

Twin Peaks



From the Padilla-DeBorst

February 2011

Growth out of the box

When you think “theological education”, what comes to mind? Your mind possibly pictures thick books in dim libraries, complicated terminology, obscure debates often disconnected from the real lives of people. Or perhaps, more positively, you think of certain inspiring professors or valued institutions.

Well, the **Center for Interdisciplinary Theological Education** (CETI) is an out-of-the-box alternative, conceived by members of the Latin American Theological Fellowship (FTL), and birthed in the Kairos Foundation, in Buenos Aires, under the competent leadership of Catharine Feser de Padilla, my dear Mom. Today, 25 years into its life, CETI is growing and sprouting fruit around Latin America. Organized around the themes of Family, Church, Society and Work, it engages students in communal learning that works itself out in practical and diverse expressions of integral mission: Everything from an ambitious recycling program, to incarnational gang-ministry, a network of “professionals in service”, the re-vamping of a Christian radio station, and collaboration between churches that had never even recognized each other’s existence, to cite a few.

CETI is now growing out of its very own box! With hundreds of graduates and current students at a Diploma level, it is now ready to expand its Master’s level offering online so that new cohorts of students can embark in exploration together. By means of a recently-

established partnership between the Kairos Foundation and the Institute for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education, we have agreed to facilitate the new Continental Council of CETI in this exciting new phase of educational ministry. Plans are also under-way for translation and adaptation of the curriculum for use in other regions of the world. More soon!

New director for new team

Two years ago we arrived as a family in Costa Rica to initiate the **Institute for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education** under the auspices of Christian Reformed World Missions. Our staff? One sole person, who eventually got some administrative support but never felt like she could go too far alone...

Today, I can happily announce that I am no longer alone. **James Padilla DeBorst**, as our new Director, brings strategic thinking and organizational skills. **Thomas Soerens** offers long-time involvement in Higher Education. I will continue serving as a connector between the Institute and various partners, like CETI, IAPCHE, the FTL and the student movements. **Stephanie Andrade** continues offering efficient support. We look forward to welcoming other members to our team as we continue branching into several programs like graduate retreats and consultations. Thank God for the opportunity to work together!

New jobs, new visions

Hello all! Now it's my turn to write. As of February 1, 2011, I—James—am back working with the Christian Reformed Church of North America. For many years I served with CRWRC and this time I am with CRWM.

My work is focused (or scattered) across three areas. First is the Institute for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education, which, in addition to CETI, is inaugurating a series of Theology-and-Practice workshops designed to stimulate and promote good ideas and good praxis about mission. The first, on *Romans and the Peace of the City*, will focus on urban ministry, and bring together key thinkers and doers. This workshop actually has two parts, part one in Canada and part two at Casa Adobe, our ministry home here in Costa Rica. Another area of my work is supporting new denominational efforts dedicated to linking, creating, and strengthening communities of faith that are working towards societal transformation. Currently we are piloting collaboration between some Seattle churches, *Seeds of New Creation* (El Salvador) and Costa Rica. Finally, in our own back yard we are opening Casa Adobe to tutoring, community gardening and a growing house church.

Simultaneously, as of Feb 1, and after some twenty years serving in different countries and capacities I—Ruth—am reducing my time commitment with CRWM and taking on a new, daunting and exciting role with World Vision International. I am now part of the

Global team of Christian Commitment, and responsible for the fostering the Christian Formation and Leadership Development of the many thousands of staff of the Partnership.

As you can imagine, we both have much to grasp and learn as we step into these new roles. So we're grateful we're not alone but can count on the wise counsel, orientation and prayer of friends, colleagues, brothers and sisters. Thanks!

Many thanks!

Toward the end of 2010 we made a special appeal for support. And many of you responded very generously. Thank you so much! We are currently at 29% of our fundraising goal.

Get ready, get set...!

That's what we're doing in preparation for an intense several weeks of what CRWM calls Home Service this coming June/July. We will be getting in touch with you regarding scheduling and how we can make the best of this opportunity to visit many of you.

With gratitude,

Ruth and Jim Padilla-DeBorst
with Anton, Jonathan, Maria, Luana and Natalia

James and Ruth Padilla DeBorst
padilladeborst@yahoo.com
Apartado 349-1002, San José, Costa Rica