Younger Leaders Combating Poverty in the Philippines
by Caleb Overstreet, DAI Consultant Myanmar

DAI’s commitment to partnerships comes with the benefit that we get to be a part of the work of groups like International Care Ministries (ICM).

ICM has been serving the ultra-poor, those living on less than 50 cents a day, throughout the Philippines for nearly 25 years, in partnership with pastors from thousands of slum communities.

In their commitment to support and equip these pastors, ICM reached out to DAI to provide a two-year leadership training program for 150 pastors in Palawan.

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Looking to Younger Leaders for Future Growth and Impact
HOW THEY ARE LEADING THE WAY FORWARD

MAOL Student Fredrick Matakidhi of Juba, South Sudan
Dear Friends,

As DAI is celebrating its 20th Anniversary, the average age of its staff is declining! How can this be happening? Because more and more young leaders are joining DAI’s staff. At the Egypt conference three of these leaders from Asia, the Middle East and Latin America shared their strategies for training and mentoring their peers, and ideas of how DAI should look in the future.

Daneli Ureña, one of our younger leaders working in Latin America, pictured with me in the upper right, attended the Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering in August and came back with this great story:

“I was sitting between two African women on our way to church when I asked, Where are you from and what do you do? One of them replied, ‘I’m a Kenyan, and I’ve worked as a Project Manager with World Vision for 8 years.’ She then asked me the same question. As I was sharing that I worked with DAI, she quickly interrupted me, ‘I graduated from that program! Such a transformational program.’ She added, ‘It’s something the leaders of our country desperately need.’

“She was the fourth person in the span of four days I had run into who is participating, or had participated, in DAI’s Master’s program.”

It is thanks to your support that stories like this are possible. We believe younger leaders will help lead the charge for positive change in the developing world. An investment in a young leader goes far beyond the individual. They will use their experiences to influence their peers, communities and future generations.

Join us to ensure they have the biblical leadership principles and practices to extend the kingdom of God. Please consider a financial gift to support DAI’s work with young leaders around the globe.

Blessings,

Jane

President/CEO

Three specific events over the past year have made Christie and me excited about DAI’s decision to deeply invest in next generation leaders.

At the DAI-related South Asia Leadership conference in Nepal in September 2015, my wife, Christie, and I had the opportunity to hear from, and encourage the vision of, young leaders from South Asia looking to influence cultures and nations dominated by Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism. Their energy and creativity is focused on bringing Kingdom-of-God values into government, business, technology and the church.

At the DAI 20th Anniversary gathering in Egypt in June 2016, we listened to younger leaders articulate their vision for the future of DAI and their open invitation to older leaders to walk their journey with them.

And finally, at the Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering in Jakarta in August 2016, I met young men and women serving as Christian leaders under oppression in places like Iran and Syria; serving to transform cultures in places like Sri Lanka and Western Europe; and looking to shape the marketplace with Christian values and integrity in places like Brazil and the Middle East.

At this stage in our lives, and in the ministry of DAI, it is our great privilege to help encourage and shape younger men and women who will take the Christian movement into places we will never be able to go.
Fredrick Matakidé shares about the difficulties young leaders face in a nation torn apart by war and poverty, and how the MAOL program has impacted him.

Fredrick, a third-year DAI Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership student, lives and works in Juba, the capital city of South Sudan. He is a Finance Manager for Christian Aid-South Sudan, an international organization that provides humanitarian and development interventions to those most in need.

Fredrick travels back and forth between Juba and Kampala, Uganda twice a year to attend the DAI MAOL residencies at Uganda Christian University. He explains that he chooses to travel the long distance because, “God has a plan, which I believe is to be part of the change in my country, and enrolling for the MAOL was a preparatory stage.”

South Sudan experienced conflict again this past July as fighting spread throughout Juba. Over 300 people were killed and more than 40 people were injured, including civilians.

Fredrick recounts, “My neighborhood was a battlefield for two days. I had to relocate to my brother's house and spent most of the hours on the floor to avoid crossfire and shells, but God protected us.”

“My hope was alive throughout the conflict because I knew different people were in prayer for the situation, including two of my MAOL facilitators whom I had written to amidst the shelling.

“Sadly, the shooting, killing, looting and raping creates hopelessness in our country, the youth not excluded. As a result, young people in positions of responsibility try to put aside the aspect of stewardship by indulging in unprofessional practices, like financial fraud, because of the perception ‘I am not sure of tomorrow.’

“It is challenging to convince them we can be people of integrity. However, with the right mindset, skills and commitment, we can put our differences aside and renew the foundations of our country.

“The MAOL program has given me new insights and reflections on what I should do as a Christian to fulfill my calling and make the world a better place.

“It has helped me in this journey by providing biblically-based answers, as well as skills, which are compatible with both the nonprofit and secular job market.”

Thank you for your support to equip leaders, like Fredrick, with the tools they need to bring positive change to their countries.
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Daneil Uren, one of our younger leaders working in Latin America, pictured with me in the upper right, attended the Lauzanne Younger Leaders Gathering in August and came back with this great story.

"I was sitting between two African women on our way to church when I asked, Where are you from and what do you do? One of them replied, I'm a Kenyan, and I've worked as a Project Manager with World Vision for 8 years." She then asked me the same question. As I was sharing that I worked with DAI, she quickly interrupted me, 

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The Privilege of Investing
by Paul Barthwick, DAI Senior Consultant

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Blessings,

Jane Overtree
President/CEO

Letter from the President

Nepal: A Great Success Story
by J. Abraham, DAI Leadership Consultant South Asia

I have traveled to Nepal several times a year, for many years, witnessing the painful political journey of a fragile country.

Last year, after a grueling and tenuous process and nine years of deliberation, the constitution was finally passed. However, basic amenities like electricity and petrol are not always readily available. Occasionally I hear Nepal’s call their country “a failed state.”

For the work of the Church and the work of DAI, however, Nepal is a great success story. In the past eight years DAI has trained close to 600 young Nepali leaders in Kathmandu and Pokhara. One of the trends we have noticed, as we develop relationships with young leaders, is that they have taken the initiative to drive and arrange ongoing trainings for others like themselves.

This year, several of these young leaders felt the need to expand the initiative to bring integrity and effectiveness to an exponentially growing and youthful Church in other regions. This group, calling themselves Nepal Emerging Leaders (NEL), will be under DAI and help with leadership development of young people around the nation.

Nepal Emerging Leaders will also be a network of leaders who have already been part of DAI programs. As a team they will also organize ongoing workshops and seminars for those who have graduate from DAI’s programs.

One and a half years ago, after the devastating earthquake in Nepal, this same group of young people, many who had themselves been affected by the earthquake, were instrumental in organizing relief and counseling camps in the Kathmandu valley. The hope is that such a network will continue to help build up the Church and the country through social initiatives.

Such is the success of Nepal.
After ten years of providing leadership training for adults, Nicholas Wafula, DAI Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, feels led to do the same for youth in Uganda.

In partnership with the International Leadership Academy (ILA), DAI hosted their first youth leadership camp in 2014. The team just completed their third annual camp this past July.

According to the 2014 census, youth below 18 years constituted fifty-five percent of Uganda’s population.

“If just ten percent of the children we work with become national leaders we will have a transformed nation,” says the Regional Director.

Each year we add a group of thirty children, ages 9-14, to the one-week residential children’s camp that meets annually for three years. Many of the students are referred to the program by Compassion International partner churches and live in poverty-stricken communities.

The program uses bible stories, creative games and community projects to help the students look at their lives, and their choices, from a biblical worldview. This spiritual transformation has led to social transformation, as the students gain an understanding of how to measure the needs of their community. After the one-week camp we continue to teach and mentor the students in either their schools or churches.

It gave us a great deal of joy to see almost ninety children at camp this year, with thirty of our third-year students “graduating.” We have great hope these students will be future leaders who bring positive change to our country.
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