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on display to demonstrate how God is working in the world. It was moving to see the Body of Christ come together, regardless of denomination, age or culture.

A unique characteristic about the conference is that there were a number of activities for both children and youth. This encouraged entire family participation in missions. About 200 K-6th grade students attended the Friday Field Trip where they learned what it means to be a missionary. About 550 students attended the Friday evening Youth Rally, where Shelby Abbott with Campus Crusade for Christ challenged the youth about their mission in life.

Missions Fest was also honored to have engaging plenary speakers for this event: Paul Borthwick, Gracia Burnham, Chuck Bentley, and Dr. Ron Blue. The Lord blessed them with the ability to inspire and challenge us regarding the mission of the church. In addition to the speakers, there were more than 40 seminars which participants could choose to attend. They were all well received. We are already planning for next year's conference. The staff of Missions Fest Lancaster covet your prayers for all the decisions that will be made from now until the 2012 conference.



Julie Iddings and Gracia Burnham

Save the Dates!

WMA & MFL Upcoming Events

LANCASTER MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP 3rd Friday of each month

Place: The World Mission Resource Center
600-C Eden Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 pm each session

Lunch: Will be provided for a donation, or bring your own lunch. If you plan to attend, please RSVP at (717) 299-1427 or e-mail wmausa@wmausa.org.

- **March 18th** — Randy Sizemore, *EC Global Missions*, "Mobilizing Local Resources: A Mexican Case Study"
- **April 15th**—Dr. David Shenk, *Eastern Mennonite Missions*, "The Gospel in Lively Encounter with the Muslim Sufi Quest to Experience God"
- **May 20th**—Rev. Carl McGarvey (*CMA Lancaster*), "A Local Pastor Looks at Missions"
- **June, July, August**—Summer Break: No LMF until Sept. 16th

Please let us know if you wish to be added to either the e-mail or "snail" mail LMF reminders list!
(717) 299-1427

MISSIONS FEST LANCASTER MFL's 3rd Annual Women's Spring Luncheon

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 13th

Venue: The Gathering Place, Mt. Joy, PA
Time: 12:00pm
Cost: Free-will offering

Once again, MFL will hold their annual Women's Spring Luncheon. Plan to join us as we look forward to having Mrs. Cheryl Pfautz (Global Disciples) as the main speaker.

RSVP by May 9th to (717) 509-0938 or info@missionsfestlancaster.org

Smoketown Aviation Fair 2011

PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!
August 19-21, 2011

Watch the MFL website for more information coming soon!
www.missionsfestlancaster.org



PERSPECTIVES

600-C EDEN ROAD, LANCASTER PA 17601 • phone: 717.299.1427 fax: 717.299.2943
email: wmausa@wmausa.org • www.wmausa.org

February/March 2011

Localization and Globalization

Glenn J. Schwartz



Glenn Schwartz

Signs of globalization can be found in many places. I have a friend in Zambia who is a retired pastor, now living in a rural village with no running water or electricity. However, he has a cell phone that can be charged at a nearby school. Fifty years ago when I first went to Africa, there were only land lines with twelve or fifteen parties sharing the same line. We learned to take turns using the phone! Thanks to globalization, we now have access to a global communication network, which allows me to phone my friend in his rural village using a cell phone, in good weather or bad.

This is only one small example of the change that globalization has brought. Is it possible, however, that we are taking for granted the good parts of globalization without considering some of the negative effects? Consider, for example, the million or more short-term missionaries from Europe or North America who go out across the world each year in search of a meaningful cross-cultural experience. They can get from anywhere to anywhere quickly but often without time to adjust to language or culture. They go with little or no understanding of the local community they are visiting. One result is that the local community has a first-hand encounter with the global community, showing the dis-

parity between the two communities. One of the unintended consequences of this encounter is that the local community can get the impression that they have little, if anything, to give to the wider world. Along with feeling deprived, they begin to "feel poor", even though prior to that time they may not have seen themselves that way. This feeling of being poor sows the seeds of unhealthy dependency and results in a local community feeling like second class citizens in the world around them. Sometimes the visitors try to compensate through the distribution of used clothing and other things. The feeling of being dependent is further enhanced when the clothing is given away free of charge.

This scenario reflects the downside of globalization. Surely there must be an alternative to this two-class system as globalization marches across the world. On the positive side, imagine what could happen if the global community shifted their emphasis from being providers to becoming encouragers. Sometimes without even leaving their homes, "globalizers" can devise ways to help local communities find ways of contributing to the global community, rather than simply receiving from it. This can be done if, instead of spending thousands of dollars on short-term teams, individuals and churches would invest their funds in a reputable microfinance project, and then do cross-cultural service in

a North American inner-city closer to home.

Suppose again that the emphasis shifted from "charity" to "investment" and local communities became producers of some service or product that the global community needs. Were that to happen, local communities would get legitimate help (in the form of payment for products or services) from the global community, thereby preserving both dignity and self-esteem. Imagine the positive impact as local communities find their rightful place within the global community.

“. . . Imagine if the global community shifted their emphasis from being providers to becoming encouragers. . . from 'charity' to 'investment' ”.

This shift from charity to investment is what both globalization and localization need. If it doesn't happen, the global community will continue to make local communities more and more dependent on outside resources.

Consider the words of Jesus restated by



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the Apostle Paul in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Unhealthy dependency has the potential to turn some people into perpetual "receivers", thereby depriving them of the blessing of becoming "givers". When that happens, receivers end up with second best.

One more observation is in order. Preserving the integrity of those in local communities means dealing with more than just money or other material resources. It means adding to **localization** and **globalization** the concept of **contextualization**. People traveling from the global community into a local situation unfamiliar to them are often on compressed time schedules and have little time to understand the local context to which they go. If they do not take the time and effort to understand this unfamiliar local context, how can they be expected to speak clearly into it? What they know about their own faith experience might have little relevance to a community on the other side of the world. If one does not know the "questions" people are asking in their hearts, chances are that the "answers" will not bring about transformation at a deep level.

The challenge is for all of us to take enough time to understand a local context well enough so that the Gospel truly is "Good News" to the receivers of our words and deeds. Many culturally sensitive missionaries have shown that it can be done, and the Christian movement has spread in many places because of it.

Adapted from March-April 2011 Mission Frontiers article by the same title.

Where in the World Is Glenn Schwartz?

Please pray for traveling mercies, health, and stamina as, once again, Glenn has an eventful travel schedule. Pray that God will bless his efforts with a positive response to his message on local sustainability principles.

- February 18-20 Missions Fest Lancaster, Lancaster, PA
- March 15 Perspectives Class, Lancaster, PA
- April 3 Perspectives Class, Southampton, PA
- April 4 Perspectives Class, Milwaukee, WI
- April 5 Perspectives Class, West Bend, WI
- April 6 Perspectives Class, Waukesha, WI
- April 8-9 Mennonite Board of Missions, Columbus, OH
- April 11 Perspectives Class, Princeton, NJ
- April 18 Eastern University, St. Davids, PA
- April 25-30 St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia
- May 1-4 YWAM, Geneva, Switzerland
- June 9-12 Christian Connections for International Health, Washington D.C.— Plenary and Seminar Speaker
- August 19-21 Mission Aviation Fair, Lancaster, PA
- October 23 Rockville Mennonite Church, Honey Brook, PA
- November 13-19 Global Self-Reliance Network, East Africa



Missions Fest Lancaster Update

By Julie Iddings, Event Coordinator

CONFERENCE 2011 The second annual Missions Fest Conference has ended, and the World Mission Resource Center in Lancaster, PA can once again return to a sense of normalcy. The staff at Missions Fest have already begun planning for their next event, the Smoketown Aviation Fair which will be held the third weekend in August. Missions Fest is very thankful for your prayers. Our staff wishes to thank the many volunteers and supporters who helped this event become a reality.

The aim of MFL is to act as a catalyst for local churches to strengthen their mission programs. MFL hosts a number of mission focused events that are free to the public, the largest event being the February Conference. In 2010, the conference was held at Lancaster Bible College. This year, due to

the large number of attendees last year, it was moved to the beautiful and spacious Lancaster County Convention Center. This facility allowed Missions Fest the opportunity for more exhibitors and a larger auditorium. The sponsoring churches of Missions Fest were able to exhibit alongside the exhibitors from agencies and organizations. This allowed the public the opportunity to see first-hand how Missions Fest is supported.

Missions Fest was privileged this year to have at the conference the FAA certified flying car created by I-Tec, the "Maverick". Many people came from all over to catch a glimpse of history in the making as they heard from Jamie Saint (Steve Saint's son) how the car operates and how it will be used on the mission field. Over 100 exciting exhibits were

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Update from Jean Johnson

WMA Senior Consultant

Jean recently returned from a visit to India. She was blessed with safe travels and many opportunities to minister. She is pleased to share what God is doing in India!



India is an amazing and complex country. Unlike Cambodia, one language does not suffice. I heard at least three languages spoken in a very short amount of time: Hindi, Bengali and Nepalese. I barely scratched the surface. There are

800 spoken languages and 2000 regional dialects. I saw a mixture of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh religions all in one truck ride. My tastes buds were resurrected with red-hot curries and tamed with Chai tea.



In West Bengal, I had the opportunity to meet, learn from, and teach Frontier Mission leaders serving in South Asia: India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

This leadership team of South Asia is no stranger to unhealthy dependency issues and the benefits of sustainability in the multiplication of indigenous churches. I believe our time together challenged these leaders to close the gap between theory and practice in relationship to sustainability within their realms of leadership.

Upon arriving home, I received an email from a South Asian leader of an organization in Siliguri, West Bengal. He created a strategic plan to invite his team-mates to dialogue seriously about sustainability within their ministry.

YWAM Frontier Missions of South Asia have 500 staff and 100 church planting teams working among one fifth of the world's population. Please pray that they will increasingly embrace the urgency of cultivating healthy, indigenous self-sustaining churches and ministries.

A BIG thank you to all of you who prayed. I appreciate each and everyone of you. As the Indians say: "You can't taste curry with a spoon." I have so much more to taste and I have plans to return to South Asia and continue the process sometime in 2011.

I was privileged to have a ministry colleague, Valerie Arguello, travel with me for these events. Valerie is a PhD candidate at Regent University.



For more information on WMA's latest ministry to promote healthy dependency, visit our website at www.wmausa.org

