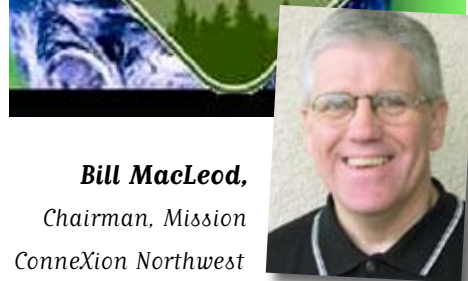




(Business as) Mission Connexion Northwest

MISSION CONNEXION NORTHWEST hosted its first “Business as Mission” luncheon in 2007, and over 100 business men and women came—some from as far away as the Canadian border—signaling the changing landscape of Missions within the evangelical church in America, in terms of how it carries out Jesus’ final charge to take His gospel to every people group on earth. The enthusiasm, workshop attendance, and response



Bill MacLeod,
Chairman, Mission
Connexion Northwest

from many attending, demonstrate we’re just beginning to scratch the surface. Missions, once perceived as a domain reserved only for Bible-educated ministers, is now, “Open for Business!”—and enterprising individuals and corporations, with valuable professional and business skills that can be utilized cross-culturally...are applying!”

For more information on the web, go to www.missionconnexion.com. ☞



BPN CONNECT is a publication of the Business Professional Network. Contact us at the BPN International Headquarters: BPN, P.O. Box 230399, Portland, OR 97281, USA. Phone 503-670-7970 or email us at info@bpn.org. Board of Reference: Dr. David Befus, President, Latin American Mission; Mr Graham Binet, Price Waterhouse, Australia (retired); Dr. Luis Bush, International Director, AD 2000 & Beyond; Dr Peter Hammond, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; Dr. Alec Hill, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; Mr. J. Gunnar Olson, Founder, International Christian Chamber of Commerce.

PORTLAND, OREGON 97281

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BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL NETWORK



CONNECT

Keeping you up to date on Christians in business fulfilling the Great Commission



VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 1

OMF: Partnership for Asia Conference Calling Christian Professionals to Kingdom Service in East Asia

THE HISTORIC CHINA INLAND MISSION, founded in 1865 by Hudson Taylor, is known today as Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF Int'l) and is still calling Christians to fulfill the Great Commission in Asia. Now there is a strategic ministry advantage for business professionals to engage in business with Kingdom purposes beyond the usual business metrics. This business counter-part of medical missions will be one of the focuses of the 2007 Partnership for Asia Conference in the



Bay Area April 27-28, 2007.

Dr. Neil O. Thompson, U.S. national director for OMF International, will be speaking at the Conference, along with John Warton, who will address a plenary session on business as a prime strategy of contemporary missions. Warton will also present a workshop on 7 different models being used effectively all over the world for doing missions through business.

For more information, go to www.us.omf.org or contact Dick Andrews at dandrews@omf.org or 866.500.1248. ☞

The Ministry of Job Creation

A HAIRSTYLING CLINIC GIVEN BY Karen Gil at the National Hotel in downtown Chisinau, Moldova was attended by more than 50 professional stylists from salons across the capital city. Karen was part of a team from the Village Church of Barrington, IL (EFCA) that went to Moldova as business-missionaries. Karen knew God wanted her on that trip. With her experience as an international trainer for a major beauty product line.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SALVAGING BUSINESS IN EL SALVADOR

Raul Melgar began a scrap recycling business outside San Salvador 6 years ago with a \$1000 loan from FUNSALDE and two employees. He immediately fell behind in his payments. FUNSALDE loan officers determined he would have a better chance at his business with \$2000, so actually increased his loan. His business turned around almost immediately and he began to hire



(LtoR) FUNSALDE loan officer, Josiel Medinilla; Raul Melgar, FUNSALDE loan supervisor, Sonja Aguilar de Ventura. The scale in the foreground Sr. Melgar purchased with his first loan.

more employees. His company collects and sorts paper and scrap metals to sell to U.S. recyclers. Now making a good profit, Raul had to face another challenge—the notorious Salvadorean gangs. Despite threats on his life and business, he boldly declared his trust in Christ to the gang leaders, only to see them disappear and fail to follow through on their threatened harassment.

continued on page 2



MOLDOVA - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She had been asking the Lord how she might serve Him more.

David Bunge was also part of the team—it was his second trip to Moldova. Dave went to provide business strategy consulting for a window and door manufacturing company owned by Christians who want to manage their growing business in ways that honor

their Lord. The company has taken a loan from BPN's partner agency in Moldova, Invest Credit, to expand their capacity. That has created new jobs.

Dave also teamed with Karen to teach a class on how to manage a beauty salon profitably! It's not enough to love styling hair or even be good at it. A beauty salon must be run as a business.

Organizers of the event believe up to 10 new salons will be opened with 20-30 new positions created.

Your church can send a team of business-missionaries overseas and help create sustainable jobs while having an impact with the Gospel. To find out how, contact the BPN at info@bpn.org or phone 503-670-7970. ☺

Business Students See Job Creation at Work

STUDENTS FROM BIOLA'S SCHOOL OF Business, one alumni, and faculty member Dr. Steve Rundle, made a 5 day survey trip to El Salvador in January 2007. Dr. Marta Aurelia Martinez, MD, (center)



national director of World Vision in El Salvador, led a discussion on micro-lending, economic development, and the Gospel in their country. Sra. Gloria Marina de Gonzales, MBA, director of

the BPN-FUNSALDE program, and members of the her loan team joined the group for this discussion and two days visiting entrepreneurs building a variety of businesses around the country. In addition

to the relief work World Vision does in El Salvador, Dr. Martinez is a strong advocate for business development. FUNSALDE and BPN began their joint program to provide loans and training to operators of small and medium size businesses in 2001.

Dr. Steve Rundle, co-author with Dr. Tom Steffen of *Great Commission*

Companies, (InterVarsity Press, 2003), teaches a course on Business as Mission in the BIOLA School of Business. He also co-authored the 2004 Lausanne Forum paper on business as mission (www.bam.org) and has been a presenter at BPN conferences since 1999. Dr. Rundle announced his desire to form a Business Development Group on campus and begin with an investigation trip to the BPN project in El Salvador—nearly 10 immediately expressed a desire to go. Two months later, 5 left for El Salvador with Dr. Rundle and BPN President, John Warton. Meanwhile, over \$9000 was donated for making loans to Salvadorean Christians submitting business plans to FUNSALDE. ☺

El Salvador - continued from page 1

Today Raul has 28 employees and recycling operations in 12 cities overseen by national managers. He has just purchased another truck for cash and plans to add 10 more employees this year. This growth presents new management challenges he has not faced before—help may be on its way from business students

and businessmen up north who desire to come along side this remarkable entrepreneur who trusts a faithful God.

He is active in the Quezaltepeque Assembly of God. A gifted preacher himself, Raul has seen miracles and many souls won to Christ. ☺

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE:

JOHN WARTON, *President, Business Professional Network*



God told the exiles who had been captured in the fall of Jerusalem and deported to Babylon to “seek the welfare of the city where I am sending you”. They may have felt conquered, but in reality He was sending them. And in a foreign, pagan land they were not only to live out their Biblical values, they were to seek the welfare of the people who were oppressing and exploiting them.

And they were to pray for them too. Today the men and women seeking the welfare of nations often have a strange sense of being “sent” by God. They are finding ways to

help national believers build up businesses that provide poor and unemployed people with jobs that enable them to provide for their families and build up their own churches to do the work of the Gospel there and beyond. Dr. Wayne Grudem

“If we are ever going to see long term solutions to world poverty, I believe it will come through starting and maintaining productive, profitable businesses.”

- DR. WAYNE GRUDEM

states in his book, *Business for the Glory of God*, “If we are ever going to see long term solutions to world poverty, I believe it will come through starting and maintaining productive,

profitable businesses.” This is being done at every level, from micro and SMEs to wholly-owned businesses and MNCs.

Read their stories in *CONNECT*.

Come to a ‘Business as Mission’ conference and meet them. Become one of them and discover this wonderful sense of being sent by God to seek the

welfare of others. This is the work of the BPN—join us. ☺

John Warton
President, BPN

Please complete this response form, cut it out, and mail it to BPN, PO Box 230399, Portland, OR 97281, USA

Funding New Jobs & Building The Church!

- I would like to donate \$ _____ to the BPN for their operations.
- I am contributing \$ _____ to the BPN Loan Fund to provide capital for qualified entrepreneurs overseas. I wish to designate these loans for the country of: _____
- Please contact me to discuss other funding options

Please send me the following book(s):

- Great Commission Companies* _____ @ \$15
- On Kingdom Business* _____ @ \$20



Please make checks payable to BPN. Prices include postage within the USA.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____