

"...whatever you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others well."  
2 Timothy 2:2 (NRSV)

# THE *SOURCE* NEWSLETTER

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## Theological Education and Peace Making

### From our President, Gordon T. Smith



Many of our partner colleges and seminaries are located in deeply conflicted countries. In the past year, I have visited with the faculty and students of theological schools in Sri Lanka, Colombia, Bosnia and Lebanon. And, in each place, the conversation inevitably comes around to the conflict that is often so very present in these countries. Sometimes peace seems to be emerging after years of strife, and in other situations, such as in Sri Lanka and Lebanon, peace seems a distant possibility.

These circumstances create an edge to theological study and ministry preparation. In many cases, the seminary actually embodies the hope of peace as, for example, Tamil and Sinhala students study together at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka. In other cases, the seminary becomes a haven for refugees from the conflict. For instance, I am thinking of the way in which the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary housed Muslim families during the war between Hezbollah and Israel in the late summer of 2006. In some cases, it means that the lives of the students are threatened when they graduate and enter into ministry situations that are precariously close to the actual violence – I'm reminded here of the threats against pastors in Colombia. And, of course, the commitment to peace is also evident in the concern to design curricula – programs of study – that foster the students' capacity to be peace-makers. Earlier this year, it was good to speak with the director of the Baptist Bible Institute in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and we explored together how *reSource Leadership* can help them prepare a faculty member with expertise in the craft of peace-making.

We are honoured to partner with the leaders and faculty of these schools. It is our purpose to identify with them: supporting them in our prayers, offering words of encouragement, and securing the strategic funding that enables them to fulfill the mission of effective theological education.

Thank you for working with us – partnering with us in this timely and essential ministry. It is most encouraging to see these communities of faculty, staff, and students who embody the Gospel and who seek to be salt and light in troubled situations. We appreciate your commitment to help make this happen.



*Colombo Theological Seminary (CTS), Sri Lanka*



*Biblical Seminary of Colombia (FUSBC), Colombia*



*Staff, Bible Institute of the Christian Baptist Church (BICBCH), Bosnia*



*Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS), Lebanon*

For updates and news regarding the ministry of **reSource**, check our website [www.resource-leadership.com](http://www.resource-leadership.com); the website includes a regular blog posting.

## “Looking for Sponsors”

Several students (photos and testimonies) at our partner schools STEP (Evangelical Theological Seminary of Port-au-Prince, Haiti), ABTS (Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Lebanon), AGS (Alliance Graduate School, Philippines) and BTI (Baptist Theological Institute, Romania) are without full sponsorship for the coming school year. Please consider sponsoring a full (\$ 1,800) or partial scholarship for one of these young men. Three additional students, not profiled here, require partial funding as well.



### **Jean-Rodly DAY (Haiti):**

I was just a small child when my cousin started taking me to church with him. My mother was living in Canada and my father was living a wild life with another woman. Only my cousin was a church person then and he did not want me to follow the crowd at home. That was the reason why he took me to church with him. For some reason, I was very interested in learning songs, Bible verses, and stories. When I was 8 years old, I knew a lot more from the Bible than other kids my age. However, although I was participating in everything that was going on such as VBS, camps, Sunday school, and so on, I did not trust Christ as my personal Savior until I was almost 15. When I turned 15, the leaders of my church decided to work with me more closely and I started to take things more seriously as well.

*Financial need: \$ 1,800 – full scholarship*



### **Adel KERALLEES (Lebanon):**

When I joined military service I drifted away from God and instead of telling others about Jesus, I found myself becoming just another member of the group. Yet God is ever so faithful and His love is beyond all expectation. He never left me! Less than a year after, in 2000, I was surprised to know that the pastor and brothers in church had enlisted me to attend a conference under the theme “Think & Act”. There I met a lady known as Um Widad, a Christian Counselor, who invited me to sit with her and tell her about my relationship with Christ. There and then, I listened to the most wonderful message ever, and was reminded of the “prodigal son”. I remembered both my earthly father and my heavenly Father... Um Widad and I prayed together... and since then I have been holding on to Him!

*Financial Need: \$ 800 – partial scholarship*



### **Nathaniel RAMOS (Philippines):**

I am a mission’s mobilizer and I speak on marriage and family at seminars and develop small group ministries. Through these, I am able to maximize my learning and retain much through my regular interaction with people. It is not always easy but it is always exciting!

*Financial need: \$ 600 – partial scholarship*



### **Dragu BENIAMIN (Romania):**

One of my classmates and a good friend of mine who used to attend church with me when we were 16 years old rejected Jesus and church and soon after died. God used this experience to speak to my heart as I realized how short life could be on earth. I continued to hear about Jesus Christ and subsequently decided to give my life to Jesus and shortly after, I was baptised.

*Financial need: \$ 1,500 – partial scholarship*



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LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Partners in Global Theological Education

## International Ministry Committee - the Overseas Council Network

*reSource Leadership International* is pleased to be a full affiliate member of the Overseas Council network – a partnership with four other affiliates: Overseas Council Australia (Stuart Brooking, executive director), Overseas Council (U.S.) (David Baer, president), Overseas Council Europe (Manfred Kohl, president) and Leadership Development International, the Overseas Council Affiliate in New Zealand (Tony Plews, president). Together, the executive directors of the affiliates form the International Ministry Committee (IMC) which meets annually in person and then holds conference calls throughout the year. Even though each affiliate is independent, with its own governing board, we work diligently to coordinate our efforts as we work together to enable effective theological education internationally.

Last year, *reSource Leadership* served as the host of the IMC and our president, Gordon T. Smith, served as the chair. This year, with the rotating chair, it fell to Stuart Brooking, of Australia, to select the venue and oversee our meetings. He invited us to Sri Lanka, where we met from April 30 – May 3, and where the Australian affiliate has a significant history of investment in the Lanka Bible College. The visit gave us opportunity to also visit the Colombo Theological Seminary.

We thank God for our partner affiliates; we are enriched by the connections we have – the shared values, the history of promoting excellence in theological education and mutual support & encouragement. We are tentatively scheduled to meet in Latin America in 2008, with David Baer, of the US affiliate as our host and chair.

### IMC Meeting in Sri Lanka in April/May 2007



*Tony Plews, Obeth Thevanesan of the LBC Centre for Graduate Studies in Colombo, Manfred Kohl, Stuart Brooking, Gordon Smith, (not pictured: David Baer, president of OC US)*

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