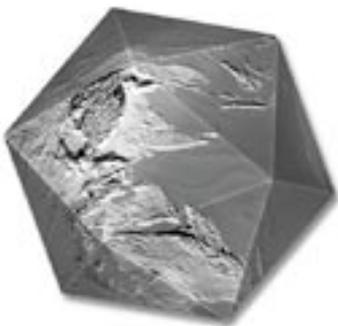


PERSPECTIVES

ON THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT



Mobilizers Meet in Amsterdam to Advance the *Perspectives* Movement



The *Perspectives* Global Desk, a working group of *Perspectives* leaders at the U.S. Center for World Mission, convened an April 24-26 consultation in Amsterdam for mission mobilizers focused on education. This small group of 14 met to survey the advance of the *Perspectives* course, and courses derived from *Perspectives*, in other languages and lands in order to support the course's emergence into strategic settings beyond the United States.

The Amsterdam gathering was not intended as an exhaustive representation of leaders working to adapt the *Perspectives* course. However, the participants did demonstrate the wealth of missiological vision found in the mission mobilization movements in Asia, Africa, Australia / New Zealand, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America. Though some participants have only recently begun their efforts, most have been

involved in such work for years.

In order to grasp the significance of *Perspectives* content areas, the meeting's opening session reviewed the course's history and development. In 1974 Ralph Winter conceived of and developed the course, framing it around the advance of God's purpose in history. His fellow designers subsequently realized that Scripture's mission passages powerfully reveal a single, unfolding story which gives urgency and force to the completion of world evangelization. The link between biblical history and the Christian movement's advance provides the *Perspectives* course with a unique vantage point. From as far back as Abraham, believers can see the needs and opportunities of the present hour in light of the certainty of God's promises. Rather than mere exposure to the world's need, the course focuses on the sure hope of

God's purposes, an emphasis given even greater prominence since a 1999 curriculum revision. Furthermore, the vision of *Perspectives* is intended to give integration and significance not only to aspiring missionaries but to every Christian.

For nearly a full day, the Amsterdam participants reviewed five case studies, illustrating the contextual diversity of the *Perspectives* course in Nigeria, India, New Zealand / Australia, Korea, and Latin America. Three other case studies featured reports on the Condensed World Mission course in the Philippines and beyond, the World Mission course developed initially for schools, and the development of core materials for non / semi-literate people, each study exposing participants to cultural and educational challenges as well as creative innovations.

Also announced in Amsterdam was the emergence of the *Perspectives* Global Desk (PGD), intended as a reference point and clearinghouse for inquiries about *Perspectives* plans and programs. Leaders from the PGD are available to help course initiators and adapters with development documents and consultation, and to assist in the evolution of *Perspectives* curricula. The PGD presented "Core Ideas", the most foundational of these development documents, and highlighted the great value of using two or more curricula in the same setting in order to

reach different audiences or to impact the same audience with introductory or follow-up materials. One participant captured the consultation's mood and solidarity of purpose by declaring the existence of a "*Perspectives* family" of curricula. Concern was expressed regarding the clear and consistent use of the *Perspectives*

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name so that specialized curricula are not confused with adaptations of the standard curriculum. A consensus was quickly reached by those representing courses derived from *Perspectives* to take it upon themselves to protect the name and identity of the standard curriculum.

Other sessions in Amsterdam focused on the challenges and opportunities of serving churches and mission structures through mission education courses. Participants reviewed the world's major instructional and commercial languages as possible indicators of future course development. While poring over a global map, they noted dozens of initiatives underway in order to identify more clearly and strategically languages and lands to target.

Discussion intensified over tools necessary to deal with the contexts of education, finances, and anti-Christian hostility. Mobilizers exchanged ideas about different media, different arrangements for classrooms and instructors, and the intricacies of publishing and distributing materials. The Amsterdam participants agreed with the PGD to convene a larger, more comprehensive gathering of course developers in Pasadena, California December 10-13, 2003, with an emphasis on how the *Perspectives* course may be improved and how supportive, introductory, or follow-up courses may also be supported or developed. Expectations are high that this new spirit of collegiality will

accelerate efforts to multiply appropriate forms of mission mobilization through education.

Prospective participants in the December 10-13 consultation, "Advancing the Perspectives Movement Globally," are invited to write global@perspectives.org for further information. 🌐