

Chalkboard

A Transformational Education Services Newsletter

Spring 2009 Mobilization Memo

"So what exactly does Janz Team Ministries have to do with international Christian education?" This is a question that I've been asked by potential missionaries, missions pastors, school directors, college education professors, and recruiters for other mission agencies. When asked this question, I typically point back to the compelling story of how God grew a home schooling co-op into the leading Missionary Kid boarding school in Europe. It's called Black Forest Academy. In the past several years, Janz Team Ministries has sought to more intentionally use the resources that God has provided in the staff and experience at BFA to be involved in Christian education work around the world.

The development of the TeachBeyond ministry initiative has paved the way for further involvement of JTM missionaries in schools and educational initiatives beyond BFA. Though we are still in the beginning stages of spreading the word about TeachBeyond, it is exciting to see some of the opportunities that have arisen already. We are in the early stages of working with new missionaries for 2009-10, yet it is exciting to see that we already have candidates heading towards four different schools next fall.

In addition to these schools receiving JTM missionaries for 2009-10, we also are in the process of developing partnerships with several other international Christian schools. In partnership with BFA, we have developed and are maintaining a list of staffing needs for various schools throughout Europe, Asia, and North Africa. See this list on the TeachBeyond website (www.teachbeyond.org) in the near future – but if you would like to see it, I would gladly share it with anybody who emails a request to me (mkoerber@janzteam.org).

Though there are several ways to get the word out about JTM/TeachBeyond service opportunities, we've
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TeachBeyond Summer Institute 2009

This summer from July 27 – August 7, we will again be holding our TeachBeyond Summer Institute weekday mornings here in Kandern. We invite you to attend. The TeachBeyond Summer Institute training is designed to foster a missional perspective in the Christian teacher. This missional perspective will help guide teachers in making their teaching an intentional vehicle for God's work in their students' lives.

The content of the training is universal and made up of three strands:

1. Cross-cultural Adaptation
Acknowledging that each classroom is a cross-cultural place, and teaching with this awareness in mind
2. Spiritual transformation
Understanding and working with God in the transformation of souls, as students sit under a teacher's guidance
3. Biblical Integration
Knowing the importance of learning techniques, and understanding how to be intentional about bringing God's truth into the curriculum.

In addition, the Summer Institute will model best teaching practices, and will introduce participants to opportunities for serving as missional teachers or teacher-trainers in other parts of the world. The cost will be €150 per person. ACSI awards five CEUs for the Summer Institute's 30 hours of instruction. To register or to receive more information, please contact the Reeds (summerinstitute@teachbeyond.org).

found that former BFA/JTM students and staff are typically the best "recruiters." Nearly 70% of 2008's new JTM missionaries found out about the position in which they are now serving through the direct influence of a friend, acquaintance, or family member who either served or studied at Black Forest Academy. I would like to thank all of you who are consistently sharing the opportunities to serve with JTM and encourage you to expand your "recruitment" to the work of TeachBeyond as well. It is so exciting to be a part of the early stages of TeachBeyond and I look forward to partnering with each one of you in sharing the opportunities for people to use their skills in education to impact the world for the Gospel.

Michael Koerber is the Mobilization Coordinator for TeachBeyond



India

In March, Harold Klassen and Howard Dueck were involved in a number of education initiatives in India. In Dehradun, Janz Team Ministries hosted a Christian educator's conference for 100 Indian educators from missional schools in the mostly Hindu communities of the Himalayan foothills. These men and women are reaching a previously unreached region of India through education. What a privilege to provide an event to encourage these missional Christian educators professionally, personally, and spiritually. Many are isolated and found great encouragement being with like-minded people who share a common vision and similar challenges. Participants expressed a strong desire for future events like this one.

In Gorakhpur, St. Paul's School hosted a three-day professional development conference for 30 Christian teachers. The idea that while teaching the normal curriculum, teachers can help their students to know Christ, was new for many. St. Paul's is recognized locally and nationally for quality education. The director would like key members of his staff prepared to teach other Indian teachers. He has also requested that materials be sent every month or two for their faculty meetings.

We have been invited to return next year to teach a larger group of teachers including those who are not yet followers of Christ at St. Paul's as well as teachers from many small schools in the area.

In Delhi, contacts at a large international church led to an invitation to have a "taster" day for Christian teachers in that city. We also have an invitation to participate in a missions trip to help Christian leaders - including teachers - in another area of the country. Pray with us for wisdom and resources for the continuation of this partnership in missional Christian education.



Thailand and Nepal

In January we sent a small team to Thailand and Nepal to investigate new opportunities for edu-

cation-based ministry. A Korean American mission with extensive involvement in this region invited us join them on this trip to consider how we could partner with them in missional education.

In Thailand we visited a number of Christian schools each with a unique ministry focus, and in Nepal we spent a day at a school in Kathmandu primarily for under-

privileged children, many of whom have family members suffering from leprosy. There our team provided an all-day training session helping to equip teachers to be more effective missional educators.

Amazing work is being done in this region, and we came away with a better idea of how we can be involved in what God is doing there through education. Of particular interest is the opportunity to be involved in launching a teacher training college for Christian educators.



Mark Wiebe is the Associate Director for Janz Team Ministries



News Update

The Janz Team Ministries Board of Directors is pleased to announce that on April 17, 2009, Dr. George Durance was appointed President of the organization. Dr. Durance has served as President of Ambrose University College in Canada, for the past 12 years, and previous to this was the director of Black Forest Academy, our MK school in Germany. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Durance back to our organization, and we look forward with anticipation to what God will do through his leadership. The Board also expressed warm appreciation to Mr. Jack Stenekes for his 31 years of service to the JTM board, as well as for his 10 years of service as Executive Director. Jack will be staying on in a vice presidential role that oversees business operations.

In addition to the leadership change, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to change the organizational name from Janz Team Ministries to TeachBeyond: Transformational Education Services. What began as a ministry division of JTM with the name TeachBeyond, and focusing exclusively on missional education opportunities, has become the organizational name, effective immediately. The Directors stated that, "the core business of TeachBeyond would be the provision of transformational education services on a global scale with particular, but not exclusive, emphasis on the establishment and operation of educational institutions, equipping and training services, and the provision of language services." Along with this, the Directors affirmed that TeachBeyond will continue to be affiliated with the Janz Team International Association both for mutual encouragement and for the purpose of undertaking a variety of ministry initiatives.

