



DAI News Update

May 2014

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“DAI MA students are bound to shake our nation, impact our region and become a byword to the world in the years ahead”

So says the pastor of a medium sized Church in Sri Lanka (*identity protected at his request*) who recently completed the DAI MA in Organisational Leadership which was run in Colombo in partnership with Lanka Bible College. In talking about his experience of the DAI course he commented: “In 2010 I completed my M. Div. and asked the Lord ‘*what next?*’. He showed me and I really thank the Lord that I joined this (DAI Masters in Organisational Leadership) group in 2011 which began with the **Introduction to Leadership** and the **Teaching & Learning** courses, both facilitated by John Rogers. He taught us how teaching ought to be – not boring, not mundane, not just standing and speaking. He helped us to be creative and the inputs he has given us have helped me as a lecturer in a Theological Seminary.



“At the time the Church I pastored stood at about 240 to 260 people and it was...OK...not bad. It had its struggles financially but it had slow growth. Then in 2012 Dr David Fraser came and taught us **Strategic Thinking**. It revolutionised our thinking process, it made me think of the weaknesses in the Church I pastored. All along I had thought ‘*It’s great, I’m doing a good job*’ but I realised a number of flaws and issues in the Church: our witness was low-impact, Sunday School was thoroughly boring! Well, guess what happened in 2012.....? Nothing!!!

“But what Dr Fraser taught was in my mind so, after much prayer, I made some vital decisions about changes in my leadership thinking ‘*This could backfire on me, it could go wrong!*’. Nothing much changed that year but we had committed to troubleshoot the weaknesses.



“Well, 2013 came and, in the Church, still with its many weaknesses, God started doing something. The course had made me think more about how I could improve the Church, in what areas I could invest in the Church, where I could mobilise my Board. And the Lord started doing various things in the Church. We now have 12 Home Groups. The Sunday School is exciting and fun, many new teachers have stepped in and, diplomatically, I have had to tell some of the existing teachers ‘*Thank you very much. We’d like you to pray for our children*’ and then let them go! By the end of 2013 the congregation stood at 250 to 275, sometimes hitting the 300 mark.

“However, in November 2013 I started receiving threats to my life and ministry – calls threatening to do something to me and my family, people visiting the Church looking for me, my children being followed to school, people coming to my gate and looking to see if I’m there, the pet dog being poisoned. I and my family felt vulnerable. Then during this rough patch, I started to get threats from another Church in the area trying to chase me away. It was a very rough time but amidst this, encouragement came from the simple fact that I was reminded that God is in control and courses such as **Conflict Resolution** started working – helping me to deal positively with the people who actually threatened me. Things started working for the better.

“So, I thank God for the DAI MA programme. It has made a major impact, helping me as a teacher with students saying ‘*Pastor, your subject will stay with me for a long time because you didn’t teach, we learnt!*’. The programme has also helped us to make bonds with amazing friends. It has equipped us to serve God with better understanding, thinking strategically and planning to bring forth better results in a much shorter time. I’m more than convinced that the DAI MA students are bound to shake our nation, impact our region and become a byword to the world in the years ahead.”

DAI: passionate about growing effective Christian leaders



NEWS BRIEFS

All-Change at DAI UK!: In January Laurence Gamlen took over Chairmanship of the DAI UK Board enabling former Chair Colin Rye to start working half-time with DAI as Chief Executive & Senior Consultant for Curriculum Development. From April, John Rogers moved to half-time working as Senior Consultant for Non Formal Training. Additionally, Robin Willison joined the DAI UK Board in February and Shoushan Eretzian joined as volunteer book-keeper from January.

'Fundraising' Module in the MA Programme: During January and February, John completed the revision of the MA Fundraising module bringing it into line with the non-formal version which focuses more on local self-sufficiency rather than reliance on western funding. In early March, Colin facilitated the first Residency using the new materials at Uganda Christian University with a cohort of 19 students from various backgrounds including Compassion, Plan Uganda, The Bible Society of Uganda and a South Sudanese Bishop. Afterwards one student said *'I am happy to share with you that I have started implementing what you taught us. Yesterday I hosted three of our donors for the school and I presented my brief proposal for support which they welcomed willingly and they are ready to support about fifty orphan girls in my school who find it hard to pay school fees.'*

Et maintenant en Français: Following the launch of the 'Fundraising' module in the MA programme in English in Uganda, we need a French version for the French-speaking African countries. We have someone ready to translate the course material but we need funding to make this happen. Can you help by making a contribution to the translation costs?

Supporting DAI UK at no cost to yourself: Don't forget that one way you can support DAI UK is through www.easyfundraising.org.uk. If you purchase goods on-line at over 2000 UK retailers including Amazon, John Lewis and M&S, you can designate DAI UK as your chosen cause and they will donate a percentage of your purchase costs.

GET INVOLVED

Pray for DAI's Ministry

Give thanks for the completion of the revised 'Fundraising' Module, its successful first-use in Uganda and pray for the students who attended the Residency and who are currently working through the course material as they seek to implement what they have learnt.

Pray for John as he travels to Nepal in late May to train local leaders to run their own 'Facilitating Learning' workshops.

Pray for Jane Overstreet (DAI's President) and John as they seek to complete the new, much-needed 'Leadership' workshop for DAI's regular workshop programme.

Support DAI's Ministry

Make a contribution towards the translation of the MA 'Fundraising' module into French.

Sign up to support DAI UK through [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk).

We can only train leaders in Africa & Asia because of the gifts of individuals and churches. If you don't already support DAI's work please consider doing so either through a one-off donation or through regular giving? Go to our website www.daintl.org.uk/donate to make an online donation or to download our giving form.

Spread the Word about DAI's Ministry

Tell your friends about DAI's work - tell them about our ministry or forward this News Update to them!

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

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