



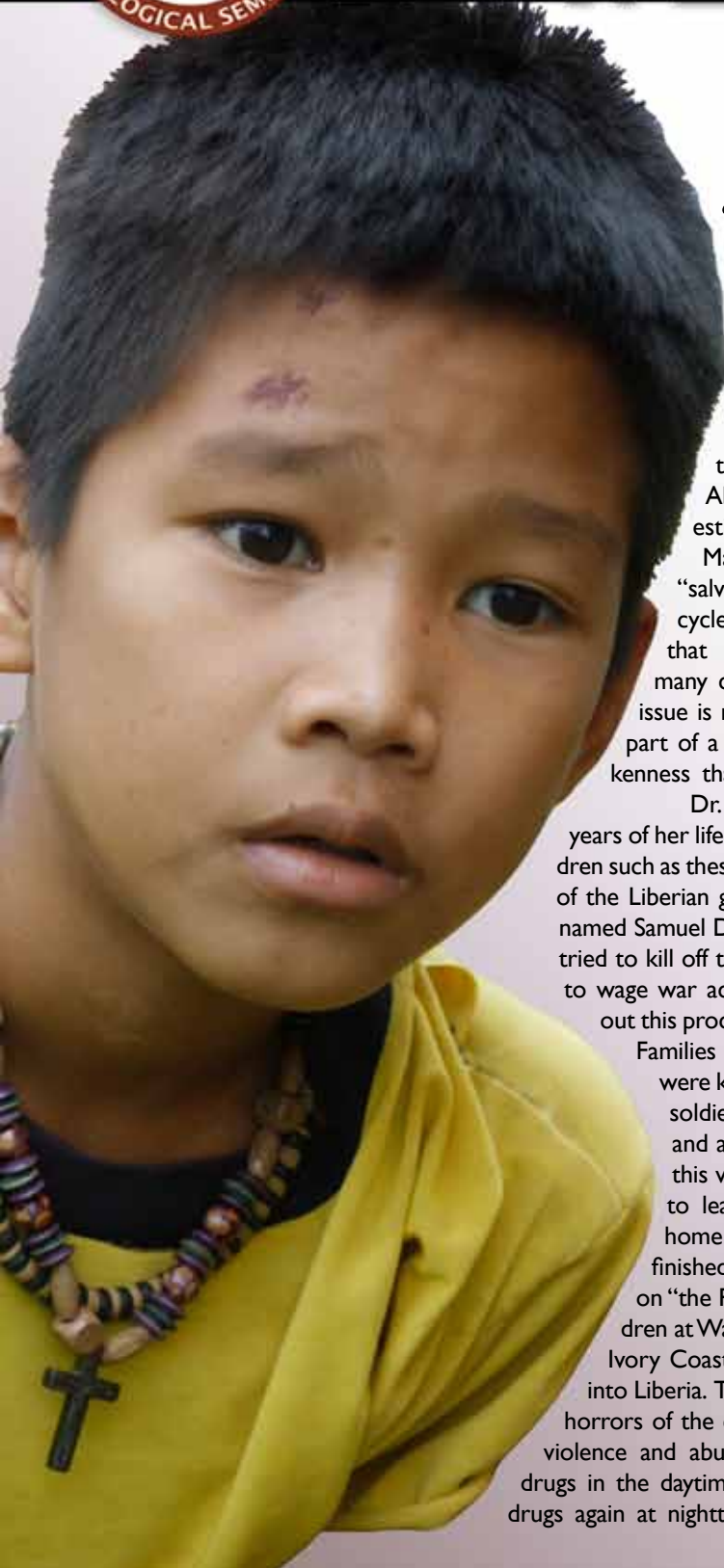
# The BRIDGE

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Bridging Cultures  
for Christ

## Healing the WOUNDS

By Jarrett Davis



“Salvaged.” This is a term used in the Philippines to describe the intentional killing of troublemakers by someone in a position of authority. There are around 1.5 million children living on the streets in the Philippines. About 100,000 of these are estimated to be prostituted. Many of these children die by “salvage,” as a part of the great cycles of abuse and violence that become a way of life for many children like these. But this issue is not Filipino, it is only a small part of a much greater systemic brokenness that is felt around the world.

Dr. Phyllis Kilbourn spent 20 years of her life working in Liberia with children such as these until the violent overthrow of the Liberian government in 1980. A man named Samuel Doe led a fiery rebellion and tried to kill off the Guio tribe and continued to wage war across the country. Throughout this process, many people were killed. Families were broken and children were kidnapped to be used as child-soldiers. Many others were taken and abused as sex slaves. Due to this violence, Kilbourn was forced to leave the country and return home. During this time, Kilbourn finished her doctoral dissertation on “the Psychological Trauma of Children at War,” and soon returned to the Ivory Coast, sneaking over the boarder into Liberia. There, she witnessed the daily horrors of the child soldiers. Living lives of violence and abuse the children were given drugs in the daytime to make them brave, and drugs again at nighttime to bring sleep to their

otherwise scared and restless young minds.

In 1996, Kilbourn started an organization called “Rainbows of Hope” with the goal of providing long-term rehabilitation and healing for victimized children who are affected by the deep psychological wounds of violence and abuse. She began Crisis Care Training International in 2003. This organization provides training tools that come alongside national churches, helping them to work as agents of healing and redemption in such contexts.

APNTS was honored to have Kilbourn and her colleague Rosmary Sabatino as visiting professors for the school’s Holistic Child Development program. The two worked together in teaching “Intervention Strategies for Children in Crisis” during the summer modules.

Kilbourn, a Nazarene, has authored numerous books and curricula for ministry to children who have suffered deep trauma or have been the victims of violence. Dr. Nativity Petallar, Director of the Holistic Child Development program at APNTS, comments that Kilbourn’s practical experience in the field makes her an ideal adjunct for the program. “Most of our students are practitioners with their own ministries so I think Dr Kilbourn’s class really fits in both theory and and practice. That makes a wonderful blend during the lessons.”

In an interview with The Bridge, Kilbourn highlighted that we cannot suppose, even in well-developed countries, that we are beyond this kind of violence. “We are living in a broken world, it doesn’t matter what profession [the students] are going into, they are going be encountering this, because it is everywhere.”



Dr. Phyllis Kilbourn  
Adjunct Professor for APNTS in Holistic Child Development



# What has this “to do with ME?”

By Floyd Cunningham

“What has this to do with me?” was my response to Dan Balayo, former student and friend, now in charge of child sponsorship for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries for the Asia-Pacific Region. He was urging me to attend a conference in Chaing-mai, Thailand, on holistic child development. “Holistic child development? I don’t even know what that means!” I told myself. “After all, I teach church history!” But Dan insisted and found some money to help pay my way—so I consented.

The co-sponsors of the conference, Compassion International and Fuller Theological Seminary, aimed to promote holistic child development courses in colleges and seminaries around the world. I quietly listened as various speakers, including Dan Brewster, Phyllis Kilbourn, Keith Wright, Menchit Wong, Doug McConnell and others pled for us to put the “child in the midst.” They implored us to include children in the priorities of the church and in the curricula of its schools as well.

The more they spoke, the more I felt God nudging me. He turned my thoughts to the children of the Philippines. As a resident of Manila, I could easily empathize with the crises of children. Even small children are on the streets at any hour begging or selling candy, flowers, cigarettes and themselves. I remembered that one-third of the population of the Philippines is under the age of 14 and that our missions professor, Dr. Robert Donahue, has had ongoing ministries to these children. Suddenly, I responded to the Lord with a resounding, “Yes!” Whatever holistic child development was, it did have something to do with me and with APNTS.

Returning to Manila, I consulted with our faculty and leaders of Compassion International, as well as Dean of the Asia Graduate School of Theology and we began to shape our graduate program in holistic child development. The key to the success of the

program was the appointment of a full-time professor in this area. Dr. Nativity Petallar (“Natz”) was one of our own graduates, and was working as a project director for Compassion International in Davao City. She has turned out to be the perfect choice, not in the least because she and her husband Mark have a darling three-year-old daughter, Zoe, who is often in our meetings as the semi-official “child in the midst.”

With Dr. Petallar in place, we set up an 18-credit-hour “Graduate Certificate in Holistic Child Development” that could be earned in two summer sessions. It includes a practicum that students can work on in their own ministry contexts.

Next, we worked with the Philippine government in adding a Holistic Child Development concentration to our existing Master of Arts in Religious Education, with all of the Graduate Certificate courses transferring directly to the MARE. More ambitiously, in cooperation with the Asia Graduate School of Theology, we launched a Ph.D. degree in Holistic Child Development, one of the few programs like it around the world. Faculty members include Dan Brewster, Phyllis Kilbourn, Glenn Miles, Gustavo Crocker, Catherine Stonehouse and other prolific authors and practitioners with hearts for children.

This was only the beginning. After this initial effort followed several other meaningful partnerships connecting APNTS to its surrounding community. We developed the StepUp program in partnership with Microsoft, through which we train and certify at-risk youth in basic computer skills. Additionally, we initiated an Alternative Learning System in cooperation with the Philippine government, which enables persons who have been out of school for some time to finish their elementary and high school studies.

Of one thing I am sure, whoever graduates from APNTS, whether they become pastors, missionaries, or church history teachers, there is no escaping that they will revere the preciousness of children, and in no way will they neglect the centrality of children to the mission of the church in the world.

~Revised from “The Barnabas Letter”

## The Bridge

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### Question? Comments?

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