



Alternative Gift Markets, Inc.

Alternative Gifts International

October 2009 - January 2010 Newsletter – www.alternativegifts.org – 800.842.2243

2009 AGI ANNUAL MEETING



(left to right) Annual Meeting guest speakers, Gregg Zachary and Gustav Niebuhr
Video still courtesy of: Mark Arganbright, Inter-faith Ministries

DIALOGUE WORKS.

The 2009 Annual Meeting of Alternative Gift Markets, Inc. was held in Wichita on September 12. The 38 attendees represented staff, board members and family members, pastors and volunteers. National representatives of AGI's partner agencies IMA World Health and The Nature Conservancy were also present.

Guest speakers Gustav Niebuhr & Gregg Zachary (each have written for the WSJ and New York Times) shared insights from their post 9/11 experiences as researchers, university faculty and journalists. Their writing and work support AGI's goal of peace-making through humanitarian aid & sustainable development—especially working with diverse groups and interfaith organizations.

One intersection in their writings, and representative of their comments and dialogue, was a quote from Albert Camus (“Neither Victims nor Executioners”). “Yes, what we must fight is fear and silence and the spiritual isolation they involve. What we must defend is dialogue and the universal communication of men.” While the media is often dominated by modern violence and forces of destruction that foster fear and horror, Camus’ words call individuals to *hope*.

Having become familiar with AGI, both Niebuhr and Zachary recognize that our mission, purpose, resources, markets and agency partnerships do promote dialogue and communication. That is our approach to peace-making. Niebuhr reminded us that dialogue is not about action. It is rarely considered news-worthy. But it works. AGI and the Markets that are held may never garner big headlines, but the work we do speaks volumes for those whose lives are improved and changed. –LM

Agency Accomplishments

Christian Friends of Korea

Since North Korea (DPRK) has been in recent headlines, we asked **Christian Friends of Korea** (CFK) Exec. Director Heidi Linton, to share an update. Here is the condensed response:

CFK was one of five US-based NGOs invited to help administer USAID-sponsored (government to government) food delivery from Jun 08 through Apr 09. CFK's work has otherwise not been affected by the recent politics. In North Korea, they are more eager than ever for work to continue, and even to greatly expand.

CFK is currently involved in a project to renovate, equip, and mentor the startup of the National TB Reference Laboratory in partnership

with Stanford University School of Medicine and the Bay Area TB Consortium. DPRK is the only high-burden country in the world that lacks their own fully functioning culture and sensitivity laboratory. A national TB reference lab is essential for disease eradication efforts and to attract international funding and other technical support.

Being limited to having only a dozen workers in the country at any one time, CFK must plan extremely well to schedule the renovation and technical training of people in several projects. Right now, having adequate funding to secure the materials and personnel, and ship the containers of equipment is the greatest (see CFK, page 4)

What on Earth Are Millennium Goals?

The symbols on each monthly calendar represent the **United Nations Millennium Development Goals** (UNMDG), which AGI is highlighting in our annual catalog. For more information, see www.un.org/millennium_goals. As we continue to focus on these goals, here are some suggestions for your consideration during these upcoming months. Please note we are shifting the focus to 4 months this issue, so that we can get through the holidays and take a breath before preparing and mailing the next newsletter.

Thank you to those using this calendar as an awareness tool and a way to spread your generosity to the many great needs of our world! *-LM*



OCTOBER

Beginning with *World Communion Sunday*, which the Christian Ecumenical community recognizes on the first Sunday in October, we draw our attention to **unity and peace**. Canada recognizes a national Thanksgiving on October 12, while children in USA schools are reminded of Columbus, the man recognized as the discoverer of this land. October 24th is *United Nations Day*—a most appropriate time, and month, to support the **AGI Young Peace Builders** (Project 38).



NOVEMBER

Elections and Thanksgiving Dinner come to mind. For us, the logical conclusion is to support the UNMDG #1: **Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger**. This is both a public and private responsibility, and we should remind our political leaders that poverty and hunger are real priorities—not just because of the struggling economy, but because social injustices can be the insidious result of their ill-used power. This month is the time when more AGI Alternative Gift Markets are held than any other time of the year. Shifting into “shopping mode” in the same weekend that we have celebrated the abundance of the harvest, our hope and prayer is that AGI supporters will help inform and educate the media and educators in their communities about giving *gifts that inspire change*. **Projects 1–6 are excellent ways to share your love with others.**



DECEMBER

This month, ushered in by **World AIDS Day**, we can be reminded of the intangible blessing of health. December has many religious and cultural holidays for gift-giving. Projects 23 through 27 target Goal #6: **Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Other Diseases**. So many people still die from diseases that can be prevented by low-cost immunizations.



JANUARY

As we begin a new year, and reflect on the hopes and visions of people like Martin Luther King, Jr., it seems appropriate to teach about and bring additional attention to the need for working together. UNMDG #8 is about collaboration: **Develop Global Partnerships**. We believe that Projects 34 through 37 highlight that goal more than many others. The concept of working together, however, is evident in each project that AGI selects for our catalog. By simply partnering with humanitarian and environmental agencies, we can *inspire gifts of change* which will address those problems and needs.

AGI Board Member Election Results:

NEW MEMBERS:

Elect Shane Reif of Lindsborg, Kansas

Elect Dr. Glyn Rimmington

Elect Julie Zavadil

OFFICERS FOR 2009-10

Kelly McFall, Chair

Robin McGonigle, Vice Chair

Carmen Bell, Treasurer

Aubrey Streit Krug, Secretary

CLASS OF 2010:

Rev. Dr. Loletta Barrett of Upland, California

Donna Jestmore

See [Election](#), page 4 to read about our new members!

Dr. Kelly McFall

Raye Street

CLASS OF 2011:

Re-elect Rev. Sam Muyskens

Re-elect Aubrey Streit Krug of Lincoln, NE

Re-elect Claude Thau of Shawnee, KS

Carmen Bell

Jennifer Stark Fry

CLASS OF 2012:

Re-elect Rev. Dr. Robin McGonigle

*Unless indicated, all members are Wichita, Kansas residents.

A Musical Program designed for Youth in Christian Worship

Over the summer, several inspired volunteers at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church in Sunnyvale, California, have created a great musical program template that is suitable for worship or youth group presentations.

The staff and volunteers who created the program have given us permission to share it with other churches. You can order it on-line at www.alternativegifts.org – Use the “**Get Involved**” button and go to “**Market Materials.**” *We are requesting a small handling fee of \$3.00.*

This program will be great to help young families begin the tradition of giving alternative gifts. The program can be presented in advance of the Gift Market or as a part of the market—thus bringing children’s parents and grandparents to the market.

Music is a universal language with the power to inspire where words alone can not reach. The songs and Scripture readings, blended with information about projects from the AGI catalog, highlight faith-based values and lessons, while focusing on various world locations and the UN Millennium Development goals (all UNMDG’s are in harmony with faith-based teachings).

Groups could also consider taking a special offering from the audience to be applied to the projects featured in the program or “Meeting Global Needs” (project 39 in the catalog).

We hope to hear from other Markets which have created similar resources, so that we can share inter-faith or school-based promotional programs. Contact tony@alternativegifts.org

Small reasons why people choose Alternative Gifting...

Sound bites and ‘by-lines’ are common in the advertising world of our age. Mission Statements are rarely used to convey, in a few words, what we want the reader to know. Recently AGI adopted “**Gifts Inspiring Change**” as our by-line.

Just as we state that the designated donations we promote, gather and distribute are gifts that provide simple solutions for complex problems around the world, the reasons for choosing alternative forms of giving can also provide simple solutions for complex gift-giving situations. As AGI attempts to better understand our donors and volunteers, we learn that they use this service for dozens of reasons. Perhaps you, as a single reader, can identify with one or more of these reasons you give alternative gifts through AGI:

AGI

- provides variety
- is convenient and reliable
- shopping saves time and gasoline
- helps busy professionals express gratitude to their clients

AGI has enhanced project Teaching Tips! Suggestions for using our projects in classrooms are located on the back of project posters in the Market Resource Pack. The tips are divided by grade level (lower and upper elementary or all levels) and include ideas for research, arts and crafts, field trips, literature, getting involved both locally and globally, and ways to just have fun!

Below is another timely suggestion to introduce students to AGI Project 19 – Preventing Diseases Among Orphans in Vietnam:

With cold and flu season quickly approaching, it has never been more important to share good personal hygiene habits with kids. Make curriculum connections in Health Education by creating “How to Stay Healthy” picture books that feature your students. Take pictures that show “Emily coughs into her elbow,” “Jackson washes his hands with soap,” and “Leah eats fresh fruits and vegetables.” Combine the tips and photos into one large book or make a series of books, detailing each idea as a step-by-step process to include more students. These are sure to become classroom favorites that will not only reinforce healthy habits but also motivate the most reluctant readers when they are featured in the pages of these books!

Additional detailed lesson plans that correlate to the Children’s Activity Pages and more creative curriculum ideas can be found on AGI’s web site.

Are you an educator or home-schooling parent using AGI materials in a creative way? We’d love to hear from you. Share your ideas by e-mailing quay@alternativegifts.org.

- retains only 10% for administrative and operating costs
- researches projects and agency stability & effectiveness

OUR GIFTS

- are educational and help teach children the value of their money
- show others about the donor’s preferences or passion
- can be small but meaningful
- teach about innovative ways that international agencies are solving
- address social justice and environmental needs
- are an alternative to materialism or consumerism
- represent fair trade
- provide a gift registry
- can be sent internationally or to military—without customs forms
- are appropriate for inter-faith relationships & greetings

AND NOW

**AGI gifts can be conveyed through e-cards.
Visit us online to place your order today!**

Alternative Gifts International
 Alternative Gift Markets, Inc.
 P.O. Box 3810
 Wichita, KS 67201-3810
 USA

Non-Profit Org
 US Postage
 PAID
 Wichita KS
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www.carfweb.net

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NOTE TO OUR READERS:

If you are receiving more than one newsletter or would like to receive the electronic version only, please let us know.

CFK, from page 1

challenge. If there is a delay in the delivery this fall, the cold weather will become a major factor. The North Koreans have met and exceeded their commitments to CKF on the TB lab project.

CFK has also been invited and urged to begin work in a parallel system of care facilities which would require doubling their time and access in country. These are exciting opportunities and big challenges, especially in the current fundraising environment.

CFK has strong partnerships at all levels. All their programs directly impact the lives of thousands of patients every year, bring hope and encouragement to those who care for them and build bridges of understanding that lead to lasting change on many levels. CKF is very grateful for AGI's support over many years, and hope that it can continue for many more. <<

ELECTION, from page 2

SHANE REIF

Director of Advancement Services, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas
 BA Communications & Human Resource Mgmt, Bethany College

- In 1994, Shane co-founded Kans for Kids Fighting Cancer Foundation. To date, they have raised over \$270,000 to benefit 22 families of children with cancer.

- Since 2006, he has been a Regional Consultant for the Kansas Department of Health & Environment—Tobacco-Free Kansas Coalition

- Familiar with AGMarkets, working through the college chaplain's office

His philosophy: "Hands-on learning/leadership is something that is very important to me. Whether it's team building or grassroots, I embrace any opportunity that will ultimately empower others."

GLYN RIMMINGTON

Boeing Distinguished Professor of Global Learning; Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas
 PhD, University of Queensland, Australia

- In May 2008, Rimmington hosted the 5th International Conference on Intercultural Communication Competence.

- Co-author of *Third Place Learning* (with Dr. Mara Alagic). His research has resulted in more than 100 refereed publications,

several innovations and many awards, prizes & recognitions. A frequent speaker at international conferences, his research work has attracted millions in grant funds.

He & wife Barbara are natives of Queensland, Australia. Their children attend WSU & Wichita East HS.

JULIE ZAVADIL

Coordinator of Special Projects, Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS
 BA Accounting & Mgmt, Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota

- Has 3 years experience working as Parish Project Coordinator for the Grace Presbyterian Church AGM, as well as volunteering at the cashier post for 2 years.

- She is involved in the financial management of her local parish, and understands how decisions are made and executed at the congregational level.

- Julie has practical non-profit office experience, has volunteered in the AGI office during the seasonal rush, helping us in transition of computer personnel.

Julie & husband, Hugh, have three grown children.