

Down the street and...



The TELOS Report



... around the World!

The official TELOS International information source for our partners:
Helping make the world whole... one person and one relationship at a time!

Tel•os (tél-os, Gk
τελο) – “to achieve
one’s ultimate aim,
purpose or goal in life...
to be complete, mature
and whole.”

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trip to China!**

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Next door neighbors... China and the Chinese

By Rand Michael, D.Min., President TELOS International, Inc.

I am a bit embarrassed to admit this, but I will do so anyway, since confession can be useful for both the confessor and the one hearing the confession: China and the Chinese people seemed so distant and alien to me.

As a person involved in international clinical and training ministry for over seventeen years, having fellowshiped and served with and been of service to diverse peoples in many world locations, and embracing and articulating how close we are to and how much we have in common with one another as human beings, I still had a caution about, even a mild dread of, going to China. There, now I have not only confessed it but put it in print for whomever may read it and for as long as this *Report* may be readable.

ant surprise regarding the obvious: my brothers and sisters in China and I have so much in common—they long for and are working at having effective relationships and growing marriages, at being nurturing parents, and at being fruitful believers. The brothers and sisters with

“There, now I have not only confessed it but put it in print for whomever may read it...”



NyKoon and MaiLin preparing to discuss an issue using the Awareness Wheel from the Couple Communication program.

whom we met were eager to learn and grow.

We found a dearth of mental health services in China, both in the community at large and within the community of believers. We found a great need and longing for mental health services as well as a growing number of people called to mental health ministry. There is one approach to training

Caution and dread, but *obedience* won the day, and Phyllis and I stepped through the open door... ah! what another pleas-

“counselors” which the government has

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Next door neighbors...

approved—a three month training program (that's correct: *three months*)—that is basically information-based. In the US and Canada the typical entry level training for the mental health professions is a two-year master's degree that requires a significant amount of supervision of clinical practice. In comparison, a three-month program and one that is basically information only, is significantly inadequate. However, on the other hand, it is a beginning and people who have taken the training are clamoring for more training—



Members of *The Psychology Club* in Tien Jien listen as Rand and Phyllis Michael share about the "Six Secrets and Five Commitments" of strong families.

especially in the approach that is called marriage and family therapy—a perspective and way of functioning that considers the entire relationship system in which persons live.

With a view toward training a cadre of more adequately equipped Chinese people—helpers over the next 5-8 years, Phyllis* and I** had the privilege of working in China for almost a month

during May-June of this year. Our work there built on prior efforts of some key people and at the same time is foundational to future significant work being envisioned by TELOS international, inc. and Chinese leaders.

Our recent work included our...

(1) Facilitating a marriage enrichment retreat for Chinese couples with the goal of our returning to train these couples to facilitate marital strengthening and growth experiences based upon the process developed by

David and Vera Mace and kept alive by the organization they founded—The Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment (ACME. Website: www.bettermarriages.org).

This marriage enrichment process has been well-received by thousands of persons in dozens of countries world-wide.

(2) Teaching a group of Chinese couples and individuals the skill-based Couple Communication program and

"There is a great window of opportunity in China right now..."

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A sure sign of TELOS maturing... *a committee meeting without me!*

By Rand Michael, D.Min., Co-Founder and President, TELOS International, Inc.



"...others are being prompted by The Spirit to share in the vision, mission, and service of TELOS."

"TELOS," as readers of prior *Reports* know, is a Greek word that, depending on context, can mean "goal," "mature," "purpose," or "complete/ion." On July 11, 2004, TELOS international, inc., took another step toward maturity—it had an ad hoc committee meeting *without me!*

I was returning to Portland, Oregon, from having presented a workshop at the 5th International Marriage Enrichment Conference (IMEC) held in Ft. Worth, Texas. Gathered at the home of board member **Tim Dixon**, were board members **Janet Taylor**, **Phyllis Michael**, and **Glenn Koppang**, who is also the new Team and Training Coordinator for TELOS. **Judy Tuttle-Zollner** could not attend due to illness in her family. A helpful guest at the meeting was **Kathleen Mast** who has just completed seven total years of service in China.

The committee discussed and planned for upcoming ministries in China, Venezuela, Albania, and Ghana. Planning included strategizing for the equipping of teams in the essential areas needed for effective clinical and training service. The conversation and prayer reflected that others are being prompted by The Spirit to share in the vision, mission, and service of TELOS. It is exciting to see others who recognize the need to share the rich resources we have in mental health

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China and the Chinese...

training them in how to teach it to others. This curriculum has been translated into Mandarin by two former students of ours.

(3) Consulting with a group of believers who feel called to counseling and care giving ministries. These believers want to form an association and become equipped people helpers.

(4) Planning a long range strategy for training effective Christian listeners and care givers who will help foster the health and well-being of the millions of Chinese believers as well as serve the mental health and relationship challenges of the Chinese community at large.



Phyllis and Rand Michael participate in a lecture with the Psychology Club in the city of Tien Jien.

(5) Lecturing to two different groups of current and aspiring counselors on the combined topics of “Six Secrets and Five Commitments: Building Strong Families and Growing Marriages.” One group was composed of forty people and the other of twenty, with the latter lecture being recorded and

posted on a network that would be accessed by over 4,000 Chinese “counseling” students across China. As usual, the response from both groups was very eager and enthusiastic; many wanting to know when we could return.

(6) Teaching a class on the various ways to understand the relationship between psychology and theology/Christianity. This is a topic of great interest and of some concern to many Chinese believers.

(7) Consulting with the lay counseling staff of a large “ex-pat” (foreigners who are living in a country other than their own native one) congregation and discussing how they might become more adequately trained as listeners/lay counselors.

(8) Counseling, counseling, counseling...of individuals, of couples, of families.

Throughout all this (as well as the many other things we did), an eager receptivity and an earnest question of us: “When will you return? We so much need you and what you are teaching!”

There is a great window of opportunity in China right now for training effective Christian listeners, care givers, and counselors. There is a critical need for the services. There is a large number of people who are being called to serve as

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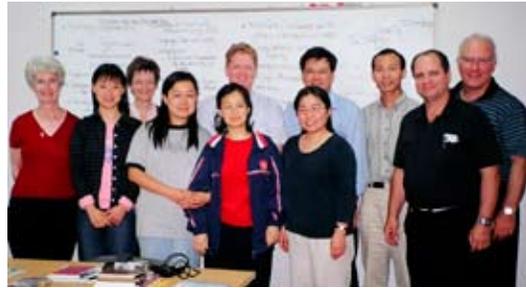
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China... an opportunity



Phyllis (far left) and Rand (far right) Michael, meet with the Counselor Association Planning Group, a group of believers called to the counseling and care giving ministry who have committed themselves to form an association for mutual encouragement and learning.

I have now been to China...that far away land with strange customs and folk alien to me; The Chinese are now my next door neighbors...and yours as well!

We need your prayers and financial support in order to respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors in China...and Albania...and Venezuela...and Ghana...and Israel and . . . Will you join with us in being good and faithful stewards?

*Phyllis is Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Warner Pacific College as well as Co-Founder, Board Member, and Clinical/Training Associate with TELOS international, inc.

**Rand, Founder and President of TELOS international, inc., is Associate Professor and Clinical Director of Marriage and Family Therapy at George Fox University.

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TELOS maturing...

with others around the world who are desirous of not only being recipients of service but of becoming equipped to be service providers themselves. It is interesting to note that at IMEC, I met two Chinese couples who are fellow believers and also trained in the kind of resources we teach others internationally. They are very interested in helping us train people in China in both prevention and intervention services, particularly in marriage enrichment and in the curriculum called Couple Communication, which is now in Mandarin. While I was flying home, Glenn facilitated a time of extensive and focused prayer at the Salem meeting. We recognize that we are co-operators with and servants of God and cannot do what needs to be done without God's Leading, Empowering, Resourcing, and providing the financial means to respond to the many doors opening before us.

PS: Mary Jo Dixon—the leftovers you graciously sent home with Phyllis were fantastic! Thank you!

counselors but they know they need training...and are begging us to train them. The situation is the same in Albania as well...and other places around the world. We are seeking to be good and faithful stewards. We continue to work on a curriculum and training process that would equip effective counselors in China, and it is a curriculum and training process that is transferable to other countries throughout the world.

"There is a large number of people [in China] who are being called to serve as counselors... and are begging us to train them"

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