agencies. Working together, we brought together 122 leaders from 28 nations. These men and women represent 80 organizations and networks, and directly influence 167,000 Christian workers.

A common yearning drew us together: *What will it take to reach the remaining least-reached people groups and nations? What "deep change" is required to see an acceleration in church planting among those who have never heard? How can we leverage our efforts by partnering together?*

Reports were heard from around the world and best practices discussed. Our central focus was devoted to facilitating church planting movements, defined by David Garrison as "a rapid multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that sweeps through a people group or population segment." Such movements are drawing thousands to Christ in some of the toughest places in the world.

During the week, it was thrilling to see friendships born between leaders and bridges built between organizations. Hearts connected, creativity was unleashed, and collaboration flowed! Hours were spent in energized conversations around tables as leaders discussed practical ways to more effectively cooperate in pioneer ministries.

Closing the Gap gave rise to a surge of new (and strengthened) partnering initiatives. Imagine ... 80 organizations and networks working side by side to share Jesus' love in some of the world's most challenging places. It's happening! These initiatives are gaining momentum in places like Central Asia and North Africa. Organizations are joining hands in new ways to penetrate unengaged, unreached people clusters like the Bengali of India and the Malay of Indonesia. Many more could be mentioned.

This is the result of the Lord's gracious answer to the prayers of many. In a similar way, his blessing was seen on each of the six conferences highlighted in May.

One of OC's greatest joys is to serve as a catalyst in drawing Christian leaders and organizations together to advance God's purposes. Partnering reduces duplication, leads to innovation, multiplies effectiveness, and, above all, honors the Lord.

Thank you for helping OC stimulate teamwork for God's glory among the nations!



Dr. Greg Gripenotrog

CLOSING the GAP



Partnering For Strategic Church Planting

Did You Know?

Closing the Gap was a global event initiated by OC and facilitated by a team of six agencies, that brought together 122 leaders from 28 nations.

Our Vision

Healthy churches working together to disciple all nations.