



DAI News Update

December 2014

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Tiffany's Ugandan Masterclass

"My initial impression of the students was one of awe over the many influential roles that they play in shaping their society as Christians. But as the week went on, what impressed me the most was their humility as learners and their intelligence as leaders. They asked profound questions, contributed insightful comments, and responded to the content with alternating laughter and tears, critique and affirmation."



These were the reflections of Tiffany Clark, an American who is currently living in Scotland, on her experience of facilitating one of the DAI MA Courses in Uganda this past August. Tiffany and her husband, Ernest, spent more than eleven years living in South Asia, learning to see, hear, think and speak like the people around them and seeking to find relevant ways of connecting the gospel to the needs and values of the culture in which they were immersed. Ernest became increasingly involved in training pastors and church-planters and began to coordinate a ministry training network working with eight local ministries who were using non-formal theological education to equip their leaders. As part of this, Ernest was encouraged to attend one of DAI's "Teaching and Learning for Impact" Workshops, which was led by John Rogers. This completely reshaped Ernest's approach to teaching. He is now completing a PhD in New Testament Studies at St Andrew's University which is why he and Tiffany are in Scotland!

While they were in South Asia, Tiffany had been impressed by DAI's ministry and had thought that she should like to be involved with the work in some way. Earlier this year, she was reminded of that desire during a time of seeking the Lord's guidance which prompted her to get in touch with DAI to see if there was some way she could be involved in the work. We needed someone to facilitate the "Spiritual Formation" Course in the MA programme to a group of second-year students in Uganda and, with Tiffany's own studies, background and interest in this subject, everything fell into place.

We don't just send people to facilitate a course without preparing them. In the US, we regularly run "Orientation" Sessions for prospective facilitators in our MA programme but with a limited number of facilitators contributing to the programme from the UK, Tiffany received mentoring and orientation from DAI UK's John Rogers in a couple of face-to-face meetings and through Skype and e-mail.

The "Spiritual Formation" Course is designed to connect people with God in a deeply transformative way. One of the exercises Tiffany had the students in Uganda work on was to reflect on and write about their own spiritual journeys. She then gave them the last hour and a half of the class on the third afternoon to share those stories in groups of four. Tiffany describes what happened ***"Although the class was supposed to finish at 6.00pm no one moved or got up. I looked around the room and saw each group huddled in, listening intently, crying with each other, asking probing questions, and giving wise feedback to each other. This continued until well after 7.00pm. I finally left the class room at 7:30pm with one group still going at it, several clusters of people still talking and wanting to discuss this turning point in their lives."***

Aggrey Soyekwo, one of the students on the course, commented on the impact of the sharing of his spiritual journey. He wrote ***"As I prepared to tell my own story my whole past came alive. Some of it hurt so much as I remembered it. I recalled the many tough events: rejections, distorted teachings in my childhood about how to relate with God and the unfriendly environment in which I grew up which destroyed my self-esteem. Then I realized I had not really been healed from some of these hurts, much as I thought so. I knew this was the time to seek total healing from my past so that I could move forward. As I told my story, I became quite emotional at times, as did other members of my group as they shared their stories. We shared the highs and the lows; the joys and the hurts, and then we prayed together. Since sharing my story, I have felt much lighter. I had no idea I had bottled up issues and had unhealed wounds from my past! The Spiritual Formation Course has set in motion a fresh thirst and hunger for fellowship with God."***



DAI: passionate about growing effective Christian leaders



NEWS BRIEFS

“Spiritual Formation – Pursuing Christlikeness” Workshop Advances: Colin Rye and a number of DAI US staff met in DAI’s Colorado Springs office in mid-October to progress the creation of this new Workshop which had been outlined during the 3½ day “Curriculum Development Workshop” in late August. Significant progress was made in defining the content and development timescales and it is hoped that the draft will be complete by Easter 2015.

New Leadership Workshop piloted in Cameroon and South Africa: John Rogers and Jane Overstreet were in Cameroon and South Africa in November to test-run the revised “Leadership Workshop”, an introduction to Servant Leadership, challenging and helping leaders to discover how they can be the leaders that God wants them to be. It was an incredibly worthwhile trip with Jane and John discovering that most of the new materials worked well but also identifying areas which needed clarification. At the end of the five-day workshop in Cameroon, one of the leaders commented *“This workshop has changed the way I see God myself and others, looking at the biblical leaders, I am convinced I am not alone, God can transform me if I will let Him, I am more secure in Him and have greater respect for others who lead me and whom I lead”*. Jane and John then moved onto South Africa and ran parts of the workshop in two-day workshops in Cape Town, Durban and Pietermaritzburg where participants were also enthusiastic about what they were learning.

Facilitating Learning & Fundraising Workshops in North East India: In the third week of November, Colin Rye was in Umran in North East India running a 3½ day “Facilitating Learning” workshop. 13 enthusiastic participants attended the workshop which seeks to train trainers. Amongst many positive comments in the end-of-workshop evaluation, one participant wrote *“I am now confident to make my own lesson plans for future workshops and discipleship programmes”*. The following week Colin was in Guwahati, also in North East India, running a “Fundraising in Ministry” workshop to equip the 24 participants with skills for local fundraising recognising that financial help from the west is much less easily accessed than it used to be. One participant commented *“The workshop has revived my zeal to raise funds, to say ‘I can’ and tell our Church and partners that ‘You can’”*.

Ambitious Plans for 2015: DAI UK’s 2015 Strategic Plan has been approved by the DAI US Board. It includes plans and budget to project-manage and assist in the development, piloting and launch of six new Workshops and to continue to grow curriculum development skills in the DAI International team by means of “Curriculum Development Workshops” in the US, Africa and Asia.

Supporting DAI UK at Christmas: If you purchase Christmas presents online and do so via www.easyfundraising.org.uk designating DAI UK as your chosen cause over 2000 UK retailers including Amazon, John Lewis and M&S will donate a percentage of your purchase costs to DAI UK at no cost to you. During 2014, we received £96.97 as a result of supporters using www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Help us to increase this additional funding in 2015.

GET INVOLVED

Pray for DAI’s Ministry: As 2014 ends, give thanks for DAI’s impact on the lives of leaders this year and pray for even greater transformational impact and consequent Kingdom growth in 2015.

Support DAI’s Ministry: Let us know if your Church might consider ‘adopting’ DAI UK as a Mission Partner or making a one-off Christmas donation to our vital work. We can only train leaders in Africa & Asia because of the gifts of individuals and churches. 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. Forward this News Update to them!

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

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