

## Hydes help church in Venezuela develop and train leaders from within

*Center for Ministry Development takes students through 16-course overview.*

By Kristi Reimer, FEConnections editor

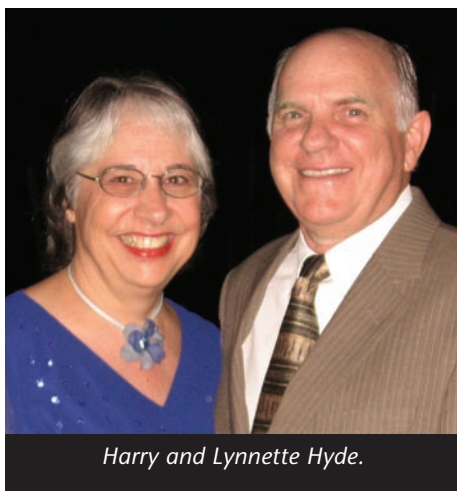
The purpose for Harry and Lynnette Hyde living in Caracas is so that the people with whom they relate might be comfortable with their faith, the church might grow, and new congregations might be established.

They are helping the local church in Caracas develop its own leaders rather than continue to look to the missionary community for direction. And for that reason Harry describes himself as a facilitator and a resource person. He is also the administrator of the mission in Venezuela. "I'm not involved up front as a pastor; the Venezuelans are more capable in that role," he says. "I help develop pastors and leaders by working behind the scenes."

When you talk to Harry, you might almost think he's living in Venezuela just to offer moral support to the Christians there. Don't let him fool you. No matter how he describes the work he and Lynnette do, he is working—and working mightily—for the kingdom. For the last three and a half years, the Hydes have been creating the Center for Ministry Development, an FEC program consisting of 16 courses that are 12 hours each. These courses provide an overview of doctrinal and practical teaching that equip church leaders to be more effective and grounded in their ministries.

### How the program works

For a typical course in the program, students attend one two-hour session per week for six weeks. "It's an intermediate level between Sunday school and a Bible institute or seminary class," Harry explains. "You could almost say it's the CliffsNotes version. But I'm amazed at the amount of material you can cover in this format." The classes fall into these five categories:



Harry and Lynnette Hyde.

1. The Bible (Biblical Panorama, Romans, the Sermon on the Mount, and 1 and 2 Timothy)
2. The Church (History of the Church, Christian Family, Apologetics, and Pastoral Responsibilities)
3. Theology (Doctrine I and II, Bible Interpretation, and Christian Disciplines)
4. Ministry (Evangelism, Cell Groups, Leadership, and Sermon Preparation)
5. Miscellaneous (Last Things, Church Administration, and Social Responsibility of the Church).

And then there are classes to be developed, which include Church Growth, Church Planting, World Missions, Biblical Principles for Handling Money, Christian Ethics, Christian Education, Revelation, and so on. The students can also suggest some elective seminars.

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*The five graduates of the Ministry Development Center.*

## Venezuela *(continued from page 1)*

For every class, participants receive a book and a set of class notes (developed by Harry) that consist of 70 to 100 pages of outline material. After they've completed the program, the students can use these materials in their own ministries. "At this point we have finished 19 courses. Students need to complete 16 courses to graduate from the program. We are now starting over again with the same material and a new set of students," Harry says. "The thinking is that if we do this rotation enough times, we will have a core group of trained leaders in Venezuela who are comfortable and increasingly capable in ministry."

Harry and Lynnette returned to the United States in December of last year. They're living in Fort Wayne, Indiana, until August, when they will return to Venezuela. In the meantime, graduates are teaching the program in the Hydes' absence using Harry's notes or an adaptation to fit their own style.

"We saw this happen in the Dominican Republic," Harry says. "I was part of a group that established a similar program there. Twenty years later, after the resident missionaries have all gone, those people are still teaching the program. That's the goal: to have an internal training program without the need for missionaries to administrate it."

The courses are open to anyone—new believers, people who are interested or involved in ministries such as music, teaching, church council, or elders, and those who are simply looking for deeper roots in the faith. Many participants are full-time professionals—accountants, teachers, attorneys, physicians, and so on. They hear about the classes through announcements in church or word of mouth. "In the U.S. we take so much for granted in the resources we have for training and growth," Harry says. "But many of these people are first-generation Christians who have had no structured teaching at all."

While kingdom-building and church growth are the primary reasons for the program's existence, the Venezuelan government has offered another. According to Harry, officials have "nudged" the churches to establish some kind of screening process for leaders. "It's not uncommon for people to feel 'called' into leadership with no orientation or training," Harry says. "They can make serious mistakes, which become an embarrassment to the churches, and then they

may end up in the legal system. So a couple of years ago, an official said the government might step in and regulate the churches if they don't do a better job at training and screening local leadership. That's a big motivation for this program to continue, even though we can't guarantee the results."

### **What the program is producing**

Harry and Lynnette are seeing fruits of the program in many areas. The believers who have completed the training have a stronger sense of Christian identity, have more confidence in speaking and managing church affairs, and understand the basic tenets of the faith. They also approach decision-making in new ways. For example, the Macaracuay Church recently decided to purchase new space in the shopping center where it meets. "That was a big step of faith, but the Lord brought it about, and the training fit right in to the process," Harry says. "I was amazed."

Also, the program has led to the development of standards for church speakers. In the past, Harry says, the churches have sometimes asked people to speak or lead when they shouldn't have. "Now they recognize that certain people are not prepared to handle this responsibility at this point in their lives," Harry says.

"Before someone is asked to speak, he is placed through a screening process for his own good and the good of the church."

Individuals have also benefited and grown through the class ministry. One family, Armando and Carolyn Diaz, accepted Christ five years ago. At the time, Harry says, everything in their life was unstable: their employment situation, their finances, and their own marriage relationship. The Diazes are taking the seminars, and they've received counseling and input from church leadership. Now their lives have changed

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*Harry Hyde  
Administrator, Center for  
Ministry Development*

completely. In mid-December they held a ceremony in which they reconfirmed their wedding vows, and about 100 people attended, which is a significant number for that community. "It was an amazing testimony of how the Lord stabilizes a marriage," Harry says.

Another example of the program's fruitfulness is Jorge, the pastor of the Macaracuay Church. "He's a good pastor, but he's sort of like Timothy," Harry says. "He's timid and shy by nature." However, since Jorge has worked with Harry in the program, the Hydes have seen substantial growth in his self-confidence—and so has his congregation.

"People now look to him as their pastor in new ways," Harry says. "They increasingly invite him to their home for a wide variety of events. And when they're facing an important step in life, such as the purchase of a car, a child dedication, or a need for counsel, they look to him first. That's a big change." Jorge is now establishing an internal training program in the Macaracuay Church—he uses some of Harry's materials but also his own.

### Where the program takes place

The Hydes live in Caracas, a city of 6 million people and the largest in Venezuela. They work with the two FEC-related churches in the city and are helping a third get off the ground in the town of Guatire, about 30 miles to the east. Caracas presents more than a few challenges, both in ministry and simply in living from day to day.

Continual robberies and gang activity produce a sense of insecurity, Harry says; people live in continual concern for their own safety, and most are home around dark. There are also long traffic lines constantly—it's common to be in traffic for two to three hours in a given day. You could take the bus, but it takes just as long. "It takes a lot of patience just to live here," Harry says. "And then, how do you fit your Christian life into the challenges of normal, everyday living and church commitments? You work a long day, endure traffic lines, live in an insecure environment, and then you go to church in the evening. It's a challenge."

The Hydes say they haven't had any trouble with officials in Caracas—some missionaries in the interior have faced more difficulties. Part of that may be Harry's self-described role as a business administrator. "We don't use the word 'missionary' to describe our work to the government," he says. "I correctly say that I'm an administrator of a Christian mission. It seems to me that the government is not granting as many religious worker visas, and I'd estimate that the number of missionaries is down by half. Years ago we had eight to ten missionaries here; now there are just three."

Besides Harry and Lynnette, the only other FEC missionary living in Caracas right now is Jessica Gibson, who teaches at the Christian International Academy of Caracas (see "Kansas Girl," right). "We could use more workers," Harry says. "There's a need for a church planter working alongside Venezuelans and someone to work with youth."

Regardless of the challenges, though, Harry and Lynnette are glad to be part of the work in Venezuela. They'll spend their remaining time in the U.S. visiting churches and individuals, and enjoying family time with the grandchildren. But come August, they're heading back to South America.

"We see what's happening in the church, and it's amazing," Harry says. "It's difficult to start a church in a concrete jungle, and the city takes its toll on being a Christian, but we're excited to go back." ■

## Kansas girl bonds with Venezuelan kids

Jessica Gibson, originally from the Kansas City area and affiliated with Grace Community Church in Newton, Kansas, is in her fourth year of teaching fifth and sixth grade at the Christian International Academy of Caracas (abbreviated ACIC in Spanish). The school is an English-language academy that serves missionary families, business and diplomatic families, and other nationals. Jessica recently shared some of her students' stories.



**Paul** started in Miss Gibson's class at ACIC in October of last year. His older brother had started earlier in the school year, and when his parents saw the change in his attitude and behavior, they sent Paul and their younger sister to ACIC as well. They said that they regretted not sending them earlier.



**Eduardo** was learning about the European exploration of North America from Miss Gibson, who explained that many explorers were primarily interested in wealth and power. "Wait, wait!" Eduardo said. So Miss Gibson waited. Eduardo produced a Bible and located a passage in Matthew: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth ... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." He explained to the class that they must not be like the explorers but follow the words of Jesus instead. And then Miss Gibson resumed the lesson.



To hear more about Jessica's students and her experiences in Venezuela, contact her at [jrosegibson@yahoo.com](mailto:jrosegibson@yahoo.com). To learn more about ACIC, check out their website at [www.acic.com.ve](http://www.acic.com.ve).



Men's retreat

## Man Camp April 4–6, 2008

### The event

Join us for Man Camp, where everything is manly—including the food. Activities are planned so you and your friends will have a great time outside, and a great speaker will challenge you to become a strong man of God. Get a group of men together and head to Miracle Camp for the “manliest” weekend of your life!

### The speaker

Kurt Sauder from Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, will be the guest speaker. Kurt graduated from Moody Bible Institute and has a wife and four children. He loves helping men grow and become spiritual leaders.

### Registration fees

Cost is \$90 for the weekend, which includes all food, activities, and lodging.

If you have any questions, call (800) 354-9609 or e-mail [info@miraclecamp.com](mailto:info@miraclecamp.com). Download a registration brochure with complete details at [www.miraclecamp.org](http://www.miraclecamp.org).

### The projects

Optional work projects start early on Friday if you would like to arrive on Thursday evening to extend your weekend at no cost. Miracle Camp values the help on various work projects each year. This year's projects include:

- Building an outdoor amphitheatre or blob tower and waterslide
- New fencing and signposts
- Bankson Lodge renovations

### The activities

Paintball; Zip line; Climbing tower; Archery; Canoeing; Gym sports; Trap shooting

## Fall 2007 Quiz-Off

*Quizzers covered Romans 1–7 at Miracle Camp in November.*



# Happenings

Women's retreat

## Fashioned by the Master Designer

April 25–27, 2008



### Featured speaker

Brenda Garrison is a compelling speaker and author. She is transparent and real as she lives out her passion of sharing God's Word with women. Brenda's first book, *Queen Mom: A Royal Plan for Restoring Order to Your Home*, was released in April 2007. She has also been published in *Today's Christian Woman*, *Hearts at Home Magazine*, and *Hearts at Home Devotional*. Brenda and her husband, Gene, have three daughters (ages 21, 18, and 13) and live near Metamora, Illinois. For more information, visit her website at [www.brendagarrison.com](http://www.brendagarrison.com).

### Workshops

- Faithfully fit
- Your best accessory
- Restoring order
- Card-Making
- Preparing for unexpected "trips"
- Friendship
- Handling offenses
- Skin care and makeup

### Gala of the Gowns

We'll have fun admiring old dance gowns, graduation dresses, bridesmaid's dresses, and even bridal gowns. Awards will be given for the best frocks from each decade from the 1940s through today.

### Registration fees

From \$60 to \$100 depending on lodging needs and number of days participating.

Questions? Call (800) 354-9609 or e-mail [info@miraclecamp.com](mailto:info@miraclecamp.com). Download a registration brochure with complete details at [www.miraclecamp.org](http://www.miraclecamp.org).

### Top junior high quizzer from each church

Lyndsey Rupp, Archbold  
Kelly Hirschy, Berne  
Anna Blisk, Brookside  
Rebecca King, Crossroads  
Lydia Fehr, Eureka  
Lydia Klassen, Grace  
Maelynn Too, Pine Hills  
Erick Holder, Upland

### Top senior high quizzer from each church

Chase Sauder, Archbold  
Calvin Hirschy, Berne  
Neil Klodzen, Brookside  
Rachel King, Crossroads  
Clarissa Leman, Eureka  
Hannah Roberts, Grace  
Adam Winner, Lawton  
Alexi Haas, Oak Bend  
Jessie Bradford, Pathway  
Mary Moser, Pine Hills  
Ben Mock, Salem  
Nate White, Upland

### Top 10 junior high quizzers

1. Lyndsey Rupp, Archbold (110.0)
1. Kelly Hirschy, Berne (110.0)
3. Lydia Klassen, Grace (103.3)
3. Maelynn Too, Pine Hills (103.3)
5. Noah Powers, Pine Hills (100.0)
5. Kayla Too, Pine Hills (100.0)
7. Drew Litwiller, Berne (86.7)
7. Amanda Hughes, Pine Hills (86.7)
9. Corrie Gerber, Pine Hills (83.3)
10. Sarah Roberts, Grace (80.0)

### Top 3 junior high teams

1. Pine Hills 1: Maelynn Too, Noah Powers, Alexandra Perala, Hannah Steiner
2. Pine Hills 3: Kayla Too, Judah Sistrunk, Amanda Hughes, David Boylan
3. Pine Hills 2: Corrie Gerber, John Secheverell, Nathan Moser, Jesse Sistrunk

### Top 10 senior high quizzers

1. Chase Sauder, Archbold (116.7)
2. Neil Klodzen, Brookside (113.3)
3. Calvin Hirschy, Berne (110.0)
4. Hannah Roberts, Grace (103.3)
4. Alexi Haas, Oak Bend (103.3)
6. Jordan Fruchey, Archbold (100.0)
7. Melissa Felker, Grace (96.7)
7. Dave Getz, Grace (96.7)
7. Anna Klassen, Grace (96.7)
10. Mary Moser, Pine Hills (93.3)

### Top 3 senior high teams

1. Pine Hills 1: Mary Moser, Adam Hughes, Sarah Patterson, Rachel Powers, Alesha Lindahl
2. Brookside 1: Neil Klodzen, Adriana Gehman, Daniel Keller, Jana Vastbinder
3. Grace 5: Hannah Roberts, Dan Getz, Jared Sauder, Kyle Hill, Mitch Vandiver, Holly Pflederer

## FEC missionary writes about Korea

*Nils Becker has served with Campus Crusade for 42 years.*

**N**ils Becker, an FEC-IM missionary originally from Woodburn, Indiana, and a graduate of Wheaton College, has published a book titled *Fireseeds from Korea to the World*. Nils has been on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ for 42 years, 26 of which were spent in Korea, the Philippines, and Russia. He currently serves with the Jesus Film Project in Orlando, Florida.

*Fireseeds from Korea* is a moving tribute to Dr. Joon Gon Kim, leader of Korea Campus Crusade for Christ, and his extraordinary testimony of faith amid intense tribulation. Dr. Kim was flogged by communists, who also murdered his father and wife before his eyes, but he forgave his tormentors and even converted them to Christ.

Dr. Kim is the first person to have started a national Campus Crusade ministry outside the United States. In doing so he helped spearhead Christianity's growth in Korea. Today, 25 percent of Koreans are professing Christians, and Korea is the second-largest missionary-sending nation in the world.

In the book Nils explains that learning how God has used the Christians in Korea can help revival take place in our own communities. He states how four ingredients—prayer, faith, a Spirit-filled life, and evangelism training—can be catalysts for a spiritual explosion that results in worldwide church growth.

For more information about the book, visit [www.ccalmm.com](http://www.ccalmm.com).



*FEC and Campus Crusade missionary Nils Becker, author of the book *Fireseeds from Korea to the World*, works with the Jesus Film—here being shown to children in a remote village. With more than 6 billion exposures, the Jesus Film has been shown in every country of the world in more than 900 languages.*



*Mission interns Angie and Kent Morton with their children, Ethan, Emily, and Grace.*

## International Ministries News

### Brookside establishes missionary interns

Kent and Angie Morton began an internship at their home church of Brookside in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on January 1 of this year. The Mortons are anticipating serving overseas at the Albanian Bible Institute, where FEC is training church leaders to strengthen and expand the body of Christ. The purpose of the internship is to provide the Mortons with experience in a local church and connect them with the overall ministry of the church worldwide. Brookside and FEC's goal is to see the work of these missionaries-in-training as the church working through them—which is just as important as any other local ministry. Pray for the Mortons and their children as they raise support and prepare for overseas service, as well as for their ministry at Brookside.

# Missions Update

## Short-term missions opportunities

### Summer Impact 2008 internship

This trip is an opportunity for young adults, college students, and 2008 high school graduates to impact England for Christ. Participants will be involved in evangelistic ministry alongside experienced young-adult and adult workers at The Oakes Holiday Centre in Sheffield, England. The Oakes is the only year-round evangelistic camp in England and has a tremendous impact on British youth from ages 8 to 18. The Oakes is a 350-year-old English manor that has been transformed into a ministry gem for expanding God's kingdom.

- Hosts: Rich and Becky Metcalfe and Jane Diggle, FEC international workers
- Group size: Up to five people
- Dates: June 23 to September 1 (dates are flexible)
- Primary activities: Working with summer maintenance and program staff; being involved with summer evangelistic camps for British youth; introduction British culture; worship with British believers.
- Application deadline: Monday, April 7
- Cost: \$2,100 (includes pre-trip orientation, airfare, trip insurance and in-country expenses; cost may vary due to airline ticket price at time of purchase).
- Dates: June 14 to July 29
- Summer in the USA locations: Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Archbold, Ohio

- Cost: \$2,000 (June 14 to July 29); \$2,000 (July 30 to August 11 with optional trip to Spain; cost may vary due to airline ticket price at time of purchase); \$4,000 (total for entire eight weeks). Cost does not include travel to and from U.S. internship location.

### Plant A Seed

Join a team of fellow high school students from a variety of FEC churches for learning, personal growth, and cross-cultural ministry. PAS teams are planning to work alongside FEC international workers in Albania and Venezuela. For additional information about these teams visit [www.fecministries.org](http://www.fecministries.org) or contact Hal Lehman at [H.Lehman@FECministries.org](mailto:H.Lehman@FECministries.org).

### Summer work team at The Oakes: June 9-24

Adults and youth, learn about The Oakes evangelistic ministry and use your God-given talents to enhance the facilities at The Oakes through focused maintenance projects. Contact Hal Lehman for more information.

### One-year discipleship at The Oakes

Young adults, become part of The Oakes team for several months or up to a year. Be involved in camp ministry to British youth and personal discipleship and growth. Begins in September. Contact Hal Lehman for more information.





1420 Kerrway Court  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

# President's Corner

## Seeds for tomorrow



Last December I was given the opportunity to travel to the city of Nampa, Idaho, to speak at Lakeview Bible Church. The purpose of this trip was to introduce Lakeview to the possibility of becoming an FEC church.

Upon arrival, I was surprised to learn that I had traveled to the garden seed capital of the world. Then I

remembered all the seed packets I'd opened with the words "Nampa, Idaho" printed on the bottom. The arid Idaho climate is ideal for growing garden seeds, which has resulted in a large seed business in the Nampa valley. Yes, they grow more than potatoes in Idaho.

In the car on the way to church Sunday morning, we passed acres of radishes that appeared ready for harvest. But my host explained that they were far from ready. Though at that point they would have been delicious in any salad, the radishes would remain in the ground. During the long winter they would be consumed by the plant, leaving nothing but a root system. When the warm spring sun arose, the plant would not grow another radish; instead the new growth would head upward and outward. A flower would appear and be harvested so that you and I can plant radish seeds and enjoy a spring harvest from our own gardens.

In our culture today we seek immediate returns, markets go up and down on the whims of speculation, and we reach for all the gusto we can grab. We're like the businessman of James 4 who says, "We will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." All the while a simple radish is nourishing a small plant through a long winter to provide a seed-crop harvest that will feed many.

The writer of Ecclesiastes describes a season for everything under heaven. I'm glad God directed him to recognize that life consists of different seasons, all with their own purpose. Some make more sense to us than others; some are more enjoyable than others; yet all are pieces of his great and wonderful plan for us. The radish seed grower could disrupt the process and enjoy the food now; instead he waits, allows the cycle to be completed, and in so doing produces a seed crop that will sustain many more. Jesus spent most of his ministry investing in 12 men. He nourished them, gave himself up for them, to produce a seed crop that would nourish others. He did the same for you and me and seeks the same result.

Are you allowing your life to be spent producing seeds that will bring eternal hope to others? My prayer is that we will all be plants that draw deep upon the Word of God for nourishment as we produce seeds of life for generations to come.

*Ronald J. Nabegger*